

CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

Call reference: EUBA-EFSA-2025-BIOHAW-04

Call title: Joint programming for risk assessments in vector-borne diseases

Budget: EUR 6,000,000

Duration: 4 years

Budget Line: 3210

Project/process code: EPA04.01.01

Restricted to **the list of competent organisations** established by the Authority's Management Board in application of article 2 the Commission Regulation (EC) No 2230/2004 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 with regard to the network of organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's remit.

Brief description of the call objectives and key messages: EFSA aims to enhance the capacity for risk assessment at the European Union level by further developing partnerships among the European institutions that hold this competency. By establishing long term collaborations and harmonisation of the approaches to carry out risk assessments, EFSA aims to reinforce the development of science that can support decision making in the area of vector-borne diseases. The call will be divided into the following 4 lots:

- Lot 1 - Risk Assessments in northern EU
- Lot 2 - Risk Assessments in southern EU
- Lot 3 - Risk Assessments in western EU
- Lot 4 - Risk Assessments in eastern EU

INDICATIVE PROCEDURE TIMETABLE

Milestone	Date ¹	Comments
Launch date	01/10/2025	Date of call publication on EFSA's website and Funding & Tender portal.
Deadline for applicants to raise clarification questions to EFSA	07/01/2026 27/01/2026	If, after having read this Call for proposals and guide for applicants, you have any questions, you may address them to EFSAProcurement@efsa.europa.eu by indicating the Call reference.
Deadline for EFSA to reply to clarification questions	09/01/2026 29/01/2026	Question and answers will be published with the Call documents in the Funding & Tender portal, which the applicants are requested to consult regularly.
Deadline for submission of proposals	15/01/2026 04/02/2026 At 17:00 (CET)	Applicants can submit proposals by following the instructions in section 3.1 of this call for proposals. All applications must be submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders portal, following the instructions provided. Hard copy paper applications will not be accepted.
Notification of the evaluation results	February 2026	Estimated <i>Attention: outcome of the present call will be communicated to all applicants to the e-mail address indicated in their proposal. Accordingly, applicants who have submitted proposals under the present call are strongly invited to check regularly the inbox in question.</i>
Framework Partnership Agreement signature	March 2026	Estimated

¹ All times are in the time zone of the country of the EFSA.

Table of Contents

1.	GRANT OPPORTUNITY AND CONDITIONS	5
1.1	LEGAL FRAMEWORK.....	5
1.2	BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL	6
1.3	TASKS, DELIVERABLES, TIMELINES, MEETINGS AND PAYMENTS FOR EACH LOT	9
1.4	INFORMATION ON THE GRANT AGREEMENT	13
1.5	ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS	14
1.6	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.....	15
1.7	IMPLEMENTING CONTRACTS AND SUBCONTRACTING	16
1.8	GRANT PRINCIPLES	17
1.9	ESTIMATED BUDGET AND ELIGIBLE COSTS	18
1.10	PUBLICITY.....	18
1.11	PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA IN RELATION TO GRANT PROCEDURES AND ANTIFRAUD STRATEGY 18	
	Antifraud Strategy.....	18
1.12	PUBLIC ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS	18
1.13	OPEN ACCESS	19
1.14	HUNGARIAN PUBLIC INTEREST TRUSTS ESTABLISHED UNDER HUNGARIAN ACT IX OF 2021	19
1.15	USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS AND MODELS FOR DRAFTING THE OFFER AND IN DELIVERING SERVICES	19
	INTRODUCTION OF NEW AI SYSTEMS/MODELS DURING GRANT IMPLEMENTATION	20
2.	SELECTING PROPOSALS	22
2.1	VERIFICATION OF SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE FOR EACH LOT	22
2.2	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA APPLICABLE FOR EACH LOT.....	22
2.3	EXCLUSION CRITERIA APPLICABLE FOR EACH LOT	22
2.4	SELECTION CRITERIA APPLICABLE FOR EACH LOT	23
2.5	AWARD CRITERIA APPLICABLE FOR EACH LOT.....	26
2.6	PROCESS FOLLOWING THE ASSESSMENT AGAINST AWARD CRITERIA	27
3.	SUBMITTING PROPOSALS	27
3.1	SUBMISSION MODALITIES	27
3.2	LANGUAGE OF THE PROPOSAL AND THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.....	28
3.3	EXPECTED DURATION OF PROCEDURE.....	28

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Draft Framework Partnership Agreement and Draft Specific Agreement

Documents to be submitted with proposals (to be downloaded from the EU Funding and Tender portal Submission Service, see section 2 'Selecting proposal'):

Annex 2: Administrative Declaration

Annex 3: Declaration on honour on exclusion criteria

Annex 4: Declaration on honour on selection criteria

Annex 5: Selection criteria template

Annex 6: Award criteria template

1. GRANT OPPORTUNITY AND CONDITIONS²

1.1 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Article 36 (1) of the Regulation (EC) 178/2002³ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety, stipulates that the Authority shall promote the European networking of organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission. The aim of such networking is, in particular, to facilitate a scientific cooperation framework by the coordination of activities, the exchange of information, the development and implementation of joint projects⁴, the exchange of expertise and best practices in the fields within the Authority's mission. The list of competent organisations designated by the Member States, which may assist EFSA with its mission, is approved and regularly updated by EFSA's Management Board. The full list of Article 36 organisations can be found [here](#).

EFSA's founding regulation was amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain.

The Commission Regulation (EC) 2230/2004 of 23 December 2004 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of the European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) 178/2002 with regard to the network of organisations operating in the fields within the EFSA's mission specifies in Article 4 that tasks may be entrusted by the Authority to organisations on the list of competent organisations.

The present call specifically focuses on the below tasks defined in Article 4(3):

1. disseminating best practices and improving methods of collecting and analysing scientific and technical data, particularly for the purposes of facilitating comparability and producing a Community-level summary;
2. collecting and analysing specific data in response to a common priority, in particular the Community priorities contained in the Authority's work programmes, and in cases where the Authority's scientific assistance is urgently needed by the Commission, especially in the context of the general plan for crisis management referred to in Article 55 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002;
3. producing scientific data or works contributing to the risk assessment tasks, including assessment tasks in the field of human nutrition in relation to Community legislation, for which the Authority is responsible; this type of task must correspond to precise problems identified in the course of the work of the Authority, and in particular that of its Committee and permanent Scientific Panels, and must not duplicate Community research projects or data or contributions which it is the industry's duty to provide, especially in the context of authorisation procedures;
4. preparing the harmonisation of risk assessment methods;
5. sharing data of common interest, e.g. the establishing of databases;

Article 5(2) of the Commission Regulation (EC) 2230/2004⁵ of 23 December 2004 specifies that the financial support to the networking organisations shall take the form of subsidies (grants) awarded in accordance with the EFSA's financial regulation and implementing rules.

The present Call for proposals and guide for applicants (hereinafter referred to as "the Call") is procedurally governed by Title VIII of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European

² The applicant is reminded that this Call and guide for applicants contains a selection of the most important conditions for the grant implementation. For the full set of conditions, the applicant is invited to consult the draft grant agreement in Annex 1 of this Call.

