AGROECOLOGY
PARTNERSHIP

2ND CO-FUNDED CALL

Integrating environmental, economic and social perspectives in assessing the performance of agroecology. Value-chain and policy implications

version 1.2

Co-funded by the European Union

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KEY DATA

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Call launch	02 December 2024
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Submission deadline full proposals	09 July 2025

VERSIONS

Version	Date	changes
V1.0	02 December 2024	Call announcement published by call launch
V1.1	04 December 2024	Updates to Formas budget and funding modalities
V1.2	05 December 2024	Updates to eligible organisations for FCT, TAGEM withdraws from the call

CONTENT

The 2nd co-funded call of the AGROECOLOGY Partnership, *Integrating environmental, economic and social perspectives in assessing the performance of agroecology. Value-chain and policy implications*, welcomes the submission of proposal responding to one of the following topics:

- **Topic 1: Determine and assess benefits/impacts and trade-offs of agroecology, and identify best practices** with following themes:
  - Methods and procedures to tackle trade-offs in agroecological production
  - Scenario analysis to identify and support the most suitable options to accelerate the adoption of the identified best practices at different spatial and temporal scales
- **Topic 2: Transform value chains, businesses and policies to facilitate the transition to agroecology** with following themes:
  - Transformation and development of new business models in the value chains to facilitate the agroecological transition
  - Coordination among actors, social innovations and policies to enhance the agroecological transition

DEFINITIONS AND TASKS

Associated Partner	An Associated Partner in a proposal and transnational project is an entity or person performing tasks and accordingly having costs budgeted while not requesting any funding from any Funder participating in this call. In particular, entities not eligible for funding by one of the Funders and willing to participate in a proposal are Associated Partners. Associated Partners must provide a "Letter of financial commitment" for proposal submission to delineate their own contribution (see Annex VIII).
Call Office	The Call Office is responsible for administrative support in relation to the co-funded call, all related call documents, submission platform and all related procedures including submission and evaluation of the funded transnational projects,. The Call Office is not responsible for scientific support, i.e. regarding questions on the call scope. In general, the Call Office operates on weekdays between 09:00 and 15:00 CE(S)T.
Co-funded call	The 2nd AGROECOLOGY co-funded call, also referred to as "the call".
Coordinator	The Coordinator coordinates and manages the research consortium at pre proposal and full proposal stage, and over the entire lifetime of the transnational project. Details on the role, responsibilities and tasks of a Coordinator are described in section 3.3.
Evaluation summary report (ESR)	The Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) of a proposal is the final reached consensus report obtained during the IEP meeting. It is the result of the individual reports of the three IEP member evaluating the proposal and the discussions during the IEP meeting The ESR will be shared with the Coordinator and Funder Board.
Funder Board (FB)	The FB consists of all Funders providing funding to the co-funded call. The FB will make the final decision on the selection of proposals based on the ranking lists provided by the IEP and on the availability of funds.
Funder Contact Point (FCP)	Each Funder appoints at least one Funder Contact Point (FCP) who provides support to potential applicants regarding eligibility rules and funding procedures of the appointing Funder.
Funder	Funders are organisations providing funding to the call according to their specific Funder regulations.
International Evaluation Panel (IEP)	The IEP consists of international experts in the remit of the co-funded call. Members of the IEP will evaluate each proposal according to the evaluation guidelines (see also sections 5.2 and 5.3).During the IEP meeting, the IEP will rank the proposals.
Partner	A Partner in a proposal and transnational project is an entity or person performing tasks and requesting funding from one of the Funders. Accordingly, a Partner must be eligible for funding from a Funder participating in this call.
Principal Investigator (PI)	In a proposal and transnational project, the Coordinator as well as each Partner and Associated Partner appoints each one Principal Investigator (PI). The PI is the person having access and login for the submission platform and the contact point for the Call Office and the Funders. Accordingly, the PI of the Coordinator is the person initiating and submitting the proposal.

Proposal	In the present document, the term "proposal" refers to both pre proposal and full proposal. Where the text refers specifically to either the pre proposal or the full proposal, this will be written explicitly.
Stakeholder	A Stakeholder in a proposal and/or transnational project is an entity or a person/group of persons not performing particular tasks and not budgeting any project costs. A Stakeholder is often used as advising entity e.g. for co-creation processes.
Science Policy Interface	Science Policy Interface aims to provide evidence-based scientific support to the European policymaking process. Science for Policy Handbook | Knowledge for policy (europa.eu)

1 Preamble

1.1 Background

The European Green Deal and its underlying strategies - the Farm to Fork Strategy, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the action plan for the development of organic production - set very ambitious goals that need to be addressed urgently. Agroecology[1] is identified in these strategies as a promising approach to support the transition towards more sustainable agriculture. In addition, one of the European Green Deal inspirational targets is to reach 25% of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming by 2030[2]. The many shared objectives between agroecology and organic farming imply that more widespread application of agroecological approaches will also further progress towards meeting this target. Despite strong ambition at national and European levels, the transition towards agroecology is not happening quickly enough. It faces what scientists and design thinking experts call "wicked problems", mostly driven by the tension between private goods for today and public goods for tomorrow. The divergence of interests and values between different stakeholders, for example, farmers, public authorities and civil society, is clearly illustrated in relation to many issues such as pesticide use and biodiversity conservation, implications of water use and management in soil quality, and climate change mitigation. Still, the recent report on the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture[3], issued by a large stakeholder group with diverse views on EU agriculture, has signalled the role of agroecology as means to shift to more sustainable farming practices and systems. The objective of achieving prosperous and environment-friendly farming systems is a complex and bold endeavour and requires tremendous change to prevailing mind-sets regarding agricultural production and consumption. It requires transdisciplinary knowledge obtained from research, innovation and practice, as well as stakeholder engagement in co-creation processes and the design of new policies.

1.2 The vision of the AGROECOLOGY partnership

Agroecology can be interpreted as a scientific discipline, a movement or a practice.[4] As a scientific discipline, agroecology is located at the interface between agronomy, ecological sciences, social sciences and humanities for the design and management of sustainable and resilient agroecosystems. As a movement, agroecology catalyses actions related with social sustainability, fair transition, and power distribution along the value chains. As a practice, agroecology is a knowledge-intensive, systemic approach, benefiting from and contributing to appropriate management of biodiversity and natural processes. Agroecology has implications for the whole span of agricultural practices. It implies a deep transformation in agricultural production as well as up- and downstream value chains. This includes the development of fair business models, the creation of market opportunities to secure sufficient incomes for farmers and affordable, high-quality safe food for consumers. Agroecology can contribute to mitigating and adapting to climate change, protecting and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems, and strengthening the sustainability

[1] https://www.fao.org/3/ca5602en/ca5602en.pdf

[2] https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/farming/organic-farming/organic-action-plan_en

[3] https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/agriculture-and-green-deal/strategic-dialogue-future-eu-agriculture_en

[4] Wezel et al. (2009). Agroecology as a science, a movement and a practice. A review. Agronomy for sustainable development, 29, 503-515.

and resilience of farming and land use systems. The adoption of agroecology principles and practices is already emerging in many European countries and could become a fundamental tool for the EU in its effort to address policies objectives such as climate change and biodiversity preservation, and to respond to increasing consumer demands for healthy, affordable, pesticide-free and nutritious food. At the EU level, it should contribute to the elaboration and implementation of policies, such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Nature Restoration Law, the Habitats and Birds Directive, the Water Framework Directive and the EU Soil policy.

The AGROECOLOGY partnership relies on a common vision whereby a broad stakeholder constellation teams up to unlock the transition to agroecology so that farming systems are resilient, productive and competitive, place-sensitive, as well as climate-, environment-, ecosystem-, biodiversity- and people-friendly by 2050[5]. It is based on the concept that the challenges faced by the European agricultural sector can be addressed through agroecology by bringing together researchers, farmers, and other relevant stakeholders to co-develop, test and monitor new practices, innovations, approaches and technologies in real-life contexts. Such a framework is typically adopted in living labs. One of the key objectives of the partnership is to develop networks of living labs and research infrastructures, while building cooperation and links with other related networks of living labs (e.g., EU Mission Soil living labs). This will allow experimentation between practice and science at different levels in order to develop and enhance the concrete and place-based implementation of innovations. This approach will also provide knowledge- and evidence-based information about how to assess the potential performance and impacts of agroecological practices on economic, social and environmental dimensions in both the short and the long-term.

Since the 2000s living labs have been implemented in many thematic sectors as real-life testing and experimentation environments. They place the user at the centre of innovation and operate as intermediaries between research organisations, companies, local and regional authorities and citizens, and for value co-creation, rapid prototyping and validation to scale up innovation and businesses. According to the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL)[6], five key elements must be present in a living lab, regardless of their domain of application: 1) active user involvement, 2) real-life setting, 3) multi-stakeholder, 4) multi-method approach, 5) co-creation (i.e., iterations of design cycles with different sets of stakeholders).

Research infrastructures are facilities that provide resources and services for research communities to conduct research and foster innovation. They can be used beyond research, for example, for education or public services, and they may be single-sited, distributed or virtual. They include: major scientific equipment or sets of instruments; collections, archives or scientific data; computing systems and communication networks; any other research and innovation infrastructure of a unique nature that is open to external users.[7] Matching research infrastructures and living labs has great potential to foster the transition to agroecology by enhancing the creation and adoption of innovations, enabling their fast evaluation and their re-adjustment whenever needed.

[5] https://static1.squarespace.com/static/65c21789238d5029339b09bf/t/670d249c2b9687131b3be160/1728914606546/240726-FECYT-The+Agroecology+Partnership%E2%80%99s+SRIA-v6-DIGITAL.pdf

[6] https://issuu.com/enoll/docs/423662117-short-history-of-living-labs-research-an

[7] https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/european-research-infrastructures_en

2 Expected impacts of the 2nd AGROECOLOGY call

With this second call, the AGROECOLOGY partnership continues the implementation of the priorities identified in AGROECOLOGY's strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA)[8].

Research and innovation efforts are necessary to enhance the performance of agroecology from the perspectives of environmental and climate-related benefits, sustainability of agricultural production systems, economic viability and competitiveness of farms, and security of food supply. These efforts should not solely focus on changes in practices at the farm level but broadly encompass entire value chains that play a crucial role in the transition of agricultural production systems.

The evaluation of the performance of agroecology is a critical issue that must be addressed by integrating environmental, climate, economic, and social dimensions. The assessment of the benefits of agroecological approaches is essential for a better recognition of agroecology by the agricultural sector, the market, and by policy-makers.

