CLARIFICATION N°2

**Call reference:** GP/EFSA/AFSCO/2017/03&04

**Call title:** Detection and quantification of allergens in foods and minimum eliciting doses in food allergic individuals

&

Smart monitoring of airborne plant pathogens: advances in aerobiology, and molecular diagnostics and remote sensing to support risk based plant health surveillance in the EU

**Question 1:**

I notice in the guide for applicants that a consortium needs to include 50% co-financing in the budget and I want an advice on what counts as co-financing. Specifically can the time of our investigators count as a contribution to the 50% or does the 50% need to be an explicit actual cost investment by the University or an outside company?

**Answer 1:**

In line with the Rules on eligibility of costs (Annex 1 of the Call for proposals), the 50% co-financing rate from EFSA refers to the actual total project eligible costs of all partners of a consortium, up to a maximum of 375,000 €. In other words, EFSA’s grant may contribute up to 50% (max. 375,000 €) of the TOTAL amount of the estimated project eligible costs, not 50% of each individual item. Please note that the Call for proposals and guide for applicants indicates on p.9 that “the co-funding rate will be calculated overall for all consortium partners. Not all partners need to contribute equally to the 50% co-funding”.

Eligible direct and indirect costs are listed under point 1.10 “Estimated budget and eligible costs” (p.10) of the Call for proposals and guide for applicants, and in sections 2.1 and 2.2 of Annex 1 - Rules on eligibility of costs. Costs of personnel (e.g. including ‘time of your investigators’) are among the eligible costs. Please also refer to Annex 3 - Estimated budget template, where all categories of eligible costs are clearly structured in separated sheets.

Subcontracting is possible under specific conditions referred to under point 1.6 (p.8) of the Call for proposals and guide for applicants, and under point 2.16 of Annex 1 – Rules on eligibility of costs.

Please note however that subcontracting costs can only cover the implementation of a limited part of the action, as core tasks¹ cannot be

---

¹ “Core tasks” are those referring to the implementation of the main and specific objectives of a given project, and also include project management tasks and the tasks of the coordinator.
subcontracted, i.e. only ancillary and assistance tasks can be subcontracted. Subcontracting needs to be specified in advance in the proposed estimated budget (Annex 3).

**Question 2:**
Considering that EFSA provides a cofounding rate of 50% of the project costs, we are interested could we as an institution cover our costs, the remaining 50%, by salary costs of our employees working on the project?

We hereby refer to the EU Financial Regulation stating that the salary costs of public officials will be considered as direct cost of the beneficiary to the extent that they relate to the cost of activities which the relevant public authority as beneficiary would not carry out if the project concerned was not undertaken.

**Answer 2:**
Yes, costs of personnel are among eligible direct costs. The consortium will need to cover at least 50% of the total eligible project costs (as EFSA’s co-funding has a double ceiling of up to 50% of total eligible project costs and max. 375,000 €), which can include salary costs of staff involved in the project. EFSA will co-finance costs of personnel only for the time dedicated to the project, which will be calculated according to the unit costs as defined under point 2.1.1 of Annex 1 – Rules on eligibility of costs, together with the actual time-sheets submitted with the number of days/hours declared. Therefore the Financial Regulation has been quoted to make clear that ‘usual’ activities of public officials not related to the project cannot be co-financed.

Kerstin GROSS-HELMERT
[signed]

Date: 31/05/2017