³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2002:031:0001:0024:EN:PDF>

⁴ Project is frequently referred to in this Call as "action", in line with EU Financial Regulation terminology.

⁵ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:379:0064:0067:EN:PDF>

Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024⁶).

This call is based on EFSA Founding regulation⁷ and EFSA's 2025 Work Programme for grants and operational procurements as presented in Annex XII of the Programming Document 2025-2027, available on the EFSA's website⁸.

1.2 BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

BACKGROUND

Climate change and globalisation can significantly impact the emergence and distribution of vector-borne diseases (VBDs). Climate change can lead to changes in vector habitats with the subsequent change in the dynamics of these vectors and the disease agents they carry. In parallel, in a world with increased globalization the transmission and rapid spread of vectors and pathogens challenge also our preparedness capacity. It is foreseen that these challenges will not cease, therefore maintaining a high level of preparedness against VBDs is needed.

Long-term preparedness against a large number of pathogens, and vectors, that could potentially enter the EU, or if already present in the EU, change their current distribution, is very resource intensive.

The capacity of Member States to generate the knowledge to support decision makers when facing VBDs varies across the Union. On the other hand, the challenges posed by these agents are shared. By optimizing how resources are used to generate this knowledge, MSs, and the EU, would benefit.

EFSA, and more specifically the Animal Health team of the BIOHAW unit, has recently received a mandate from the European Commission (EC) on Vector-borne diseases. There, EFSA is requested to assess the risk of incursion, spread and impact of VBDs, listed and not listed in the Animal Health Law (link to AHL). In addition to that, EFSA must monitor the changes in geographic spread and impact of these diseases, surveillance, prevention and control measures, as well as potential changes of the vectors involved and their abundance and distribution.

To deliver on a mandate with such a large scope, EFSA and its experts, will broadly cover the main epidemiological aspects of these diseases, assessing their relative impact if the vectors/diseases were to enter or spread within the European Union (EU), and providing broad control and mitigation options.

The long-term aspect of the monitoring required, the continuous need for updates, and the need for multidisciplinary approaches, underlines the importance of enhanced collaboration among MSs, as well as with other stakeholders including EFSA to address the challenges posed by VBDs.

The concept of developing a joint programme between EFSA and MSs is an initiative that aims to optimise the delivery of complementary risk assessments, to faster share scientific knowledge and to increase the capacity to deal with future challenges related to VBDs.

This call aims to facilitate the optimization of the capacity available at a European level in terms of risk assessment around VBDs, including African horse sickness virus (AHSV), Akabane virus, Besnoitia besnoiti, Borreliosis, bovine ephemeral fever, bluetongue virus (BTV), Cache Valley virus, Crimean-

⁶ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/req/2024/2509/oj>

⁷ Regulation (EC) 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain.

⁸ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-01/programming-document-2025-2027.pdf>

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF), Coxiella burnetii (Q fever), Eastern and Western equine encephalitis (EEE/WEE), epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV), equine infectious anaemia (EIA), Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV), Leishmaniosis, lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV), Rift Valley fever virus (RVFV), Schmallenberg virus, Shuni virus, St. Louis encephalitis virus, Surra (Trypanosoma evansi), Trypanosoma vivax (T. vivax), tick-borne encephalitis (TBE), Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE), vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV), and West Nile virus (WNV).

EFSA together with some stakeholders have done a preliminary assessment of existing tools and ongoing research dedicated to VBDs in the EU. Although not an exhaustive list, this work, could be further developed and used as the basis to generate a road map of the risk questions, that if addressed, would facilitate decision making and therefore the faster implementation of prevention, control and mitigation strategies within the frame of the Animal Health Law. Developing a road map, and the further implementation of the activities defined in this road map are the core activities aimed via this call.

Due to the large number of pathogens and vectors of interest and considering that the aim is to optimise resources within the EU, EFSA in this call proposes to group the research work in 4 geographical areas. This division is only a crude division of ecological areas and does not necessarily reflect vectors or diseases distribution but helps in ensuring that the deliverables from this call benefit the Union as a whole.

This division follows a similar approach taken by the EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare in its opinion⁹ on Vector-borne diseases published in 2017, with the difference that Norway and Iceland are included in the current programme, while the United Kingdom is excluded.

Following this approach, the Member States, Norway and Iceland, have been grouped into the following geographical areas:

- Eastern EU (E-EU): Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Romania
- Northern EU (N-EU): Lithuania, Denmark, Latvia, Ireland, Finland, Estonia, Sweden, Norway, Iceland;
- Southern EU (S-EU): Spain, Greece, Malta, Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, Portugal, Cyprus;
- Western EU (W-EU): Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, Germany, Austria;

⁹ <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2017.4793>

OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

The objectives of the call are to:

- build long-term capacities and partnerships for risk assessment of VBDs in the EU;
- develop a roadmap of scientific topics that, if addressed, could help in enhancing the support to decision makers when dealing with challenges posed by VBDs;
- enhance the coordination of activities in a manner that guarantees resource optimization and increases resilience against VBDs;
- address gaps in knowledge relevant to all countries within the geographical scope of the Lot, assuring the timely dissemination of the outputs among VBDs' risk assessors and risk managers across the EU

The tasks included in this call are subdivided into 4 generic work packages: scientific tasks, project coordination and management, collaboration, and knowledge dissemination.

1.3 TASKS, DELIVERABLES, TIMELINES, MEETINGS AND PAYMENTS FOR EACH LOT

Work Package / Objective	Tasks for each lot	Deliverables for each lot	Deadline for each lot
<p>WP 1 Scientific Tasks</p>	<p>ACTIVITY 1.1</p> <p>Task 1.1.1 Prepare a draft roadmap for carrying out risk assessment on VBD in the geographical area selected, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Problem formulation: taking into account the existing RA tools and knowledge on the past/ongoing RAs on VBDs, and after consulting MSs in the geographical area of the lot, describe what are the scientific topics to be addressed in the next 3-4 years regarding VBDs B) describe methodologies, methods and tools to be used for achieving all objectives C) identify challenges and blockers D) Identify data gaps to be addressed by other relevant organisations/projects (e.g. VectorNet) E) The roadmap should indicate the time and resources needed for addressing each identified topic. The work plan should indicate 3 to 4 scientific topics to be addressed per year, over the 4 years of the project, prioritizing those questions that, if answered, would provide highly relevant scientific support to decision makers. To timely plan the outputs, risk questions for which data gaps exist should be scheduled in the last years of the project, to allow for data generation by other stakeholders when possible <p>The draft roadmap should be shared and discussed with the consortia of the other Lots, making necessary amendments, if any, to ensure a consistent approach across the 4 lots and aiming for harmonized approaches and optimization of the resources of the organizations involved.</p>	<p>Deliverable 1: Draft roadmap report. The draft report must be written in English and follow the template used by EFSA for External Scientific Reports. The template will be provided at the kick-off meeting.</p> <p>Deliverable 2: Final roadmap report. The report should be written in English and follow the template used by EFSA for External Scientific Reports. The template will be provided at the kick-off meeting</p>	<p>4 months from the signature of the first specific agreement</p> <p>5 months from the signature of the first specific agreement</p>
	<p>ACTIVITY 1.2</p> <p>Tasks 1.2.1 – 1.2.14 From the scientific topics described in the final road map, EFSA, in consultation with</p>	<p>Deliverables to be defined in each specific agreement: One or several reports as described in the specific agreements. The report/s should follow the</p>	<p>To be defined in each specific agreement</p>

