



GRANT CALL FOR PROPOSALS¹ AND GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

Call reference: EUBA-EFSA-2026-FIP-01

Call title: Support to the re-evaluation of approved food additives under Regulation (EU) No 257/2010

Budget Line: 3210-RASC

Project/process code: EPA02.02.07

This call is 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.

Applicants must check if they are included in the Art.36 list of competent organisations before submitting an application.

To understand more about EFSA's grants:

- Watch [this video](#) which explains the difference between procurement and grants;
- Consult [this infographic](#);
- To find out more about becoming an Art.36 organisation, consult the EFSA webpage '[Competent organisations in Member States](#)'.

Brief description of the call objectives and key messages:

The main objective of the call is to provide scientific and technical assistance to the FIP Unit with respect to preparatory work necessary to the production of scientific outputs on the re-evaluation of food additives currently remaining to be re-evaluated under Regulation (EU) No 257/2010 and their follow-up assessments.

The main tasks include providing scientific and technical assistance in the handling of calls for data, literature reviews (systematic literature search, screening for relevance), risk of bias evaluation or other steps of the systematic review, if needed.

¹ The SENSITIVE marking is applied to EFSA documents that need to be protected due to their sensitive nature. Mandatory handling instructions for SENSITIVE information are given at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/corporate-pubs/handling-sensitive-information-snc-issued-efsa>

INDICATIVE PROCEDURE TIMETABLE

Milestone	Date ²	Comments
Launch date	22/10/2026	Date of call publication on EFSA's website and Funding & Tender portal.
Deadline for applicants to raise clarification questions to EFSA	20/01/2027	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	22/01/2027	Question and answers will be published with the Call documents in the Funding & Tender portal, which the applicants are requested to consult 15.
Deadline for submission of proposals	28/01/2027 At 17:00 (CET)	Applicants can submit proposals by following the instructions in section 3.1 of this call for proposals. All applications must be submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders portal, following the instructions provided. Hard copy paper applications will not be accepted.
Notification of the evaluation results	March 2027	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	April 2027	Estimated

² All times are in the time zone of the country of the EFSA.

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ANNEXES

Annex 1: Draft Framework Partnership Agreement and Model Specific Agreement

The below documents are to be submitted with the proposal (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 (all requirements including CVs)

Annex 6: Award criteria template

1. GRANT OPPORTUNITY AND CONDITIONS³

1.1 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Article 36 (1) of the Regulation (EC) 178/2002⁴ 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 projects⁵, 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) 2230/2004⁶ of 23 December 2004 specifies that the financial support to the networking organisations shall take the form of subsidies (grants) awarded in accordance with the EFSA's financial regulation and implementing rules.

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

³ 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.

⁴ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2002:031:0001:0024:EN:PDF>

⁵ Project is frequently referred to in this Call as "action", in line with EU Financial Regulation terminology.

⁶ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:379:0064:0067:EN:PDF>

Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024⁷).

This call is based on EFSA Founding regulation⁸ and EFSA's applicable annual Work Programme for grants and operational procurements as presented in the Annex of the applicable Programming Document, available on the EFSA's website⁹.

1.2 BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

BACKGROUND

In 2011, a mandate was sent to EFSA (M-2011-0160) requesting the re-evaluation of all the food additives permitted for use in food in the EU as of 20 January 2009, as indicated in Regulation (EU) No 257/2010. The date coincides with the entry into force of Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008, which harmonises the use of food additives in foods in the European Union providing lists of approved food additives and their conditions of use in foods, including in food additives and in food enzymes, and of Regulation (EC) No 1331/2008 (also known as Common Authorisation Procedure) which lays down a common procedure for the assessment and authorisation of food additives, food enzymes, food flavourings and source materials of food flavourings and of food ingredients with flavouring properties. Regulation (EU) No 257/2010 indicated the end of 2020 as the final deadline for the re-evaluation of food additives, with some intermediate milestones to be achieved and priorities for completion. More than six years after the deadline of 31 December 2020, EFSA has still 86 Q-numbers open under the mandate M-2011-0160, corresponding to approximately 27 scientific outputs to be adopted by the EFSA Panel on Food Additives and Flavourings (FAF Panel). For approximately 20 Q-numbers covered in 7 scientific opinions, preparatory work has already reached a more advanced stage and therefore these food additives are not expected to be included in this call.

