CLARIFICATION N°8

Call reference: GP/EFSA/AFSCO/2017/03

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

Question 1:
I would need some clarifications about the sheet A.1:
We are charging the project with costs of personnel to be hired and employed only in the project activity. We read in the Annex 1 (Rules on eligibility of costs) that the staff assigned to the project has to be classified according to the ISCO-88, following the units cost per day.
In case of grant approval, are we going to commit ourselves to hire a personnel with that specific professional level? Or can we use the some budget (unit cost per day for a technician x 180 days) for a less expensive position (e.g. a research fellowship) extended on a longer period, still totally dedicated to the project?

Answer 1:
As indicated in the Call for Proposals, during the evaluation, the Committee will verify, amongst others, the operational capacity of the applicant and partners. It is indicated that "the consortium as a whole must have the professional resources, competencies and qualifications necessary to complete the proposed project". The application should therefore provide the CV of the experts and all other staff to be involved in the project, or, if the individual members are not yet assigned for the proposed project, at least the staff profiles necessary for the project. These will be used in the evaluation that the necessary professional resources, competencies and qualifications are/will be available to complete the proposed project. Therefore, in case you have to hire the staff member, (s)he should be at the same professional level than the one that you proposed in your application.
As indicated in section 5 of the Rules of Eligibility of Costs, there is a margin for flexibility with the approved estimated budget considering that it is based on estimates, and therefore it is normal that during the project implementation there might be a need to adjust it to reality or any unforeseen events. The approved estimated budget may be adjusted by making transfers, provided that such adjustments do not affect the basic purpose and that the completion of the project is not jeopardised. Depending on character of changes, EFSA needs to be notified and/or asked for approval. So, it would not be possible to simply make a change in the professional level of the personnel, without prior authorisation from EFSA.

In addition, the professional level of the experts should not be downgraded, unless duly justified and agreed by EFSA.
EFSA will provide the co-funding based on the actual total project eligible costs, up to a maximum contribution of 375,000 € per project at rate of 50% contribution, as
specified in the call for proposal and guide for applicants. Specifically, the costs of personnel can be co-financed only for the **time and activities** dedicated to the project, which **must be calculated** according to the **unit costs per declared profile**, 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 (see for more details p.2 of the Annex 1).

For further information, please also refer to Clarifications No.2 published under this call on EFSA’s website.