	<p>the consortia, will select up to 6 topics to be addressed in one or several reports over the length of the two first years of the project. To address these scientific topics a risk assessment may be required. These assessments could include the following types:</p> <p>Task 1.2.1: Rapid RA Task 1.2.2: Regular RA Task 1.2.3: Complex RA</p> <p>If a risk assessment is not needed or is not feasible, to address a scientific topic, some other specific tasks may be required. These include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <p>Task 1.2.4: Data management Task 1.2.5: Data analysis Task 1.2.6: Development or modification of R-codes (codes can be provided using different software if agreed with EFSA) Task 1.2.7: Development of simple R-mark down files Task 1.2.8: Development or enhancements of dashboards Task 1.2.9: Extensive literature reviews Task 1.2.10: Systematic literature reviews Task 1.2.11: Review of reports Task 1.2.12: Provide ad-hoc scientific and technical advice Task 1.2.13: Horizon scanning Task 1.2.14: Drafting of reports</p>	<p>template used by EFSA for External Scientific Reports, as described in each specific agreement.</p> <p>Other possible deliverables: - File with R (or codes on other agreed software language) and R-Markdown codes (Tasks 1.2.6 and 1.2.7, respectively) - Dashboard delivered (Task 1.2.8) - EndNote file (Tasks 1.2.9 and 1.2.10) - Reviewed report (1.2.11) - Tools developed (Task 1.2.13)</p>	
	<p>ACTIVITY 1.3</p> <p>From the scientific topics described in the final road map, EFSA, in agreement with the consortia, will select up to 6 topics not already addressed, to be addressed in one or several reports over the length of the two last years of the project. To address these scientific topics a risk assessment may be required. These assessments could include the following types:</p> <p>Task 1.2.1: Rapid RA Task 1.2.2: Regular RA Task 1.2.3: Complex RA</p> <p>If a risk assessment is not needed or is not feasible, to address a scientific topic, some other specific tasks may be required as described in Activity 1.2 (tasks 1.2.1 to 1.2.14).</p>	<p>Deliverable to be defined in each specific agreement: One or several reports or other deliverables as described in the specific agreements.</p>	<p>To be defined in each specific agreement</p>
<p>WP2 Engagement</p>	<p>ACTIVITY 2.1</p> <p>Develop and implement a comprehensive set of engagement activities throughout the duration of the grant agreement. These activities should aim to strengthen</p>	<p>Deliverable to be defined in each specific agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Email confirmation of activities 	<p>To be defined in each specific agreement</p>

	<p>relationships, enhance technical expertise, and establish a solid foundation for ongoing cooperation beyond the life of the project. To support this goal, the tasks will include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <p>Task 2.1.1 Attendance of virtual kick-off meeting, interim meetings and final meeting. Attendance of other online engagements, including meetings, workshops, training sessions, and webinars is also required.</p> <p>Task 2.1.2 Attendance of physical meetings, workshops and face to face trainings.</p>	<p>- Storage of the presentations, materials from trainings sessions, workshops and face to face training into the shared workspace provided by EFSA (SharePoint)</p>	
<p>WP3 Dissemination of Knowledge</p>	<p>ACTIVITY 3.1</p> <p>Identify and address knowledge gaps relevant to all countries within the geographical scope of the Lot. Ensure the timely dissemination of the outputs to all interested stakeholders and risk assessors and managers within the Lot and across EU. To support this goal, the tasks may include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <p>Task 3.1.1 Webpage design Task 3.1.2 Design of a communication strategy e.g.: posters, stickers, leaflets, infographics Task 3.1.3 Webinars - should serve as a platform to engage with all MSs within the geographical area of the specific Lots. During these sessions, grant holders will present identified knowledge gaps and outline their proposed strategies for addressing them, fostering dialogue and collaboration across countries.</p>	<p>Deliverable to be defined in each specific agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Email with the link to webpage (Task 3.1.1) - Designed material sent via email and stored in the shared workspace provided by EFSA (Task 3.1.2) - Confirmation by email and storage of the relevant materials the shared workspace provided by EFSA (Task 3.1.3) 	<p>To be defined in each specific agreement</p>
<p>WP4 Project coordination and management</p>	<p>ACTIVITY 4.1</p> <p>Task 4.1.1 Liaison with other Lots The grant holders are expected to continually liaise with other Lots to align goals, avoid duplicated efforts, and use resources efficiently. This engagement helps identify complementarities, share best practices, and jointly address challenges, improving the effectiveness and impact of their activities while optimizing available resources.</p>	<p>Deliverable to be defined in each specific agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation by email 	<p>To be defined in each specific agreement</p>
	<p>ACTIVITY 4.2</p> <p>During the project, grant holders may be required to prepare for and/or organize virtual or in-person meetings, training sessions, webinars, and similar events. These activities will serve to discuss project progress, share preliminary and final results, exchange technical knowledge, align methodologies, address challenges encountered, and plan upcoming activities. To support this goal, the tasks may include, but are not limited to, the following:</p>	<p>Deliverable to be defined in each specific agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation via email (Tasks 4.2.1; 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) 	<p>To be defined in each specific agreement</p>

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

	<p>Task 4.2.1 Preparatory work for online meeting/ webinar</p> <p>Task 4.2.2 Preparatory work for online workshop/online training</p> <p>Task 4.2.3 Preparatory work for physical meeting/workshop/face to face training.</p>		
	<p>ACTIVITY 4.3</p> <p>Task 4.3.1 Archive all the Tasks EFSA will provide a shared workspace (SharePoint) accessible to all grant holders. This platform will support collaboration among the Lots, serve as a repository for final deliverables, and make results publicly available to interested stakeholders.</p>	<p>Deliverable to be defined in each specific agreement:</p> <p>- Confirmation via email when the deliverables have been stored in the SharePoint created by EFSA</p>	<p>To be defined in each specific agreement</p>
<p>Subcontracting is allowed for non-core tasks only. Core tasks for this project are the risk assessment tasks defined in this table under points 1.2.1, 1.2.2 and 1.2.3 and accordingly subcontracting is not permitted for those tasks. Please also refer to section 1.7 'Possibility of implementing contracts and subcontracting'.</p>			