The general theme of this second call for projects by the AGROECOLOGY partnership focuses on the performance of agroecology, under different aspects: evaluating this performance in its various dimensions, quantifying environmental impacts, transforming value chains (e.g., by developing new economic models within value chains), and contributing to the design of public policies to better support the transition.

The partnership will fund research and innovation projects contributing to the scope of the call by delivering scientific evidence and knowledge that will allow to assess and enhance the performance of agroecology in the various sustainability dimensions.

It is expected that proposals provide a clear added value regarding at least one of the general objectives and corresponding core themes of the AGROECOLOGY partnership, outlined in the corresponding AGROECOLOGY SRIA, under which framework this co-funded call is being conducted.

Furthermore, successful proposals shall contribute to all of the following outcomes/impacts:

- Practical-oriented knowledge, tools and/or innovations available to farmers and the sector, contributing to the uptake of agroecological practices at local, regional and national scales.
- Increased knowledge, knowledge transfer and capacity of farmers and agricultural advisors to implement agroecological practices.
- Increased socio-economic and/or environmental performance of agroecological approaches.
- Enhanced science-policy interfaces serving to facilitate a faster transition to agroecology.

3 Call objectives and scope

Agriculture is facing huge challenges with regard to securing food supply, adaptation to global warming and extreme weather events, provision of environmental benefits, including climate change mitigation, and increasing resilience and sustainability of agriculture at farm, local, regional,

[8] https://static1.squarespace.com/static/65c21789238d5029339b09bf/t/670d249c2b9687131b3be160/1728914606546/240726-FECYT-The+Agroecology+Partnership%E2%80%99s+SRIA-v6-DIGITAL.pdf

and broader scales. These challenges must be addressed while ensuring the economic viability of farming. Farmers need to receive a fair remuneration, yet at the same time healthy food should be affordable for consumers, thereby ensuring improved livelihoods for farmers and society at large.

The transition towards agroecology has the potential to contribute to solutions to address these challenges. However, there is still a need to gather and envision compelling evidence to convince decision makers and stakeholders of the benefits, i.e., to demonstrate the long-term efficiency and potential of agroecological practices.

Public policies are already in place to promote the agroecological transition, or already have an impact on it (including the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) but also other relevant EU environmental legislation, such as the Habitats and Birds Directive, the Water Framework Directive, EU Soil policy, and the national and regional policies). Their effectiveness must be assessed, and their transformations must be informed (at European, national and regional levels) to accelerate the transition.

Thus, the general theme of this second call for projects by the AGROECOLOGY partnership focuses on two Topics:

The first Topic focuses on assessing and evaluating the performance of agroecology compared to conventional agricultural practices, in the long term, in its various dimensions. The evaluation of agroecology performance is a critical issue that must be addressed by integrating environmental, climate, economic, and social dimensions. Assessment of these performances are essential for a better recognition of agroecology by the agricultural sector, the market and/or policies. Furthermore, it should take into account specific contexts and agroclimatic conditions.

The second Topic focuses on transforming value chains (e.g., by developing new economic models and/or business structures within value chains) as well as public policies to better support the transition.

Research and innovation proposals shall apply the multi-actor approach and exhibit co-creation and co-implementation structures, via Living labs or initiatives following the Living lab approach.

This call for research and innovation projects addresses a transition to agroecology in the context of both conventional and organic farming systems.

The partnership will fund research projects, which contribute to the scope of the call either by developing new methods, approaches, perspectives and technologies or by providing analyses on agroecology's sustainability dimensions. Topics are outlined below in detail.

3.1 Topic 1: Determine and assess benefits/impacts and trade-offs of agroecology, and identify best practices

Integrated approaches that simultaneously consider the economic, social and environmental dimensions are needed to assess the performance and efficiency of agroecology practices and to identify those practices that are the most suited to specific conditions and locations. Research and innovation are needed to provide appropriate methods and indicators, understand the magnitude of impacts, benefits and trade-offs, including unwanted side effects/ value conflicts.

Environmental impacts must be analysed by considering the different environmental compartments and their connections, to find ways to maximize the ecosystem services provided under specific contexts while minimizing potential trade-offs. The aim is to support the development

of practices that increase environmental benefits without degrading economic and social performance.

3.1.1 Expected Outcome Topic 1

Proposals funded under this Topic will improve the understanding and assessment of benefits, (positive and negative) trade-offs, and impacts of agroecology on agricultural production, food security, biodiversity, ecosystem services and the environmental, economic and social footprint at different spatial- (from local to global), and temporal scales. Projects are expected to provide evidence that could support decision making at different levels (e.g. farmers, policymakers, other stakeholders).

Results will in particular feed into the following partnership objectives and activities: 1) to evaluate the agroecology transitions, assessing their impacts and performance , 2) to facilitate exchange between scientists and policymakers and to contribute to the implementation of evidence-based policies supporting the transition to agroecology, and 3) to accelerate the creation and uptake of agroecological practices and innovations by adopting multi-actors and co-design methods (living labs approach)

3.1.2 Scope Topic 1

The vision of agroecology is to redesign agricultural systems by simultaneously considering the social, economic and environmental dimensions. Research and innovation are needed to quantitatively determine the magnitude and the impact of the agroecology transition on these different dimensions. Potential trade-offs should be taken into account. The assessment of the performance of agroecology in cooperation with stakeholders such as farmers, rural communities, consumers and wider society, and policy makers is indispensable and has the potential to identify best practices adapted to specific locations. Several international entities such as FAO or CGIAR are already contributing to define methods and metrics related to the integrated assessment of the tri-dimensional profile if agroecology. However, the suitability of these methods needs to be tested in the European context.

The assessment of the environmental domain of agroecology should consider both abiotic and biotic components and their interactions. Relevant issues for the assessments are resilience to climate change, increasing soil organic matter, water and nutrient use efficiency, water retention and storage, carbon sequestration and long-term carbon storage, the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants and of nutrient leaching, reduced pesticide use, improved surface- and groundwater quality, prevention of erosion, protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, among other ecosystem services.

The social dimension should be contemplated in the assessment by including the influence of agroecology on social well-being, livelihoods, working conditions, workforce, gender and social equity. Aspects such as farmers' perceptions, sustainability of agricultural organizations through their networking with a wide range of stakeholders, social equity, rural development and preservation, and food sovereignty should also be considered.

The economic dimension should include aspects such as economic viability and sustainability of agricultural production systems, financial independence of farmers and agricultural organisations, market access and autonomy, cooperation among farmers, access to and independence from markets, food security and affordability, and fair profit distribution between all actors involved in the agrifood and non-food value chain.

Agroecological approaches already in place such as those developed for example under organic farming should be capitalised on and given due attention in the proposed activities.

All projects funded under Topic 1 should deliver knowledge that helps determine and assess the impact of agroecological approaches in their environmental, social and economic dimensions, in specific contexts and agroclimatic conditions. To this end, suitable indicators should be used to describe and compare the impacts, including trade-offs, of both agroecological and conventional approaches.[9][10] Their outcome should identify the most suitable practices enhancing the resilience and sustainability of agricultural systems.

Proposals submitted to this Topic are expected to choose at least one of the following themes; the items under white bullets points are just indicative/examples. Furthermore, they have to explain how they will contribute to the Topic 1 expected outcomes and to the general expected impacts of the Call.

Theme 1. Methods and procedures to tackle trade-offs in agroecological production by:

- Developing and applying methods to describe value/goal conflicts and trade-offs inherent in specific agroecological approaches.
- Implementing new approaches and tools or modifying and combining existing ones to ensure the integrated assessment of the performance of agroecological approaches
- Defining and testing models for performing environmental, social and economic analyses of positive/negative impacts of agroecological approaches in comparison to conventional practices, under specific contexts. Where appropriate, these models should include the monetary and/or non-monetary valuation of the ecosystem services provided by the farming practices, and include long-term aspects such as the resilience of the system and climate change impacts at territorial/landscape level.

Theme 2. Scenario analysis to identify and support the most suitable options to accelerate the adoption of the identified best practices at different spatial and temporal scales.

- Generating knowledge/evidence on the contribution of agroecology to the economic sustainability and viability at regional and farm community level in the short, medium and long-term vis a vis [conventional] agricultural approaches.
- Co-designed construction of different scenarios related to identify the long-term ecological and socio-economic implications of agroecological transitions and identification of the elements needed for achieving a just transition to agroecology.
- Assess the socio-economic implications of adopting circular and sharing economy principles, considering efficiency and sufficiency of resources and environmental impacts.
- Co-construction of scenarios aiming to contribute to the decision-making of policy makers and public administrations regarding the evaluating existing policies and the identification of the most suitable policies and institutional frameworks to

[9] see SRIA chapter 4.5.2

[10] Regarding soil-related indicators, projects should consider those developed or proposed by the Mission Soil (Mission Implementation Plan) and the Mission Soil projects, and the proposed Soil Monitoring Law.

carry out future transition steps towards agroecology. The social (social equity), economic (e.g., competitiveness and viability) and environmental dimensions must be considered simultaneously, along with specific conditions/contexts at regional and farm community levels. It should contribute to identifying the most suitable policies and institutional frameworks for supporting the transitions, taking into account the opportunities that might be offered by public and private funding, as well as the medium-term upscaling opportunities of agroecological approaches.

3.2 Topic 2. Transform value chains, businesses and policies to facilitate the transition to agroecology

The European partnership AGROECOLOGY addresses in Core theme 2 of its SRIA the need to redesign value chains to support the transformation of agroecosystems, and in Core theme 4, the role of public policies as enablers of the transition.

Indeed, agroecology transition cannot be performed solely by redesigning agricultural systems since their socio-economic sustainability relies very much on the entire value chain. Value chains associated with intensive modes of agricultural production models typically depend on the specialisation of its actors, high reliance on chemical inputs, and the delivery of a limited number of products. These highly input intensive and input dependent systems have adverse ecological, social and economic impacts.

This Topic aims to explore how agricultural value chains can be transformed and diversified in order to support an agroecology transition characterised by "long-term fertility, healthy agro-ecosystems and secured livelihoods" (IPES Food, 2016, p.2). Farmers' choices are closely influenced by the upstream and downstream actors, who determine their access to markets and opportunities that enable them to make this transition. The value of their products on the market also depends on the organization of the supply chains and the ability to offer affordable food and non-food products. To enable the agroecological transition, processing and marketing companies must be equipped to be able to handle new products resulting from agroecological farming that respond to the demands from a diversity of consumers. Additionally, they must establish efficient logistics and marketing networks. Upstream companies must adapt to the emerging needs of agroecological farming with regard to the necessary inputs and machinery needs. This shift may also be accompanied by new forms of interactions and relationships among actors and new distribution systems.