Regulation (EU) No 257/2010, in its articles 4 and 5, indicates the procedure that needs to be followed by EFSA for the re-evaluation of food additives.

Article 4:

When re-evaluating an approved food additive, EFSA shall:

- (a) examine the original opinion and the working documents of the Scientific Committee on Food ('SCF') or EFSA;*
- (b) examine, where available, the original dossier;*
- (c) examine the data submitted by the interested business operator(s) and/or any other interested party in accordance with Articles 5, 6 and 7 of this Regulation;*
- (d) examine any data made available by the Commission and Member States;*
- (e) identify any relevant literature published since the last evaluation of each food additive.*

Article 5:

1. In order to acquire the data from the interested business operators and/or other interested parties, EFSA shall make open call(s) for data for the food additives under re-evaluation. In specifying the timetable for data submission, EFSA shall allow a reasonable time period after the entry into force of this Regulation, to allow the interested business operator and/or any other interested party to meet this duty.

2. The data referred to in paragraph 1 may comprise among others:

- (a) study reports from the original dossier as evaluated by the SCF or EFSA or the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA),*
- (b) information on the data on the safety of the food additive concerned not previously reviewed by the SCF or the JECFA,*
- (c) information on the specifications of the food additives presently in use, including information on particle size and relevant physicochemical characteristics and properties,*

⁷ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/req/2024/2509/oj>

⁸ 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

⁹ All Programming Documents are available at this website: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/corporate-pubs/programming-documents>

(d) information on the manufacturing process,
 (e) information on analytical methods available for determination in food,
 (f) information on the human exposure to the food additives from food (e.g. consumption pattern and uses, actual use levels and maximum use levels, frequency of consumption and other factors influencing exposure),
 (g) reaction and fate in food.

The generic steps of the process are summarised in figure 1.

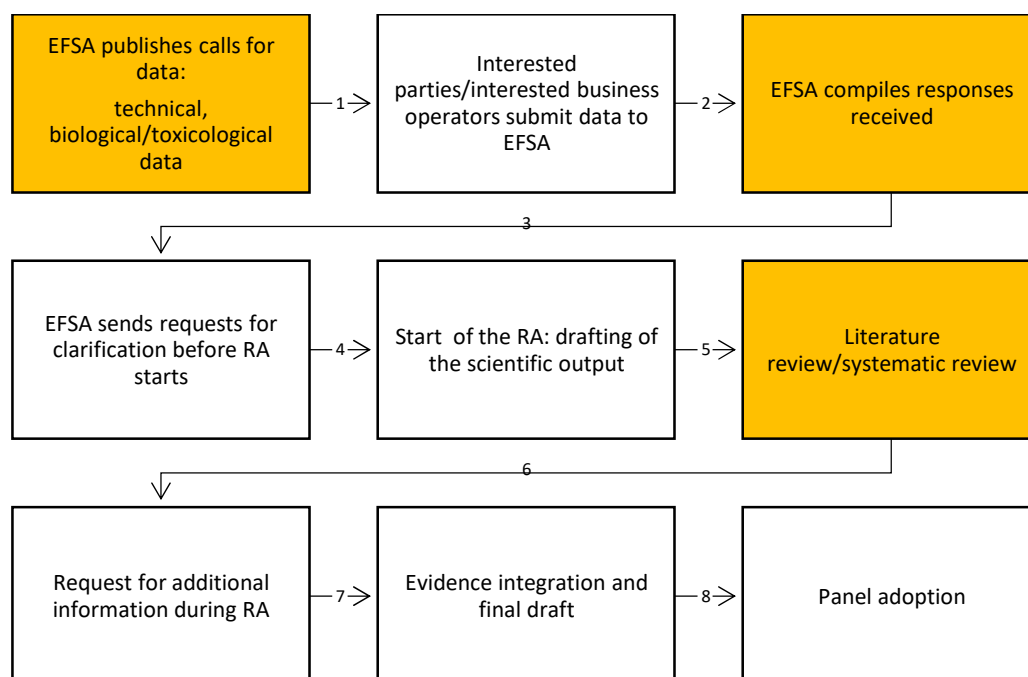


Figure 1: Workflow for the re-evaluation of food additives, from data collection to adoption of the scientific opinion

Under Regulation (EU) No 257/2010, the European Commission (EC) may also request EFSA to follow-up on its re-evaluation opinion by means of a new mandate accompanied by data generated by Interested Business Operators (IBOs) in response to a follow-up call. The process is similar to the one depicted in Figure 1.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

The objective of the call is to provide scientific and technical assistance to the FIP Unit with respect to preparatory work necessary to the production of scientific outputs on the re-evaluation of food additives under Regulation (EU) No 257/2010 and their follow-up assessments.

