



CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

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

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

- **Lot 1: Ecology of insect vectors of *Xylella fastidiosa* in EU table grapes outbreaks.**
- **Lot 2: Thermal ecology and biology of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth) in East Africa.**

Lot 3: Taxonomy and biology of *Leucinodes* species (grass moths) from Africa.

Budget Line: 3210-RASC

Project/process code: EPA04.01.27

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 objective of this Call for proposals is to conduct research to fill up knowledge gaps on invasive insects and insect vectors of invasive plant pathogens, which were identified during EFSA risk assessment work. The call for proposal will be divided in 3 lots: Lot 1 - Ecology of insect vectors of *Xylella fastidiosa* in EU table grapes outbreaks; Lot 2: Thermal ecology and biology of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth) in East Africa; Lot 3: Taxonomy and biology of *Leucinodes* species (grass moths) from Africa.



INDICATIVE PROCEDURE TIMETABLE

Milestone	Date ¹	Comments
Launch date	30/04/2025	Date of call publication on EFSA's website and Funding & Tender portal.
Deadline for applicants to raise clarification questions to EFSA	15/07/2025	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	17/07/2025	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	23/07/2025 at 17:00 (CEST)	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	September 2025	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	October 2025	Estimated

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



Table of Contents

1.	GRANT OPPORTUNITY AND CONDITIONS	5
1.1	LEGAL FRAMEWORK.....	5
1.2	BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL.....	6
1.4	INFORMATION ON THE GRANT AGREEMENT	25
1.5	ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS	26
1.6	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.....	26
1.7	IMPLEMENTING CONTRACTS AND SUBCONTRACTING	28
1.8	GRANT PRINCIPLES.....	29
1.9	ESTIMATED BUDGET AND ELIGIBLE COSTS	29
1.10	PUBLICITY.....	30
1.11	PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA IN RELATION TO GRANT PROCEDURES AND ANTIFRAUD STRATEGY 30	
	Antifraud Strategy.....	30
1.12	PUBLIC ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS	31
1.13	OPEN ACCESS	31
1.14	HUNGARIAN PUBLIC INTEREST TRUSTS ESTABLISHED UNDER HUNGARIAN ACT IX OF 2021	31
2.	SELECTING PROPOSALS	32
2.1	VERIFICATION OF SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS.....	32
2.2	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.....	32
2.3	EXCLUSION CRITERIA	33
2.4	SELECTION CRITERIA	33
2.5	AWARD CRITERIA.....	37
2.6	PROCESS FOLLOWING THE ASSESSMENT AGAINST AWARD CRITERIA	37
3.	SUBMITTING PROPOSALS	39
3.1	SUBMISSION MODALITIES	39
3.2	LANGUAGE OF THE PROPOSAL AND THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.....	40
3.3	EXPECTED DURATION OF PROCEDURE.....	40



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. producing scientific data or works contributing to the risk assessment tasks, including assessment tasks in the field of human nutrition in relation to Community legislation, for which the Authority is responsible; this type of task must correspond to precise problems identified in the course of the work of the Authority, and in particular that of its Committee and permanent Scientific Panels, and must not duplicate Community research projects or data or contributions which it is the industry's duty to provide, especially in the context of authorisation procedures;

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.

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>



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).

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

1.2 BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

1.2.1 BACKGROUND

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is the European Union (EU) agency for risk assessment in food safety, animal health and plant health. EFSA activities in plant health focus on regulated, new and emerging plant pests causing a risk to plants in the EU territory. Such activities are carried out in line with the EU Plant Health Law (Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 aiming to prevent or reduce the risk of entry and spread of new plant pests), by conducting risk assessment and by supporting the EU plant health crisis preparedness. During its assessment, EFSA identifies and characterises limitations of scientific knowledge, evaluating the implications of these uncertainties on its scientific conclusions and also prioritising them to identify potential areas for future research.

The aim of this call is to address, by collection and analysis of experimental and observational evidence, key knowledge gaps identified during EFSA plant health risk assessment and preparedness activities on invasive insect plant pests and on insect vectors of invasive plant pathogens.

This Call for proposals is divided into three specific lots:

Lot 1: Ecology of insect vectors of *Xylella fastidiosa* in EU table grapes outbreaks. This Lot focuses on understanding the role of insect vectors and putative vectors in the spread of the quarantine plant pathogen *Xylella fastidiosa* in table grape vineyards during outbreaks in the EU, in order to support risk assessment and control of *Xylella fastidiosa* epidemics in table grapes.

Lot 2: Thermal ecology and biology of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth) in East Africa. This Lot focuses on understanding the thermal ecology and biology of the different life stages of the false codling moth (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*) in East Africa, to reduce key risk assessment uncertainties on this pest.

Lot 3: Taxonomy and biology of *Leucinodes* species (grass moths) from Africa. This grant aims to enhance knowledge on the taxonomy and biology of the shoot and fruit borers African *Leucinodes* species (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) in sub-Saharan Africa, to reduce key risk assessment uncertainties on this group of moths affecting solanaceous crops in Africa.

Applicants can apply to one or more lots.

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

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

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



The specific backgrounds for each of the three Lots are described below.

Lot 1: Ecology of insect vectors of *Xylella fastidiosa* in EU table grapes outbreaks.

Background:

EFSA has been actively addressing the risk for the EU territory posed by the plant pathogen *Xylella fastidiosa* since its first outbreak in olive orchards in South Italy (EFSA, 2013; EFSA Plant health Panel et al., 2015). This bacterium has quickly emerged as a major plant health threat in Europe. To better understand the likelihood of exotic plant pests establishing, spreading, and causing economic and environmental impacts in the European Union, EFSA applies quantitative risk assessment methodologies, including a range of mathematical and statistical models that quantify the risks associated with different introduction and spread scenarios (EFSA PLH Panel et al., 2018). The results of these assessments inform risk managers and decision-makers at the European Commission and in Member States, helping to guide eradication, containment and surveillance strategies for *X. fastidiosa* (EFSA PLH Panel et al. 2019; EFSA et al. 2020).

Since its introduction to Europe, this pathogen has caused extensive damage to perennial cropping systems, particularly in the Mediterranean region. While olive trees have been most affected and have drawn significant attention due to widespread decline, the expanding host range of *X. fastidiosa* (EFSA et al., 2025) poses a growing threat to other agroecosystems.