No.	Meetings for each Lot	Deadline for finalisation
<p>Each FPA for each lot will be implemented following the signature of specific agreements. Each specific agreement will set out the need for meetings with EFSA. Meetings under each specific agreement may include the following, although EFSA also reserves the right to request ad-hoc online meetings in case of need throughout specific agreement implementation:</p>		
1	<p>Kick-off meeting: Half day teleconference At this meeting, details of the tasks and deliverables under the specific agreement will be discussed and the objectives, any reporting or other deliverables and timeframes will be clarified.</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and provided to EFSA by the beneficiary. EFSA will provide the agenda and generate the team's meeting link.</p> <p>Only for the kick-off meeting following the signature of the 1st specific agreement, the presence of a beneficiary's staff member responsible for administrative/finance issues of the project is advised as this will facilitate understanding by the beneficiary of the grant principles, related financial reporting requirements and significantly ease the financial management of the grant agreement, both for EFSA and the beneficiary.</p>	<p>No later than 3 weeks after entry into force of the specific agreement</p>
2	<p>Interim meeting: Half day teleconference The purpose of such meetings will be to discuss the progress with deliverables, such as the roadmap report (under specific agreement 1), as well as any problems or difficulties encountered during the project.</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and provided to EFSA by the beneficiary.</p>	<p>To be defined in each Specific Agreement</p>
4	<p>Final meeting: Half day teleconference To discuss / review the overall evolution and deliverables of the specific agreement.</p>	<p>To be defined in each Specific Agreement</p>

No.	Payments	Linked to EFSA approval of deliverable No.
	The payment modalities applicable to each specific agreement are detailed in the Data Sheet section 4.2 Periodic reporting and payment of the draft specific agreement published under the framework partnership agreement (Annex 1 of the call for Proposals).	NA

Deliverables must be drafted in English and may be subject to publication at EFSA’s discretion.

Please note that all reporting, minutes, outcome of the discussions could be submitted at EFSA’s discretion to EFSA’s Panel and Working Group members. Use of the grant deliverables may be subject to publication, subject to the terms and conditions set out in the draft grant agreement (Annex 1 of the call for proposals).

1.4 INFORMATION ON THE GRANT AGREEMENT

Applicants should note that the draft grant agreement is published with the call for proposals. If any applicant should have specific comments on the provisions of the draft grant agreement, these must be raised in a clarification, prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals so that a clear and transparent reply may be published for the benefit and information of all applicants.

The total envelope EFSA has available to award grants under this call for proposals is **€ 6,000,000 and the total per lot is € 1,500,000**. Applicants should note that in the Funding and Tender opportunities portal submission service under Administrative Form (Part A) there is an obligatory field regarding the budget (section 3). Applicants must insert the total envelope for the lot applied for in the ‘Requested grant amount’ field.

1.4.1 Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA)

This Call for proposals aims to conclude a Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) for the performance of the tasks described in these specifications. An FPA is a long-term cooperation between the Authority and one or several partners. It sets out the framework conditions and is subsequently implemented through Specific Agreements. The specific agreements will set out the specific conditions for performing the respective assignments.

The **financial ceiling** available for specific agreements under the framework partnership agreement is **6,000,000 € across all four lots**.

The **maximum duration** of this Framework Partnership Agreement is **4 years**.

The FPA continues to apply to specific agreements after its expiry. The services relating to such specific agreements must be performed no later than six months after the expiry of the FPA.

Where possible, in order to facilitate the planning of the beneficiaries, EFSA will share periodically the plan of the upcoming expected specific agreements.

This Call is divided into lots with financial ceilings available for specific agreements under each lot as follows:

- Lot 1 - Risk Assessments in northern EU €1,500,000 over 4 years
- Lot 2 - Risk Assessments in southern EU €1,500,000 over 4 years
- Lot 3 - Risk Assessments in western EU €1,500,000 over 4 years
- Lot 4 - Risk Assessments in eastern EU €1,500,000 over 4 years

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

One FPA will be signed for each separate lot. You may submit a proposal for one or more lots, but your proposal should indicate clearly for which lot you are applying. In case you decide to apply for several lots, a separate proposal for each lot must be provided. Proposals for each lot will be individually evaluated by EFSA according to the award criteria indicated in section 2.5.

The below forecast of specific agreements is to be considered as indicative. EFSA reserves the right to shift budget over the period of the FPA and award Specific Agreements as and when needed according to the actual timing of the tasks where support is required.

	Budget allocation per Lot and SA			
	2026	2027	2028	2029
SA01 - Roadmap	250,000 €			
SA02	500,000 €			
SA03/SA04/SA05			750,000 €	

EFSA further reserves the right not to award Specific Agreements under the FPAs without any compensation to be paid to the applicants. EFSA reserves the right to allocate unused funds from a specific lot to a different lot in case of operational need during the course of FPA implementation.

1.4.2 Implementation modalities:

For each lot, the implementation modalities and signature of specific grant agreements will be as follows:

- Specific Agreement no.1 will be signed shortly after the signature of the FPA and based on the expert judgement of EFSA will be for a total value of 250,000 €. The beneficiaries of each lot will be requested to generate a roadmap of the activities to be carried out over the life of the FPA. From these activities, EFSA will select those that should be prioritised for implementation under future Specific Agreements.
- Specific Agreement no.2 will be prepared for signature shortly after the delivery of the roadmap in 2026 for a value up to 500,000 €. This second Specific Agreement will have a duration of 2 years and the precise value will be based on the number of risk assessments and other tasks defined in the roadmap (deliverable of Specific Agreement no.1) as well as the expert judgement of EFSA.
- The remaining budget will be awarded in a maximum number of three further specific agreements over the remaining life of the FPA based on the number of risk assessments to be performed, other tasks detailed in section 1.3 of this call and the expert judgement of EFSA.

The cost of the three different types of risk assessment, based on EFSA expert judgement is as follows:

- Rapid Risk Assessment €24,800
- Regular Risk Assessment €83,000
- Complex Risk Assessment €153,000

1.5 ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS

To be eligible, applicants must be on the list of competent organisations designated by the Member States in accordance with Article 36 of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and Commission Regulation (EC)

2230/2004. This list is regularly updated by EFSA Management Board and is available for consultation using this link <https://efsa.force.com/competentorganisations/s/> [competent organisations](#)

In order to achieve the main objective of the call, proposals can be submitted by **one eligible organisation or by a consortium of eligible organisations**. In case of a consortium, one of the partners must be identified in the proposal as the consortium leader. The applicant (consortium leader) is responsible for identifying consortium partners.

If you are searching for consortium partners, please contact your Focal Point at the following address: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/eumembers> (section: **Focal Points members and observers**).

1.6 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

For proper understanding of this call it is important to have clarity on the terminology regarding involved organisations and their roles.

Proposals submitted by a sole applicant:

- **The Applicant** submits the proposal to EFSA. There can be only one applicant in the proposal.

As soon as the grant agreement is signed, the applicant becomes the beneficiary. The beneficiary is liable for the technical implementation of the project as described in the proposal which becomes Annex 1 of the grant agreement.

The beneficiary:

- Communicates with EFSA;
- Receives and answers all claims EFSA might have in relation to the implementation of the project;
- Requests and reviews any documents or information required by EFSA and verifies their completeness and correctness before passing them to EFSA;
- Informs EFSA of any event that is likely to substantially affect the implementation of the project;
- Submits the deliverables and reports to EFSA;
- Requests and receives payments from EFSA.