Furthermore, public policies have a major role to play, as they can hinder or enhance the transition towards agroecology, at different scales and levels. Analyzing their current role, their efficiency and defining how they can evolve is needed.

3.2.1 Expected Outcome Topic 2

Research and innovation proposals funded under this Topic will consider the value chains upstream and/or downstream of agroecological production system, and the private and public incentives able to support the transition. They will contribute to a systemic agroecological transition that couples agricultural practices and value chains perspectives through the provision of technological, institutional and social innovations, the development of new business models, the construction of new forms of interactions and relationships among actors, and recommendations for the elaboration of efficient policies. As was the case for Topic 1, results will feed into the following partnership objectives and activities: 1) to evaluate the agroecology transitions, assessing their impacts and performance , 2) to facilitate exchange between scientists and policymakers and to

contribute to the implementation of evidence-based policies supporting the transition to agroecology and 3) to accelerate the creation and uptake of agroecological practices and innovations by adopting multi-actors and co-design methods (living labs approach).

3.2.2 Scope Topic 2

The transformation (or creation) of business models or business structures should ensure the economic feasibility of agroecological approaches for all actors. These new business models or business structures could draw on different organisational forms and should integrate a fair calculation of the ecosystem services agroecology may bring to society.

The agroecology transition requires changes in the value chains on the upstream and downstream sectors of agriculture. One key element of agroecological transition is the diversification of the production systems and the heterogeneity of products and co-products, which processing and marketing require specific investments and imply logistical and organisational innovations.

The transformation of distribution channels can support the agroecological transition in various ways, which may include: increasing trust between producers and consumers through short supply chains, maintaining close geographical and social relations between food producers, processors, and consumers; by better informing consumers through these local relationships or through labels and collective brands.

Finally, policies have a strong role to play to support the transition. Existing and potential impacts of policy instruments should be analysed and where possible new instruments should be tested. Research should provide recommendations to policy-makers for the elaboration of public policies at EU, national and territorial/landscape level.

From this perspective, research and innovation projects submitted on the Topic 2 should contribute to the development of new business models or structures, technological or transformative social innovations and to the design of policies to support the agroecological transition. They will also deliver knowledge that allow to assess the impacts of these transformations on the performance of agroecology.

These projects should be carried out following a co-creation and multi-actor approach with relevant stakeholders (farmers, companies, consumers, citizens, local authorities, etc.) as inspired by the living labs methodology.

The experience gathered by the organic farming sector, such as in promoting alternative food networks and new business opportunities, should be considered.

Project proposals submitted to this Topic are expected to choose at least one of the following themes; the items under white bullets points are just indicative/examples. Furthermore, they have to explain how they will contribute to the Topic 2 expected outcomes and to the general expected impacts of the Call.

Theme 1 Transformation and development of new business models in the value chains to facilitate the agroecological transition

- Consider how new business models and/or business structures could value the social and economic benefits of agroecological products and services;
- Study how the information on the benefits of agroecological approaches could be used to contribute to better traceability and certification procedures
- Consider opportunities for new businesses related to the development of new, or the adaptation of existing, machinery aiming to reduce labour-intensive activities, and facilitating agroecological practices.

- Increase knowledge on the ways to cope with the requirements of the different stakeholders related to each agroecological value chain (i.e., storage, preservation, packaging, processing).
- Contribute to develop business models able to collect, process and add value to new crops, to cope with mixtures of varieties and species (sorting technologies, transformation processes, logistical issues) and to deal with the heterogeneity of agroecology products and co-products.
- Consider circularity in the agrifood value chains as a driver in the creation of business models for efficient use and consumption of resources and to prevent waste (recycling, processing, packaging)

Theme 2 Coordination among actors, social innovations and policies to enhance the agroecological transition

- Identify the different actors that could be relevant to a transition to agroecological practices in the suitable geographical context; study or propose organisational innovations (across the agrifood value chains as well as between the farmers) to enhance the agroecological transition and assess their feasibility.
- Study the ways to increase trust between agroecological producers and consumers (e.g., through short supply chains or by maintaining close social relations between food producers, processors, and consumers)
- Study adapted and alternative logistics and infrastructures to enhance agroecological transition and assess their feasibility by analysing their socio-economic impact.
- Study innovative types of distribution systems (e.g. box delivery schemes, 'pick your own', community-supported agriculture…).
- Find ways to enhance synergies of agroecology-based value chains with other economic sectors co-existing in the same territory (i.e., tourism, education, sports, etc.) and conventional agriculture-based value chains.
- Consider macro- and meso-economic factors, and major crises (e.g. climate change, geopolitical context) potentially affecting agroecological transitions and build scenarios for the development of appropriate business models and marketing strategies related to both upstream and downstream commercial activities.
- Undertake an analysis of the impact of current policy instruments on agroecology transition at national, regional and EU level (e.g., Common Agricultural Policy, but also Regional policies such as Territorial Food Policies and others).
- Identify and, whenever possible, develop at national or regional level policy, private and market incentives, and other instruments that could be implemented, to enhance the development of agroecology-based value chains.

4 Funding modalities and who can apply

The Funders of the co-funded call (also referred to as "the Funders" in the present document) are listed in Table 1. The funding for transnational projects will be based on a virtual common pot mechanism. This means that, although this call is co-funded by the EU, Partners (applicants) of projects that are selected for funding will receive the grant directly and only from their corresponding national/regional Funder, according to their legal terms and conditions for project funding ("Funder regulation", see Annex IX). The EU contribution is managed by the Funders

following agreement among them. It is not possible to apply for the EU contribution directly but only to apply for funding from Funders listed in Table 1.

4.1 Who can apply

Universities and other higher education institutions, public research institutions, profit and non-profit organisations, consumers/citizens, civil society representatives and private companies can apply, subject to the Funders regulations (see Annex IX) and eligibility criteria (section 3.2). Subject to Funders regulation and where a Living Lab is a legal entity, a Living Lab may be eligible. Research consortia must consist of a minimum of three Partners requesting funding from at least three different Members States or Horizon Europe associated countries and Funders of this co-funded call. Associated Partners, not requesting funding from any Funder, are welcome to participate in consortia as well. However, Associated Partners cannot be Coordinator, their contribution should not be essential for the project's successful implementation and they will not count towards the minimum number of Partners.

Contributors to one proposal which do not perform any tasks but play a role as e.g. advisory body, can be listed as Stakeholder.

4.2 Eligibility

The following eligibility criteria apply for this co-funded call:

- The proposed research project must be consistent with the scope of this call and with the thematic priorities of the Funders involved in the proposed project which are described in the Funder regulations (see Annex IX). The proposed project must address one of the two Topics (see section 3) and at least one Theme under the selected Topic. The scope or scale of the proposed research project should exceed a single country. The proposal should not overlap, but rather be complementary with ongoing or completed projects funded by other instruments, programmes or projects, in particular past/ongoing Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects, projects funded under the EU Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' and European Innovation Partnership Operational Groups (EIP-AGRI Operational Groups) funded under the Common Agricultural Policy[11].
- Proposals must be written in English.
- Proposals must be complete and meet all formal eligibility criteria in accordance with the procedure and must be submitted via the online submission platform. Incomplete proposals will be rejected.
- Pre proposals must be submitted by 17 February 2025 2 pm CET via the online submission platform (see section 5.1 and Annex II for pre proposal details). Pre proposals not submitted in time will be not considered and rejected.
- Full proposals must be submitted by 09 July 2025 2 pm CEST via the submission platform (see section 5.3 and Annex IV for full proposal submission details). Full proposals not submitted in time will be not considered and rejected.

[11] Currently 36 EIP-AGRI Operational Group projects selected "Agro-ecology" as a keyword for their project Projects and with free text search 46 EIP-AGRI Operational Groups projects can be identified in the EIP-AGRI database: EU CAP Network (europa.eu)

- The submission of a pre proposal is compulsory. A full proposal submission is only possible following the invitation to submit a full proposal. Applicants cannot submit a full proposal if no pre proposal was submitted.
- Consortia must include at least three eligible Partners requesting funding from at least three different Members States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries and from Funders who provide funds to the co-funded call. Associated Partners do not count towards this limit. A consortium may include up to 12 Partners. In any case, applicants should be aware that a higher number of represented countries or of Partners in a consortium will not automatically result in a positive evaluation of the proposal.
- Associated Partners are welcome to participate at their own expense or if make use of a separate source of funding. In order to participate they must provide a "financial commitment letter" (see Annex VIII). Associated Partners must follow all rules and obligations for Partners as outlined in this call announcement.
- In order to achieve balanced consortia, the combined proportion of the overall effort that is planned by all the Partners from a single country may not exceed 60% of the total number of person months allocated to the transnational project.
- An individual researcher affiliated to several organisations cannot request funding from more than one Funder in this call. If affiliated to more than one organisation, an individual researcher may represent only one organisation in a proposal and that person cannot represent two or more different Partners within the consortium.
- Each consortium applying for funding must be led by a Coordinator which must be an organisation eligible for funding from a Funder of this call and requesting funding. In consequence an Associated Partner cannot be Coordinator.
- The same person cannot act as Principal Investigator of a Coordinator for more than one proposal. Some Funders do not allow the same person to participate in more than one proposal per call: please check the relevant Funder regulations (Annex IX).
- The minimum project duration is 24 months and the maximum is 36 months (please check Annex IX for exceptions). The earliest possible start date for projects recommended for funding is January 2026. All projects must be completed by September 2029, unless otherwise informed.
- Applicants must complete an ethics self-assessment as part of the proposal.
- The information given in the pre proposals is binding. No substantial change to the scope and objectives outlined in a proposal is allowed. A limited number of changes with respect to the administrative details may be allowed upon approval by the Call Office and the Funders concerned. A list of permissible changes is provided in section 5.2.
- The total project costs and requested funding in a proposal is by default not restricted; the costs must be appropriate to meet the project goals. Nonetheless, individual Funders may have regulations and/or restrictions concerning the funding they can award within research projects that must be respected (as an example, some Funders may limit the maximum budget a single Partner in a project can request to € 200,000). It is, therefore, essential that each Partner carefully reads their Funders regulations (see Annex IX). If in doubt, applicants are strongly encouraged to consult their FCPs who can inform them of the relevant regulations.

