



CLARIFICATION N°1 to 12

Call reference: EUBA-EFSA-2025-PLANTS-01

Call title: Research to reduce entomological knowledge gaps for plant health

Question 1: Would you expect the lab experiments on temperature and relative humidity on survival and development to be conducted also in East Africa, or could these experiments be done in EU at conditions with containment facilities? [...]

Answer: Laboratory experiments on effects of temperature and relative humidity on the survival and development of the False Codling Moth can also be conducted in the EU in an approved biosecurity facility for this type of experiments, provided that all the necessary permits are obtained from the MS plant health authorities.

Question 2: I'm contacting you because I'm interested in the call EUBA-EFSA-2025-PLANTS-01-02-Lot2. [...] I'm not sure my institute is eligible for this funding. I couldn't find the information on the EFSA website.

Answer: As explained under the Call for proposals section 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/>.*'

For any further information or guidance on the List, please see first the **FAQ** in the EFSA's website [here](#) or contact EFSA's KNOW Unit at: Cooperation.Article36@efsa.europa.eu.

Subcontractors are not required to be on the list of competent organisations. For more information on subcontracting, please refer to the Call for proposals, section 1.7 IMPLEMENTING CONTRACTS AND SUBCONTRACTING.

Question 3: Considering the call at paragraph 1.7 Implementing contracts and subcontracting, we would like to know:

- i) how many subcontractors are allowed for Lot1? Is there any limit?
- ii) In Lot1, is the subcontracting allowed only for experiments on transmission by vectors of *X. fastidiosa*, requiring quarantine biosecurity facilities/permits or is it possible to subcontract other minor tasks?

Answer: i) There is no limit on the number of subcontractors.
ii) For lot 1, subcontracting is exceptionally allowed for conducting experiments on transmission by vectors of *X. fastidiosa*, requiring quarantine biosecurity facilities/permits. In addition to this, subcontracting is only allowed for non-core tasks. Please note that the core tasks which cannot be subcontracted are: planning, coordinating, analysing and reporting experiments/surveys, communication and reporting with EFSA.

Question 4: I am writing to kindly submit a request for clarification regarding the call EUBA-EFSA-2025-PLANTS-01-01.

We would appreciate clarification regarding the involvement of a subcontractor, specifically for the implementation of field trials and tests under controlled conditions.

Is it mandatory to identify the subcontractor through a public tendering process only after the project is funded, or is it acceptable to indicate in the proposal the Entity we intend to involve as subcontractor?

If the latter is possible, as a public body, would it be acceptable to carry out a public consultation prior to submission—for example, by publishing a call for interest to identify qualified organizations? This would allow us to evaluate expressions of interest, assess the candidates' qualifications, and select the most suitable one, to be named and described in the proposal. In this way, may we specify that a given task will be carried out by "Subcontractor XY", based on their proven expertise, which we consider essential for the success of the project?

Answer: We confirm that subcontractors proposed to be involved in the project can be indicated in the proposal. The beneficiary can identify the subcontractor(s) as they wish. In general, subcontracts must be awarded to the entity offering best value for money or the lowest price (as appropriate), avoiding conflicts of interests. However, it has to be noted that the choice of a sub-contractor is under the sole responsibility of the project team, which has to ensure the reliability and efficiency of the selected sub-contractor in conducting the sub-contracted tasks.

Question 5: It is unclear to us where the scientific description of the planned activities intended to achieve the three objectives of the call (Lot 1) should be included. Are we expected to provide this in Annex6?

In this regard, we would also appreciate clarification on whether the text in Annex 6 should preferably be divided into four distinct sections—objectives, methodology, project management, and communication—corresponding to the four award criteria, or whether a single, coherent narrative encompassing all relevant aspects of the project would be acceptable. In the latter case, we assume that the evaluators will assess the content against the criteria based on its distribution throughout the document.

If, instead, the scientific description of the project is to be provided in a separate annex, could you please clarify what content is expected in Annex 6?

Answer: Annex 6 is a 'free text' template where the applicant should insert their detailed technical proposal based on the award criteria (section 2.5 of the Call for proposals), how the information is further structured it is up to the applicant.

Question 6: I would like to request additional information on how to fill Annex 6. It sounds as if I have to evaluate myself how well my proposal achieves the different criteria, but I expect EFSA to do this, so Annex 6 appears counterintuitive. Could you please clarify this for me, ideally with one or two examples?

Answer: As clarified in our answer to Question 5 above, Annex 6 is a 'free text' template where the applicant should insert their detailed technical proposal based on the award criteria (section 2.5 of the Call for proposals). The applicant has to explain how the proposal achieves the award criteria and EFSA will assess the quality of the proposals.

Question 7: Annex 2 - In the case of subcontractors being involved, they should be listed in the document. However, should the annex be signed only by the applicant and partners involved? Or subcontractors must also sign it?

Answer: Annex 2 must be signed only by the applicant and partners.

Question 8: Annex 3 - In the case of a consortium (potentially also involving subcontractors), a separate form is required for each entity, to be compiled into a single PDF. In this case, applicant, partners and subcontractor will fill the section A; subcontractor also the section C. can we delete section B? As each entity will electronically sign its own form, merging the forms into a single PDF may invalidate the individual electronic signatures. Would it be acceptable if all involved entities (partners and subcontractors) electronically sign a single merged PDF file containing all the completed forms?

Answer: Annex 3 must not be altered, so section B cannot be deleted. Each involved entity (leader, partners and subcontractors) must submit a separate form. If merging into single PDF creates issues with digital signatures, digital signatures can be replaced by blue ink signature.

Question 9: Annex 5 - The document does not seem to explicitly require a signature. Can it be signed by the project's scientific coordinator rather than the legal representative?

Answer: Annex 5 does not need to be signed.

Question 10: Annex 6 - Similarly, this annex does not appear to require a signature. Can it also be signed by the scientific coordinator instead of the legal representative?

Answer: Annex 5 does not need to be signed.

Question 11: Simplified Financial Statement - If the subcontractor is a private entity, is it required to fill in the Simplified Financial Statement? If the subcontractor should fill the financial statement, should it be sent together with the proposal?

Answer: Yes, simplified financial statement is required for private bodies. It must be sent together with the proposal.

Question 12: At page 29 of the call under paragraph "1.9 ESTIMATED BUDGET AND ELIGIBLE COSTS" it is reported that "*For the submission of a proposal under this Call for proposals, no estimated budget is required*". I would kindly ask if this means that no estimation/allocation of costs for each task, consortium member or subcontract must be provisionally indicated in Annex 6 in the description of the project proposal.

Answer: As stated in section 1.8 of the call for proposal, the form of grant awarded under this Call is based on financing not linked to the costs of the relevant operations. This means there is no need for estimated budget and no need to indicate the allocation of costs.