



CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

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

Call title: Welfare monitoring: data driven risk assessment in fast and slower growing broilers (BROWARD)

Budget Line: 3210

Project/process code: 04-01-25 Animal Welfare

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:

The key objectives of this grant are: 1) to produce a dataset and analyse the data from a field primary data collection of selected animal-based measures (ABMs) that measure welfare consequences of broiler chickens on farm and related contextual data including resource-based and management-based measures from different housing systems and practices in broiler chicken farms and slaughterhouses 2) to conduct experiments to evaluate the impact of three interventions: changing stocking density, providing elevated platforms and dark brooders on the ABMs of broiler chickens of fast- and slower-growing genotypes. The data collected from the field data collection and the experiments are to be freely accessible in an open dataset.



INDICATIVE PROCEDURE TIMETABLE

Milestone	Date ¹	Comments
Launch date	17/06/2025	Date of call publication on EFSA's website and Funding & Tender portal.
Deadline for applicants to raise clarification questions to EFSA	19/12/2025 <u>06/01/2026</u>	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	05/01/2026 <u>08/01/2026</u>	Replies will be provided on EFSA's webpage where this Call is published and which the applicants are requested to consult regularly.
Deadline for submission of proposals	08/01/2026 <u>14/01/2026</u> 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-March/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>
Grant agreement(s) signature	March-April/2026	Estimated

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



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ANNEXES

Annex 1: Draft grant 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. collecting and analysing data with a view to facilitating risk assessment by the Authority, including assessment tasks in the field of human nutrition in relation to Community legislation, especially the compiling and/or processing of scientific data on any substance, treatment, food or feed, preparation, organism or contaminant which may be linked with a health risk, and the collection and/or analysis of data on the exposure of Member States' populations to a health risk associated with food or feed;
2. preparing the harmonisation of risk assessment methods;
3. 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 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).

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>

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



This call is based on EFSA Founding regulation⁷ and EFSA's 2024 Work Programme for grants and operational procurements as presented in Annex XII of the Programming Document 2024-2026, available on the EFSA's website⁸.

1.2 BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

BACKGROUND

Higher welfare standards have been demanded by citizens as showcased by the results of the 2023 Eurobarometer "Attitudes of European towards animal welfare"⁹. In addition, better animal welfare (AW) is also listed in the more sustainable agricultural practices of the 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy¹⁰. In this framework, EFSA has embedded its vision¹¹ for new quantitative and qualitative methodologies for AW assessment by 2027, together with the standardisation of data collection to assess AW by 2030.

Building on this work, EFSA's roadmap for action project "More Welfare: towards new risk assessment methodologies and harmonised animal welfare data in the EU"¹² highlighted that there is currently insufficient quantitative data to compare welfare of farmed animals across the EU, define cut-off values for welfare indicators and effectively solve/reduce the occurrence of welfare issues on farm. This gap of knowledge was also highlighted in the preparation of the EFSA scientific opinion on the welfare of broilers (EFSA AHAW panel, 2023)¹³ in which expert opinion was used for many aspects for which there was lack of data.

Broiler chickens have been identified as a species to fill this gap with information on animal-based measures and its links to resource-based and management-based measures. With over 10 million tonnes/ year of broiler chicken meat produced in 2024¹⁴, the EU represents one of the world's biggest producers, with a heavily intensified farming system, predominantly keeping broiler chickens indoor and applying stocking densities between 33 and 42 kg/m².

EFSA is a partner in the European Partnership on Animal Health and welfare¹⁵. One of the identified requirement by this European partnership is the lack of a database to compile data on the welfare of farmed-animals. The outcomes of the BORWARD project call will aid to fill in this gap in animal welfare data and knowledge.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

The objective of this call for proposals is to identify a consortium of EFSA Art 36 organizations (EC regulation 178/2002) that will fill in this gap of knowledge by achieving the following project outcomes:

- 1. Mapping and selection of ABMs and contextual data related to management and resource-based measures (MBMs and RBMs) for assessing on-farm welfare of broiler chickens using a developed protocol**

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/2024-01/programming-document-2024-2026.pdf>

⁹ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2996>

¹⁰ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030_en

¹¹ <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2022.e200507>

¹² <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.2903/sp.efsa.2024.EN-8566>

¹³ EFSA AHAW panel. 2023. Welfare of broilers on farm. <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2023.7788>

¹⁴ DG Agri Dashboard poultry meat: <https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/document/download/0ce25b9f-1571-4310-8531-3fe3346c49e0>

¹⁵ <https://www.eupahw.eu/>



Develop and provide a harmonised set of protocols for collecting data on animal-based measures (ABMs) of broiler chickens. In this objective ABMs to measure welfare in broiler chickens should be identified and selected. The selected ABMs must help measuring at least a set of welfare consequences included in the call for proposals occurring at broiler chicken farms, and at slaughterhouses. ABMs collected at the slaughterhouse should reflect as much as possible welfare consequences occurring on farm and this linkage should be explained in the specific report.

2. Conduct a field data collection of ABMs and contextual data on broiler chickens on farm, and at the slaughterhouses

Conduct comprehensive field data collection on ABMs at different production stages. Farm: Welfare indicators of broilers during rearing; Slaughterhouse: Assessment on farm of welfare-related conditions on farm. In the proposal and other documents the linkage between the ABM at the slaughterhouse and the welfare issues on farm must be articulated possibly with scientific references. In addition, collect contextual data, including Management-based measures (e.g. farm management practices, concentration of gases such as CO₂ and ammonia) and resource-based measures (RBMs, e.g., housing systems, stocking density, genotype, group size, sex of the birds, production cycle duration, use of enrichment items, lighting programmes). In the housing systems with covered veranda, size of the covered veranda or the outdoor range in m², vegetation coverage, number of pop holes per 1000 birds are examples of resource-based measures to be collected.

3. Development and establishment of a dataset with ABMs, RBMs and MBMs that can inform future risks assessments

From 1 & 2, develop a well-structured and accessible dataset to store and manage the field-collected data on ABMs, RBMs and MBMs. Ensure the dataset is designed to enable the analysis of relationships between ABMs and contextual factors (e.g., management practices, housing systems) and follows the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) principles.

4. Conduct of experiments in fast- and slower-growing genotypes of broiler chickens as defined in EFSA AHAW Panel (2023)¹⁶ to investigate separately the impact of several interventions on stocking density, the provision of elevated structures, and dark brooders. The interventions of interest are the following:

- 1) Provision of different levels of **stocking densities** ranging from the maximum allowed by Directive 2007/43¹⁷ to a lower stocking density than the one applied in the organic certification: 42 kg/m², 30 kg/m², 21 kg/m², and 15 kg/m² for fast- and slower-growing genotypes of broiler chickens;
- 2) Provision of **elevated structures** at 10% of the useable area of the barn with wide accessing ramps with an inclination between the floor and the elevated platform of 20° to 25° for fast- and slower-growing broiler chickens;
- 3) Provision of **dark brooders** in fast- and slower-growing broiler chickens;

¹⁶ Fast-growing broiler chickens (ADWG > 50 g/day) and slower-growing broiler chickens (ADWG < 50 g/day) EFSA AHAW Panel (2023). Welfare of broilers on farm.