Note that the inclusion of Associated Partners is permitted ONLY upon submission of a letter of financial commitment (see Annex VIII). If a proposal includes Associated Partners, **the absence of a letter of financial commitment may result in the rejection of the entire proposal**.

Funders eligibility criteria must be respected and the proposed research project must be consistent with the thematic priorities of the Funder. These requirements are described in the document "Funders regulations" (see Annex IX). Funders may require additional documents according to their own regulations (see Annex IX). It has to be also noted that the requested funding may be adapted between pre and full proposal step and later during the bilateral grant negotiation process between one Partner and its respective Funder. The final decision on the total grant per Partner is decided by the respective Funder.

Failure of one Partner to meet any of the eligibility criteria, including the individual Funders eligibility criteria, may result in the rejection of the entire proposal. **It is therefore essential that proposals meet all eligibility criteria.**

Partners must read carefully the Funders regulations and, if necessary, contact their FCPs before submitting a proposal to make sure that they respect all the Funders eligibility criteria and rules.

After the submission deadlines of proposals, the Call Office will carry out the general eligibility check of the proposals submitted with respect to the criteria cited in this section. Proposals not meeting the minimum requirements may be rejected by the Call Office, following consultation with the Funder Board (FB). Each member of the FB will check the proposals against their specific Funder eligibility criteria as described in the Funders regulations.

Proposals complying with both sets of criteria (general and Funders eligibility criteria) will advance to the evaluation procedure.

4.3 Coordinator

Each research project consortium must appoint a Coordinator which has to be a Partner of a consortium. The Coordinator has the following roles and responsibilities:

- Lead the consortium throughout the application procedure and be responsible for the correct proposal submission. The PI of the Coordinator creates an account for the proposal in the online submission platform and then invites all Partners and Associated Partners to the proposal. Partners and Associated Partners cannot adapt the proposal and have only access to their own partner profile.
- Make sure that the Funders regulations and funding modalities of all Partners involved are met – confirmation of compliance provided to the Coordinator by the Partners themselves – to ensure the eligibility of the entire proposal.
- Be responsible for the overall project coordination and act as the central contact point for the consortium during the full lifespan of the research project.
- Act as central contact point for the Call Office during submission phase and the entire duration of the project.
- Inform the Call Office about any situation or event that might affect the implementation of the project.
- Ensure that all work is carried out to a high standard and meets contractually bound deliverables and milestones presented in the proposal.
- Be responsible for sharing all information within the research consortium.
- Be responsible for monitoring data and for the punctual delivery of project reports.

The Coordinator will not be responsible for the financial management of project funding, which shall be handled directly between the Partners and their corresponding Funders.

4.4 Funder Board

The following Funders provide funds to this call and altogether form the Funder Board.

Table 1: Funder Board.

Country	Funder
AT	Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft (BML)
BE	Fonds Innoveren en Ondernemen (FIO)
CY	Idryma Erevnas Kai Kainotomias (RIF)
DE	Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (BMEL)
DE	Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF)
DK	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Danish AgriFish Agency (DAFA)
DK	Innovationsfonden (IFD)
EE	Regionaal- ja Põllumajandusministeerium (REM)
EE	Sihtasutus Eesti Teadusagentuur (ETAG)
ES	Agencia Estatal de Investigacion (AEI)
ES	Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnologico y la Innovacion E.P.E (CDTI)
ES	Consejeria de Economia Cienca y Agenda digital – Junta de Extremadura (JUNTAEX)
FI	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland (MMM)
FR	Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR)
FR	Pays de la Loire Regional Council (RPL)
HU	Nemzeti Kutatási, Fejlesztési és Innovációs Hivatal (NKFIH)
IT	Ministero dell'agricoltura, della sovranità alimentare e delle foreste (MASAF)
IT	Autonomous Province of Bolzano / Bozen – South Tyrol (BOZEN)
LT	Lietuvos mokslo taryba (LMT)
LT	Lietuvos Respublikos Zemes Ukio Ministerija (ZUM)
NL	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature (minLVVN)
NO	Norges Forskningsrad (RCN)
PT	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)
RO	Unitatea Executiva Pentru Finantarea Invatamantului superior a Cercetarii Dezvoltarii si Inovarii (UEFISCDI)
SE	Forskningsrådet för miljö, areella näringar och samhällsbyggande (Formas)
SI	Ministrstvo za Kmetijstvo Gozdarstvo in Prehrano (MKGP)
SK	Slovenska Akademia Vied (SAS)
TR	Turkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Arastirma Kurumu (TÜBITAK)

5 Co-funded call procedure

The co-funded call is conducted as a two-step-procedure. As a first step, a pre proposal has to be submitted. If this pre proposal is successful, the Coordinator receives an invitation to submit a full proposal. Only following such an invitation, a full proposal can be submitted.

Deadline for pre proposals submission is 17 February 2025, 2 pm CET

Deadline for full proposals submission is 09 July 2025, 2 pm CEST

Proposals that are not submitted on time within the submission platform will not be considered and rejected.

Details on each step are explained in the following sections.

5.1 Step 1 Pre proposal phase

5.1.1 Submission

The objective of a pre proposal is to present the project idea and the consortium without providing much detail on the work plan. The detailed template for the pre proposal with explanations is provided in Annex II and an example is also available within the document section of the submission platform: https://agroecology.ptj.de.

Following submission, pre proposals will be checked against the general and applicable Funders eligibility criteria as defined in the respective Funder Regulations (see Annex IX). Pre proposals that do not pass the eligibility check may be rejected.

Only eligible pre proposals will be evaluated.

5.1.2 Evaluation

Eligible pre proposals will be evaluated against the three equally weighted evaluation criteria *Excellence*, *Impact*, and *Relevance to the scope* as described in section 6.2. The evaluation procedure will be conducted as described in section 6.4.

5.1.3 Selection

The selection of pre proposals will be decided by the Funder Board (FB) based on ranking lists per Topic, evaluation summary reports and the availability of funds (see section 6.4 and Annex I). The Coordinators of the selected pre proposals will be invited via email to submit a full proposal; the invitation letter may include conditions to be respected for the submission of the full proposal. The Coordinators of pre proposals that are not selected will also be also informed accordingly by the Call Office. All letters will include the evaluation summary report prepared in response to the pre proposal.

5.2 Changes to the consortium from pre to full proposal

The following changes between the pre and full proposal stage are possible, but always require prior endorsement by the respective concerned Funder(s) and the Call Office, as described below for each case. Since requests for changes may take time to be processed, such requests should be made as early as possible in the full proposal submission phase.

5.2.1 Changes of budget

The deadline for changes in the budget is 18 June 2025.

All changes of budget are managed directly between each Partner of one consortium and its respective Funder. A FCP can then decide according to its own rules whether a justification is needed. Prior to such a change, the Call Office must be informed.

Changes to the budget are also needed in case this is part of the requirements for full proposal submission. This might be the case for example if a budget limit of a specific Funder has not been

respected and/or the budget reductions are needed because of a high oversubscription of one Funder.

The amount of requested funding of each Partner in a full proposal may be lower, but not higher than in the pre proposal. Requesting more funding at the full proposal stage is allowed only in very exceptional cases and requires the written consent of the concerned Funder.

5.2.2 Change of project Coordinator

No change of the Coordinator (PI and organisation) will be allowed, except in case of force majeure. In this case, a request to change the Coordinator must be submitted to the Call Office and to all the Funders from whom the Partners in the consortium request funding. The deadline for such a change is 18 June 2025.

5.2.3 Changes to the consortium composition - Partners

Changes to the consortium composition can be only computed by the Call Office in the submission platform at the full proposal stage.

All types of requests to change Partners in the consortium must be formally submitted via E-mail to the Call Office and to the regarded Funder(s), e.g. in the case of new Partners joining the consortium, to the Funder from whom the new Partner plans to request funds from. The deadline for any such request is 18 June 2025. Any changes must be formally submitted using the template (see Annex X) which is also available as word document in section CALL DOCUMENTS of the submission platform. Changes to the consortium include addition, removal and substitution of a Partner. Regardless of the type of changes, the eligibility criteria (section 4.2) must be respected. The final decision will be taken by the Funder concerned taking into account the oversubscription factor of this Funder.

Changes to the consortium might be also part of the invitation letter for full proposal submission. This can be the case in particular for the following reasons:

- One Partner was not eligible and has to be substituted or deleted in order to submit the full proposal
- One Funder is highly oversubscribed and in order to invite a certain pre proposal for full proposal submission a Partner must be deleted or the requested funding needs to be reduced.

All new Partners must comply with the applicable Funder regulations. If a new Partner is declared ineligible at step 2 (full proposal phase), the entire consortium may be declared ineligible and the proposal may not be evaluated.

It is the responsibility of the Coordinator to ensure that a new Partner is eligible to receive funding from the respective Funder. This includes checking whether the proposal is compatible with the Funder funding programme.

5.2.4 Changes to the consortium composition – Associated Partners

Adding and/or removing an Associated Partner does not necessitate the approval of a Funder but only be submitted to the Call Office. The deadline for any such request is also 18 June 2025. Requests can be submitted via E-mail to the Call Office using the template (see Annex X) which is also available as word document in section CALL DOCUMENTS of the submission platform. Please note that it is obligatory to submit a Letter of financial Commitment for any Associated Partner.

Any new Partner or Associated Partner, once added to the consortium, will have to complete the Partner profile in the submission platform. It is therefore essential that this Partner/Associated Partner is able to perform this on time for proposal submission.

5.3 .Step 2 Full proposal phase

5.3.1 Submission

Following the invitation to submit a full proposal, the Coordinator can submit a full proposal via the submission platform: https://agroecology.ptj.de. At this stage, Coordinators might be invited to add Partners requesting funding from undersubscribed Funders. Any proposed change must first be communicated to the Call Office and the respective Funder; for more details see section 5.2. The new Partner must meet all eligibility criteria to receive funding from its Funder.

The detailed template for full proposals with explanations is provided in Annex IV and an example is also available in the document section of the submission platform.

It is reminded that the inclusion of Associated Partners has to be requested to the Call Office (see section 5.2.4) and is permitted ONLY upon submission of a letter of financial commitment (see Annex VIII). The absence of the letter may result in the rejection of the entire proposal.

Funders eligibility criteria, as defined in the respective Funder regulation (see Annex IX), must be respected and the proposed research project must be consistent with the Funder thematic priorities. The Funders may require additional documents according to their own regulations.

Failure of one Partner or Associated Partner to meet any of the eligibility criteria, including the Funders eligibility criteria, may result in rejection of the entire proposal.