The food additives that remain to be re-evaluated and for which scientific and technical assistance may be provided to EFSA through the present call are listed in Table 1.

While the final number of opinions can only be confirmed after assessment of the data by the Working Groups and/or the FAF Panel, it is estimated that the re-evaluation of these food additives will result in approximately 20 scientific opinions to be prepared by EFSA.

Scientific and technical assistance is sought for the steps included in the orange boxes in Figure 1 above.

Table 1: List of food additives to be re-evaluated by EFSA (E number, name) and corresponding EFSA-Q-numbers for which technical and scientific assistance may be provided through the present call.

Functional class	E number	Name	EFSA Question Number
Sweeteners	E 420 (i)	Sorbitol	EFSA-Q-2011-00644
	E 420 (ii)	Sorbitol syrup	EFSA-Q-2011-00645
	E 421 (i)	Mannitol	EFSA-Q-2011-00646
	E 421 (ii)	Mannitol manufactured by fermentation	EFSA-Q-2011-00647
	E 953	Isomalt	EFSA-Q-2011-00723
	E 965 (i)	Maltitol	EFSA-Q-2017-00490
	E 965 (ii)	Maltitol syrup	EFSA-Q-2011-00755
	E 966	Lactitol	EFSA-Q-2011-00728
	E 967	Xylitol	EFSA-Q-2011-00729
Other	E 260	Acetic acid	EFSA-Q-2011-00592
	E 261	Potassium acetate	EFSA-Q-2011-00593
	E 262(i)	Sodium acetate	EFSA-Q-2011-00594
	E 262(ii)	Sodium diacetate	EFSA-Q-2011-00627
	E 263	Calcium acetate	EFSA-Q-2011-00595
	E 270	Lactic acid	EFSA-Q-2011-00596
	E 290	Carbon dioxide	EFSA-Q-2011-00597
	E 296	Malic acid	EFSA-Q-2011-00598
	E 297	Fumaric acid	EFSA-Q-2011-00599
	E 325	Sodium lactate	EFSA-Q-2011-00600
	E 326	Potassium lactate	EFSA-Q-2011-00601
	E 327	Calcium lactate	EFSA-Q-2011-00602
	E 330	Citric acid	EFSA-Q-2011-00603
	E 331 (i)	Monosodium citrate	EFSA-Q-2011-00604
	E 331 (ii)	Disodium citrate	EFSA-Q-2011-00605
	E 331 (iii)	Trisodium citrate	EFSA-Q-2011-00606
	E 332(i)	Monopotassium citrate	EFSA-Q-2011-00607
	E 332(ii)	Tripotassium citrate	EFSA-Q-2011-00608
	E 333(i)	Monocalcium citrate	EFSA-Q-2011-00609
	E 333(ii)	Dicalcium citrate	EFSA-Q-2011-00610
	E 333(iii)	Tricalcium citrate	EFSA-Q-2011-00611
	E 350(i)	Sodium malate	EFSA-Q-2011-00631
	E 350(ii)	Sodium hydrogen malate	EFSA-Q-2011-00632
	E 351	Potassium malate	EFSA-Q-2011-00633
	E 352 (i)	Calcium malate	EFSA-Q-2011-00634
	E 352 (ii)	Calcium hydrogen malate	EFSA-Q-2011-00635
	E 355	Adipic acid	EFSA-Q-2011-00638
	E 356	Sodium adipate	EFSA-Q-2011-00639
	E 357	Potassium adipate	EFSA-Q-2011-00640
	E 363	Succinic acid	EFSA-Q-2011-00641
	E 380	Triammonium citrate	EFSA-Q-2011-00642
	E 385	Calcium disodium EDTA	EFSA-Q-2011-00643
	E 500(i)	Sodium carbonate	EFSA-Q-2011-00648
	E 500(ii)	Sodium hydrogen carbonate	EFSA-Q-2011-00649
	E 500(iii)	Sodium sesquicarbonate	EFSA-Q-2011-00650
	E 501(i)	Potassium carbonate	EFSA-Q-2011-00651
	E 501(ii)	Potassium hydrogen carbonate	EFSA-Q-2011-00652
	E 503	Ammonium hydrogen carbonate	EFSA-Q-2011-00654