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7788>

¹⁷ Council Directive 2007/43/EC of 28 June 2007 laying down minimum rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat production. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2007/43/oj/eng>



Specific objectives

Specific objectives	Sub-objectives
1. Mapping and selection of ABMs and related context data on management and resource-based measures (MBMs and RBMs) for assessing on-farm welfare of broiler chickens using a developed protocol	1.1 Identify and select ABMs that measure the welfare consequences of broiler chickens included in the call and related context data on MBMs and RBMs of the field data collection and the experimental data collection.
	1.2 Develop (i.e. in the case newly developed ABMs are being used) and/or detail a protocol to measure the identified and selected ABMs and related context data including MBMs and RBMs for the harmonised primary field data collection and experiments and amongst the members of the consortium.
2. Conduct a field data collection of ABMs and contextual data on broiler chickens on farm, and at the slaughterhouses	2.1 Development of a pilot field data collection sampling plan.
	2.2 Selection of field evaluators and development of training programme and refreshing trainings for primary field data collection.
	2.3 Fine tune, validation of the protocol and pilot field data collection
	2.4 Development of a data sampling plan and execution of a large-scale field primary data collection, and population of dataset.
	2.5 Conduct exploratory statistical data analyses to test for statistical correlations between ABMs selected in 1.1 and resource-based (RBM) and management-based measures (MBM).
3. Development and establishment of a dataset with ABMs, RBMs and MBMs	3.1 Design the data structure and scheme for the dataset: the data model (attributes and variables) that fits the outputs of objectives 2.4 and 2.5 and objective 4.
	3.2 Implement data validation and quality checks & develop standardized formats and metadata.
	3.3 Ensure FAIR principles are applied in the dataset
4. Conduct experiments to evaluate the impact of three types of interventions in fast- and slower- growing genotypes of broiler chickens	<p>For each type of intervention:</p> <p>A) Identify and select ABMs that measure the welfare consequences linked to the specific interventions and provide the details of the experiment including the design and factors for which to be controlled (e.g., 1 factor experimental design, 2 factors experimental design)</p> <p>B) Insertion of the data into the dataset developed in objective 3, performing data analysis and reporting of the data analysis in a narrative report and data sharing.</p> <p>4.1 <u>Intervention 1</u>: apply the 4 different stocking densities indicated in the project proposal to fast- and slower -growing broiler chickens;</p> <p>4.2 <u>Intervention 2</u>: provide elevated platforms as indicated in the project proposal to fast-growing and slower-growing broiler chickens.</p> <p>4.3 <u>Intervention 3</u>: provision of dark brooders as indicated in the project proposal to fast-growing and slower-growing broiler chickens.</p>

Specific objective 1: Mapping and selection of ABMs and contextual data related to management and resource-based (MBMs and RBMs) for assessing on-farm welfare of broiler chickens using a developed protocol.

The goal of this task is to find and collect existing animal-based measures (ABMs) indicative of the welfare consequences 'restriction of movement', 'locomotory disorders including lameness', 'inability



to perform comfort behaviour, *'inability to perform foraging and exploratory behaviour*', *'resting problems*', *'soft tissue lesions and integument damage*', as defined in EFSA AHAW Panel (2022)¹⁸ and in EFSA AHAW Panel (2023)¹⁹ for broiler chickens. These ABMs will be mapped from scientific studies, quality schemes (e.g. Welfare Quality, 2009)²⁰, EFSA scientific opinion on the welfare of broilers on farm (EFSA AHAW Panel, 2023)¹². The ABMs can be measured either on broiler chickens on farm or at slaughterhouses. ABMs collected at the slaughterhouse must have a clear link with welfare consequences occurring on broiler chicken farms and must be justified. In addition, related contextual information about how broilers are managed and their environment in terms of management- and resource-based measures (e.g. luminosity, size of the feeders, size of the drinkers, type of ventilation, provision of elevated platforms and other enrichment items, concentration of CO₂, concentration of ammonia, stocking density, number of birds, sex of the birds, duration of the production process, genotype used, availability of a covered veranda, availability of an outdoor range, performance of flock thinning, day of performance of the flock thinning) on farms across EU countries, the identified ABMs will be organised and saved in a dataset. This dataset will include both well-known ABMs and newer ones still being developed, as long as they seem useful and have been validated for evaluating broiler welfare. The final list will help deciding which ABMs and context data (MBMs and RBMs) should be used for the field data collection and the experimental studies (Objective 2). The final list should contain at least 15 ABMs and 20 MBMs and RBMs to be used in the field data collection.

Sub-objective 1.1: Identify and select ABMs that measure the welfare consequences of broiler chickens and related context data (management-based measures and resource-based measures)

This part of the work focuses on finding and bringing together existing and possibly new animal-based measures (ABMs), along with related information about how animals are managed (MBM) and the conditions they live in (RBM). ABMs that monitor the main welfare issues highlighted by EFSA (AHAW Panel, 2023)¹⁹ will be given priority. All this information will be stored in one dataset. The data will come from farms, and slaughterhouses and will be used to monitor the welfare of broiler chickens on-farm. To find the right data, a clear literature review method will be used to search the literature. This method will explain where the data comes from, how it will be chosen, and why specific ABMs and RBMs and MBMs are included. The dataset will include details (metadata) for each ABM and background information—such as what does the ABM mean, how the ABM is measured, how the ABM is scored, and where it comes from and preferably validated ABMs will be included. Context data consisting of management-based and resource-based measures include aspects like housing type, provision of enrichment and type (elevated platforms, covered veranda, outdoor range), climatic condition, size of the flock in terms of number of birds, stocking density (and how it is calculated), chicken genotype (slower-growing or fast-growing), and sex. The ABMs should be useful to assess welfare of broiler chickens on both farms, and slaughterhouses, fit within EFSA's welfare framework (EFSA AHAW Panel, 2023)¹⁹, and ideally be easy to collect either by hand or using newly developed technologies like automated cameras using artificial intelligence components to measure the ABMs and preferably be validated. The result will be a carefully selected list of ABMs and background data to be used for collecting new field data. The consortium should identify at least 15 ABMs for assessment in the field data collection (objective 2) and the experiments (objective 4) and at least 20 MBMs and RBMs parameters.

Sub-objective 1.2: Develop a protocol to measure the ABMs on broiler chickens and related context data on MBMs and RBMs for primary field data collection

¹⁸ EFSA AHAW Panel 2022. Methodological guidance for the development of animal welfare mandates in the context of the Farm to Fork Strategy. <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7403>

¹⁹ EFSA AHAW Panel (2023). Welfare of broilers on farm. <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7788>

²⁰ Welfare Quality 2009. Assessment protocol for poultry <https://www.welfarequalitynetwork.net/media/1293/poultry-protocol-watermark-6-2-2020.pdf>



This sub-objective focuses on developing a detailed, standardised protocol for harmonised collection of selected ABMs (at least 15) and context data on MBMs and RBMs (at least 20) from commercial broiler chicken farms, and slaughterhouses across EU Member States. For each ABM, the protocol will define:

- Clear definition and interpretation, including its link to specific welfare consequences (EFSA AHAW Panel, 2022)¹⁸ and relevant context data on RBM and MBM;
- Target population and sample size, specifying the type and number of birds to be assessed;
- Assessment methodology, detailing tools or techniques (e.g., direct observation, video analysis, scan sampling), conditions (e.g., light/dark period), and duration (e.g., 1h or 15 min per hour over 8h), preferably validated tools and methodologies shall be included;
- Observation location and sampling design, indicating whether data are collected on farm, or at the slaughterhouse level.

EFSA approval of the protocol is required prior to field evaluator training, piloting of the field data collection, main field data collection and conduct of the experiments.

Objective 2. Conduct a field data collection of ABMs and context data on broiler chickens on farms and at the slaughterhouse and collect the data into a dataset

This objective involves collecting field data on the selected ABMs (at least 15 ABMs) and context data from broiler farms, and slaughterhouses (at least 20 parameters), and compiling the data into a dedicated dataset. Where possible, the data should be made publicly available by EFSA at the end of the project. Data collected and inserted into the dataset should be in English.