If stated in the Funder regulations, Partners are advised to consult with their FCP to clarify any uncertainties or doubts regarding compliance with the applicable Funder regulation before submitting a proposal (see Annex I).

After the submission deadline, the Call Office will carry out the general eligibility check of the proposals with respect to the criteria listed in section 4.2. Proposals not meeting the requirements may be rejected by the Call Office, following consultation with the Funder Board. The members of the Funder Board will check the proposals against their Funders eligibility criteria as described in the Funding regulations.

Full proposals complying with both sets of criteria (general eligibility criteria and Funders eligibility criteria) will advance to the evaluation procedure.

5.3.2 Evaluation

Full proposals will be evaluated by the IEP against the following three equally weighted evaluation criteria *Excellence*, *Impact* and *Quality and efficiency of the implementation*, as described in section 6.2. The procedure will be conducted as described in section 6.4

5.3.3 Selection

The selection of full proposals is the sole responsibility of the Funder Board and will be conducted strictly following the ranking lists and based on the availability of funds. This is in accordance with the Horizon Europe regulations and restrictions for co-funded calls in partnerships.

5.4 Submission platform

The submission of proposals will be carried out using an online submission platform, where applicants will find all of the information necessary for the preparation and submission of proposals. The submission platform is available at https://agroecology.ptj.de.

A **webinar will be hosted on 13 December 2024 from 9:00 to 12:00 CET** for interested applicants. The webinar will provide an overview of relevant aspects of the call and a short introduction to the submission platform. The relevant link and agenda will be made available on the submission platform in due course.

5.5 Partnering tool

A partnering tool is available in the submission platform, where interested parties can submit and search profiles.

5.6 Management of the co-funded call

The Call Office will be operated by Project Management Jülich (Germany). In general, the Call Office operates on weekdays between 09:00 and 15:00 CE(S)T.

Name	Contact
Call Office	ptj-agroecology-call-office@fz-juelich.de
Nicolas Tinois	+49 2461 61 24 22
Ulrike Ziegler	+49 2461 61 55 66
Silvana Hudjetz	+49 2461 61 859 86
Daniela Piaz Barbosa Leal	+49 2461 61 843 06

All technical issues with the submission platform shall be addressed to the Call Office.

5.7 Schedule

The co-funded call will follow a two-step procedure. A full proposal can be submitted only if the pre proposal has been selected and the respective invitation to submit a full proposal has been sent to the Coordinator by the Call Office.

Item	Date
Call pre-announcement	23 Oct 2024
Call launch	02 Dec 2024
Webinar & workshop for applicants	13 Dec 2024
Deadline for pre proposal submission	17 Feb 2025
Eligibility check and evaluation of pre proposals	Feb-Apr 2025
Decision letters sent to coordinators	End Apr 2025
Deadline for any exceptional changes in the full proposal (see 4.2)	18 Jun 2025
Deadline for full proposal submission	09 Jul 2025
Eligibility check and evaluation of full proposals	Jul-Oct 2025
Decision letters sent to Coordinators	End Oct/Beginning Nov 2025
Earliest starts of projects (tentative)	Jan 2026

6 Evaluation

6.1 International Evaluation Panel (IEP)

The Call Office will establish an International Evaluation Panel (IEP). The IEP will be endorsed by the Funder Board and has the following mandate:

- Provide a peer review of proposals, based on the evaluation criteria outlined in section 6.2.
- Provide a written Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) of each proposal to explain the evaluation result to the Funder Board. The ESR will be provided to the Coordinator of each proposal by the Call Office.
- Provide a ranking list per Topic of proposals based on the evaluation scores.

A chair and a vice-chair of the IEP will coordinate the work of the IEP with the support of the Call Office. The IEP members will be independent of the FB and applicants involved in this co-funded call. The Call Office will ensure that no conflict of interest (CoI) exists concerning the IEP members and the proposals evaluated by them. The IEP members will be required to sign a declaration stating the lack of any conflict of interest and a declaration of confidentiality (see Annex XII). The online evaluation tool will include a feature that will prevent access to a proposal where a conflict of interest is declared by an IEP member.

Throughout the entire procedure, strict confidentiality will be ensured with respect to the identities of the applicants and the contents of the proposals. Proposals will be accessible to the FB, the IEP members involved and the Call Office. The full proposals will also be screened by the AGROECOLOGY Ethics Advisory Board in order to fulfil the obligations outlined in section 10.5. The members of the Ethics Advisory Board have signed a declaration of confidentiality. All collected data will be handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), see also section 9.

Each eligible proposal will be evaluated online by three IEP members. The IEP members will then discuss and agree on consensus scores for each proposal during the IEP meeting.

6.2 Evaluation criteria

Eligible proposals will be evaluated following the procedure described in section 6.4. A detailed description of each criterion is provided in Table 2. Scoring for each criterion and the thresholds applied are defined in section 6.3.

Table 2: Description of the evaluation criteria. Pre proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the evaluation criteria Excellence, Impact described hereunder and additionally the criterion Relevance to the scope[12]. Full proposals will be evaluated according to the hereunder described criteria Excellence, Impact and Quality and efficiency of the implementation.

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
E1 Clarity and pertinence of the proposal's objectives to the call themes and the objectives of the AGROECOLOGY partnership and extent to which the proposed	I1 Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the call text, and the likely scale and significance of the	Q1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to

[12] Extent to which the proposed project fits into the call scope.

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
work is ambitious, and goes beyond the state of the art. ▪ Extent to which the proposal contributes to and/or enhances the advancement of knowledge (science, technology, social sciences and/or humanities…) needed to solve real-life challenges in the sector. ▪ Extent to which the proposed work goes beyond the state of the art. ▪ Extent to which the scope of the proposed project is in the remit of AGROECOLOGY, is focused on agroecology and respects the agroecological principles, as stated in the SRIA[13]. ▪ Extent to which the scientific achievements are appropriately balanced against any risks related to the ambition of the project. **E2 Soundness of the proposed methods, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, interdisciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and stakeholders in co-creation processes.** ▪ Extent to which it is clear/credible how the interdisciplinary approaches (knowledge and methods from different disciplines) are integrated in the methodology. ▪ Extent to which the proposal is applying the multi-actor approach via living labs or initiatives following the living lab approach'.	**contributions made by the project.** ▪ Clarity of the plan for impact and extent to which it follows logically to the expected results of the project. ▪ Strategic impact in terms of solving societal challenges (social, economic and environmental) at European and/or global level. ▪ Extent to which the proposed project will advance the transformation towards agroecology and address the potential barriers (e.g. regulatory environment; targeted markets; user behaviour, environmental, etc.). **I2 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the communication, dissemination and exploitation plan.** ▪ Quality of the measures outlined for the communication, exploitation and dissemination of the proposal's scientific results, including management of intellectual property rights (IPR). ▪ Extent to which the proposal facilitates the generation of outputs that provide clear benefits for the end-users. **I3 Added value of European transnational co-operation and networking**	**work packages, and of the resources overall.** ▪ Effectiveness, appropriateness and efficiency of the proposed organisation as well as management structures and procedures of the project. ▪ Appropriateness of the critical risks related to project implementation and innovation management. ▪ Extent to which the resources assigned to the work packages are in line with their objectives and deliverables. **Q2 Capacity and role of each partner, and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.** ▪ Extent to which participants in the consortium are well suited to carry out the tasks assigned to them (necessary expertise). ▪ Clarity of the definition of each partner's role and complementarity among them. ▪ Balance of tasks amongst the partners. ▪ Extent to which the consortium consists of different types of actors and evidence of a tangible multidisciplinary composition. **Q3 Appropriateness of the partners and justification**

[13] https://static1.squarespace.com/static/65c21789238d5029339b09bf/t/670d249c2b9687131b3be160/1728914606546/240726-FECYT-The+Agroecology+Partnership%E2%80%99s+SRIA-v6-DIGITAL.pdf

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
▪ Extent to which the gender dimension is well-integrated in the research & innovation content of the proposal. ▪ Extent to which social sciences and humanities are integrated in the proposed project. **E3 Addressing the knowledge gaps** ▪ Clarity of the identified and described knowledge gaps. ▪ Clarity of the methods and research design and suitability to answer the identified knowledge gaps and/or achieve the proposed objectives. ▪ Extent to which risks related to the ambition of the project are properly identified and mitigated.	▪ Benefit of a transnational approach in comparison to a national/regional one. ▪ Quality of the plan for interactions with relevant stakeholders, and exchange and transfer of results within the consortium and to relevant stakeholders, including economic actors, or society or end-users.	**of the resources to be committed (budget, staff, equipment ...)** ▪ Appropriateness of the estimated effort/allocation of resources. ▪ Appropriateness of the resources to be committed by the partners in relation with the planned tasks.

6.3 Scoring

Scores will be awarded for each criterion mentioned in section 5.2. Each criterion will be scored out of 5 (half scores are not allowed) and equally weighted. The 0-5 scoring system for each criterion indicates the following assessment:

- **0: The proposal fails to address the criterion** or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- **1: Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed**, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- **2: Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion,** but there are significant weaknesses.
- **3: Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well,** but a number of shortcomings are present.
- **4: Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well,** but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- **5: Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion**. Any shortcomings are minor.

A consensus score is agreed upon for each criterion by the IEP members who evaluated the proposal. The consensus score will be obtained during the IEP meeting. A **threshold of 3/5** will be applied for each criterion for both pre proposals and full proposals; i.e., full proposals with a consensus score < 3 for any criterion will not be recommended for funding and pre proposals with a consensus score < 3 for any criterion will not be recommended for invitation to submit a full proposal. For full proposals, a second **threshold of 10/15** will be applied with respect to the total score (sum of the three consensus scores per criterion); i.e., proposals with a total score under 10 will not be selected for funding. All proposals will be ranked according to the final consensus scores agreed during the evaluation meeting. **The outcome of the evaluation is irrevocable.**

6.4 Evaluation procedure

Each proposal will be evaluated individually by three IEP members. They will, independently from each other, apply evaluation criteria and score the proposals as described in sections 6.2 and 6.3, respectively. Following the individual evaluation, a rapporteur will summarise the individual evaluations and write a draft summary report, which will be used to present the proposal at the IEP meeting. During the IEP meeting, all proposals will be introduced and evaluations presented. The IEP members will discuss each proposal and will agree on consensus scores for each proposal. Based on the scores, two ranking lists of proposals will be compiled, one ranking list per Topic. Rapporteurs will, based on the discussions, consolidate and finalise the ESR. The ranking lists and the ESRs will be shared with the FB.