The recent detection in Apulia of *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa* Sequence Type 1 (ST1) in table grape (*Vitis vinifera*), almond, and cherry plants (Cornara et al., 2024) marks a critical shift in the pathogen's European epidemiology. This is the first confirmed case of table grapes infection by *X. fastidiosa* in Europe and underscores the urgent need to understand the dynamics of its transmission and epidemiology in vineyard agro-ecosystems. *X. fastidiosa* subspecies *fastidiosa* ST1 is the causative agent of Pierce's disease in USA, where it causes significant damage to viticulture. Infected grapevines exhibit symptoms such as leaf scorch, reduced fruit yield, and eventual vine death, leading to substantial economic losses (Alston et al., 2013), particularly in California following the introduction of the glassy-winged sharpshooter (*Homalodisca vitripennis*) in the 1990s (Haviland et al., 2021). Efforts to manage the disease in USA have included vector control, removal of infected vines, and ongoing research into resistant grapevine varieties (Burbank, 2022; California Department of Food and Agriculture). In Europe, in addition to the above-mentioned Apulian outbreak, *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa* ST1 was previously reported also from Spain and Portugal (EFSA et al., 2025).

Although in Europe native spittlebugs have been identified as vectors of *X. fastidiosa*, data on their population dynamics, transmission potential, and interactions with host plants remain still incomplete (Di Serio et al., 2019; López-Mercadal et al., 2021). The recent survey in Apulian vineyards by Perfetto et al. (2025) suggests a potential role of *Neophilaenus campestris* in almond-to-grapevine transmission and *Philaenus spumarius* in secondary grape-to-grape spread. However, the study's limited temporal and spatial scope emphasizes the need for comprehensive, long-term research to accurately assess risk and guide intervention.

Hence, the role of local xylem-feeding insect vectors requires further investigation in EU grape-growing areas. The infections by *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa* ST1 in Apulia, one of the major European production regions for table grapes, highlight particularly the urgency of generating primary data to inform effective management strategies. Critical knowledge gaps remain in understanding vector-pathogen-host interactions within vineyard agro-ecosystems typical of Mediterranean climates.

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Lot 2: Thermal ecology and biology of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth) in East Africa.

Background

Thaumatotibia leucotreta (commonly known as the False Codling Moth - FCM) is regulated by the European Union (EU) as a Union quarantine pest under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072, it an EPPO A2 plant pest and a quarantine plant pest in various countries worldwide (for details see <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ARGPLE/categorization>). *T. leucotreta* is a polyphagous insect species, affecting more than 100 genera of host plants in more than 50 botanical families, including important crops, such as citrus, eggplants, peppers, peaches, cut flowers etc. (EPPO, 2013; EFSA PLH Panel et al., 2023). FCM is native and widely distributed in sub-Saharan Africa and is present in Israel since 1984, with a restricted distribution (for details see <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ARGPLE/distribution>).

The plant health risk posed for Europe (as part of the EPPO region) by the insect *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* was assessed by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) (EPPO, 2013; 2017).

EFSA recently conducted three assessments addressing the risk of introduction of *T. leucotreta* into the EU territory with different commodities (EFSA PLH Panel et al., 2021a; 2021b; 2023). In its recent '[Assessment of the probability of introduction of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* into the European Union with import of cut roses](#)' (EFSA PLH Panel 2023), EFSA has assessed the probability of *T. leucotreta* entering and establishing in the EU territory with the import of cut roses. Regarding the establishment, EFSA climatic suitability assessment, using a physiologically based demographic modelling (PBDM) approach, identified the coastline extending from the northwest of the Iberian Peninsula through the Mediterranean as area suitable for establishment of *T. leucotreta* (EFSA PLH Panel, 2023). These results were in line with previous assessments and models (EPPO, 2013; Barker and Coop, 2019; Barker and Coop, personal communication, cited in EFSA PLH Panel et al. 2023; Li et al., 2022; Li and McKirdy, 2023, personal communication, cited in EFSA PLH Panel et al., 2023).

However, the Panel also noted knowledge gaps regarding the thermal ecology of *T. leucotreta*, which - although not affecting the main conclusions - could support refining the predictions when addressed by research (EFSA PLH Panel et al., 2023).



The most important uncertainty, when assessing habitat suitability for establishment, was that most data available were about temperature dependence and all experimental data were produced for a different purpose than parameterising a quantitative pest risk assessment for FCM. The literature on *T. leucotreta* was primarily from South Africa, where the pest is considered non-native. The data on its thermal biology were developed to inform quarantine procedures for the export of agricultural products and were based on stock colonies maintained at optimal non-fluctuating temperatures in the laboratory. This research focused on short period exposures of *T. leucotreta* life stages to cold and high temperatures for varying short periods of time (hours) to assess survival. While the data were useful for quarantine purposes, such data did not enable accurate evaluation of the potential of *T. leucotreta* natural populations to survive and establish in novel areas worldwide. *T. leucotreta* developmental, mortality and reproductive rates are affected by temperature, moisture and host quality that vary in time and geographic space. Available data on the thermal biology for *T. leucotreta* development and survival were generally adequate in the favourable range (10–30°C) but were inadequate at low (< 10°C) and high (> 30°C) temperatures. This led to the development of a composite function for mortality that incorporated data from different life stages in the PBDM model (EFSA et al., 2023).

The niche model of *T. leucotreta* for Australia (Li et al., 2022) suggested a potentially inverse dependence of habitat suitability on precipitation in the driest quarter. There were no experimental data on this parameter, and hence, it could not be included in the PBDM projections by EFSA. Interestingly, East African experts consulted by EFSA did report that '*T. leucotreta* is more prevalent at the onset of the rainy season'. Although this aspect of the *T. leucotreta* niche might be less relevant under precipitation regimes in EU territories, it likely could improve the validity of the PBDM model. It was therefore assumed important to consider precipitation in upcoming studies on this pest.

To further refine the predictions of invasive risk of *T. leucotreta*, the following data gaps could be filled by experimental and observational research:

- experimental data on the effects of temperature on developmental and survival rates of all life stages, and the effects of temperature on oviposition profiles and life tables (especially on cut roses);
- data on biology and thermal ecology of *T. leucotreta* in natural environment and in cut roses in East Africa [cut roses in East Africa can be located at different altitudes];
- the effects of relative humidity (or vapour pressure deficit) on the survival of the life stages exposed to ambient conditions are required to refine temperature-dependent stage-specific survival rates, and reproduction by adult females.