Proposals submitted by consortium:

- **The Applicant** submits the proposal to EFSA on behalf of the consortium. The applicant is the leading entity of the consortium.
- **The Partner** is the other entity in the consortium. There can be a minimum of one partner or more partners.

Once the grant is awarded, the grant agreement is signed between EFSA and the applicant (leading entity of the consortium).

Partners do not sign the grant agreement directly but instead sign a mandate (template provided by EFSA) authorising the applicant to sign the grant agreement and any future amendments on their behalf.

As soon as the grant agreement is signed, the applicant becomes the Coordinator and partner/s become co-beneficiary/ies. The coordinator and co-beneficiary/ies are referred to as the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are jointly and severally liable for the technical implementation of the project as described in the proposal which becomes Annex 1 of the grant agreement. If a beneficiary fails to

implement its part of the project, the other beneficiaries become responsible for implementing that part.

The coordinator has the following important roles:

- Takes part in implementing the project;
- Monitors the action is implemented properly;
- Act as intermediary for communication between the consortium and EFSA;
- Receives and answers all claims EFSA might have in relation to implementation of the project;
- Requests and reviews any documents or information required by EFSA and verifies their completeness and correctness before passing them to EFSA;
- Informs EFSA and the partner/s of any event that is likely to substantially affect implementation of the project;
- Submits the deliverables and reports to EFSA;
- Requests and receives payments from EFSA and distributes the funds to partner/s without unjustified delays.

The coordinator may not delegate the above-mentioned tasks to the co-beneficiary/ies or subcontract them to any third party.

The other beneficiary/ies:

- Take part in implementing the project;
- Forward to the coordinator the data needed to draw up reports, financial statements and other documents required under the grant agreement;
- Inform the coordinator of any event or circumstances likely to substantially affect or delay the implementation of the project.

1.7 IMPLEMENTING CONTRACTS AND SUBCONTRACTING

Implementation contracts:

Where the implementation of the project requires the award of procurement contracts (implementation contracts), e.g. purchase of services and/or goods or equipment necessary for the implementation of the action, the beneficiary must award the contract to the entity offering the best value for money or the lowest price (as appropriate), avoiding conflicts of interests. The beneficiary is expected to clearly document the tendering procedure and retain the documentation for the event of an audit.

Entities acting in their capacity as contracting authorities within the meaning of Directive 2014/24/EU¹⁰ must comply with the applicable national public procurement rules.

Sub-contracting:

Sub-contractors are not consortium partners and are not party to the grant agreement. They do not have any contractual relationship with EFSA. Subcontractors are entities contracted by the beneficiary to carry out some specific tasks or activities. Subcontracting is allowed under these conditions:

- **Core tasks must not be subcontracted.** Only ancillary and assistance tasks can be subcontracted.
- Subcontracts must be awarded to the entity offering best value for money or the lowest price (as appropriate), avoiding conflicts of interests;
- Subcontracting must only cover the implementation of a limited part of the action;
- Recourse to subcontracting must be justified having regard to the nature of the project and what is necessary for its implementation;

¹⁰ Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC (OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 65-242)

- Tasks to be subcontracted must be identified in the proposal and be approved by EFSA before the signature of the grant agreement;
- Recourse to subcontracting during project implementation, if not envisaged from the outset in the proposal, is subject to prior authorisation in writing by EFSA. Approval may be granted as long as it does not entail a change to the grant agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or be contrary to the equal treatment of applicants. No amendment is needed;
- The conditions applicable to the beneficiaries under Articles II.6 (*Confidentiality and security*), II.7 (*Processing of Personal Data*), II.8 (*Visibility of Union Funding*) of the grant agreement are also applicable to the subcontractor.

1.8 GRANT PRINCIPLES

The financial help provided by EFSA under this Call is a grant governed by the EU Financial Regulation referred to in part 1.1. Accordingly, the grant awarded following this Call must comply with the following principles:

The form of grant awarded under this Call is based on financing not linked to the costs of the relevant operations in accordance with Article 125 (1)(a) of the EU Financial Regulation. Grants financed in this way require the fulfilment of conditions set out in sector specific rules of Commission decisions or the achievement of results measured by reference to previously set milestones or through performance indicators.

The present call for proposals comes with an innovative and simplified grant management, where the grant amounts paid to the partner are based on the pre-defined sums which are not linked to the actual costs of the action. This means there is no need for co-financing from the partner, and no need for completion of estimated budgets or timesheets to record the work. The agreed sums are set at a level designed to stimulate the mutually convenient partnership creation. The payment of agreed sums from EFSA will be carried out based on the acceptance by EFSA of the delivered work. If you have questions on this grant form, during the application period, please raise any clarification questions to EFSAProcurement@efsa.europa.eu.

The financial support provided by EFSA under this Call is a grant governed by the EU Financial Regulation referred to in part 1.1. Accordingly, the grant awarded following this Call must comply with certain grant principles established in the EU Financial Regulation, specifically:

- **Non-retroactivity:** A grant may be awarded for a project which has already begun only where the applicant can demonstrate in the grant application the need to start the action before the grant agreement is signed. In accordance with Article 196 of the Financial Regulation. The tasks entrusted by EFSA should not be performed before the signature of the grant Agreement.

Article 183(3) of the EU Financial Regulation specifically states that **the following grant principles are NOT applicable** where the grant takes the form of financing not linked to the costs pursuant to article 125(1)(a):

- **Co-financing:** In accordance with Article 193 of the Financial Regulation, grants shall involve co-financing.
- **No-profit:** In accordance with Article 195(3)(d) of the Financial Regulation, grants shall not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the project for the applicant or partner.
- **Non-cumulative:** In accordance with Article 194(3) of the Financial Regulation, in no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice from the EU budget.

1.9 ESTIMATED BUDGET AND ELIGIBLE COSTS

For the submission of a proposal under this Call for proposals, no estimated budget is required.

1.10 PUBLICITY

All beneficiaries are expected to follow the rules on visibility of EFSA funding set out in Article 17 of the grant agreement.

According to Article 38 of the EU Financial Regulation EFSA is bound to publish information on recipients of its grants at its website. Such publication shall take place no later than 30 June of the year following the financial year in which the grants were awarded and shall cover these data of the beneficiaries:

- name of the beneficiary
- address of the beneficiary
- subject of the grant
- amount awarded

1.11 PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA IN RELATION TO GRANT PROCEDURES AND ANTIFRAUD STRATEGY

Processing of personal data by EFSA

Information on the processing of personal data by EFSA in the context of this grant procedure is available in the [Privacy Statement](#) on the EFSA website as well as in Article 15 of the draft grant agreement. Any personal data included in the Agreement must be processed by EFSA in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725.¹¹

Applicants should note that personal data as applicant or selected beneficiary may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) if you are in one of the situations mentioned in Article 138 of the Financial Regulation. For more information see the Privacy Statement on: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm#BDCE).