An independent observer will oversee the entire evaluation procedure in terms of compliance with the Horizon Europe regulations for co-funded calls, will report to the AGROECOLOGY coordination team and document the process in an independent observer report for submission to the European Commission.

7 Selection

7.1 Funding decision

The selection of proposals is the sole responsibility of the Funder Board, which is the decision-making body of the call. Details on the selection procedures for proposals are provided in sections 5.1.3 and 5.3.3.

The outcome of the evaluation process and the funding decision will be communicated to the Coordinators by the Call Office. Evaluation summary reports will be provided to the Coordinators. The Coordinators are responsible for forwarding all of the information to their Partners and Associated Partners. Following receipt of the communication, the Coordinator and all the Partners and Associated Partners involved in a successful proposal must initiate all necessary steps for the project start as described in section 10.1

7.2 Publication of the selection results for full proposals

A list of the funded projects (project title and project acronym) will be published on the website of the AGROECOLOGY partnership with a mention that this decision is subject to final approval by the Funders concerned. Upon completion of all contract negotiations, the following information will be added:

- Duration of the project
- Project summary
- Total requested funding of the project
- Country, Coordinator organisation, as well as name and contact information of the Principal Investigator (PI) of the Coordinator
- Country, organisation and principal investigator name of each Partner and Associated Partner

The project summary should therefore not disclose any confidential information.

8 Redress procedure

A mechanism will be established according to Article 30 of the REGULATION (EU) 2021/695 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 28 April 2021 to ensure the independent and fair treatment of complaints related to this call.

Applicants can request redress concerning the evaluation, if they suspect there has been a breach in the application of the evaluation and selection procedures. **This redress procedure only covers the procedural aspects of the evaluation and/or eligibility checks, including the Funders eligibility checks. The request for redress will not call into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts of the International Evaluation Panel.**

Where redress is sought, the Coordinator of the proposal shall submit their appeal to the AGROECOLOGY coordination team (ptj-agroecology-secretariat@fz-juelich.de) and the Call Office (ptj-agroecology-call-office@fz-juelich.de) via email. The appeal must be submitted within no more than 14 calendar days of the date of dispatch of the evaluation outcome email by the Call Office at the end of relevant phase (pre proposal or full proposal phase).

9 General data protection issues

All personal data provided to the AGROECOLOGY partnership in the execution of the call (e.g., proposals, reviewers and expert assessments, mailing lists, tracking websites, registration for activities and events) will be collected, stored and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation EU 679/2016). For more information, please consult the privacy policy on the submission platform.

10 Obligations of the funded projects

10.1 Contract negotiation

Once the Coordinators have been informed of the funding decision, all Partners of the proposals selected for funding will be contacted by the Funders or will need to contact their Funders themselves, according to the applicable regulations, in order to start the grant negotiation process and accomplish the remaining steps until the research project can start. Within the grant negotiation process a final decision on the individual budget of each Partner will be taken subject to the Funder specific regulations. Please be aware that applicable European regulations on all aspects of funding must also be respected, e.g., state aid regulations[14].

Each Funder will fund their respective applicant(s) within the research project. Formal funding decisions are made by the Funders and funding will be provided according to applicable Funders regulations and subject to clarification of any specific ethical issues raised by the evaluation or the AGROECOLOGY Ethic Advisory Board.

For some Funders, a signed consortium agreement might be required for release of the funds. It is strongly recommended that successful consortia check this requirement with their Funders and negotiate and sign a consortium agreement before start of the project to satisfy applicable Funders regulations if required. The consortium agreement should address at least the following issues:

[14] https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/state-aid/overview_en

- Internal organisation and management of the consortium
- Intellectual property arrangements
- Settlement of internal disputes

Support for the preparation of a Consortium Agreement can be found on the DESCA webpage (https://www.desca-agreement.eu/desca-model-consortium-agreement/).

10.2 Communication and dissemination

10.2.1 AGROECOLOGY partnership level

A list of the funded projects will be published on the website of the AGROECOLOGY partnership and all communication channels the partnership is contributing to upon selection of proposals for funding. Applicants must be aware that, upon completion of all contract negotiations, the information from the proposals, as listed under section 7.2, will be published for promotional purposes.

10.2.2 Acknowledgement of AGROECOLOGY

Communication and dissemination of project-related information and results (e.g., oral/poster presentations during workshops or conferences, a webpage, scientific publications or public articles) must provide a clear reference to the AGROECOLOGY partnership**.** AGROECOLOGY logos will be provided on the submission platform and the AGROECOLOGY website. In addition, the EU emblem and the statement "AGROECOLOGY is co-funded by the European Union" must also be displayed in all the communication and dissemination activities. The EU emblem can be downloaded here: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information-sources/logo-download-center_en.

Funders regulations in terms of acknowledgement of national/regional grants must also be respected.

10.2.3 Project level

All projects require not only the adoption of a co-creation approach involving stakeholders, as required in the living lab approach, but also a clear dissemination, exploitation and communication plan that outlines the relevant channels for each activity and the target audiences. Each full proposal must include a one-page about the main aspects of dissemination, exploitation and communication plan which evolves during the project duration (see Annex VII). This plan is part of the evaluation criterion *Impact* (see section 6.2).

Communication tools, e.g. the AGROECOLOGY corporate design including the AGROECOLOGY logo will be provided to all selected projects.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to make sure that any peer-reviewed journal article they publish is openly accessible, free of charge. Open access is the practice of providing online access to scientific information that is free of charge to the user and is reusable[15]. Please note that the respective Funder may also have specific requirements in terms of open access to data.

[15] https://rea.ec.europa.eu/open-science_en

10.3 Collaboration with partnership AGROECOLOGY

10.3.1 Meetings and workshops

In order to enhance knowledge sharing amongst the projects and the dissemination of the project results, kick-off, mid-term and end-term meetings will be organised by AGROECOLOGY. The Coordinators shall present their projects at these meetings. **Coordinators must include accordingly budget for attendance of three mandatory joint network meetings (kick-off in 2026, mid-term in 2027 and end-term meeting in 2028) in their finance plan during proposal submission.** In addition, AGROECOLOGY will also arrange meetings focusing on specific aspects, such as the science-policy dialogue, knowledge transfer, dissemination of results, etc. Coordinators must include accordingly budget for attendance of two further meetings to be able to attend (some of) these meetings. These meetings will take place in Europe. For budgeting purposes, it is suggested to assume these meetings will take place in Brussels.

10.3.2 Project monitoring

In addition to the reporting required by the Funders regulations, reporting will be required half-way through the project in the form of a mid-term report (MTR; M12 or M18, depending on the project duration) and at the end of each project (end-term report, ETR). Reporting will consist of a project status report and an in-depth monitoring survey to measure project progress and the contribution made to the overall aims of the co-funded call and AGROECOLOGY's general objectives. All Partners and Associated Partners will have to deliver input for these reports. However, it is the responsibility of the Coordinator to submit the complete MTR and ETR via the submission platform on time (see section 4.3). The MTR and ETR will include an update on the ethics self-assessment and documentation on how potential ethical issues are addressed. These reports will feed into the monitoring of the implementation of the AGROECOLOGY partnership.

Detailed information on the reporting and monitoring procedures, as well as templates, will be provided to the Coordinators of the funded projects in due course by the Call Office.

10.4 Data management issues

As relevant, applicants must include information on how the Partners will manage the research data generated and/or collected during the project. Each proposal must include a maximum one page describing their plans to develop a Data Management Plan (DMP). It is strongly recommended to comply with the AGROECOLOGY Data Management Plan[16].

Further information on DMP can be gained here: https://www.openaire.eu/how-to-comply-with-horizon-europe-mandate-for-rdm

In addition, applicants must include a Data Management Plan as a distinct deliverable within the first six months of the project. This deliverable will evolve during the lifetime of the project in order to present the status of the project's reflections on data management.

10.5 Ethics assessment

Any work involving the use of animals or humans should be carried out with the appropriate authorisation, taking into account the European Union and national ethics requirements. In order

[16] https://static1.squarespace.com/static/65c21789238d5029339b09bf/t/670fb63e8fe0ce3e5a315347/1729082943831/AGROECOLOGY_D5.1_v1.0.pdf

to identify any potential ethical issues, applicants are required to complete an ethics self-assessment and provide support documentation referred to in the ethics issues checklist. Please consult the available Horizon Europe programme guidance: How to complete your ethics self-assessment. If any ethical issues are expected to arise during the proposed project, these must be addressed in the full proposal.

The Horizon Europe guidelines address ethical issues in relation to the following: human embryos & foetuses, human beings, human cells or tissues, personal data, animals, non-EU countries, environment, health & safety, dual use and exclusive focus on civil applications. Applicants can also consult the European Commission's Guidance Note – Ethics and Food-Related Research[17] on core issues of ethical concern in the field of food-related research, including an appendix that addresses broader concerns in the field of food ethics.

This self-assessment, as well as any additional ethical issues that are raised by the evaluation committee and the Ethics Advisory Board of AGROECOLOGY, will be shared with Funders who may stipulate specific ethics requirements, which in turn must be met by successful applicants as part of the funding contract.

Any proposal deemed to violate fundamental ethical principles shall not be selected. Assessment of the significance of ethics issues will be made applying the criteria published by the European Commission in its guidelines for the Horizon Europe Framework Programme.

Where activities undertaken in non-EU countries raise ethics issues, the applicants must ensure that the research conducted outside the EU is legal in at least one EU Member State.

[17] Guidance Note – Ethics and Food-Related Research: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/fp7/89847/research-food_en.pdf

Annex I Overview of the funding regulations per Funder

Table 3: Overview of the individual funding regulations of each Funder. The information presented here is provided without guarantee and serves as an indicative overview only. For more details, please refer to the document Annex IX.

Country	Funder	Eligible Partners							Budget limit per project (k€)	Total initial budget (k€)
		Universities	Research institutes	Non-profit organisations	Consumers/ citizens	Civil society representatives	Private companies	Other		
AT	BML	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	250	500
BE	FIO	x	x	x			x		500	1,500
CY	RIF	x	x	x		x	x	x	500	TBA
DE	BMEL	x	x	x					250	500
DE	BMBF	x	x	x			x		350	2,000
DK	DAFA	x	x	x		x	x	x		600
DK	IFD	x	x	x		x	x	x	500	1,000
EE	REM	x	x	x		x	x		100	100
EE	ETAG[18]	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	100	100
ES	AEI	x	x						325	1,350
ES	CDTI						x	x	NA	400
ES	JUNTAEX	x	x	x		x	x		200	600
FI	MMM	x	x	x	x	x	x		250	500
FR	ANR	x	x	x			x	x	400	2,000
FR	RPL			x		x	x	x	300	300
HU	NKFIH	x	x	x		x	x		140	140
IT	MASAF	x	x	x					300	600
IT	BOZEN	x	x						300	450

[18] Maximum funding per project: 100,000 € if the Estonian applicant is project partner. 300,000 € if the Estonian applicant is the project coordinator.