The availability of such research data could help refining the climate suitability assessment and supporting integrated pest management in areas of pest occurrence in East Africa. A review of available literature data on thermal ecology for *T. leucotreta* development is presented in section 3.1 of EFSA PLH Panel et al. (2023).

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Lot 3: Taxonomy and biology of *Leucinodes* species (grass moths) from Africa.

Background

The EFSA Scientific Panel on plant health (hereinafter, the Panel) has recently completed two quantitative pest risk assessments analysing the plant health risks for the EU territory posed by *Leucinodes* species pests. These outputs are listed and hyperlinked below:

[2024: Pest risk assessment of *Leucinodes orbonalis* for the European Union](#) (EFSA PLH Panel et al., 2024a)

[2024: Pest risk assessment of African *Leucinodes* species for the European Union](#) (EFSA PLH Panel et al., 2024b)

In the case of *Leucinodes orbonalis* (the Asian species), EFSA (EFSA PLH Panel et al., 2024a) concluded on the plant health risk posed by this species, without identifying key uncertainties on its biology and taxonomy. *Leucinodes orbonalis* is in fact one of the most studied species in Asia (e.g. on Web of Science the key word "*Leucinodes orbonalis*" yielded on 10.01.2025 1,500 results in all databases).

In contrast, very little is known about the *Leucinodes* species occurring in Africa, where the taxonomy, biology and distribution of these species is uncertain. Such key taxonomical uncertainties were highlighted in the above mentioned EFSA opinion (EFSA PLH Panel et al., 2024b). There are currently nine species of *Leucinodes* known to occur in Africa (Table 1 below) (Nuss et al., 2003–2024). These species are *Leucinodes africensis*, *L. kenyensis*, *L. malawiensis*, *L. pseudorbonalis* and *L. rimavallis* - with predominantly white forewings -, and *L. ethiopica*, *L. laisalis*, *L. raondry* and *L.*



ugandensis - with mainly brown forewings. Until 2015, African specimens morphologically appearing 'similar' to *L. orbonalis* were identified as *L. orbonalis*. Mally et al. (2015) studied African *Leucinodes* species in detail and concluded that all African material that was described as *L. orbonalis* was misidentified and instead belonged to a **complex** of at least five new species with predominantly white-winged adults. Several of these newly considered species cannot be distinguished from the Asian *L. orbonalis* based on external morphology of the larvae or adults, which explains their previous misidentification as *L. orbonalis*. To identify these species, dissection of the male genitalia or analysis of the DNA barcode sequence are necessary. Furthermore, Mally et al. (2015) did not find any specimens of the Asian *L. orbonalis* among the studied museum material originating from Sub-Saharan Africa. It is therefore considered unlikely that the Asian *L. orbonalis* would occur in Africa, because the old reports of *L. 'orbonalis'* from Africa were not based on genitalia dissection and/or DNA sequences, making their correct identification impossible: the African specimens identified as *L. orbonalis* in the literature are considered misidentifications of the species described by Mally et al. (2015) or of still undiscovered species (EFSA PLH Panel et al., 2024b). It has to be noted that also the literature on African *Leucinodes* published after 2015 appears largely unaware of the African species complex described by Mally et al. (2015). In addition to the description of new *Leucinodes* species, the genera *Sceliodes* and *Leucinodes* were then merged [Mally et al., 2015]. The adult moths of the former *Sceliodes* are characterised by a grey to brown ground colour of the forewings and, they were kept separately from the predominantly white-winged *Leucinodes* species. Like *Leucinodes*, *Sceliodes* larvae feed internally in Solanaceae fruits. Mally et al. (2015) reinvestigated these two groups of moths and found that their division was based on a typological species concept, and that the overwhelming majority of evidence pointed to a direct close relationship, delegitimising their classification into two distinct genera. Currently, nine species of *Leucinodes* are known from the Afrotropical region, i.e. Sub-Saharan Africa including Madagascar (Table 1) (Nuss et al., 2003–2024).

Table 1: African *Leucinodes* species: their interception in trade at the EU borders, what is known about their distributions and the sources of information (EFSA PLH Panel et al., 2024b)

Species of <i>Leucinodes</i>	Records of interceptions in import trade at the EU border	Known distribution	Information sources
<i>L. africensis</i> Mally et al., 2015	Yes	Sub-Saharan Africa	Mally et al. (2015); Pace et al. (2022); G. Goergen (pers. obs.)
<i>L. ethiopica</i> Mally et al., 2015	No	East Africa, Arabian Peninsula	Mally et al. (2015)
<i>L. kenyensis</i> Mally et al., 2015	No	East Africa and Southeast Africa	Mally et al. (2015)
<i>L. laisalis</i> (Walker, 1859)	Yes	Sub-Saharan Africa, Morocco, Europe (Spain, Portugal)	Hill (1966); Huertas Dionisio (2000); Hayden et al. (2013); Mally et al. (2015); G. Goergen (pers. obs.)
<i>L. malawiensis</i> Mally et al., 2015	No	Malawi	Mally et al. (2015)
<i>L. pseudorbonalis</i> Mally et al., 2015	Yes	Sub-Saharan Africa (Uganda, Angola, Senegal)	Mally et al. (2015); Poltavsky et al. (2019)
<i>L. raondry</i> (Viette, 1981)	No	Madagascar	Viette (1981); Mally et al. (2015); R. Mally (pers. obs.)



<i>L. rimavallis</i> Mally et al., 2015	Yes	East Africa and Southeast Africa	Mally et al. (2015)
<i>L. ugandensis</i> Mally et al., 2015	No	East Africa	Mally et al. (2015)

These are all exotic species, not occurring in the EU, apart from *Leucinodes laisalis*, which occurs in the Iberian peninsula and is the only species occurring in northern Africa.

The lack of knowledge on the taxonomy and biology of the African *Leucinodes* species determined key uncertainties affecting the conclusions of the risk assessment (EFSA PLH Panel et al., 2024b), in particular regarding pest identity, the distribution of the pests in African countries, as well as their host range.

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1.2.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR LOT 1, LOT 2 AND LOT 3

The objective this call is to address, by collection and analysis of experimental and observational evidence, key knowledge gaps identified during EFSA plant health risk assessment and preparedness activities on invasive insect plant pests and on insect vectors of invasive plant pathogens.