Sub-objective 2.1 Development of a pilot field data collection sampling plan

This sub-objective focuses on setting up how the field data on ABMs, RBMs and MBMs will be collected and which kind of establishments will be chosen. It will explain what types of locations will be included—like broiler chicken farms with different housing systems (e.g., indoors, free range, covered veranda, mobile houses) and slaughterhouses (for broilers). The selection of these establishments should represent the variety of broiler production systems found across EU countries, following what is described in the EFSA Scientific Opinion on broiler welfare (EFSA AHAW Panel, 2023)¹⁹. A list of the chosen broiler chicken farms, and slaughterhouses should be provided, including their geographic area in terms of the location at the district level, province, region and country and the housing type and management practices applied. There should also be a clear explanation why each was selected. For the sake of clarity and transparency, it is recommended to include visual tools like maps, tables, and selection flowcharts.

The sampling plan of the pilot field data collection must include the following key components: i) Sample design, specifying the sampling method (e.g., random, convenience), estimated sample sizes (number of broiler chickens sampled per flock, broiler chicken farms, and slaughterhouses), and number of field evaluators across farms, and slaughterhouses. ii) Sampling implementation plan, detailing sampling frequency, timing, and distribution of evaluators across sites. iii) Timeline for the sampling activities. iv) Logistical planning and resource allocation to support fieldwork. v) Quality assurance and risk management, including strategies to identify, report, and mitigate deviations from the plan.

This sub-objective requires proof of a concrete plan for data collection, including necessary permits and collaboration agreements with Competent Authorities, agricultural data holders, and/or broiler chicken integrators or industry.

Sub-objective 2.2 Selection and training field evaluators for the field primary data collection

This part focuses on choosing and training the evaluators who will collect the data in the field, following the set protocol developed as an outcome of sub-objective 1.2. There needs to be clear criteria for selecting these field evaluators—such as their minimum qualifications and education, experience, and training. It is also important to ensure that field evaluators are available when needed. A standard



training program will be created to make sure that selected ABMs and context data are collected consistently and accurately amongst the members of the consortium to allow further comparison amongst establishments and countries. This will include a detailed training plan, a description of who will lead the training sessions, how the training will be done, and how to check that different field evaluators give similar results (both within and between individual observers – by calculating and reporting the inter-observer and intra-observer reliability). The training should contain theoretical and practical modules with visits to farms, and slaughterhouses to collect the data on the ABMs and context data. The practical session of the first training should last at least 4 full days. There should be at least 2 refreshment trainings of at least two days with at least one day dedicated to field data collection during the 4 years project period with a minimum duration of 2 days. The trainings can be done in EU languages other than English, but the final training report must be in English. If any training or data collection is done in another language, that must be clearly stated and communicated to EFSA. All data entered into the dataset from the field days of the training must also be in English. The calculation of the inter-observer and intra-observer reliability is required as a result of the first training and refresher trainings.

Sub-objective 2.3 Fine tune, validation of the protocol and pilot field data collection

This sub-objective focuses on piloting the field data collection process as per the plan devised in sub-objective 2.1 to test and refine the protocol developed for collecting ABMs and related context data on RBMs and MBMs. The effectiveness of the piloting must be demonstrated, ideally through a process validation report, to confirm the protocol's suitability without requiring major revisions to earlier sub-objectives. A validation step will ensure the protocol enables harmonized, reproducible, and high-quality data collection across different EU Member States and broiler chickens husbandry systems. A detailed pilot methodology will be developed, including sampling design, sample size, characteristics of selected broiler chicken farms, and slaughterhouses, number and allocation of field data evaluators, sampling frequency, and timeline.

Sub-objective 2.4 Execute a primary field data collection and compilation of the dataset with ABMs, RBMs and MBMs

In this sub-objective the field data collection sampling plan will be fine-tuned based on the results of the pilot field data collection and implemented in the field. EFSA needs to approve the final field data collection plan prior to the execution of the large field data collection. The consortium will carry out a primary field data collection according to the finetuned field data collection sampling plan and will collect data on at least 15 ABMs and 20 MBMs and RBMs. In addition, the field data collected on the ABMs, RBMs and MBMs will be inserted into the dataset developed in objective 3 at the same time of collection or with a maximum lag of 2 weeks between collection and insertion in the dataset.

Sub-objective 2.5 Data analysis of the field data collected Find statistical associations between collected ABMs, RBMs and MBMs

This part of the project is focused on identifying statistical associations between the collected ABMs, RBMs and MBMs in broiler chickens in the field data collection. It consists of the development of a data analysis plan, execution and communication of the results in a narrative report with a similar structure to a peer reviewed publication. At least two peer reviewed publications must be prepared as an outcome of this field data collection analysis.

Objective 3: Development of a dataset to monitor the welfare of broiler chickens

This part of the project focuses on creating and populating a prototype dataset to store large amounts of data collected in the field in subobjective 2.4 using the agreed protocol (linked to subobjective 1.2) by trained field evaluators and used to identify the statistical relationships. The data will come from a wide range of broiler chicken farms, and slaughterhouses. The main goal of this grant is to collect and organize field data on animal-based measures (ABMs) and context data on management-based measures (MBMs), and resource-based measures (RBMs) from these different locations and from the experimental studies and relevant metadata (e.g. date of sampling, field evaluator sampling, the area



where the farm is located, testing method used for the ABMs). This centralised dataset should allow data validation, quality checks, and ensure FAIR principles, aiming at using this digital structure as a framework to monitor the welfare of broiler chickens. EFSA is partner in the European Partnership in Animal Health and welfare (<https://www.eupahw.eu/>) and this dataset collected through this grant will aid to fill the gap providing data and knowledge on the welfare of farmed-animals (i.e. broilers) in an EU data platform.

Objective 4. Conduct experimental studies to check the impact on the provision of different levels of stocking density, of elevated platforms and dark brooders to broiler chickens, to measure the impact of these type of interventions on the ABMs of broiler chickens of fast- and slower-growing genotypes

This objective is dedicated to conduct experimental studies applying different values of resource based and management-based measures of the 3 abovementioned types of interventions to modify the stocking density, the provision of elevated platforms and dark brooders and measure the impact on selected ABMs identified in sub-objective 1.2 that measure welfare consequences in fast- and slower-growing broiler genotypes. At least three peer-reviewed studies out of these experiments should be prepared for publication as an outcome of this objective.

For intervention 1:

This intervention involves designing and conducting an experimental study to assess the impact of different stocking densities (15, 20, 33, and 42 kg/m²) in a barn with at least 10,000 broiler chickens on broiler welfare using selected ABMs for which protocols have been established in sub-objective 1.2. The studies will target at least one of the following welfare consequences in fast- and slower-growing broiler genotypes: locomotory disorders including lameness, restriction of movement, resting problems, and inability to perform comfort or exploratory behaviours, soft tissue lesions and integument damage. These welfare consequences are defined in EFSA AHAW panel 2022¹⁸; 2023¹⁹. A suitable experimental design will be selected and justified. A study plan will be developed, including a timeline, sampling strategy, ABM data collection protocol, experimental control of variables, and a statistical analysis plan. This plan will be shared with EFSA for feedback and agreement before starting of the study. The study will be executed accordingly, with data collected in a standardised dataset developed in objective 3. Results will be analysed, reported in a narrative report, and shared publicly in line with open science principles.

For intervention 2:

This intervention involves designing and conducting an experimental study to evaluate the impact of provision of elevated platforms for fast-growing broilers covering 10% of the barn useable area, with the provision of wide ramps with an inclination between 20° to 25° between the floor and the platform on broiler welfare using selected ABMs for which protocols have been established in sub-objective 1.2 in fast- and slower-growing broiler chickens. The experiment should resemble commercial conditions as much as possible and should accommodate at least 10,000 broiler chickens. The study will assess at least the following welfare consequences: resting problems, restriction of movement, or inability to perform comfort behaviour. These welfare consequences are defined in EFSA AHAW panel 2022¹⁸; 2023¹⁹. An appropriate study design will be selected and justified. A study plan will be developed, including a timeline, sampling strategy, ABM data collection protocol, experimental control of variables, and a statistical analysis plan. This plan will be shared with EFSA for feedback and agreement before starting of the study. The study will then be carried out, with data collected on the intervention and relevant ABMs. Data will be stored in a structured dataset developed in objective 3, analysed as planned, and reported in a narrative summary in line with open science principles.