Functional class	E number	Name	EFSA Question Number
Other (ctd)	E 503(i)	Ammonium carbonate	EFSA-Q-2011-00653
	E 504(i)	Magnesium carbonate	EFSA-Q-2011-00655
	E 504 (ii)	Magnesium hydroxide carbonate	EFSA-Q-2011-00656
	E 524	Sodium hydroxide	EFSA-Q-2011-00669
	E 525	Potassium hydroxide	EFSA-Q-2011-00670
	E 526	Calcium hydroxide	EFSA-Q-2011-00671
	E 527	Ammonium hydroxide	EFSA-Q-2011-00672
	E 528	Magnesium hydroxide	EFSA-Q-2011-00673
	E 529	Calcium oxide	EFSA-Q-2011-00674
	E 530	Magnesium oxide	EFSA-Q-2011-00675
	E 640	Glycine and its sodium salt	EFSA-Q-2011-00701
	E 650	Zinc acetate	EFSA-Q-2011-00702
	E 920	L-Cysteine	EFSA-Q-2011-00710
	E 927b	Carbamide	EFSA-Q-2011-00711
	E 941	Nitrogen	EFSA-Q-2011-00714
	E 1505	Triethyl citrate	EFSA-Q-2011-00587
	E 1517	Glyceryl diacetate	EFSA-Q-2011-00588
	E 1518	Glyceryl triacetate	EFSA-Q-2011-00589

EFSA has also received several mandates from the EC to follow-up certain issues identified during the re-evaluation assessments or update parts of the safety assessments. EFSA is currently working on 13 scientific assessments for which the preparation of the scientific opinions is already at the level of the Working Groups of the FAF Panel. While it is unlikely that the current call will be used to support the work of EFSA for these 13 opinions, it is anticipated that new mandates may be received from the European Commission during the duration of this agreement.

The re-evaluation of sweeteners follows a specific protocol¹⁰ for the implementation of systematic review methodology which requires additional steps for the appraisal and synthesis of the evidence. This methodology may also be applied to other assessments depending on their complexity, the likelihood of external scrutiny, or a large wealth of data with conflicting findings. The tasks associated with these extra steps are captured under WP 3, described below.

1.3 TASKS, DELIVERABLES, TIMELINES, MEETINGS AND PAYMENTS

The FPA beneficiary(ies) may be required to perform any of the tasks listed below. Tasks do not need to be performed in the order presented, and each Specific Agreement may cover one or more individual tasks rather than the full set of tasks. In general, all tasks foreseen below will be carried out remotely.

¹⁰<https://zenodo.org/records/7788969>

Work Package / Objective	Tasks	Deliverables	Deadline
WP 1 / Provide scientific and technical assistance to the calls for data for the re-evaluation and follow-up of food additives	Task 1a: Preparation of the launch of tailored call(s) for data. The beneficiary should draft the text of calls for data to support the re-evaluation of food additives.	Deliverable 1a: Draft text for call(s) for data in line with recent examples ^{11,12} .	To be indicated in the specific agreement.
	Task 1b: Compilation of responses received in reply to calls for data. The beneficiary should compile the information submitted to EFSA in response to the call(s) for data into a draft report.	Deliverable 1b(i): Report compiling all the information reported by the data providers in response to the call(s) for data. Information claimed as confidential by the data provider(s) must be clearly marked in the report.	To be indicated in the specific agreement.
		Deliverable 1b(ii): Table compiling the confidentiality claims made by the data providers at the time of data submission.	
WP 2 / Provide scientific and technical assistance to the literature reviews supporting re-evaluation and follow-up of food additives	Task 2a: Literature searches Perform a literature search in an open-ended manner, starting from the latest evaluation of the Scientific Committee on Food (SCF) or EFSA, in the following databases: - Scifinder: to search for information most related to the technical data (i.e. identity of the substance, specifications, manufacturing process, method of analysis, and stability and reaction and fate in food). - PubMed and Web of Science: to search for information most related to the toxicological studies and human studies (observational and interventional studies). The searches are limited to publications in English.	Deliverable 2a (i): Scoping review of the available literature, mapping of the data. Report documenting the search strategy and outcome. Deliverable 2a (ii): Refined literature search; references retrieved uploaded in the systematic review management tool (e.g. Distiller). Report documenting the search strategy and outcome.	To be indicated in the specific agreement.