This Call for proposals is divided into three specific lots, for which the main and specific objectives are reported below.

Lot 1: Ecology of insect vectors of *Xylella fastidiosa* in EU table grapes outbreaks.

The main objective of this Lot is to understand the role of insect vectors and putative vectors in the spread of the quarantine plant pathogen *Xylella fastidiosa* in table grape vineyards during outbreaks in the EU, in order to support risk assessment and control of *Xylella fastidiosa* epidemics in table grapes. Infections caused by *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa* ST1 in Apulia, the major European production region for table grapes, highlight the urgency of generating primary data to inform effective management strategies. Critical knowledge gaps remain in understanding the vector–pathogen–host interactions within vineyard ecosystems typical of Mediterranean climates. Furthermore, although vector control is a cornerstone of *X. fastidiosa* management in other crops, its effectiveness and practical implementation in table grape vineyards—often managed with systems such as “tendone” training and plastic coverings—have not yet been evaluated. A deeper understanding of vector biology, pathogen transmission, and vineyard-specific control practices is essential to safeguard European viticulture against future incursions.

Specific objectives:

The specific objectives for this Lot are:

- **Specific objective 1:** to investigate the behaviour and ecology of potential insect vectors active in table grapes vineyards in the EU outbreak areas, including their host plant preferences, population dynamics, and seasonal patterns.
- **Specific objective 2:** to assess the ability of these potential insect vectors to acquire and transmit *X. fastidiosa* to grapevines under environmental and agricultural conditions specific to European table grape production systems.
- **Specific objective 3:** to communicate and disseminate the results of the project to scientists and stakeholders.

Lot 2: Thermal ecology and biology of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth) in East Africa.

The main objective of this Lot is to understand the thermal ecology and biology of the different life stages of the false codling moth (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*) in East Africa, to reduce key risk assessment uncertainties and support integrated pest management. Data could be obtained by conducting experiments under controlled conditions, as well as by collection of ecological



data/observations on *T. leucotreta* in natural environment and in cut roses farms in East Africa at different altitudes.

Specific objectives:

- **Specific objective 1:** to further investigate the thermal ecology of the different life stages of *T. leucotreta*, in particular the effects of temperature on developmental and survival rates of all life stages, and the effects of temperature on oviposition profiles and life tables;
- **Specific objective 2:** to further investigate the biology of *T. leucotreta*, in particular the effects of relative humidity (or vapour pressure deficit) on the survival of the life stages exposed to ambient conditions;
- **Specific objective 3:** to communicate and disseminate the results of the project to scientists and stakeholders.

Lot 3: Taxonomy and biology of *Leucinodes* species (grass moths) from Africa.

The main objective of this Lot is to enhance the knowledge on the taxonomy and the biology of the shoot and fruit borers African *Leucinodes* species (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) in sub-Saharan Africa, to reduce the key risk assessment uncertainties on this group of moths affecting solanaceous crops in Africa. A better understanding of the taxonomy and biology of African *Leucinodes* species is needed to support the assessment of their risk for the EU territory as well as for designing sustainable management strategies.

Specific objectives:

The specific objectives for this Lot are:

- **Specific objective 1:** to elucidate the taxonomy and geographic distribution of the African *Leucinodes* species in sub-Saharan Africa;
- **Specific objective 2:** to investigate the ecology of the African *Leucinodes* species, to gain a better understanding of their life cycles and host preferences.
- **Specific objective 3:** to communicate and disseminate the results of the project to scientists and stakeholders.

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

The specific objectives, tasks, deliverables, timelines, meetings and payments are presented below in tabular form for each of the three Lots

1.3.1 Lot 1: Ecology of insect vectors of *Xylella fastidiosa* in EU table grapes outbreaks

Specific objectives, main tasks/activities, deliverables and deadlines

Specific Objective	Main tasks/activities	Deliverables	Deadline
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<p>Specific Objective 1</p> <p>To investigate the behaviour and ecology of potential insect vectors active in table grapes vineyards in the EU outbreak areas, including their host plant preferences, population dynamics, and seasonal patterns.</p> <p>Specific Objective 2</p> <p>To assess the ability of vectors/putative vectors to acquire and transmit <i>X. fastidiosa</i> to grapevines under environmental and agricultural conditions specific to European table grape production systems.</p>	<p>Regular sampling and identification of the entomofauna in the differently managed vineyards and surrounding landscape in different locations, through at least three entire vineyard seasons</p> <p>Testing the collected insects for the presence of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i></p> <p>Various laboratory experiments to investigate the vector capacity to transmit bacterium to <i>Vitis</i> sp. This can include transmission experiments with vectors and putative vectors in <i>Vitis</i> under controlled conditions</p>	<p>Deliverable 1: Inception report. The inception report should include the updated and detailed work plan and Gantt chart following the discussion at the kick-off meeting, including the detailed description of the material and methods. The report should also include the updated team composition and allocation of tasks.</p>	<p>1 month from kick-off meeting</p>
		<p>Deliverable 2: Interim report for Year 1, describing methodology and data, summarising all observational and experimental results collected in the first year up to the submission date, along with the accompanying complete database.</p> <p><i>This report should be reviewed by EFSA's coordination team and respective comments should be addressed before delivery.</i></p>	<p>14 months from kick-off meeting</p>
		<p>Deliverable 3: Interim report for Year 2, describing methodology and data, summarising all observational and experimental results collected in the second year up to the submission date, along with the updated database (year 1 + year 2).</p> <p><i>This report should be reviewed by EFSA's coordination team and respective comments should be addressed before delivery.</i></p>	<p>26 months from kick-off meeting</p>
		<p>Deliverable 4: Interim report for Year 3, describing methodology and data, summarising all observational and experimental results collected in the third year, up to the submission date, along with the updated database (year 1 + year 2 + year 3).</p> <p><i>This report should be reviewed by EFSA's coordination team and respective comments should be addressed before delivery.</i></p>	<p>38 months from kick-off meeting</p>