For intervention 3:

This intervention involves designing and conducting a study to evaluate the impact of dark brooder provision on broiler welfare using selected ABMs for which protocols have been established in sub-objective 1.2. The experiment should resemble commercial conditions as much as possible and should accommodate at least 10,000 broiler chickens. The study will target at least one of the following welfare consequences in fast- and slower-growing broiler genotypes: resting problems, under- or



overstimulation, or inability to perform comfort behaviour. These welfare consequences are defined in EFSA AHAW panel 2022¹⁸; 2023¹⁹. A suitable experimental design will be selected and justified. A comprehensive study plan will be developed, including a timeline, sampling strategy, the ABM data collection protocol, experimental control of variables and a statistical analysis plan. This plan will be shared with EFSA for feedback and agreement before starting of the study. The study will then be executed, with data collected on the intervention and ABMs. Results will be analysed and reported in a narrative summary. All data will be stored in a structured dataset developed in objective 3, analysed as planned, and shared publicly in accordance with open science principles and reported in a narrative summary in line with open science principles.

1.3 TASKS, DELIVERABLES, TIMELINES, MEETINGS AND PAYMENTS

Objectives	Tasks	Deliverables	Deadline
General objective	<p>Task 1: Plan the date and prepare the agenda for the kick-off meeting for EFSA consultation and a draft Gantt chart of the project objectives, tasks and deliverables for presentation during the kick-off meeting. Prepare the minutes of the kick-off meeting and prepare an inception project report summarising the main outcomes of the kick-off meeting and presenting the workplan of the whole project duration to be agreed with EFSA including a Gantt chart of tasks with timelines of the project.</p> <p>The inception report should also provide the selection criteria, number and selection process of the types and number of establishments (broiler chicken farms, and slaughterhouses) that will be visited for the field primary data collection.</p> <p>The minimum requirements of field evaluators and risk mitigation plan to ensure project continuity will also be included in the inception report.</p>	<p>Deliverable 1.1: Certificates of participation for project team members (issued by project organizer) in the kick-off meeting</p> <p>Deliverable 1.2: Inception project report consisting of: Minutes of the kick off meeting, Summary of the kick-off meeting discussion and agreements as well as a presentation of the project workplan in agreement with EFSA of the entire project duration with a Gantt chart in Excel.</p> <p>Detailed outline on the selection process of establishments to collect data (estimated number for each type of establishment; farms, or slaughterhouses, housing systems and practices; estimated number of broiler chickens sampled in each type of establishment) and minimum requirements of field evaluators and risk mitigation plan.</p>	1 month from kick-off meeting
Objective 1	<p>Task 2: Prepare a repository/list in an excel table format of existing and used and new ABMs and related context data that can be used to assess on-farm</p>	<p>Deliverable 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2a) The repository of existing and new ABMs and associated context data on MBMs and RBMs. 	5 months from kick-off meeting



	<p>welfare for the broiler chickens on farm and at the slaughterhouse and then, from the repository, select a relevant number of ABMs and context data (MBMs, RBMs) that will be used for the primary field data collection. This list should include at least 15 ABMs that at least assess the welfare consequences in the proposal and at least 20 MBMs and RBMs. Prepare a data collection on ABMs, MBMs, and RBMs (SOP-like and check list) protocol for harmonised primary field data collection (Linked to sub-objective 1.1 and 1.2).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2b) A justified selection of ABMs and related context data for the primary field data collection (with at least 15 ABMs and 20 MBMs and RBMs). • 2c) Detailed draft protocol for a harmonised primary data collection of the selected ABMs (minimum 15) to be piloted during the pilot and context data with MBMs and RBMs (minimum 20) that will be stored in the dataset. 	
<p>Objective 2</p>	<p>Task 3: Prepare a detailed plan for the piloting phase of the primary field data collection on ABMs and RBMs including number and types of establishments, description of them, number of field evaluators and timeline (linked to sub-objective 1.2 and 2.1)</p>	<p>Deliverable 3: The plan of the piloting phase and validation of the ABMs, MBMs and RBMs field data collection in a narrative report in a Word document. Including the number of farms and slaughterhouses from which data on ABMs, MBMs and RBMs and metadata will be collected with indication of the relevant information on the location, geographical area and housing systems characteristics (management practices) to ensure successful implementation.</p>	<p>7 months from kick-off meeting</p>
<p>Objective 3</p>	<p>Task 4: Develop a <u>prototype dataset</u> that will be populated with the field data collected under sub-objective 2.5 using the ABM, MBM and RBM protocol developed under sub-objective 1.2 At this stage of the project, the dataset is not expected to be finalised. However, it must be functionally operational and expected to be further updated and upgraded as the project progresses. It is expected that when data is collected that the data is inserted into the dataset with a maximum time lag of 2 weeks. The dataset must be designed and managed to ensure data</p>	<p>Deliverable 4: Report containing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Database with detailed description of the technical characteristics (including interoperability notions) and of the type of data and predicted volume of data that will be stored. 	<p>7 months from kick-off meeting</p>



	<p>quality also in terms of traceability. The dataset should fulfil the FAIR principles and be interoperable or exportable into other dataset formats; specifically, the dataset should be structured according to a data model and follow controlled terminologies that will consider existing standards developed by EFSA and that can be adapted to specific needs. (linked to objective 3)</p>		
<p>Objective 2</p>	<p>Task 5. Develop a <u>training programme</u> and training material to train field evaluators on the collection of selected ABMs and context data in broiler chicken farms and slaughterhouses. The training programme should also include information on the duration, place, expertise and number of facilitators, as well as clearly outline the detailed methodology. Information on how to ensure intra- and inter-reliability of the field evaluators should be also provided. Identification of the field evaluators that will conduct the field primary data collection. Conduct the training with at least 4 days of field work in farms and slaughterhouses and two refreshing trainings of at least 2 days of duration and least one day of field work each. (Linked to sub-objective 2.2) (non-core task)</p>	<p>Deliverable 5a: Report including the number of field evaluators selected and information on their minimum requirements and management continuity plan -detailed training programme and training material for field evaluators - report with the number of field evaluators selected and information on their minimum requirements, experience to conduct the field data collection, availability and continuity plan of the field data collection. Deliverable 5b Certificates of attendance to the first training of the field evaluators. Report of the first training programme including lessons learnt, proposals for improvement in the first refreshment training if needed, inter and intra evaluation values. Data collected during the field days included into the dataset. Deliverable 5c Detailed training programme for the first refreshment training. Deliverable 5d Certificates of attendance of field evaluators to the first refreshment training. Report of the first training programme including lessons learnt, proposals for improvement in the second refreshment training if needed, inter and intra evaluation values. Data collected during the field days included into the dataset.</p>	<p>5a. 9 months from kick-off meeting</p> <p>5b. 16 months from kick-off meeting</p> <p>5c. 23 months from kick off meeting</p> <p>5d. 26 months from kick off meeting</p> <p>5e. 31 months from kick off meeting</p> <p>5f. 33 months from kick off meeting</p>