¹¹ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/call/call-data-re-evaluation-fumaric-acid-e-297-and-succinic-acid-e-363-food-additives>

¹² <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/call/call-data-re-evaluation-calcium-disodium-edta-e-385-food-additive>

	Task 2b: Screening for relevance a. Screening of the references retrieved in the literature search, at the title and abstract level b. Screening at the full text level of the references included at the title and abstract level. Pdfs of the included references not retrievable in the public domains will be retrieved by EFSA.	Deliverable 2b: All references screened and conflicts in the systematic review management tool (e.g. Distiller SR) between reviewers reconciled.	
WP 3 / Provide support to other steps of the systematic review	Task 3: Provide support to other steps of the systematic reviews including, e.g. confirmation of relevance checks, extracting key facts for risk of bias (RoB) evaluations, evaluation and answering key RoB questions identified according to the criteria provided by EFSA and contribution to conflict resolution in liaison with another colleague working on this task in parallel, preparation of weight of evidence (WoE) tables.	Deliverable 3: All questions answered in the systematic review management tool (e.g. Distiller SR) and conflicts between reviewers reconciled; WoE tables (e.g. Excel format) filled in with the information requested.	To be indicated in the specific agreement.

No.	Meetings	Deadline for finalisation
1	Kick-off meeting: max half day ¹³ / teleconference The kick-off meeting is regarded as the start of the project. 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. The presence at the kick-off meeting of a beneficiary's staff member responsible for administrative/finance issues of the project is advised as this will facilitate understanding by the beneficiary of the grant principles, related financial reporting requirements and significantly ease the financial management of the grant agreement, both for EFSA and the beneficiary.	Within 2 weeks after entry into force of Framework Partnership Agreement
2	Ad hoc kick-off meetings at the start of specific agreements: max half day ¹⁴ / teleconference If needed, kick-off meetings may be organised at the start of the specific agreement to discuss the main objectives, the specific tasks, the deliverables and timeframe. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and provided to EFSA by the beneficiary.	Within 2 weeks after the entry into force of the Specific Agreements
3	Ad-hoc meetings during the specific agreement(s) implementation: max half day ¹⁵ / teleconference	When needed, during specific agreements implementation

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

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

¹⁵ One day = 8 hours, half day = 4 hours

	If needed, ad-hoc meetings may be organised to discuss any problems or difficulties encountered during the project. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and provided to EFSA by the beneficiary. Ad hoc interim meetings can be repeated as many times as necessary during the specific agreement(s) implementation.	
No.	Payments	Linked to EFSA approval of deliverable No.
	The payment modalities applicable to each specific agreement are detailed in the Data Sheet section 4.2 Periodic reporting and payment of the draft specific agreement published under the framework partnership agreement (Annex 1 of the call for Proposals).	To be indicated in the specific agreement.

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

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

1.4 INFORMATION ON THE GRANT AGREEMENT

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

The total envelope EFSA has available to award grants under this call for proposals is **€ 300.000,00**. Applicants should note that in the Funding and Tender opportunities portal submission service under Administrative Form (Part A) there is an obligatory field regarding the budget (section 3). Applicants must insert the total envelope in the 'Requested grant amount' field.

1.4.1 Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA)

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

This call will result in the signature of three FPAs in cascade, each FPA must be composed of one partner only as **consortia are not permitted under this call**.

The financial ceiling available for specific agreements under all framework partnership agreements is **300.000,00 €**.

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

The duration of the specific agreements will be typically from 3 to 12 months. The FPA continues to apply to specific agreements after its expiry. The services relating to such specific agreements must be performed no later than 8 months after the expiry of the FPA.

Cascade mechanism: The points awarded in the evaluation will constitute the ranking in order to establish a cascade of beneficiaries. EFSA will consult the beneficiary ranked first in order to conclude a specific agreement for work to be carried out.

The beneficiary should confirm their acceptance of the terms described in the specific agreement within 10 calendar days. The Individual Declaration of Interests (DoIs) and the CV(s) of staff member(s) fulfilling the expertise requirements should be submitted jointly with the acceptance. **In case of negative reply, EFSA will contact the second beneficiary in the cascade and the above timescales for replying would be applicable.**

1.4.2 Implementation modalities - Specific Agreements

EFSA reserves the right to award Specific Agreements under the FPA according to the costs provided in the table below. These costs are based on the expert judgement of EFSA.