Country	Funder	Eligible Partners							Budget limit per project (k€)	Total initial budget (k€)
		Universities	Research institutes	Non-profit organisations	Consumers/ citizens	Civil society representatives	Private companies	Other		
LT	LMT	x	x						150	300
LT	ZUM	x	x						120	240
NL	minLVVN	x	x						250[19]	1,000
NO	RCN	x	x	x			x	x.	400	1,275
PT	FCT	x	x	x		x	x	x	150[20]	500
RO	UEFISCDI	x	x	x			x		200	500
SE	Formas	x	x						250[21]	1,200
SI	MKGP	x	x	x					200	400
SK	SAS		x						120	240
TR	TÜBITAK	x	x				x		200	400

[19] 330,000 €, in case of good cooperation of 2 applicants from different Dutch organizations

[20] The maximum amount of funding to be requested to FCT by a consortium with Portuguese Coordination is 250,000 €.

[21] The maximum amount of funding to be requested to Formas by a consortium with Swedish Coordination is 400,000 €.

Annex II Pre proposal template

The list below, for information only, indicates menu items within the submission platform, including explanations. Please be aware that the character counts might differ between word and the submission platform. This is due to the fact that the submission platform uses an HTML code for text transcription. Figures can be only inserted where indicated within the explanations.

PROJECT COORDINATOR/PARTNER INFORMATION

- Contact data
- CV of Principal Investigator of the Coordinator/Partner with the following structure (see also template submission platform)
  - Name and surname
  - Current and previous position(s)
  - Up to 10 publications, most relevant to the Topic
  - Research grants awarded for the same or related Topic within last 5 years

CV must be uploaded as pdf file max. 1 page, Arial 11pt, line spacing 1.15, max. 1 MB

- Tasks within the project

Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces

- 5 references/publications
- Team members' descriptions and their relevant qualifications

Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces

PROJECT DATA

- Project title
- Acronym
- Expected project start date and end date
- Theme and subthemes addressed

KEYWORDS

Max. 5 keywords related to your project, separated by comma

LIVING LAB APPROACH

Please describe how the living lab approach and methodology is applied in your proposed project, including co-creation and multi-actor approach.

Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces, figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details

PROJECT SUMMARY

Please provide your project summary. This summary might be used for communication and dissemination activities should your project be selected for funding. Please make sure that it is publishable.

Max. 3,500 characters incl. spaces, figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please provide your project description using the following structure. The project description is separated into the following **2 sections:**

- **Excellence:** this part shall reflect the scientific excellence of the project. The following subheadings are not mandatory but recommended: Objectives, State of the art, Concept and approach, Ambition, Added value for transnational research and innovations
- **Impact:** specify the expected project outputs/impacts and relevance to the call scope/themes, and the expected long-term contribution to the AGROECOLOGY objectives. The following sub headings are not mandatory but recommended: Relevance to the call scope and main objectives, Expected impacts, Measures to maximise impact, Dissemination and communication activities and exploitation of results

Max. 8,000 characters per section including spaces. Figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details

ETHICS SELF-ASSESSMENT

Please fill in the Ethics Self-Assessment and address potential concerns/issues. Proposals may be rejected on ethical grounds, if they do not comply with European and/or national/regional legislation. Please also visit https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf for more information on the ethics self-assessment.

FINANCIAL PLAN

Please insert the requested budget for all Partners in the consortium into in the appropriate columns on the submission platform. Also add your own (in-kind) contribution, if applicable. Please be aware that only the PI of the Coordinator can fill in the financial plan on behalf of the whole consortium. The units used are 0.0 k€.

Figure 1: Figure of the financial table as shown in the submission platform.

Organisation name	Personnel	Travel	Consumables / Equipment	Subcontracts	Requested Funding * required for pre-registration	Total Own Contribution	Total Costs
Institute of Agrobiodiversity	250	5	10	2	292	5	297
Overhead	25	0	0	0			
Institute of Agriculture	200	2	10	0	212	2	214
Overhead	0	0	0	0			
Institute of Farming	100	2	5	10	140	7	147
Overhead	20	0	1	2			
TOTAL	595	9	26	14	644	14	658

1 k€ = 1000 €

LETTER OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENT(S)

Associated Partners may join the project at their own expense or funded by another agency not contributing to the call. For each of them, a letter of financial commitment must be uploaded via the upload field of the submission platform, using the template provided (Annex VIII and in the Call Documents). All letters of financial commitment must be compiled into one pdf file.

Please do not upload any other letter type unless required by Funder regulations. Additional uploaded documents will not be considered.

Upload one pdf file, max. 5 MB

ADDITIONAL LITERATURE REFERENCES (OPTIONAL)

Upload pdf file, max. 2 pages, max. 1 MB

FIGURES (OPTIONAL)

You can upload up to three figures. Please make sure you use the correct format (jpg, png or gif) and adhere to the maximum size that is supported by the online submission platform (max. 2MB and 600px x 600px). Detailed instructions on how to upload figures in the text fields is provided in the submission platform menu FIGURES. Please check in advance the acceptance of your figures by the submission platform.

Upload up to 3 images (2 MB, 600px x 600px) as jpg, png or gif

Annex III Checklist for full proposal submission

The proposal must be submitted via the online submission platform. In addition to the data that has to be provided on the submission platform, the following documents must be uploaded as separate files (see also Annex IV). Unless specified, all documents shall have the font Arial and size 11pt, with line spacing of 1.15, and must be uploaded as .pdf. In addition to the documents, up to six images can be uploaded (please pay attention to format and size – see Annex IV).

Document	Comment	Done
PI Coordinator CV	Max. 1 page each (incl. name & surname, current and previous position(s), up 10 relevant publications, relevant research grants awarded in the last 5 years)	☐
PI Partner and Associated Partner CVs		☐
Work plan	Max. 12 pages, please use the template available in the document section	☐
Data Management Plan	Max. 1 page, see Annex VI	☐
Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication plan	Max. 1 page, see Annex VII	☐
Letter of financial commitment(s) (only applicable for Associated Partners	Please compile one pdf file for all commitment letters; a template is also provided in the documents section	☐
Figures	Ensure all figures are displayed correctly	☐
Literature references (optional)	Max. 2 pages	☐

Annex IV Template for the full proposal[22]

The list below indicates all of the menu items within the submission platform including explanations. Please be aware that the character counts might differ between word and the submission platform. This is due to the fact that the submission platform uses an HTML code for text transcription. Figures can be only inserted where indicated within the explanations.

PROJECT COORDINATOR/PARTNER INFORMATION[23]

- Contact details
- CV of PI of the Coordinator/partner with the following structure
  - Name and surname
  - Current and previous position(s)
  - Up to 10 publications, most relevant to the Topic
  - Research grants awarded for the same or related Topic within last 5 years

CV must be uploaded as pdf file max. 1 page, Arial 11pt, line spacing 1.15, max. 1 MB

- Tasks within the project

Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces

- 5 references/publications

More can be provided as separate document in literature references

- Team members' descriptions and their relevant qualifications

Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces

PROJECT DATA

- Project title
- Acronym
- Expected project start date and end date
- Theme and subthemes addressed

KEYWORDS

Max. 5 keywords related to your project, separated by comma

LIVING LAB APPROACH

Please describe how the living lab approach and methodology is applied in your proposed project, including co-creation and multi-actor approach.

Max. 3,500 characters incl. spaces, figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details

PROJECT SUMMARY

Please provide your project summary. This summary might be used for communication and dissemination activities should your project be selected for funding. Please make sure that it is publishable.

Max. 3,500 characters incl. spaces, figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details

PROJECT DESCRIPTION[24]

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[22] Content of the full proposal might be slightly adapted

[23] This menu item is also part of the pre proposal

[24] Only the first two bullet points are part of the pre proposal

Please provide your project description using the following structure. The project description is separated into the following **3 sections:**

- **Excellence:** this part shall reflect the scientific excellence of the project. The following subheadings are not mandatory but recommended: Objectives, State of the art, Concept and approach, Ambition, Added value for transnational research and innovations
- **Impact:** specify the expected project outputs/impacts and relevance to the call scope/themes, and expected long-term contribution to the AGROECOLOGY objectives. The following subheadings are not mandatory but recommended: Relevance to the call scope and main objectives, Expected impacts, Measures to maximise impact, Dissemination and communication activities and exploitation of results
- **Implementation:** provide information on the workflow and connections between work packages. Avoid a repetition of a work package description as this is provided as a separate upload under Work plan (see below)

The project should be in line with the requirements stated in the call text.

Max. 8,000 characters per section including spaces. Figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURES for details

SCIENCE POLICY INTERFACE CONTRIBUTION

Please describe how your project results may support or contribute to sectoral, regional or research policies in order to support the agroecology transition. References to policy goals at EU, national and regional level can be included as well as examples of existing policies already applied.

Max. 1,000 characters incl. spaces

WORK PLAN

Here the work plan shall be uploaded as a .pdf document. The work plan should clearly describe the individual work packages, tasks, deliverables and milestones of the project including the assigned partners and their resources. Potential risks must be listed for each work package (WP). The work plan must also include a Gantt chart. We recommend using the template provided in the document section, although this is not an obligation. If using your own Gantt chart, please ensure that all of the information contained in the template provided is included.

Upload pdf file, max. 12 pages, Arial 11pt, line pitch 1.15, max. 5 MB

DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Here you can upload your Data Management Plan (DMP). Please consider the recommendations and checklist of questions provided in Annex VI when preparing your plan.

Upload pdf file, max. 1 page, Arial 11pt, line pitch 1.15, max. 1 MB

DISSEMINATION, EXPLOITATION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN

Here the Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (DEC) Plan shall be uploaded as a .pdf document. Please consider the recommendations and guiding information provided in Annex VII when preparing your plan.

Upload pdf file, max. 1 page, Arial 11pt, line pitch 1.15, max. 1 MB

ETHICS SELF-ASSESSMENT

Please fill in the Ethics Self-Assessment and address potential concerns/issues. Proposals may be rejected on ethical grounds, if they do not comply with European and/or national/regional legislation.