		<p>Deliverable 5e Detailed training programme indicating updates for the second refreshment training.</p> <p>Deliverable 5f Certificates of attendance of field evaluators to the second refreshment training. Report of the first training programme including lessons learnt, proposals for improvement, inter and intra evaluation values. Data collected during the field days included into the dataset.</p>	
Objective 2	<p>Task 6. Conduct the pilot field data collection of ABMs, RBMs and MBMs as per the plan by the trained field evaluators. Assess the suitability of the developed protocol, the training of the field evaluators and the easiness of use and suitability of the prototype dataset developed for storing the field data collected on ABMs and context data, to confirm before moving to the field data collection. (Linked to sub-objective 2.3 and 2.4)</p>	<p>Deliverable 6a. Report on the pilot field data collection with summary of the field data collection including number of farms sampled, ABMs, RBMs and MBMs, successes, lessons learned and needs for modification of the draft protocol of collection of ABMs, RBMs and MBMs and related training. Prototype Dataset will be populated with the collected ABMs, RBMs and MBMs in the pilot field data collection.</p>	19 months from kick-off meeting
	<p>Task 7. Conduct the field data collection (linked to sub-objective 2.4) and include the data in the prototype dataset developed under objective 3 and Prepare a final report of the field data collection and provide a final dataset of the field data collection of ABMs, RBMs and MBMs (linked to objective 3).</p>	<p>Deliverable 7: Draft report of the field primary data collection of at least 20 ABMs, 15 RBMs and 10 MBMs consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A) Draft final narrative report including all approved deliverables and complemented by a presentation of about 20 slides for future use by EFSA on the highlights and outcomes of the field data collection - B) Draft final version of the dataset populated with field data on ABMs and context data following the FAIR principles 	39 months from kick-off meeting
	<p>Task 8. Conduct the statistical analysis of the correlations between the ABMs and context data collected (Linked to objective 2.5)</p>	<p>Deliverable 8: 8a) Draft hypothesis of associations between collected ABMs, RBMs, and MBMs to check Draft plan of statistical analysis of correlations; 8b) Draft report with the results of the statistical analysis including tables,</p>	8a) 23 months from kick-off meeting; 8b) 41 months from kick-off meeting



		figures, including a discussion and conclusions section.	
Objective 4	<p>Task 9. Conduct experiments on the impact of stocking density at three different levels of stocking density (and the control), provision of elevated platforms and dark brooders (for specific details please see the specific objectives description).</p>	<p>Deliverable 9: 9a) Report with the experimental proposal, study design, plan, hypothesis correlations/causal relationships between ABMs and interventions, sample size calculations to identify, data analysis plan with statistical models, analysis tools, number of broiler chickens, size of the pens, identified ABMs and its protocol; 9b) dataset of the ABMs and experimental data that follows the FAIR principles. Narrative report of the data analysis of the experiments and conclusions and discussions and dataset of values to be publicly shared following the FAIR principles; 9c) prepare and submit to a scientific journal at least one scientific publication on each study (3 publications).</p>	15 months from kick-off meeting
			46 month from kick-off meeting
General objective	<p>Task 10: Prepare and present the final project report and provide the final dataset of ABMs, RBMs and MBMs of the field data collection and the experiments</p>	<p>Deliverable 10: Final project report should provide an update in all the objectives and tasks of the project and should be updated according to all the comments provided by EFSA and agreements reached during all interim meetings, it should include an executive summary and an abstract. The report shall be submitted in English in both MS-Word and Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format with the charts in MS Excel. The final report should also include a 40 slides presentation to be used by EFSA on the experimental studies. The database designed in task 4 (deliverable 4) and populated with data collected in the pilot field data collection (deliverable 6), the field data collection (deliverable 7B) and the experimental data collected in task 9 (deliverable 9b) should be provided.</p>	48 months from kick-off meeting
<p>Subcontracting is allowed for non-core tasks only. Non-core task for this project is: task 5. Please also refer to section 1.7 'Possibility of implementing contracts and subcontracting'.</p>			



No.	Meetings	Deadline for finalisation
1	<p>Kick-off meeting: One day physical meeting (with option to join online) with the participation of EFSA representatives. Location is to be defined. Please note that the coordinator may be asked to organise the meeting in their premises. Preferably, all beneficiaries should join in person the kick-off meeting. No additional costs will be reimbursed for attending this meeting to beneficiaries.</p> <p>The kick-off meeting is planned at the start of the project and must take place no later than 1 month after the signature of the grant agreement. The beneficiary should plan the meeting, prepare the agenda and collect the inputs for the agenda and coordinate the meeting as well as prepare the minutes of the meeting. At this meeting, details of the project will be discussed and the objectives, the final report structure, deliverables and timeframe will be clarified. The draft Gantt chart with tasks and deliverables timelines will be prepared by the beneficiary for EFSA feedback and agreement. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and provided to EFSA by the beneficiary.</p> <p>The presence at the kick-off meeting 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>	1 month after entry into force of agreement
2	<p>Meeting 1: half day²¹ teleconference The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the inception report as well as any problems or difficulties encountered during the project. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and provided to EFSA by the beneficiary.</p>	2 months from kick-off meeting
3	<p>Meeting 2: half day teleconference The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the deliverable 2 report and Excel files as well as any problems or difficulties encountered during the project. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and provided to EFSA by the beneficiary.</p>	6 months from kick-off meeting
4	<p>Meeting 3: Half day teleconference The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the deliverable 3 report and deliverable 4 dataset development files of task 4 as well as any problems or difficulties encountered during the project. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and provided to EFSA by the beneficiary.</p>	8 months from kick-off meeting
5	<p>Meeting 4: One and half day physical meeting with possibility to join online with the participation of EFSA representatives. Location is to be defined. Please note that the coordinator may be asked to organise the meeting in their premises. Preferably, all beneficiaries should join in person the kick-off meeting. No additional costs will be reimbursed for attending this meeting to beneficiaries.</p> <p>The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the training material (e.g. power point slides + related documents, training curriculum, exercises of the field days in farms and slaughterhouses) as well as any problems or difficulties encountered during the project. The Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and provided to EFSA by the beneficiary.</p>	10 months from kick-off meeting
6	<p>Meeting 5: One and a half day physical meeting with possibility to join online with the participation of EFSA representatives. Location is to be defined. Please note that the coordinator may be asked to organise the meeting in their premises. Preferably, all beneficiaries should join in person the kick-off meeting. No additional costs will be reimbursed for attending this meeting to beneficiaries.</p>	17 months from kick-off meeting

²¹ One day = 8 hours, half day = 4 hours



	The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the outcome of the first training session of the field assessors (task 5) and to discuss the experimental designs plan (task 9 and deliverable 9a).	
7	Meeting 6 Half day teleconference The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the results of the pilot field data collection task 6 and deliverable 6a).	20 months from kick-off meeting
8	Meeting 7 One day physical meeting with possibility to join online with the participation of EFSA representatives. Location is to be defined. Please note that the coordinator may be asked to organise the meeting in their premises. Preferably, all beneficiaries should join in person the kick-off meeting. No additional costs will be reimbursed for attending this meeting to beneficiaries. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the materials of the first refreshment training on the ABMs (deliverable 5c) and the report on the data analysis plan of the field data collection (deliverable 8a).	24 months from kick-off meeting
9	Meeting 8 One and half day physical meeting with possibility to join online with the participation of EFSA representatives. Location is to be defined. Please note that the coordinator may be asked to organise the meeting in their premises. Preferably, all beneficiaries should join in person the kick-off meeting. No additional costs will be reimbursed for attending this meeting to beneficiaries. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the report and the dataset of the field data collection (deliverable 7a and 7b).	38 months from kick-off meeting
10	Meeting 9 Half day teleconference The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the report and the analysis of the field data collected (deliverable 8b).	41 months from kick-off meeting
11	Meeting 10 One and half day physical meeting with possibility to join online with the participation of EFSA representatives. Location is to be defined. Please note that the coordinator may be asked to organise the meeting in their premises. Preferably, all beneficiaries should join in person the kick-off meeting. No addition costs will be reimbursed for attending this meeting to beneficiaries. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the report and the analysis of the experimental cases conducted and data collected and the paper prepared for submission (deliverables 9b and 9c).	46 months from kick-off meeting
12	Final meeting: One and half physical meeting with possibility to join online with the participation of EFSA representatives. Location is to be defined. Please note that the coordinator may be asked to organise the meeting in their premises. Preferably, all beneficiaries should join in person the kick-off meeting. No addition costs will be reimbursed for attending this meeting to beneficiaries. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the final report of the grant (deliverable 10).	48 months from kick-off meeting
13	Progress report meeting 1: to discuss the report of the first refreshment training (deliverable 5d) and the progress of the field data collection, data analysis (task 8), insertion of data into the dataset (task 7 and 9) and conduct of experimental cases (task 9).	27 months from kick-off meeting
14	Progress report meeting 2: to discuss the report of the second refreshment training (deliverable 5f) and the progress of the field data collection (task 7), data analysis (task 8), insertion of data into the dataset (task 7 and 9) and conduct of experimental cases (task 9).	33 months from kick-off meeting