As the quantity, type and complexity of the information received by EFSA or retrieved in the open literature may vary substantially between assessments, the scope of the work to be performed, the expected deliverables and the corresponding budget amount will be defined in each specific agreement. Different amounts are assigned to deliverables for which the information received by EFSA or retrieved in the open literature may vary substantially in terms of type, quantity, complexity.

Ordered deliverable	Complexity: Low (€)	Complexity: Medium (€)	Complexity: High (€)
Deliverable 1a: Draft text for call(s) for data in line with recent examples	EUR 2.500	NA	NA
Deliverable 1b(i): Report compiling all the information reported by the data providers in response to the call(s) for data. Information claimed as confidential by the data provider(s) must be clearly marked in the report.	EUR 2.500	EUR 6.250	EUR 10.000
Deliverable 1b(ii): Table compiling the confidentiality claims made by the data providers at the time of data submission.	EUR 500	EUR 1.500	EUR 2.500
Deliverable 2a (i): Scoping review of the available literature, mapping of the data.	EUR 2.500	NA	NA
Deliverable 2a (ii): Refined literature search; references retrieved uploaded in Distiller. Report documenting the search strategy and outcome.	EUR 2.500	NA	NA
Deliverable 2b: All references screened and conflicts in the systematic review management tool (e.g. Distiller SR between reviewers reconciled.	EUR 2.500	EUR 6.250	EUR 10.000
Deliverable 3: All questions answered in the systematic review management tool (e.g. Distiller SR) and conflicts between reviewers reconciled.	EUR 2.500	EUR 6.250	EUR 10.000

Specific Agreements will be awarded to a FPA beneficiary based on the cascade mechanism described above. Each Specific Agreement will set out the specific conditions for performing the respective assignment and will define the exact timing of deliverables/milestones.

The ownership of the delivered outputs as a result of these tasks will be vested solely in EFSA.

The working language for performance of tasks will be English. Should EFSA, during the implementation of a specific agreement, identify that a staff member of the beneficiary working on a task is not performing according to expectations, EFSA has the right to request a replacement of staff member from the beneficiary. The beneficiary in such a case must ensure there is a smooth handover between the outgoing and new staff member and at the same time the beneficiary shall endeavour to minimise any negative impact from such a change of staff on the execution of the task.

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.my.site.com/competentorganisations/s/competentorganisation/CompetentOrganisation_c/00B1v000009LqfIEAS

In order to achieve the main objective of the call, proposals must be submitted by one eligible organisation. **Consortia are not permitted under this call.**

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.

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/EU¹⁶ must comply with the applicable national public procurement rules.

Sub-contracting: NOT ALLOWED

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.

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):

¹⁶ 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)

- **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 acknowledged in the scientific output 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 2018/1725.¹⁷

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

¹⁷ 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

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 11 December 2025. In case of award of an EFSA contract, it is obligatory for the Project Manager to follow the [EFSA Anti-Fraud Module](#). It is the responsibility of the contractor to make sure the training has been followed before start of contract implementation. IT support for access to the module please contact: servicedesk@efsa.europa.eu

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

1.12 PUBLIC ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

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

1.13 OPEN ACCESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The use of the AI systems/models in the frame of implementation of this grant is allowed **with the exception of task 1b, where it is explicitly forbidden to upload confidential information to any AI tool.** For other tasks where the use of AI tools is permitted, the applicant must specify such intention in their proposal in the description of the proposed methodology.

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

The beneficiary using AI system/model in the implementation of this grant must adhere to Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 (hereafter: 'the AI Act')¹⁸. This regulation is already in force, however it becomes applicable in a gradual way. This regulation also stipulates the obligations of deployers of high-risk AI systems (Article 26). Under no circumstances may the prohibited AI practices (outlined in article 5 of the AI Act) be applied during the implementation of this grant.