Please also visit https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf for more information on the ethics self-assessment.

FINANCIAL PLAN

Please insert the requested budget for all of the Partners in the consortium into the appropriate columns on the submission platform. Add your own (in-kind) contribution, if applicable. Please be aware that only the PI of the Coordinator can fill in the financial plan on behalf of the whole consortium. The units used are 0.0 k€.

Figure 2: Figure of the financial table as shown within the submission platform.

Organisation name	Personnel	Travel	Consumables / Equipment	Subcontracts	Requested Funding * required for pre-registration	Total Own Contribution	Total Costs
Institute of Agrobiodiversity	250	5	10	2	292	5	297
Overhead	25	0	0	0			
Institute of Agriculture	200	2	10	0	212	2	214
Overhead	0	0	0	0			
Institute of Farming	100	2	5	10	140	7	147
Overhead	20	0	1	2			
TOTAL	595	9	26	14	644	14	658

1 k€ = 1000 €

FINANCE COMMENTS

Please provide a brief justification for each cost item per Partner. Please be aware that only the PI of the Coordinator can fill in the financial plan on behalf of the whole consortium.

Max. 2,000 characters per partner

LETTER OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENT(S)

Associated Partners may join the project at their own expense or funded by another agency not contributing to the Call. For each of them, a letter of financial commitment must be uploaded via the upload field of the submission platform, using the template provided (Annex VIII and in the Call Documents). All letters of financial commitment must be compiled into one pdf file.

Please do not upload any other letter types unless required by the respective Funder regulations. Additional uploaded documents will not be considered.

Upload one pdf file, max.5 MB

ADDITIONAL LITERATURE REFERENCES (OPTIONAL)

Upload pdf file, max. 2 pages, max. 1 MB

FIGURES (OPTIONAL)

You can upload up to six figures. Please make sure you use the correct format (jpg, png or gif) and adhere to the maximum size that is supported by the online submission platform (max. 2MB and 600px x 600px). Detailed instructions on how to upload and implement figures within the text fields is provided in the submission platform menu FIGURES. Please check that your figures have been accepted by the submission platform.

Upload up to 6 images (2 MB, 600px x 600px) as jpg, png or gif

Annex V Work plan template

See separate document “Annex V work plan” provided as word file. The document can be found in the CALL DOCUMENTS section of the submission platform at the full proposal stage. It is not compulsory to use the provided template.

A work plan shall include the following

- Staff effort per WP and Partner and Associated Partner
- Information on each WP: name, duration, WP lead and contributors, objective and description, list of deliverables and milestones, description of risks and measures to mitigate risks
- Gantt chart: overview WP incl. deliverables and milestones over the entire project duration

Annex VI Data Management Plan template

Data management is an essential component of the success of a research and innovation project. Correspondingly, all projects require a good Data Management Plan.

Representatives of academia, industry, funding agencies and scholarly publishers designed and jointly endorsed a concise and measurable set of principles referred to as FAIR data principles with the intention to provide a guideline for reusability of data holdings. Four foundational principles – findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability – are a necessity of data management. The EC published Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-data-mgt_en.pdf.

All applicants must include a maximum one page Data Management Plan. This plan should mainly detail how the consortium will manage the research data generated and/or collected during the project, in particular addressing the following issues:

- What types of data will the project generate/collect?
- What standards will be used?
- How will this data be exploited and/or shared/made accessible for verification and reuse?
- If data cannot be made available, explain why.
- How will this data be curated and preserved?
- How will the costs for data curation and preservation be covered?

Annex VII Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (DEC) Plan template

Plans for dissemination, communication and exploitation of the project and its results have to be described and will be taken into account in the evaluation with the aim to increase the quality of the implementation and to achieve greater impact (see section 5.2). The plan should be organised in the form of various communication routes (both national and international) such as scientific papers, posters, presentations, course or training materials, web-based tools, workshops as well as explicit plans for stakeholder involvement or direct intervention directed towards end users. The DEC should describe the main communication and dissemination channels as well as the respective target audience and exploitation plans for project outcomes and how they will contribute to project impact.

Appropriate resources should be dedicated to the dissemination, communication and exploitation activities and the involvement of stakeholders. A focus should be set on how to communicate and interact with relevant stakeholders to ensure their involvement.

To enhance dissemination of the project results, all project Coordinators should calculate the costs for their participation in three mandatory joint network meetings (kick-off, mid-term and end-term meetings) – in addition to or in parallel to their own project meetings – in their project plan.

Please consider that all Partners must give proper reference to the AGROECOLOGY partnership in any documentation published (in written, oral or electronic form).

There are possibilities to get support and advice for your plan for dissemination, communication and exploitation, for example: https://rea.ec.europa.eu/dissemination-and-exploitation_en.

Annex VIII Financial commitments template

A template is provided as a word document in the section CALL DOCUMENTS of the submission platform.

This template should be used as evidence of the availability of funds by Associated Partners, who are:

- ineligible to receive funding from any of the Funders participating in the co-funded call or
- eligible to receive funding from a Funder, but not seeking funding from a Funder.

This document must be signed by an authorised representative of the organisation. This letter should be submitted electronically with the proposal through the submission platform.

Failure to provide such a commitment at the time of proposal submission may result in the rejection of the whole consortium.

Name and address of organisation, Name and address of contact person AGROECOLOGY 2nd co-funded call Letter of Financial Commitment   Location, Date: .....   We hereby confirm that *(Organisation Name)* has sufficient resources and is committed to participating in the project *(project title)*   .....   in accordance with the proposal submitted by *(Coordinator name)*

Annex IX Funder regulations

See separate document “Annex IX Funders regulations” in its current version. The document can be found in the CALL DOCUMENTS section of the submission platform.

Annex X Template for changes to consortium composition

A template is provided as a word document in the section CALL DOCUMENTS of the submission platform at the full proposal stage.

It is mandatory to use the provided word template to ensure that the minimum amount of information is provided to apply for changes to the consortium composition:

- Reason for the adaption, e.g. request from the invitation letter
- Contact data of the new Partner or the Partner which needs to be deleted
- For new Partners: Budget figures on requested Funding
- If applicable, description of the tasks to be performed by the new Partner

Annex XI List of beneficiaries of AGROECOLOGY (research performing organisations only)

The table below lists all of the beneficiaries of the AGROECOLOGY partnership who might apply for funding under this co-funded call. Please be aware that inclusion of any Partner/Associated Partner among these organisations in a consortium will not have any influence on the evaluation procedure or the scores awarded to proposals. All pre proposals and full proposals will be judged solely on their own merits. The organisations listed below have been strictly excluded from all activities related to the preparation and implementation of this call and have no prior information concerning the call or additional insights beyond what is outlined in the official, publicly available call documentation.

Country	Beneficiary
AT	Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit GmbH
AT	Höhere Bundeslehr- und Forschungsanstalt für Landwirtschaft, Landtechnik und Lebensmitteltechnologie
BE	Eigen Vermogen van het Instituut voor Landbouw- en Visserijonderzoek
BE	University of Liege - Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech
BE	European Environmental Bureau
BE	FIBL Europe – Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau in Europa
CH	FiBL CH - Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau Schweiz
CH	Agroscope
DK	Aarhus Universitet
CZ	Tomáš-Baťa-Universität ve Zlín
FI	Natural Resources Institute Finland
FR	L'institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement
FR	L'Institut de recherche pour le développement
FR	Le Centre national de la recherche scientifique
FR	Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement
FR	Végépolys Valley
DE	Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH
DE	Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut, Bundesforschungsinstitut für Ländliche Räume, Wald und Fischerei
DE	Leibniz-Zentrum für Agrarlandschaftsforschung
DE	Forschungsinstitut für NutztierbiologieNutztierbiologieNutztierbiologieNutztierbiologie
DE	Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum gemeinnützige GmbH
GR	Benaki Phytopathological Institute
HU	Ökológiai Mezőgazdasági Kutatóintézet Közhasznú Non-profit Kft
IE	Teagasc - Agriculture and Food Development Authority
IT	Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria - CREA
IT	Freie Universität Bozen
NL	Wageningen Research

Country	Beneficiary
PT	Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária, I.P.
RS	Institut za ratarstvo i povrtarstvo, institut od nacionalnog značaja za Republiku Srbiju
SK	Národné poľnohospodárske a potravinárske centrum
ES	Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
ES	e-Science European infrastructure for biodiversity and ecosystem research
ES	Centro de Investigaciones Científicas y Tecnológicas de Extremadura
ES	Agencia de Gestión Agraria y Pesquera de Andalucia
ES	Instituto Andaluz de Investigación y Formación Agraria, Pesquera, Alimentaria y de la Producción Ecológica
SE	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements European Union Regional Group

Annex XII Template Confirmation of no conflict of interest (CoI)

In the submission platform each IEP member will get access to the evaluation platform. Here the experts confirm for each proposal individually if a CoI, as described below, exists or not. The consortium composition of each proposal will be made available to facilitate this. **Only where no CoI exists, as described below, will the IEP member get full access to that specific proposal.**

I declare that I will be independent, impartial and objective in the evaluation of the assigned proposals.

Definition of the conflict of interest:

For a given proposal, a conflict of interest exists, if an evaluator:

- was involved in the preparation of any proposal submitted to the call, or
- benefits directly or indirectly if a proposal is accepted or rejected, or
- has close family ties (spouse, domestic or non-domestic partner, child, sibling, parent etc.) or other close personal relationship with a person involved in the preparation of any proposal submitted to the call, or with a person who would benefit if such a proposal is accepted or rejected or
- is a director, trustee or partner or is in any way involved in the management of an applicant organisation, or
- is employed or contracted by one of the applicant organisations

In the following circumstances, the call office will decide whether a CoI may or may not exist, taking into account the objective circumstances, available information and related risks. When an evaluator:

- was employed by one of the applicant organisations in the last three years, or
- is involved in a contract or grant agreement, grant decision, membership of management structures (e.g., member of management or advisory board, etc.) or research collaboration with an applicant organisation (or had been so in the last three years) or
- is in any other situation that could cast doubt on their ability to participate in the evaluation of the proposal impartially (or that could reasonably appear to do so in the eyes of an external third party).

If any such CoI exists or arises, I will inform the call office as soon as possible. The Call Office makes the final decision on the existence of a conflict of interest and on any disqualifications.

During the IEP meeting, even if I have not evaluated a specific proposal, in case of a possible CoI with that proposal, I will leave the virtual room during the discussion of this proposal. I will follow the instructions given by the Call Office with the aim of reaching an impartial evaluation of the proposals.