<p>Specific objective 3</p> <p>To communicate and disseminate the results of the project to scientists and stakeholders</p>	<p>Results of the project need to be communicated to the scientific audience (research and risk assessment area), the EU phytosanitary risk managers audience as well as to the local stakeholders. This dissemination can be achieved through different tools (scientific reports in EFSA Journal Supporting Publications; scientific publications; presentations in conferences/ workshops/ EFSA risk assessment fora; social media; meetings with stakeholders; etc.)</p>	<p>Deliverable 5: various communication/ extension outputs (in addition to EFSA interim and final reports):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) submission of peer reviewed publication, after approval by EFSA (copy of the submitted manuscript, with confirmation of submission to a peer-reviewed scientific journal) 2) Other scientific communication activities (e.g. abstracts of presentations at scientific conferences/workshops) 3) Other extension activities (e.g. social media, extension articles on technical magazine) 4) Meeting(s) with stakeholders/ local communities <p><i>This report should be reviewed by EFSA's coordination team and respective comments should be addressed before delivery.</i></p>	<p>48 months from kick-off meeting</p>
<p>Specific Objectives 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Deliverable 6: Final report: describing methodology and data; summarising and analysing all observational and experimental results collected in the four years integrating the previous deliverables [deliverable 1 + deliverable 2 + deliverable 3 + deliverable 4 (including detailed report for activities of Specific Objective 2)], along with the updated database (year 1 + year 2 + year 3 + year 4); summarising the communications and dissemination activities.</p> <p><i>This report should be reviewed by EFSA's coordination team and respective comments should be addressed before delivery.</i></p>	<p>48 months from kick-off meeting</p>

Subcontracting is allowed for non-core tasks only.

Core tasks for this project (which cannot be subcontracted) are: planning, coordinating, analysing and reporting experiments/surveys; communication and reporting with EFSA.

Subcontracting for this Lot is allowed to conduct experiments on transmission by vectors of *X. fastidiosa*, requiring quarantine biosecurity facilities/permits.

Please also refer to section 1.7 'Possibility of implementing contracts and subcontracting'.



Meetings and payments

No.	Meetings	Deadline for finalisation
1	<p>Kick-off meeting: physical meeting in Parma – one day, or teleconference in case of need and if agreed by both parties⁹ The kick-off meeting is regarded as the start of the project and must take place no later than 3 months after the signature of the grant agreement. At this meeting, details of the project will be discussed and the objectives, the final report structure, deliverables and timeframe will be clarified. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and provided to EFSA by the beneficiary.</p> <p>The presence (also remotely via video-conference) 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>	Within 3 months after entry into force of agreement
2	<p>Interim meeting 1: Tele-conference The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the first interim report (deliverable 2), 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>	15 months from kick-off meeting
3	<p>Interim meeting 2: Tele-conference The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the second interim report (deliverable 3), 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>	27 months from kick-off meeting
4	<p>Interim meeting 3: Tele-conference The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the third interim report (deliverable 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>	39 months from kick-off meeting
3	<p>Final meeting: physical meeting in Parma – one day, or teleconference in case of need and if agreed by both parties¹⁰ The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the final report - deliverable 6 - and the deliverable 5 on communication/dissemination, as well as any problems or difficulties encountered during the project.</p>	48 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 1 , as specified the draft grant agreement (Annex 1 of the Call for Proposals), Data Sheet section 4.2 Periodic reporting and payments.	1 and 2

⁹ One day = 8 hours, half day = 4 hours

¹⁰ One day = 8 hours, half day = 4 hours



3	Interim payment 2 , as specified the draft grant agreement (Annex 1 of the Call for Proposals), Data Sheet section 4.2 Periodic reporting and payments.	3
4	Interim payment 3 , as specified the draft grant agreement (Annex 1 of the Call for Proposals), Data Sheet section 4.2 Periodic reporting and payments.	4
5	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.	5 and 6

1.3.2 Lot 2: Thermal ecology and biology of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth) in East Africa.

Specific objectives, main tasks/activities, deliverables and deadlines

Specific Objective	Main tasks/activities	Deliverables	Deadline
<p>Specific Objective 1</p> <p>To further investigate the thermal ecology of the different life stages of <i>T. leucotreta</i>, in particular the effects of temperature on developmental and survival rates of all life stages, and the effects of temperature on oviposition profiles and life tables.</p> <p>Specific Objective 2</p> <p>To further investigate the biology of <i>T. leucotreta</i>, in particular the effects of relative humidity (or vapour pressure deficit) on the survival of the life stages exposed to ambient conditions.</p>	<p>Experiments to investigate the effects of temperature on developmental and survival rates of all life stages, and the effects of temperature on oviposition profiles and life tables.</p> <p>Experiments to investigate the effects of relative humidity (or vapour pressure deficit) on the survival of the life stages exposed to ambient conditions.</p> <p>Collection of ecological data/observations on <i>T. leucotreta</i> in natural environment and in cut roses farms in East Africa at different altitudes.</p>	<p>Deliverable 1: Inception report. The inception report should include the updated and detailed work plan and Gantt chart following the discussion at the kick-off meeting, including the detailed description of the material and methods. The report should also include the updated team composition and allocation of tasks.</p>	1 month from kick-off meeting
		<p>Deliverable 2: Interim report for Year 1, describing methodology and data, summarising all observational and experimental results collected in the first year up to the submission date, along with the accompanying complete database.</p> <p><i>This report should be reviewed by EFSA's coordination team and respective comments should be addressed before delivery.</i></p>	14 months from kick-off meeting
		<p>Deliverable 3: Interim report for Year 2, describing methodology and data, summarising all observational and experimental results collected in the second year up to the submission date, along with the updated database (year 1 + year 2).</p>	26 months from kick-off meeting



		<i>This report should be reviewed by EFSA's coordination team and respective comments should be addressed before delivery.</i>	
<p>Specific objective 3</p> <p>To communicate and disseminate the results of the project to scientists and stakeholders</p>	<p>Results of the project need to be communicated to the scientific audience (research and risk assessment area), the EU phytosanitary risk managers audience. A particular focus should be given to dissemination of results and networking with scientists and National Plant Protection Organisations in East Africa as well as their networks. This dissemination can be achieved through different tools (scientific reports in EFSA Journal Supporting Publications; scientific publications; presentations in conferences/ workshops/ EFSA risk assessment fora; social media; meetings/ interactions with entomologists/ NPPOs/ scientific Networks in East Africa; etc.)</p>	<p>Deliverable 4: various communication/ extension outputs (in addition to EFSA interim and final reports):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) submission of peer reviewed publication, after approval by EFSA (copy of the submitted manuscript, with confirmation of submission to a peer-reviewed scientific journal) 2) Other scientific communication activities (e.g. abstracts of presentations at scientific conferences/workshops) 3) Other extension activities (e.g. social media, extension articles on technical magazine) 4) Meeting(s) with stakeholders/scientists <p><i>This report should be reviewed by EFSA's coordination team and respective comments should be addressed before delivery.</i></p>	<p>36 months from kick-off meeting</p>
<p>Specific Objectives 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Deliverable 5: Final report: describing methodology and data; summarising and analysing all observational and experimental results collected in the three years integrating the previous deliverables [deliverable 1 + deliverable 2 + deliverable 3 + deliverable 4], along with the updated database (year 1 + year 2 + year 3); summarising the communications and dissemination activities.</p> <p><i>This report should be reviewed by EFSA's coordination team and respective comments should be addressed before delivery.</i></p>	<p>36 months from kick-off meeting</p>