Processing of personal data by the beneficiary

In case the implementation of activities under the grant agreement resulting from this call entails the processing of personal data, the beneficiary shall comply with the relevant rules in Article 15 of the Grant Agreement (Annex 1) as a data processor of EFSA.

Antifraud Strategy

Frauds involving EU funds have a particularly high impact on EFSA's and the EU's reputation. The current [EFSA Anti-Fraud Strategy](#) ("the Strategy") was adopted on 14 October 2021. In case of award of an EFSA contract/grant agreement, it is obligatory for the Project Manager to follow the [EFSA Anti-Fraud Module](#). It is the responsibility of the beneficiary to make sure the training has been followed before start of grant agreement implementation.

IT support for access to the module please contact: servicedesk@efsa.europa.eu

Request on the topic of anti-fraud please contact: ethics-integrity@efsa.europa.eu

1.12 PUBLIC ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

In the general implementation of its activities and for the processing of grant procedures in particular, EFSA observes Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents.

¹¹ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC

1.13 OPEN ACCESS

EFSA is committed to the publication of grant outputs in the [Knowledge Junction](#) in order to improve transparency, reproducibility and evidence reuse. The Knowledge Junction runs on the EU-funded Zenodo research-sharing platform where uploaded items receive a unique Digital Object Identifier to make them citable. Any part of the output resulting from the action under this grant may be published (at EFSA's discretion) on the Knowledge Junction with attribution to the beneficiary.

1.14 HUNGARIAN PUBLIC INTEREST TRUSTS ESTABLISHED UNDER HUNGARIAN ACT IX OF 2021

Following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 16th December 2022, no legal commitments (including the grant agreement itself as well as subcontracts, purchase contracts, financial support to third parties etc.) can be signed with Hungarian public interest trusts established under Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain.

Affected entities may continue to apply to calls for proposals. However, in case the Council measures are not lifted, such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties).

In case of multi-beneficiary grant calls, co-applicants will be invited to remove or replace that entity. Tasks and budget may be redistributed accordingly.

1.15 USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS AND MODELS FOR DRAFTING THE OFFER AND IN DELIVERING SERVICES

Applicants must clearly indicate in their application whether Large Language Models, such as ChatGPT, were utilised in the preparation of their proposal.

The use of the AI systems/models in the frame of implementation of this grant is allowed, however the applicant must specify such intention in their proposal in the description of the proposed methodology where feasible to do so.

1. Requirements for AI system/model, in case those are proposed by the applicant:

The beneficiary using AI system/model in the implementation of this grant must adhere to Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 (hereafter: 'the AI Act')¹². This regulation is already in force, however it becomes applicable in a gradual way. This regulation also stipulates the obligations of deployers of high-risk AI systems (Article 26). Under no circumstances may the prohibited AI practices (outlined in article 5 of the AI Act) be applied during the implementation of this grant.

A mandatory requirement for the use of AI system / model, and irrespective when relevant provisions of the AI Act become applicable, must be the compliance of the applicant/beneficiary with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. In particular, Art. 24 of the EUDPR and Art. 22 of the GDPR provide data subjects with the right not to be subject to decisions based solely on automatic processing including profiling, hence

¹² Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act), OJ L, 2024/1689, 12.7.2024 - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj>

confirming the need for ensuring human oversight and validation for all activities and deliverables under the present contract.

2. Information required for award criteria:

EFSA, as the contracting authority, is committed to ensuring that the quality of outsourced outputs/deliverables is not compromised by the use of Artificial Intelligence systems/models. As you prepare your proposal, please note that EFSA requires assurance that your reliance on AI technologies will not jeopardize the quality of outputs/deliverables to be provided to EFSA in the future in case your proposal is selected.

Due to the inherent risks associated with AI technologies, EFSA must have confidence in the ability of applicants to manage these risks effectively and in a trustworthy manner. To this end, applicants are requested to provide evidence that the use of AI systems/models will not only maintain, but ideally enhance, the quality of outputs/deliverables provided to EFSA.

By addressing this requirement, you will help EFSA to assess your ability to deliver high-quality outputs/deliverables while leveraging AI technologies in a responsible and controlled manner.

Accordingly, if the applicant intends to use AI system/model in grant implementation and it is feasible to define this at the level of the application for the FPA, the proposal should specify the following information:

- The purpose of the use of AI system/model;
- At which stage / for which output/deliverable AI system/model is to be used;
- The added value expected from the use of AI system/model compared to relying on traditional IT systems;
- The risks linked with the use of AI system/model and the mitigating measures put in place by the applicant;
- The indication on how the human oversight and quality validation will be guaranteed.

This information, if provided, will be assessed in section 2.5 award criteria, under methodology, risk management and measures to guarantee quality of deliverables.

3. Other transparency requirements in use of AI:

For the sake of transparency, should generative AI systems/models such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT) have been employed in producing deliverables for EFSA, EFSA requires that the beneficiary inserts in the deliverable an explicit mention acknowledging the use of such AI systems/models and confirming human oversight and validation. This requirement applies to all deliverables in written or audio-visual formats, including but not limited to reports, images, videos and soundtracks.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW AI SYSTEMS/MODELS DURING GRANT IMPLEMENTATION

Introducing AI systems/ models into the grant implementation, if it was not part of the initial methodology explicitly foreseen in the call for proposals or in the application submitted by the beneficiary is subject to the prior written agreement of EFSA. **Before starting to use such AI systems/models in the grant implementation** the beneficiary must first inform EFSA in writing of its intention to use AI systems/models. The beneficiary shall provide EFSA with the following information:

- The purpose of the use of AI system/model and of the added-value;

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

- At which stage of the process and/or for which specific tasks the AI system/model is to be used;
- The risks linked with the use of AI system/model and the mitigating measures put in place by the beneficiary;
- The indication on how the beneficiary will guarantee the human oversight and quality validation.

Only if EFSA agrees in writing, the beneficiary can start to use AI system/model for the implementation of the grant.

EFSA will only endorse request if the following conditions are met:

- EFSA receives convincing reassurance that the use of AI will not have negative effect on quality of the outputs/deliverables;
- The change does not substantially alter the initial proposal.

EFSA reserves the right to refuse beneficiary's requests to use AI systems/models.

2. SELECTING PROPOSALS

The **Evaluation Committee** established by EFSA specifically for this call will evaluate the submitted proposals in five steps:

1. Verification of submission requirements (2.1)
2. Eligibility criteria (2.2)
3. Exclusion criteria (2.3)
4. Selection criteria (2.4)
5. Award criteria (2.5)

If the proposal fails at any step it is automatically excluded from further evaluation. EFSA may contact the applicant during the evaluation process if there is a need to clarify certain aspects or for the correction of clerical mistakes.

2.1 VERIFICATION OF SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE FOR EACH LOT

The following will be verified:

- proposal was submitted within the deadline for submission of proposals;
- administrative data for grant application form is duly signed by the authorised representative of the applicant;
- proposal is complete and includes all the supporting documents.