No.	Payments	Linked to EFSA approval of deliverable No.
1	Pre-Financing payment as specified in the draft grant agreement (Annex 1 of the Call for Proposals), Data Sheet section 4.2 Periodic reporting and payments.	N.A.
2	Interim payment , as specified the draft grant agreement (Annex 1 of the Call for Proposals), Data Sheet section 4.2 Periodic reporting and payments.	All deliverables due until month 26 in column in section 1.3
3	Payment of the balance as specified in the draft grant agreement (Annex 1 of the Call for Proposals), Data Sheet section 4.2 Periodic reporting and payments.	All deliverables foreseen in the column in section 1.3

Meetings should be planned by the beneficiary in coordination with EFSA, the beneficiary prepares the draft agenda ahead of the meeting for feedback by EFSA and the minutes of the meetings including main decisions and actions two weeks after the meeting the latest.

All 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 Panels and Working Groups' 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 amount EFSA has available to award grants under this call for proposals is **€ 2,500,000.00**. 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 budget in the 'Requested grant amount' field.

1.4.1 Direct Agreement

This Call for proposals aims to conclude a Direct Agreement for the performance of the tasks described in these specifications for a fixed duration. The Agreement can be signed between the Authority and one or several partners.

The budget EFSA has available is **2,500,000.00 €**.

The maximum duration of this Direct Agreement **is 4 years** from the kick-off meeting.

EFSA intends to fund one proposal following this Call. However, EFSA reserves the right not to award all the funds available at any cost, e.g. if the quality of submitted proposals will not be satisfactory.



Please note that EFSA reserves the right not to award any grant and/or to cancel the whole grant procedure at any time before the signature of the grant agreement without any compensation to be paid to the applicant.

Please note that the total EFSA grant is 2.5 million €. This amount represents the combined value of the various below listed deliverables due to be produced by the selected beneficiary. EFSA, based on its expert judgement, gives these values to the listed deliverables. Please note that applicants are not requested to provide alternative values, neither to provide a split of the overall requested grant by deliverable. The granting authority may reduce the grant in line with conditions included in article 28 of the model direct grant agreement in cases like substantial errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have material impact on this grant. Should that be the case, EFSA will use the value included in the below table as a reference for grant value decrease.

	Total (EUR)
Deliverable 1	€32,500.00
Deliverable 2	€91,000.00
Deliverable 3	€21,100.00
Deliverable 4	€85,500.00
Deliverable 5	€113,850.00
Deliverable 6	€203,100.00
Deliverable 7	€631,680.00
Deliverable 8	€108,000.00
Deliverable 9	€1,144,420.00
Deliverable 10	€68,850.00
Total	€2,500,000.00

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/>.

In order to achieve the main objective of the call, proposals must be submitted by a consortium of at least **two eligible organisations**. 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, click on the relevant country in the map).

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/EU²² 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;
- 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

²² 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)



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

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

With regards to publications of EFSA outputs that are integrating the preparatory work delivered in the context of this grant, the beneficiary could be mentioned in authorship lists indicating the affiliation to its organisation.

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 2018/1725.²³

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.

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

²³ 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



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 this case, co-applicants will be invited to remove or replace that entity.

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

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

Criterion No. 2.2	Requirements and requested evidence
1	Eligibility criteria
	The following requirements will be verified:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant applies in a consortium composed of at least two partners;



	<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

Criterion No. 2.3	Requirements and requested evidence
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</p> <p>Annex 3, available to download in the Funding and Tenders Portal under Part B Templates. The applicant, and the partner(s) <u>and subcontractors</u> (if applicable) must complete and sign separate forms <u>(section A)</u>.</p> <p><u>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.</u></p> <p><u>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.</u></p> <p>The applicant must upload the form in the relevant field under Part B and Annexes of the Funding and Tenders Portal. If applying in consortium, the consortium leader must convert all declarations on honour on exclusion for all partners into one single pdf and upload the single document in the relevant field under Part B and Annexes of the Funding and Tenders Portal.</p>



2.4 SELECTION CRITERIA

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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain their activity throughout the period during which the project is being carried out. <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 Part B and Annexes 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. • 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 Part B and Annexes of the Funding and Tenders Portal.</p>

B) Professional and operational capacity



Criterion No. 2.4.B	Requirements and requested evidence
1	Professional and operational capacity:
	Requirements:
	<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>Requirement for the organisation:</p> <p>The applicant should provide evidence of expertise of the organisation (at least 5 years) in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broiler chicken welfare assessment: Describe your organisation's expertise in assessing the welfare of broiler chickens. Include examples demonstrating the use and evaluation of animal-based (ABMs), management-based (MBMs), and resource-based measures (RBMs) across key production stages (broiler chicken farms, slaughterhouse). This includes a thorough understanding of relevant regulatory requirements. • Field and experimental research design (requirement of facilities to perform objective 4): Provide examples of large-scale field data collection of ABMs or experimental studies involving fast- and slower-growing broiler genotypes. Describe your experience with experimental designs focusing on welfare-related interventions (e.g. stocking density, dark brooders, platforms,), including access to or ownership of necessary and suitable experimental barn facilities. At least one partner should be able to execute the experiments in objective 4. • Data management and dataset development: Demonstrated ability to develop, structure, and maintain centralized scientific datasets capable of integrating welfare data from multiple sources and ensuring interoperability with EU platforms such as EUPAHW. • Project management in EU-wide animal welfare initiatives: Provide examples of coordinating complex, multi-partner projects in animal health and welfare. Include activities such as cross-country field coordination, stakeholder engagement, literature review, statistical analysis, and reporting. • Field Evaluator training and protocol harmonisation: Experience in developing and delivering training programs and courses for field data collection teams in multiple languages and settings, including training in harmonised protocols for welfare assessment in broilers. • Collaboration with national and EU-level stakeholders: Present evidence of established collaboration with veterinary authorities, industry actors, and other stakeholders in at least four EU Member States. Include examples involving partnerships with farm integrators, slaughterhouses, and national data holders. • Engagement with EFSA and EU Reference Centres on Animal Welfare: Highlight any past or current collaborations with EFSA, EFSA's AHAW Panel, or EURCAW-Poultry-SFA. Specify the nature of involvement and outcomes achieved. • Consortium coordination and strategic partnership building: Demonstrate your ability to lead or contribute to the formation of effective research consortia. Describe how you facilitated interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange to enhance the impact of animal welfare research. <p>Requirements for the teams of experts:</p>



The team of experts should consist of **at least 11 experts** covering profiles a. to g. listed below.