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

2. Information required for award criteria:

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

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

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

Accordingly, if the applicant intends to use AI system/model in grant implementation, the proposal must specify the following information:

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

¹⁸ Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act), OJ L, 2024/1689, 12.7.2024 - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj>

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

3. Other transparency requirements in use of AI:

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

The applicant must clearly indicate in their proposal whether generative AI systems/models such as Large Language Models (e.g. ChatGPT), were utilised in the preparation of their proposals.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW AI SYSTEMS/MODELS DURING GRANT IMPLEMENTATION

Introducing AI systems/ models into the grant implementation, if it was not part of the initial methodology explicitly foreseen in the call for proposals or in the application submitted by the beneficiary, equals to a change of the agreed delivery methodology. Therefore, any change is treated as any other methodology change: the beneficiary, **before starting to use such AI systems/models in the grant implementation** must first inform EFSA in writing of its intention to use AI systems/models. The beneficiary shall provide EFSA with the following information:

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

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

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

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

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

2. SELECTING PROPOSALS

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

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

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

2.1 VERIFICATION OF SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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:
	• At the day of deadline for submission of proposals, the applicant is 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 is involved in the execution of the project.
	Requested evidence:
	ADMINISTRATIVE DECLARATION Annex 2 , available in the Funding and Tenders Portal (click on Start submission and download the document under part B templates). The applicant must complete and sign the form. The applicant must upload the signed Administrative form in the relevant field under <i>Part B and Annexes</i> of the Electronic Submission Service.

2.3 EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Criterion No. 2.3	Requirements and requested evidence
2	Exclusion criteria
	The following requirements will be verified:
	The applicant 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:
	THE DECLARATION ON HONOUR ON EXCLUSION CRITERIA Annex 3, available in the Funding and Tenders Portal (click on Start submission and download the document under part B templates). The applicant must upload the Declaration on Honour on exclusion criteria in the relevant field under <i>Part B and Annexes</i> of the Electronic Submission Service.

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.
	The applicant must have stable and sufficient financial resources to: • maintain their activity throughout the period during which the project is being carried out. If the Authority considers that financial capacity is weak, it may: – request further information; – decide not to give pre-financing; – decide to give pre-financing paid in instalments; – decide to give pre-financing covered by a bank guarantee; – where applicable, require the joint and several financial liability of all the co-beneficiaries. If the EFSA Authorising Officer considers that the financial capacity is insufficient, the application may be rejected.
	Requested evidence:
	DECLARATION ON HONOUR ON SELECTION CRITERIA Annex 4, available to download in the Funding and Tenders Portal (click on Start submission and download the document under part B templates). The applicant must complete, sign and upload the Declaration on Honour on selection



	criteria in the relevant field under <i>Part B and Annexes</i> of the Electronic Submission Service. • SIMPLIFIED FINANCIAL STATEMENT available here only required for private bodies if the grant requested from EFSA is >60.000 €. The template published with the Call should be completed for at least the last two closed financial years. • LETTER OF COMMITMENT: applicable only when another public body financially contributes to the project (body other than EFSA and applicant); 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. The applicant must convert the Declaration on honour on selection criteria, the Simplified Financial statement (if applicable) and the letter of commitment (if applicable) into one single pdf and upload the single document in the relevant field under <i>Part B and Annexes</i> of the Electronic Submission Service.
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B) Professional and operational capacity

Criterion No. 2.4.B	Requirements and requested evidence
1	Professional and operational capacity:
	Requirements and requested evidence:
	The applicant must have the professional and technical resources, competencies and qualifications necessary to complete the proposed project. 1. Requirements for the organisation: The applicant must have extensive and demonstrable experience in chemical risk assessment and systematic literature reviews. • <u>EVIDENCE REQUESTED FOR REQUIREMENT 1:</u> A signed statement confirming that, for FPA implementation, their organisation will have the required experience described above accompanied by a list of at least 3 major publications and/or projects covering the subject matter area (chemical risk assessment) carried out over the past 5 years. The statement should contain: i) name/title of the publication/project, ii) year of the publication/project execution, iii) a brief explanation of the publication/project demonstrating the pertinence to the subject matter areas, iv) list of databases and respective subscriptions to carry out literature searches. 2. Requirements for the team of experts: Each expert involved in the tasks must have a University degree at post-graduate level (minimum Master degree) and relevant work experience (minimum of 3 years) in one or more of the following fields: a. Chemistry, food chemistry b. Molecular biology/biotechnology c. Biology or other related scientific degrees and/or toxicology (including experience in conducting systematic review and/or peer-reviewing scientific articles within these areas)