2.2 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA APPLICABLE FOR EACH LOT

Criterion No. 2.2	Requirements and requested evidence
1	Eligibility criteria
	The following requirements will be verified:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the day of deadline for submission of proposals, the applicant and in case of consortium also its partner/s are on the list of competent organisations designated by the Member States in accordance with Art 36 of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and Commission Regulation (EC) 2230/2004; • Applicant and in case of consortium also its partner/s are involved in the execution of the project; • Subcontracting, if any, is justified in the proposal.
	Requested evidence:
	<p>ADMINISTRATIVE DECLARATION</p> <p>Annex 2, available to download in the Funding and Tenders Portal under Part B Templates. The applicant and partner(s) (if applicable) must complete and sign the form. The applicant must upload the signed form in the relevant field under Part B and Annexes of the Funding and Tenders Portal.</p>

2.3 EXCLUSION CRITERIA APPLICABLE FOR EACH LOT

Criterion No. 2.3	Requirements and requested evidence
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2	Exclusion criteria
	The following requirements will be verified:
	The applicant and partner/s must sign a declaration on their honour certifying they are not in one of the exclusion situations referred to in the Articles 138(1) of EU Financial Regulation.
	Requested evidence:
	<p>THE DECLARATION ON HONOUR ON EXCLUSION CRITERIA Annex 3, available to download in the Funding and Tenders Portal under Part B Templates. The applicant, the partner(s) and subcontractors (if applicable) must complete and sign separate forms (section A).</p> <p>ONLY IN CASE OF SUBCONTRACTING: The applicant must provide the Declaration on Honour, section C. Confirmatory statement of professional conflicting interest to be completed only by the subcontractor(s) if the subcontractor is a legal entity (i.e. company/organisation) not included in the Article 36 list of competent organisations.</p> <p>The applicant must upload the Declaration on Honour in the relevant field under <i>Part B and Annexes</i> of the Funding and Tenders Portal. If applying in consortium and/or with subcontractors, the consortium leader must convert all declarations on honour on exclusion into one single pdf and upload the single document in the relevant field under <i>Part B and Annexes</i> of the Funding and Tenders Portal.</p>

2.4 SELECTION CRITERIA APPLICABLE FOR EACH LOT

A) Financial capacity

Criterion No. 2.4A	Requirements and requested evidence
1	Financial capacity
	The purpose of the selection criteria is to verify the financial capacity of the applicant and in case of consortium also of its partner/s.
	<p>The applicant and in case of consortium also its partner/s must have stable and sufficient financial resources to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the project is being carried out.</p> <p>If the Authority considers that financial capacity is weak, it may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - request further information; - decide not to give pre-financing; - decide to give pre-financing paid in instalments; - decide to give pre-financing covered by a bank guarantee; - where applicable, require the joint and several financial liability of all the co-beneficiaries. <p>If the EFSA Authorising Officer considers that the financial capacity is insufficient, the application may be rejected.</p>
	Requested evidence:

	<p>Documents to be provided by the applicant:</p> <p>DECLARATION ON HONOUR ON SELECTION CRITERIA Annex 4, available to download in the Funding and Tenders Portal. Only the applicant (or consortium leader if applicable) is required to complete and sign the form. The applicant must upload the form in the relevant field under <i>Part B and Annexes</i> of the Funding and Tenders Portal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIMPLIFIED FINANCIAL STATEMENT available here only required for private bodies if the grant requested from EFSA is >60.000 €. The template published with the Call should be completed for at least the last two closed financial years. • AUDIT REPORT only required for private bodies, if the grant requested from EFSA is >750.000 €, as referred to in the Articles 199 of EU Financial Regulation. In the event of an application grouping several applicants (consortium), the threshold applies to each applicant. If the audit report is not available AND a statutory report is not required by law, a self-declaration signed by the applicant's authorised representative certifying the validity of its accounts for the last 2 years available must be provided. <p>The audit report should be produced by an approved external auditor certifying the accounts for the last two years available, where such an audit report is available or whenever a statutory report is required by law.</p> <p>The authorising officer responsible may, depending on a risk assessment, waive the obligation of providing an audit report for education and training establishments, and in the case of agreements with several beneficiaries, for applicants who do not bear any financial responsibility or who have accepted joint and several liabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LETTER OF COMMITMENT: applicable only when another public body financially contributes to the project (body other than EFSA, applicant or in case of consortium, its partners); to be signed by the contributing public body; it serves to confirm its commitment to financially contribute to the project; no template is provided by EFSA. <p>The applicant must convert the Declaration on honour on selection criteria, the Simplified Financial statement (if applicable) and the letter of commitment (if applicable) into one single pdf and upload the single document in the relevant field under <i>Part B and Annexes</i> of the Funding and Tenders Portal.</p>
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B) Professional and operational capacity

Criterion No. 2.4.B	Requirements and requested evidence
1	Professional and operational capacity:
	Requirements and requested evidence:
	<p>The applicant or in case of a consortium, the consortium as a whole, must have the professional resources, competencies and qualifications necessary to complete the proposed project:</p> <p>1. Requirements for the organisation:</p> <p>The applicant organisation must be responsible at Member State level for the assessment of Vector Borne Diseases in their respective MS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EVIDENCE REQUESTED FOR REQUIREMENT 1:

	<p>A letter from the CVO of the respective MS confirming that the Art36 applicant organisation performs risk assessment on Vector Borne Diseases to support risk managers at national level.</p> <p>2. Requirements for the team of experts:</p> <p>Each lot will require to have a team of experts capable to fill in the 4 profiles described below. Several profiles can be covered by the same person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinator Senior (+5 years) • Epidemiologist Junior (3 years) • Entomologist Junior (3 years) • Data Analyst Junior (3 years) <p>The expert filling in the role of Coordinator will need more than five years' experience in coordinating scientific projects, including animal health risk assessments. The expert(s) covering the Epidemiologist and Data Analyst's profiles will need to have three years' experience in vector-borne diseases' risk assessment. The expert covering the Entomologist's profile should have three years of experience working in an entomological scientific context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>EVIDENCE REQUESTED FOR REQUIREMENT 2:</u> Detailed CVs of the Project team members proposed for the assignment, showing evidence of requirement 2 above, including a brief description of the expertise and a list of publications relevant to the project for each person proposed. If individual team members are not yet assigned for the proposed project, applicants should provide details of the staff profiles necessary for the project. EFSA strongly recommends submitting the CVs in the EU CV format which can be accessed here. <p>LIST OF PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS NAMES –the applicant should also summarise in one page, the names of the proposed individual project team members and the profile covered. Additionally, the table should also indicate whether the individual meets the English requirement at point 3 through C1 certificate; 3 years working in a English speaking environment or being author of at least 3 scientific publications in English.</p> <p>3. Requirements for the team of experts:</p> <p>Each expert of the team must have an excellent level of spoken and written standard UK English. For non-native speakers, this should be demonstrated by an Official certificate of English proving a C1 level OR at least 3 years of work in an English-speaking environment OR being author of at least 3 scientific publications in English;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>EVIDENCE REQUESTED FOR REQUIREMENT 3:</u> Detailed CVs of the Project team members proposed for the assignment, showing evidence of requirement 3 above and the list of project team members names referred to in point 2 above. <p>4. Environmental management (the answers to this section are for information purposes and will not be considered under any criteria, neither selection nor award criteria):</p> <p>Environmental protection is an integral part of EFSA's governance. EFSA has established, implemented and maintains a certified environmental management system in accordance with the international standard ISO 14001 and the European EMAS regulation. Environmental impacts of EFSA's activities are identified, managed and monitored in order to improve environmental performance. This commitment to environmental sustainability requires us to consider a life-cycle perspective when purchasing our services.</p>
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	<p>For this reason, we are asking you some information on the environmental management of your activities, to be provided filling in Annex 5 (Selection criteria - Information on environmental management).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EVIDENCE REQUESTED FOR REQUIREMENT 4: Annex 5 – Selection criteria, Information on environmental management <p>For requirements 1-4, a template (Annex 5) is available to download in the Funding and Tenders Portal. The applicant must upload the completed template (a single pdf document of all requirements including CVs), in the relevant field under Part B and Annexes of the Funding and Tenders Portal.</p>
	<p><u>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (DoIs)</u></p> <p>The beneficiary will provide Individual Declaration of Interests (DoIs) of subcontractors not working for organisations included in the Art. 36 list and which are members of the project team having influence and/or control over scientific outputs, prior to and as a condition of specific grant agreement signature.</p> <p>The Individual Declarations of Interests is available here under <i>Conflict of interest forms applicable to contracts/grants signed from June 2025.</i></p> <p>Please refer to EFSA’s Independence policy and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management for more detailed information.</p> <p><u>DoIs do not need to be provided with your proposal at this stage.</u></p>