a. Independent Project ~~Coordinator~~ Manager

- Essential requirement: The project ~~coordinator~~ manager is expected not to cover any other expert role listed below from b. to g.. Preferably, there should be no hierarchical link between the project manager and the experts listed from b. to g. ~~must be fully independent from all other partners in the consortium and affiliated with a separate legal entity.~~
- The project ~~coordinator~~ manager shall be responsible for overseeing the coherence, coordination and quality control of all activities throughout the project. The project manager is not expected to have a critical role in the execution of scientific tasks of the project.
- The project ~~coordinator~~ manager will act as the main contact point for EFSA for strategic, commercial, and contractual matters, and shall ensure conflict resolution, risk mitigation and proper reporting.
- Minimum expertise required:
 - At least 8 years of professional experience in project management.
 - At least 3 years of experience in coordinating EU-wide, large-scale, multidisciplinary research projects in the field of animal welfare, veterinary science, or similar.
 - Proven experience managing consortia of at least 3 partners and overseeing project teams of at least 10 people.
 - At least 2 successfully completed projects of similar scale (>€500,000 budget).
- How to prove:
 - Detailed CV and list of coordinated projects (title, budget, funding body, scope, duration, number of partners).
 - Letters of reference or project summaries confirming the role and scope of coordination.

b. Senior Animal Welfare Scientist

- At least 1 Senior Animal welfare scientist with:
 - PhD in Animal Science or related discipline
 - Minimum 7 years of expertise in animal welfare risk assessment methodologies
 - Minimum 3 years of experience with broiler welfare specifically, including relevant EU regulations
 - Proven track record of at least 5 peer-reviewed publications on broiler or poultry welfare
 - Experience in supervising international collaborative research projects
- Role: Ensure scientific excellence in welfare methodologies, supervise all experimental and field data protocols and data collections and data analysis. Oversees the preparation of reports. Provides scientific guidance to the other scientists involved in the project.

c. Mid-career Level Scientist – Field-Based Broiler Welfare Expert

- At least 2 mid-career level scientist- field based broiler welfare expert with:
 - at least a MSc in Animal Science or related discipline, preferably a PhD or at postdoctoral level
 - Minimum 4 years of experience in welfare assessment of broiler chickens at, farms, and slaughterhouses
 - Experience with both ABMs and contextual field and experimental data collection



- Minimum 3 peer-reviewed publications in the field of broiler chicken welfare
- Role: Scientific supervision of fieldwork and evaluators, contribution to study designs and interpretation of data analysis of the field data and of experiments, prepares the inception report and final report.

d. Data Architect / Data Management Expert

- At least 1 data architect/ data management expert with:
 - Masters degree in Computer Science, Data Engineering, or related field
 - At least 3 years of experience in the design and implementation of data architectures and relational databases
 - Experience in FAIR data principles and interoperability with EU data platforms is an asset
- Role: Develop and implement prototype and datasets, ensure data quality, structure, and harmonisation.

e. Training Expert

- At least 1 expert with:
 - At least 3 years of professional experience in designing and delivering training programs
 - Experience with animal welfare, particularly training field assessors, is highly preferred
 - At least a Master's degree in the field of animal science
- Role: Design and implement evaluator training programmes, including material development and observer calibration

f. Study/experimental Design Expert

- At least 1 expert with:
 - At least 3 years of experience in epidemiology, including sampling design, field study planning and data analysis
 - Proven ability to design experimental studies in animal research and animal welfare
 - At least a Master of Science in epidemiology or related field
- Role: Develop sampling plans for both field data collection and experimental studies, support statistical analysis plans

g. Junior Animal Welfare Scientists / Field Evaluators

- At least 4 junior experts (e.g. master students, PhD candidates, research assistants)
 - Experience in field-based animal welfare assessment, behavioural observations at farm, and slaughterhouses in poultry species preferably in broilers;
 - Strong background in behavioural observation, scoring ABMs, and data entry in datasets;
 - At least a Masters in animal production or animal welfare;
- Role: Carry out harmonised field data collection across EU Member States in, broiler chicken farms and slaughterhouses.

The number of junior scientists or experts should be adjusted to the scope of the proposed activities.

3. Requirements of English languages for the team of experts

All experts proposed under profiles **a. to g.** must individually demonstrate a **very good level of spoken and written standard UK English.**



	<p>For non-native English speakers, this proficiency must be demonstrated through at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (i) Minimum of 3 years of experience working in international projects where English was the working language; • (ii) Minimum of 3 years of work or study in an English-speaking environment (e.g. employment in an English-speaking country or international organisation); • (iii) Valid certificate of English language proficiency at C1 level or above, as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR); • (iv) Authorship or co-authorship of at least two scientific publications written in English and published in recognized peer-reviewed journals. <p style="text-align: center;">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> <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>
	Requested evidence:
	<p>EVIDENCE REQUESTED FOR REQUIREMENT 1: Organisational Capacity</p> <p>Applicants must provide evidence of their scientific and technical capacity to carry out the tasks outlined in this call. The following documentation must be submitted:</p> <p>1.1. Annex 4 – Description of Relevant Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a list of three major projects or contracts relevant to the subject matter of this call, carried out in the course of the past five years by the applicant organisation(s). • Each listed project must include the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project title and objective ○ Duration and year of completion ○ Funding source (e.g. EU, national authority, private sector) ○ Role of the applicant organisation (coordinator, partner, subcontractor) ○ Budget (if available) ○ Description of activities and relevance to the objectives of this call, especially in the field of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broiler or poultry welfare ▪ Animal-based and contextual welfare measures ▪ Field data collection across multiple locations ▪ Experimental or observational study designs in animal science ▪ dataset development and management for animal welfare data <p>1.2. List of Relevant Peer-Reviewed Publications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of five (5) relevant peer-reviewed publications authored or co-authored by researchers affiliated with the entities applying to this call. • Publications must have been published in the last 10 years and should demonstrate scientific expertise in broiler chicken welfare. • Publications covering the welfare of fast-growing and slower-growing broiler chickens, scoring ABMs, or experimental interventions (e.g., stocking density,



platforms, dark brooders,) will be considered of **higher relevance** for the purposes of this project.

- For each publication, provide:
 - Full citation (authors, title, journal, year, DOI and link)
 - Short explanation (2–3 lines) of how it is relevant to this call

EVIDENCE REQUESTED FOR REQUIREMENT 2: Requirements for the Team of Experts Curriculum Vitae (CVs)

- A **curriculum vitae (maximum 3 pages)** must be submitted for **each expert** and other staff member proposed to be involved in the implementation of the project (covering profiles a. to g.).
- Each CV must include:
 - **Educational background with a focus to the minimum requirements of education for profiles a.to g.**
 - **Professional experience with a focus to the minimum requirements of professional experience for this call** with emphasis on experience relevant to the tasks of this call
 - **Specific expertise** aligned with the expert profiles defined in Section 1 (e.g. broiler welfare, project coordination, data management, epidemiology, training)
 - **Track record of scientific publications**, where applicable, especially those relevant to:
 - Animal-based measures and contextual data on MBMs and RBMs
 - Broiler welfare
 - Experimental or observational study designs
 - Language proficiency and evidence of English language skills as defined in Requirement 3

If individual team members have not yet been assigned at the time of application, applicants must instead provide a **description of the staff profiles** (qualifications, experience, and expected roles) that will be recruited for the project.

2.2. List of Project Team Members and Roles

- In addition to the CVs, applicants must provide a **one-page summary table (following the table example of Project Team Members provided below)** listing:
 - **Full names of all proposed project team members**
 - Their **expected roles in the project** (e.g. Project [Coordinator/manager](#), Senior Animal Welfare Scientist, Data Architect, Field Evaluator Trainer, epidemiologist, field evaluator, etc.)
 - Their affiliations
- This list should correspond to the structure and minimum team requirements described in Section 1 and facilitate the evaluation of the team's coverage of required expertise.

