CLARIFICATION N°3

Call reference: GP/EFSA/SCER/2020/03
Call title: Use of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) for the hazard assessment of nanofibers. Lot 1: nanocellulose oral exposure: gastrointestinal digestion, nanofibers uptake and local effects. Lot 2: exploring the use of gut-on-a-chip models for risk assessments of nanofibers

Question: We would like to know whether an EU or non-EU international organisation can be a partner in a consortium in response to this call by covering its costs with its own budget (i.e. without claiming costs) and if a letter of commitment would be sufficient for such participation or if submission of other documents would be needed. We would also like to know if the letter of commitment has to be signed by the representative of the organisation or also by the applicant.

Answer: EU or non-EU international organisations are not eligible to be a consortium member under EFSA calls for proposals. The reason is that such organisations cannot be included in the EFSA Article 36 list of competent organisations, due to the fact that eligible organisations are designated by the Member States as being competent to assist EFSA’s with tasks in the field of EFSA’s mission. For international organisations, there is no Member State to designate them for inclusion in the List.

Nevertheless, an EU or non-EU international organisation could possibly contribute to the work of a consortium, if necessary (i.e. justified), specifically, if needed, as sub-contractor, referring to the condition applicable to sub-contractors in EFSA Calls for Proposals; considering that core tasks of the action under a proposal cannot be subcontracted.

If not asking for financial contribution from EFSA, an EU or non-EU international organisation can be mentioned as an external collaborator, not partner, without claiming costs. Their tasks cannot be a part of the proposal (work) requesting for co-financing, it would be a third party, to which the project proposal is related.

It would be advisable that an applicant presents some commitment, e.g. the third-party letter of commitment (towards the applicant/consortium).