	d. Data/reference management (including Knowledge of the commonly used databases/tools for extensive literature search and retrieval as well as for screening). The team of experts as a whole must cover all subject matter areas indicated above. One expert may cover more than one subject matter area. Each member of the team must have a very good level of spoken and written standard UK English. For non-native speakers, this should be demonstrated by an official certificate of English proving a B2 level OR at least 3 years of work in an English-speaking environment. • <u>EVIDENCE REQUESTED FOR REQUIREMENT 2:</u> Detailed CVs of the Project team members proposed for the assignment, showing evidence of requirement 2 above (English capacity included), with a brief description of the expertise and a list of publications (if applicable) 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. LIST OF PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS: the applicant must summarise in one table the names of the proposed individual project team members, the subject matter areas covered, years of experience and how they would contribute to the project execution. In case the required staff member are not yet employed, this can be indicated in the summary. Applicants are requested not to submit photographs of staff representatives or consultants, in application of the data minimisation principle (Art. 4.1.c of the EUDPR). 3. Environmental management (the answers to this section are for information purposes and will not be considered under any criteria, neither selection nor award criteria): 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. 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). • <u>EVIDENCE REQUESTED FOR REQUIREMENT 3:</u> Annex 5 – Selection criteria, Information on environmental management For requirements 1 to 3 a template (Annex 5) is available in the Funding and Tenders Portal (click on Start submission to download part B templates). The applicant must upload the completed template (a single pdf document of all requirements including CVs), in the relevant field under <i>Part B and Annexes of Electronic Submission Service</i>.
	<u>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (DoIs)</u>



	The beneficiary proposed for award will be asked to provide Individual Declaration of Interests (DoIs) of: Members of the project team having influence and/or control over scientific outputs prior to the signature of each Specific Agreement. The Individual Declarations of Interests is available here under <i>Conflict of interest forms applicable to procedures launched from June 2025.</i> Please refer to EFSA's Independence policy and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management for more detailed information. <u>DoIs do not need to be submitted with your proposal, they will be requested in the award letter.</u>
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2.5 AWARD CRITERIA

If any part of the technical proposal has been drafted using artificial intelligence or in case artificial intelligence is foreseen for implementation of services, kindly describe this in the relevant award criteria, as deemed appropriate. Please refer to section 1.17 of this call for proposals.

Criterion No. 2.5	For the award criteria a template (Annex 6) is available in the Funding and Tenders Portal (click on Start submission to download part B templates). The applicant must upload the completed template (a single pdf document of all criteria) in the relevant field under Part B and Annexes of Electronic Submission Service. The award criteria serve to assess the quality of the proposals in relation to the objectives of the Call. The below award criteria are applicable in this call.
1	Methodology for calls for data/data management The applying organisation should provide a description of its proposed approach to support calls for data, including: - Preparation and drafting of calls for data (for examples see footnotes 11 and 12), including the definition and organisation of data requirements: MAX 5 POINTS; - Compilation, organisation, management and documentation of information received from data providers: MAX 20 POINTS; - Management and reporting of confidentiality claims: MAX 5 POINTS. Maximum total points for criterion 1: 30 points Minimum passing score: 15 points
2	Methodology for literature reviews/bibliographic research The applying organisation should provide a description of its proposed approach to conduct systematic literature reviews, including: - Literature-search methodology, including the selection of relevant bibliographic databases and other information sources, and the development and documentation of search strategies: MAX 15 POINTS; - Screening and study-selection methodology, including title-and-abstract screening, full-text screening, application of eligibility criteria and resolution of disagreements: MAX 20 POINTS;



	c. Reference management, including deduplication, documentation of decisions and use of appropriate reference-management or systematic-review tools: MAX 5 POINTS d. Data extraction and management (i.e. RoB and WoE) or other steps of the systematic review: MAX 10 POINTS If the applicant proposes the use of AI, the purpose and the added value of the technological solution/software/AI model or AI system proposed must be explained. Maximum total points for criterion 2: 50 points Minimum passing score: 25 points
3	Quality control and management of risks for the project. Description of quality assurance measures proposed for the project to guarantee high quality of deliverables, risk identification and proposed risk mitigation. Maximum total points for criterion 3: 20 Minimum passing score: 10

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
- achieve the minimum passing score for each award 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.

Following their ranking on the reserve list, EFSA reserves the right to invite applicants to adapt their proposal based on the evaluators' comments, in accordance with article 203(5) EU FR. The number of applicants invited to adjust their proposals and ultimately awarded an EFSA grant will be decided based on the value of grants requested compared to the overall available budget of EFSA for this Call.

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

In case some applicants fail to adapt the proposal, EFSA reserves the right to reject the proposal. The budget made available in this way may be used for projects of next applicants on the reserve lists. EFSA may repeat the adaptation process until the available budget of the call is assigned to other applicants 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.