Table of Project Team Members and Roles call for proposals of grant BROWARD

	Name & Surname	Affiliation
1. Independent pProject coordinator/manager		
2. Senior Animal Welfare Scientist		
3. Mid- career level scientist- Field-based broiler welfare expert_1		
4. Mid- career level scientist- Field-based broiler welfare expert_2		
5. Data architect/ data management expert		
6. Training expert		



7. Study/experimental design expert		
8. Junior Animal Welfare Scientist/ Field evaluator_1		
9. Junior Animal Welfare Scientist/ Field evaluator_2		
10. Junior Animal Welfare Scientist/Field evaluator_3		
11. Junior Animal Welfare Scientist /Field evaluator_4		

**Instructions for the proponents when filling the table of
Project Team Members and Roles**

Please provide the name, surnames and affiliation of the persons proposed to fulfil each role.

If you need to add more than one person per role type please add an additional row.

If the names of the expert or experts performing that are not known because they need to be selected and hired please indicate it in the column.

EVIDENCE REQUESTED FOR REQUIREMENT 3 (requirements for English language for the team of experts):

To demonstrate compliance with the English language proficiency requirements for the project team (see Section 3), applicants must submit the following documentation:

3.1. Curriculum Vitae of Project Team Members

- Detailed **CVs (maximum 3 pages)** of all experts and staff proposed for the project.
- EFSA **strongly recommends** that applicants use the **EU CV format**, which can be accessed and downloaded here: <https://europa.eu/europass/en>

Each CV must include:

- A clear indication of the expert's **proficiency in English**, including one or more of the following (for non-native speakers):
 - Experience in international projects where English was the working language (minimum 3 years)
 - Work or study in an English-speaking environment (minimum 3 years)
 - Valid certificate of English language proficiency at **C1 level or higher** (CEFR)
 - At least **2 peer-reviewed publications written in English**

EVIDENCE REQUESTED FOR REQUIREMENT 4 (environmental management):

Annex 5 – Selection criteria, Information on environmental management

For requirements 2.4.B 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.

• **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (DoIs)**

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 grant agreement signature.



	<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>Template available here. EFSA may request Individuals DoIs for members of the project team having influence and/or control over scientific outputs, prior to and as a condition of grant agreement signature. The requirement to submit Individual DoIs will be specified in the award letter and will have to be provided and assessed by the EFSA Authorising Officer before and as a condition of grant agreement signature.</p> <p>Only in case of subcontracting, the applicant must provide Institutional DoIs for subcontractors which are not included in the Art.36 list. In this case, such declarations will need to be completed separately and submitted for each identified subcontractor.</p> <p>Individual and institutional DoIs do not need to be provided with your proposal at this stage.</p> <p>Please refer to EFSA’s policy on independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management for more detailed information.</p>
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2.5 AWARD CRITERIA

<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>Project management, risk management, quality of the outputs and dissemination and communication (total 40 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project management overview how the project will be managed; the description has to consider task distribution among consortium partners and individual team members, both internally (i.e. within the consortium/team) and externally (communication with EFSA) including with possible subcontractors. <p>The applicant should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide clarity of organisation of the project into work packages, including project phases, timelines, milestones, deliverables, providing a Gantt chart of tasks and deliverables. Provide convincing evidence to ensure that the activities and milestones identified are feasible (MAX 10 points). b. Provide a clear and detailed information on distribution of the tasks among the project team members; in case of joint offer & subcontractors, clarity on who does what, when and why (justify why the partner/subcontractor is proposed to do the particular task/work-package) (MAX 10 points). c. Provide clear and detailed information on the frequency and type of communication with EFSA and internal team communication (in case of joint offers & subcontractors also the frequency and type of communication between partners and/or subcontractor), how the planning of meetings will be carried out, the role of project leader in the coordination and tasks allocation in relation to the methodology and tools proposed (MAX 7 points). d. Risk management - The proposal should briefly describe risks and obstacles foreseen in each task and respective proposed contingency plan in case of deviations (MAX 4 points). e. Quality of the deliverables - This is to assess the quality assurance mechanisms put in place to guarantee the high quality of deliverables (e.g., role



	<p>of the project leader and scientific team leader, language quality check, technical review, etc.) (MAX 5 points).</p> <p>f. Dissemination and communication of the project results - This is to assess the planned effort of the consortium to disseminate and communicate the results of the project to other research organizations, research projects, for instance by presenting the results of the field data collection results in conferences, scientific panels, etc and cooperation with third countries if relevant (e.g. UK or bordering of the EU/EEA) on existing initiatives relevant for this grant. (MAX 4 points)</p>
2	<p><u>Workplan quality, methodology proposed for implementation and sample and dataset quality (total 60 points)</u></p> <p>This is intended to assess the extent to which the project is described in sufficient detail showing high quality, as well as to the level in which the proposal provides an appropriate methodology, with a convincing justification, and well-structured step by step explanation for addressing all the 4 objectives of the call for proposals and the scope of the project:</p> <p>Objective 1 – Identification and selection of ABMs and context data (Max 8 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific soundness of the approach to identify animal-based measures (ABMs) and contextual data (management- and resource-based measures) for broiler chickens on-farm and at the slaughterhouse reflecting welfare on-farm; • Clarity in the selection criteria, data sources (e.g. scientific literature, industry schemes), and methodological framework; • Number of ABMs and MBMS and RBMs are proposed for the data collection and experimental studies. • Relevance of selected ABMs to EFSA’s prioritised relevant welfare consequences. <p>Sub-objectives 1.2, 2.1, 2.3, and Objective 3 – Protocol for ABM and contextual data collection, dataset development, piloting of the protocol and fine tuning of the protocol (Max 15 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robustness of the proposed protocol for harmonised field data collection of at least 15 ABMs and contextual data on resource-based and management-based measures at farms, and slaughterhouses; • Scientific quality and structure of the pilot phase of the field data collection, including number of farms and slaughterhouses visited and fine-tuning and validation methods of the protocol. • Planned design of the structured dataset including attributes, variables, collected metadata and expected data volume. • Methodology to develop a structured dataset supporting ABMs and context data collection of MBMs and RBMs as well as metadata; • Provisions for ensuring the implementation of FAIR principles of the dataset; in particular with reference to the future accessibility of the for the collected data in the field and through experiments. <p>Sub-objectives 2.4 and 2.5 – Primary Field Data Collection Plan and data analysis (Max 17 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • realistic ABM and contextual data sampling plan of the field data collection, ensuring inclusion of diverse housing systems and management practices used on broiler chicken farms, and slaughterhouses. • Transparent and rigorous criteria for selecting establishments to conduct the field data collection of ABMs (broiler chicken farms, and slaughterhouses); • Indication of a priori approval for the field data collection of ABMs and contextual data with National Authorities, Farmers organisations, Integrators, etc. • Detailed approach for a planned data analysis of the data collected in the field data collection, including statistical methods for identifying correlations between ABMs and contextual factors based on available literature.



	<p>Sub-objective 2.2 – Selection and Training of Field Evaluators on the protocol (Max 5 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and feasible plan for recruitment and selection of field evaluators to conduct the field data collection; • Justification of qualifications and availability of proposed field evaluators to conduct the field data collection; • Design and content of the training programme, including calibration, training materials, plan and number of theoretical lessons and field days, program of the refreshment trainings on the draft protocol based on the lessons learned, and language considerations; • Provisions for ensuring inter-observer and intra-observer reliability amongst and within field evaluators and data consistency across Member States and consortium members throughout the project duration. <p>Objective 4 Conduct experiments and analyse the data to evaluate the impact of four interventions in fast- and slower-growing broiler chickens (Max 15 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robustness of the proposed experimental designs for assessing the impact of stocking density, the provision of elevated platforms, dark brooders through relevant and validated ABMs in objective 1 of the call for proposals. • Availability of facilities to conduct experiments in at least semi-commercial conditions for running experiments with at least 10,000 broiler chickens. • Robustness of the proposed statistical analysis of the experimental study data collected. • Provisions for ensuring Open science principles in the data collected in the dataset.
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In order to be considered for a reserve list, the proposal must:

- score a minimum of 70 points out of maximum possible 100 points;

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 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 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.

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.