Subcontracting is allowed for non-core tasks only. Core tasks for this project (which cannot be subcontracted) are: planning, coordinating, analysing and reporting experiments/surveys; communication and reporting with EFSA. Subcontracting for this Lot is allowed to conduct experiments and collect data on *T. leucotreta* in East Africa. Please also refer to section 1.7 'Possibility of implementing contracts and subcontracting'.



No.	Meetings	Deadline for finalisation
1	<p>Kick-off meeting: physical meeting in Parma – one day, or teleconference in case of need and if agreed by both parties ¹¹ The kick-off meeting is regarded as the start of the project and must take place no later than 3 months after the signature of the grant agreement. At this meeting, details of the project will be discussed and the objectives, the final report structure, deliverables and timeframe will be clarified. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and provided to EFSA by the beneficiary.</p> <p>The presence (also remotely via videoconference) 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>	Within 3 months after entry into force of agreement
2	<p>Interim meeting 1: teleconference The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the interim report - deliverable Y - 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>	15 months from kick-off meeting
3	<p>Interim meeting 2: teleconference The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the interim report - deliverable Y - 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>	27 months from kick-off meeting
4	<p>Final meeting: physical meeting in Parma – one day, or teleconference in case of need and if agreed by both parties ¹² The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the final report - deliverable X - , as well as any problems or difficulties encountered during the project</p>	36 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.	NA
2	Interim payment 1 , as specified the draft grant agreement (Annex 1 of the Call for Proposals), Data Sheet section 4.2 Periodic reporting and payments.	1 and 2
3	Interim payment 2 , as specified the draft grant agreement (Annex 1 of the Call for Proposals), Data Sheet section 4.2 Periodic reporting and payments.	3
4	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.	4 and 5

¹¹ One day = 8 hours, half day = 4 hours

¹² One day = 8 hours, half day = 4 hours



1.3.3 Lot 3: Taxonomy and biology of *Leucinodes* species (grass moths) from Africa

Specific objectives, type of activities, deliverables and deadlines

Specific Objective	Main tasks/activities	Deliverables	Deadline
<p>Specific Objective 1</p> <p>To elucidate the taxonomy and geographic distribution of the African <i>Leucinodes</i> species in sub-Saharan Africa;</p>	<p>Confirming the identification of insect samples from previous publications reporting <i>Leucinodes</i> species from different African countries.</p> <p>Sampling and identification of the lepidopteran entomofauna mainly of Solanaceous crops from different African countries, through at least one entire growing season, to determine the species of <i>Leucinodes</i> present in sub-Saharan countries, including molecular/barcoding and morphological determination and confirmation (by taxonomic expert(s) in Lepidoptera Crambidae) of the samples.</p>	<p>Deliverable 1: Inception report. The inception report should include the updated and detailed work plan and Gantt chart following the discussion at the kick-off meeting, including the detailed description of the material and methods. The report should also include the updated team composition and allocation of tasks.</p>	<p>1 month from kick-off meeting</p>
<p>Specific Objective 2</p> <p>To investigate the ecology of the African <i>Leucinodes</i> species in sub-Saharan Africa, to gain a better understanding of their life cycles and host preferences.</p>	<p>Development of taxonomic key (or reverse key with photographic illustrations and drawing) to the identified African <i>Leucinodes</i> species.</p> <p>Collection of ecological data/information on African <i>Leucinodes</i> species, on their life cycles, host preferences, and favoured agro-environmental conditions.</p>	<p>Deliverable 2: Interim report for Year 1, describing methodology and data, summarising all observational and experimental results collected in the first year up to the submission date, along with the accompanying complete database.</p> <p><i>This report should be reviewed by EFSA's coordination team and respective comments should be addressed before delivery.</i></p>	<p>14 months from kick-off meeting</p>



<p>Specific objective 3</p> <p>To communicate and disseminate the results of the project to scientists and stakeholders</p>	<p>Results of the project need to be communicated to the scientific audience (research and risk assessment area), the EU phytosanitary risk managers audience. A particular focus should be given to dissemination of results and networking with local scientists in sub-Saharan Africa as well as their networks. This dissemination can be achieved through different tools (scientific reports in EFSA Journal Supporting Publications; scientific publications; presentations in conferences/ workshops/ EFSA risk assessment fora; social media; meetings/interactions with local entomologists /scientific Networks in sub-Saharan Africa; etc.)</p>	<p>Deliverable 3: various communication/ extension outputs (in addition to EFSA interim and final reports):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Training/ workshop on identification of African <i>Leucinodes</i> species, for entomologists in sub-Saharan Africa 2) Training/ workshop on identification of African <i>Leucinodes</i> species, for EU entomologists (in coordination with European Reference Laboratory (EURL) Insects & Mites and EFSA) 3) Submission of peer reviewed publication, after approval by EFSA (copy of the submitted manuscript, with confirmation of submission to a peer-reviewed scientific journal) 4) Other scientific communication activities (e.g. abstracts of presentations at scientific conferences/workshops) 5) Other communication and extension activities (e.g. social media, extension articles on technical magazine) <p><i>This report should be reviewed by EFSA's coordination team and respective comments should be addressed before delivery.</i></p>	<p>24 months from kick-off meeting</p>
<p>Specific Objectives 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Deliverable 4: Final report: describing methodology and data; summarising and analysing all observational and experimental results collected in the two years, integrating the previous deliverables (deliverable 1 + deliverable 2 + deliverables 3), along with the updated database (year 1 + year 2); summarising the communications and dissemination activities.</p> <p><i>This report should be reviewed by EFSA's coordination team and respective comments should be addressed before delivery.</i></p>	<p>24 months from kick-off meeting</p>

Subcontracting is allowed for non-core tasks only. Core tasks for this project (which cannot be subcontracted) are: planning, coordinating, analysing and reporting experiments/surveys; communication and reporting with EFSA. Subcontracting for this Lot is allowed to conduct experiments and collect data on the taxonomy and biology of *Leucinodes* species in sub-Saharan Africa. Please also refer to section 1.7 'Possibility of implementing contracts and subcontracting'.