2.5 AWARD CRITERIA APPLICABLE FOR EACH LOT

<p>Criterion No. 2.5</p>	<p>For the award criteria a template (Annex 6) is available to download in the Funding and Tenders Portal. The applicant must upload the completed template (a single pdf document of all criteria) in the relevant field under Part B and Annexes of the Funding and Tenders Portal.</p> <p>The award criteria serve to assess the quality of the proposals in relation to the objectives of the Call. The following award criteria are applicable in this call.</p>
<p>1</p>	<p>The extent to which the proposal will achieve optimisation of resources regarding risk assessment on VBDs, in comparison with the current situation, also giving examples on how duplication of efforts will be avoided. MAX 20 POINTS</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>The extent to which the proposal is likely to boost scientific cooperation between MSs and with EFSA regarding risk assessment on VBDs, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) how the proposal ensures that the needs regarding risk assessment on VBDs of all Member States (and Norway and Iceland) located in the same geographical area (i.e. Eastern-EU, Northern-EU, Southern-EU or Western-EU areas) will be covered. MAX 15 POINTS b) how the proposal will ensure that the needs regarding risk assessment will cover questions that are crucial to risk managers in their decision making on VBDs MAX 20 POINTS c) how a harmonisation of the approaches across the 4 lots will be achieved. MAX 10 POINTS

	<p>d) how the overall capacity for risk assessment will be enhanced, and in the case of a consortium, why partners were chosen and explaining their role (e.g. if knowledge transfer is foreseen by including (a) less experienced partner(s) in the project). MAX 15 POINTS</p> <p>Total max points for criterion 2: 60</p>
3	<p>The extent to which specific assurance measures will be put in place to guarantee the high quality of deliverables. MAX 20 POINTS</p>

In order to be considered for a reserve list, the proposal must:

- score a minimum of 50 points out of maximum possible 100 points; and
- for criteria 1, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d and 3, score at least 50% of the points attributed to that criterion.

Proposals which have satisfied these quality thresholds will be ranked in a reserve list. The reserve list will be valid for six months from the signature of the feedback letter.

2.6 PROCESS FOLLOWING THE ASSESSMENT AGAINST AWARD CRITERIA

The applicant(s) will be notified, once the evaluation has been finalized, whether they are placed on the reserve list or not.

EFSA reserves the right to invite the 1st ranked applicant for each lot on the reserve list, to adapt its proposal based on the evaluators' comments in accordance with article 203(5) EU FR.

Following the successful conclusion of the adaptation phase, the award decision will be taken by EFSA. Subsequently, the grant agreement will be prepared.

If the 1st ranked applicant for each lot fails to adapt its proposal, EFSA reserves the right to reject the proposal. The budget made available in this way may be used for a project of the next ranked applicant on the reserve list.

3. SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

3.1 SUBMISSION MODALITIES

You must submit your proposal electronically via the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#) before the time limit for receipt of proposals (indicated on page 2 of this call). A webinar showing step-by-step the use of the EU funding and Tender Portal for Grant submission on a pilot EFSA call is available at [this link](#) (from minute 15:39 to minute 45:55).

Registration in the Participant Register

Applicants submitting a proposal must be registered in the Participant Register - an online register of organisations and natural persons participating in European Commission's calls for tenders or proposals.

On registering, each participant obtains a Participant Identification Code (PIC, 9 - digit number) which acts as its unique identifier in the Participant Register. A participant needs to register only once – the information provided can be further updated or re-used by the participant in other European Commission's calls for tenders or calls for proposals.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

At any moment during the grant procedure the Research Executive Agency Validation Services (hereafter the EU Validation Services) may contact the participant and ask for supporting documents on legal existence and status.

The requests will be made through the register's messaging system to the e-mail address of the participant's contact person indicated in the register. It is the responsibility of the participant to provide a valid e-mail address and to check it regularly.

The documents that may be requested by the EU Validation Services are listed in the [EU Grants and Tenders Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR appointment and Financial Capacity assessment](#). Please note that a request for supporting documents by the EU Validation Services in no way implies that the grant application has been successful.

Submitting your proposal

The EU Funding & Tenders Portal allows applicants to respond to calls for proposals by preparing applications electronically in a structured and secured way and submitting proposals electronically.

To find more information on submitting your proposal, please read carefully the information on the page [Submit a proposal – electronic submission system](#). On the same page useful links to the [User guide of the submission system](#) and an [FAQ on proposal submission](#) are provided.

Make sure you submit your application on time: you are advised to start completing your application early. To avoid any complications with regard to late receipt/non-receipt of applications within the deadline, please ensure that you submit your application several hours before the deadline. It is not possible to submit an application after the deadline.

3.2 LANGUAGE OF THE PROPOSAL AND THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Proposals may be submitted in any official language of the European Union. However, as EFSA's working language is English, the submission of proposals in English would speed up the evaluation process.

Please note that some supporting documents (e.g. CVs) are required. These supporting documents are an integral part of the proposal. If these supporting documents are in a language other than English, in order to facilitate and speed up the evaluation, it would be appreciated if a reliable translation of the relevant parts of the documents into English is provided with the proposal.

3.3 EXPECTED DURATION OF PROCEDURE

In accordance with Article 197(2) of the Financial Regulation, the maximum time-limits for the procedure are as follows:

- All applicants will be informed of the decision regarding their application within 6 months of the deadline for submission of proposals.
- Signature of the grant agreement will take place within 3 months from the date the successful applicant/s has/have been informed of the decision on their application.