No.	Meetings	Deadline for finalisation
1	<p>Kick-off meeting: physical meeting in Parma – one day, or teleconference in case of need and if agreed by both parties ¹³ The kick-off meeting is regarded as the start of the project and must take place no later than 3 months after the signature of the grant agreement. At this meeting, details of the project will be discussed and the objectives, the final report structure, deliverables and timeframe will be clarified. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and provided to EFSA by the beneficiary.</p> <p>The presence (also remotely via videoconference) 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>	Within 3 months after entry into force of agreement
2	<p>Interim meeting: teleconference The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the interim report – deliverable 2 - 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>	15 months from kick-off meeting
3	<p>Final meeting: physical meeting in Parma – one day, or teleconference in case of need and if agreed by both parties ¹⁴ The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the final report – Deliverable 4 (including a compilation of deliverables 1, 2 and 3), as well as any problems or difficulties encountered during the project</p>	24 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.	1,2
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.	3 and 4

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

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

¹³ One day = 8 hours, half day = 4 hours

¹⁴ One day = 8 hours, half day = 4 hours



1.4 INFORMATION ON THE GRANT 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.

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.

This call is divided into lots with the maximum budget available per lot as follows

For lot 1: 350 000.00 € for a maximum duration of 48 months from kick off meeting

	Deliverable 1	Deliverable 2	Deliverable 3	Deliverable 4	Deliverable 5	Deliverable 6
Total estimated value of the deliverable (€)	35 000 (10%)	105 000 (30%)	70 000 (20%)	70 000 (20%)	35 000 (10%)	35 000 (10%)

For lot 2: 250 000.00 € for a maximum duration of 36 months from kick off meeting

	Deliverable 1	Deliverable 2	Deliverable 3	Deliverable 4	Deliverable 5
Total estimated value of the deliverable (€)	25 000 (10%)	100 000 (40%)	62 500 (25%)	25 000 (10%)	37 500 (15%)

For lot 3: 100 000.00 € for a maximum duration of 24 months from kick off meeting

	Deliverable 1	Deliverable 2	Deliverable 3	Deliverable 4
Total estimated value of the deliverable (€)	10 000 (10%)	55 000 (55%)	10 000 (10%)	25 000 (25%)

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.



EFSA intends to fund one proposal for each Lot 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.

One direct grant agreement will be signed for each separate lot.

You may submit a proposal for one or more lots, but your proposal should indicate clearly for which lot you are applying.

In case you decide to apply for several lots, a separate proposal for each lot must be provided. Proposals for each lot will be individually evaluated by EFSA according to the award criteria indicated in section 2.5.

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

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

1.6 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Proposals submitted by a sole applicant:

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

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

The beneficiary:

- Communicates with EFSA;
- Receives and answers all claims EFSA might have in relation to the implementation of the project;



- Requests and reviews any documents or information required by EFSA and verifies their completeness and correctness before passing them to EFSA;
- Informs EFSA of any event that is likely to substantially affect the implementation of the project;
- Submits the deliverables and reports to EFSA;
- Requests and receives payments from EFSA.

Proposals submitted by consortium:

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

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

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

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

The coordinator has the following important roles:

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

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

The other beneficiary/ies:

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



1.7 IMPLEMENTING CONTRACTS AND SUBCONTRACTING

Implementation contracts:

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

Entities acting in their capacity as contracting authorities within the meaning of Directive 2014/24/EU¹⁵ 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. Core tasks which cannot be sub-contracted for these projects, for all Lots, are: project coordination and coordination of project work-packages, planning, reporting and communicating with EFSA.

For all lots, subcontracting is allowed for non-core tasks only.

Subcontracting is specifically permitted in the case of activities conducted on quarantine or exotic plant pests in the following cases:

- For **Lot 1**, to conduct experiments on transmission by vectors of *X. fastidiosa*, requiring quarantine biosecurity facilities/permits.
- for **Lot 2**, to conduct experiments and collect data on thermal ecology and biology of *Thaumtotibia leucotreta* in East Africa. Reason for this is that *T. leucotreta* is a Union quarantine plant pest absent from the EU territory, but present in East Africa.
- For **Lot 3**, subcontracting is allowed to conduct experiments and collect data on the taxonomy and biology of *Leucinodes* species in sub-Saharan Africa. Reason for this is *Leucinodes* species from sub-Saharan Africa are absent from the EU territory, but present in sub-Saharan Africa.

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;

Tasks to be subcontracted must be identified in the proposal and be approved by EFSA before the signature of the grant agreement;

Recourse to subcontracting during project implementation, if not envisaged from the outset in the proposal, is subject to prior authorisation in writing by EFSA. Approval may be granted as long as it does not entail a change to the grant agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or be contrary to the equal treatment of applicants. No amendment is needed;

The conditions applicable to the beneficiaries under Articles II.6 (*Confidentiality and security*), II.7 (*Processing of Personal Data*), II.8 (*Visibility of Union Funding*) of the grant agreement are also

¹⁵ 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)



applicable to the subcontractor.

1.8 GRANT PRINCIPLES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.9 ESTIMATED BUDGET AND ELIGIBLE COSTS

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



1.10 PUBLICITY

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

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

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

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 2018/1725.¹⁶

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

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC



1.12 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 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 and/or to change its status into associated partner. Tasks and budget may be redistributed accordingly.



2. SELECTING PROPOSALS

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

- Verification of submission requirements (2.1)
- Eligibility criteria (2.2)
- Exclusion criteria (2.3)
- Selection criteria (2.4)
- 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"> • 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:
	ADMINISTRATIVE DECLARATION 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.



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, the partner(s) and subcontractors (if applicable) must complete and sign separate forms (section A).</p> <p>ONLY IN CASE OF SUBCONTRACTING: The applicant must provide the Declaration on Honour, section C. Confirmatory statement of professional conflicting interest to be completed only by the subcontractor(s) if the subcontractor is a legal entity (i.e. company/organisation) not included in the Article 36 list of competent organisations.</p> <p>The applicant must upload the Declaration on Honour in the relevant field under <i>Part B and Annexes</i> of the Funding and Tenders Portal. If applying in consortium and/or with subcontractors, the consortium leader must convert all declarations on honour on exclusion into one single pdf and upload the single document in the relevant field under <i>Part B and Annexes</i> of the Funding and Tenders Portal.</p>

2.4 SELECTION CRITERIA

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, and <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;



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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. • AUDIT REPORT only required for private bodies, if the grant requested from EFSA is >750.000 €, as referred to in the Articles 199 of EU Financial Regulation. In the event of an application grouping several applicants (consortium), the threshold applies to each applicant. If the audit report is not available AND a statutory report is not required by law, a self-declaration signed by the applicant's authorised representative certifying the validity of its accounts for the last 2 years available must be provided. <p>The audit report should be produced by an approved external auditor certifying the accounts for the last two years available, where such an audit report is available or whenever a statutory report is required by law.</p> <p>The authorising officer responsible may, depending on a risk assessment, waive the obligation of providing an audit report for education and training establishments, and in the case of agreements with several beneficiaries, for applicants who do not bear any financial responsibility or who have accepted joint and several liabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LETTER OF COMMITMENT: applicable only when another public body financially contributes to the project (body other than EFSA, applicant or in case of consortium, its partners); to be signed by the contributing public body; it serves to confirm its commitment to financially contribute to the project; no template is provided by EFSA. <p>The applicant must convert the Declaration on honour on selection criteria, the Simplified Financial statement (if applicable) and the letter of commitment (if applicable) into one single pdf and upload the single document in the relevant field under 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
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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>1. Requirements for the organisation (for all Lots): For all lots, the applicant should provide evidence of recent (last 5 years) expertise in the field of Entomology of phytophagous insect species.</p> <p><u>Evidence requested for requirement 1</u></p> <p>Evidence of a recently (within the last 5 years) finalised research project and of a new or ongoing research project in the area of entomology of phytophagous insect species.</p> <p>2. Requirements for the team of experts (for all lots):</p> <p>The applicant should demonstrate its ability to provide a team compliant with the following expertise requirements indicated here below for each Lot.</p> <p>For all lots, 1 project coordinator, with a PhD degree in a scientific area related of the relevant Lot.</p> <p>For lot 1, at least one team member with expertise on insect vectors of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>. This must be demonstrated by at least 2 scientific publications on insect vectors of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> authored by a project team member.</p> <p>For lot 2, at least one team member with expertise on <i>Thaumatotibia leucotreta</i>. This must be demonstrated by at least 2 scientific publications on <i>Thaumatotibia leucotreta</i> authored by a project team member.</p> <p>For lot 3, at least one team member with expertise on <i>Leucinodes</i> species. This must be demonstrated by at least 2 scientific publications on <i>Leucinodes</i> species authored by a project team member.</p> <p><u>Evidence requested for requirement 2:</u></p> <p>Detailed CVs of the Project team members proposed for the assignment, showing evidence of requirement 2 above, including a brief description of the expertise and a list of publications relevant to the project for each person proposed. If individual team members are not yet assigned for the proposed project, applicants should provide details of the staff profiles necessary for the project. EFSA strongly recommends submitting the CVs in the EU CV format which can be accessed here.</p> <p>LIST OF PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS NAMES the applicant should also summarise in one page, the names of the proposed individual project team members and the profile covered.</p> <p>3. Requirements for the project coordinator (for all lots):</p> <p>The project coordinator must have an excellent level of spoken and written standard UK English. For non-native speakers, this should be demonstrated by an Official certificate of English proving a C1 level OR at least 3 years of work in an English-speaking environment etc. and /or participation in international projects where English was the working language.</p>



	<p><u>Evidence requested for requirement 3:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed CVs of the project coordinator proposed for the assignment, showing evidence of requirement 3 above. EFSA strongly recommends submitting the CVs in the EU CV format which can be accessed here. Official certificate of English proving a C1 level where applicable <p>4. Environmental management (the answers to this section are for information purposes and will not be considered under any criteria, neither selection nor award criteria – for all lots):</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> <p><u>Evidence requested for requirement 4:</u></p> <p>Annex 5 – Selection criteria, Information on environmental management</p> <p>For requirements 1, 2, 3 and 4 a template (Annex 5) is available to download in the Funding and Tenders Portal. The applicant must upload the completed template (a single pdf document of all requirements including CVs), in the relevant field under Part B and Annexes of the Funding and Tenders Portal.</p>
	<p><u>DoIs do not need to be provided with your proposal at this stage.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (DoIs) The beneficiary will provide Individual Declaration of Interests (DoIs) of subcontractors <u>not</u> 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>Please refer to EFSA's Independence policy and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management for more detailed information.</p>



2.5 AWARD CRITERIA (for all Lots)

Criterion No. 2.5	<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 and of the specific Lot. The following award criteria are applicable in this call.</p>
1	<p>The extent to which the proposal achieves the objectives of the relevant Lot and is likely to deliver outputs that will be useful and of high quality - MAX 50 POINTS (minimum 30 points) in total, according to the three specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Specific Objective 1: MAX 30 points – Specific Objective 2: MAX 15 points – Specific Objective 3: MAX 5 points
2	<p>The extent to which the project proposed methodology is well described, statistically appropriate and of high quality - MAX 25 POINTS.</p>
3	<p>The extent to which the project management and project description are clear and likely to delivery high quality project, including phases, clear timelines for the project tasks completion, detailed milestones per task (e.g. via a project Gantt chart), expected outcomes and deliverables, proposed contingency plan in case of deviations from the project programme, task distribution among consortium partners (if applicable) and individual team members, both internally (i.e. within the consortium/team) and externally (communication with EFSA) - MAX 15 POINTS.</p>
4	<p>Feasibility of the project execution and risks management, including: feasibility of the proposed methodology; description of identified risks and proposed mitigating actions, if any, proposed contingency plan in case of deviations from the project programme - MAX 10 POINTS.</p>

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

- score a **minimum of 70 points out of maximum possible 100 points**; and
- for **award criterion 1 score a minimum of 30 points out of a maximum 50 points** attributed to that criterion.

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

2.6 PROCESS FOLLOWING THE ASSESSMENT AGAINST AWARD CRITERIA

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

For each Lot, 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.