# PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT

FutureFoodS | 28 September 2026 (v02; 21 October 2026)

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|---|---|
| Version 02 | - RANNIS, IS (Rannsóknamiðstöð Íslands) will not participate in the call<br>- BMFTR, DE (Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt) will not participate in the call<br>- VLAIO, BE foresees to fund only Topics 1 and 3 |

The European Partnership for a sustainable Future of Food Systems (**FutureFoodS**) hereby pre-announces the 3rd co-funded call for transnational research and innovation projects, entitled:

**"GETS - Getting Everyone Together for Sustainable food systems: empowered consumers, innovative sustainable products and trusted value chains"**

The opening and launch of the call is expected **beginning of November 2026**.

Details presented in this document may be subject to change before the opening of the call.
Further information and updates can be found on:

https://futurefoodspartnership.eu
https://futurefoods.ptj.de

# Background and scope of the call

FutureFoodS is a co-funded Horizon Europe partnership, bringing together 86 partners from 29 countries to drive green and digital transitions with a focus on food post-harvest. It is thereby contributing to the European Green Deal, it's Farm to Fork Strategy and the UN´s Sustainable Development Goals as well as to the FOOD2030 agenda and the latest Food 2040 Strategic Approach as well as the Commission´s Vision for Agriculture and Food, the Strategy for European Life Sciences and the EU Bioeconomy Strategy.

The European Commission has identified an urgent need to make our food systems future-proof. This is due to various impacts that our food systems are facing, such as those linked to climate change, land degradation, biodiversity loss, hunger, malnutrition, diet-related diseases, food and packaging waste, safety, scarcity of fresh water and (renewable) resources, social and economic inequalities, political tensions, and the need to safeguard our food-related cultural heritage.

**The vision of the FutureFoodS partnership is to collectively achieve environmentally friendly, socially secure and fair, economically viable, healthy and safe food systems in Europe by 2050**.

Central to the FutureFoodS Partnership is the belief that tackling the complex challenges making current European food systems unsustainable requires the mobilisation of knowledge, actors and resources

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through a **food systems approach**[1]. An approach of this kind is important as it propounds a holistic view when addressing complex problems, acknowledging enduring dependencies between different parts of the food system and its actors, as well as identifying drivers and leverage points within systems.

The European food system Research and Innovation community has an important role to play in promoting the design and realisation of a food systems approach involving relevant food system actors. The proposals submitted to this call should clearly delineate and characterise the particular food system under consideration. Who are the key actors? What are the main dependencies within the system? What levers may induce enhanced sustainability of the system? How does the chosen system connect to other food systems?

In its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda[2] (SRIA), FutureFoodS has identified four thematic areas for which better knowledge, more advanced know-how and more scalable, innovative solutions can be central to fulfilling food system transformations:

(1) 'Change the way we eat',
(2) 'Change the way we process and supply food',
(3) 'Change the way we connect with food systems' and
(4) 'Change the way we govern food systems'.

The objective of this call is to fund transnational research and/or innovation projects addressing one of the following preliminary call topics. Each call topic brings together several of the high priority issues identified by the partnership and detailed in the SRIA. More information and guidance will be given in the Call Announcement.

# Topics of the third call

This call will be open to proposals addressing one of the topics described below.

### Topic 1: Trusted and transparent sustainable food value chains

*Trust, transparency and sustainability are essential enablers of resilient food value chains. Proposals should address challenges related to certification, traceability, labelling, sustainable procurement, fairness, and cooperation across food value chains, while exploiting the potential of digital tools and data-driven solutions. Particular attention should be given to strengthening consumer trust and fostering producer-consumer reconnection through innovative and transparent food value chains.*

[1] The FutureFoodS strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA) defines such an approach as, "*a system that embraces all **elements** (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructure, institutions, power relations, markets and trade) and **activities** that relate to production, processing, distribution, marketing, preparation and consumption of food. A systems approach acknowledges the **interactions** between natural resources/ecosystem services, primary food production (farming, aquaculture and fishery), food processing, packaging, logistics, marketing, retail, food services, food consumption and waste management/recycling and the many **feedback loops** between them, which together define the degree of **complexity**"* (Halberg, N. & Westhoek, H. 2019. SCAR SWG Food systems Policy Brief: The added value of a Food Systems Approach in Research and Innovation? *European Union Publication*. ISBN 978-92-76-08794-6).

[2] Sustainable Food Systems Partnership for People, Planet and Climate: Strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA) https://www.futurefoodspartnership.eu/s/DELIVERABLE-21-DRAFT-SRIA-10-June-2025.pdf

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### Topic 2: Consumer agency and enabling food environments for healthy, safe and sustainable food practices

*Empowering citizens to make healthy, safe, and sustainable food choices requires both individual agency and supportive food environments. Proposals should address challenges related to food literacy, food safety perception, access and affordability, inclusiveness, and behavioural change while fostering collaboration among relevant stakeholders. The topic aims to strengthen the conditions that enable sustainable food practices across different social contexts.*

### Topic 3: Innovative processing for sustainable, safe and nutritious food products

*Innovation in food processing can contribute to more sustainable, safe and nutritious food systems. Proposals should address product diversification, alternative food sources and naturalness-preserving processing technologies while considering aspects related to nutritional quality, food safety, economic viability and consumer acceptance. Particular attention should be given to solutions with the potential for uptake and wider application across food systems.*

Please note that primary production activities such as the growing of food crops (including seafood), other elements of agricultural production and various specific aspects related to it, as well as nutrition- and lifestyle-related diseases are not in focus in this partnership. The focus of FutureFoodS is on issues post-harvest. Primary production aspects are covered in other Horizon Europe partnerships.

# Requirements for applicants (list not exhaustive)

- Consortia must be comprised of a minimum of three partners from a minimum of three different countries eligible for and requesting funding from funding organisations participating in this call;
- Guiding elements for FutureFoodS projects are as follows and will be part of the evaluation:
  - ✓ **Transformative perspective**
  - ✓ **Inter- and transdisciplinarity**
  - ✓ **Multi-stakeholder engagement**
  - ✓ **Sustainability**
- Proposals will be required to provide an **Impact Plan** indicating progress towards food systems transformation;
- Proposals can either be **"research oriented"** or **"innovation oriented"** (self-assignment);
- Proposals should explain how complementarity towards previously funded projects[3] is ensured.

More information and guidance will be given in the Call Announcement.

# Who can apply?

Tertiary education institutions, research institutes, non-profit legal entities, enterprises (small, medium-sized and large) and public bodies, subject to the national/regional funding regulations and eligibility criteria.

[3] Call 1 Projects — FutureFoodS

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A partnering tool will be available on the submission website (https://futurefoods.ptj.de), in order to support applicants in their search for potential partners.

# Next steps

The call will follow a two-step procedure with the following important steps:

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|---|---|
| Call launch: | Beginning of November 2026 |
| Deadline for pre-proposal submission: | ~ mid of January 2027 |
| Deadline for full-proposal submission: | ~ end of June 2027 (only by invitation) |
| Start of projects: | between November 2027 and March 2028 |

# Participating Funding Organisations (tbc)

*Note: The list of participating Funding Organisations is preliminary and may be updated before the official launch of the call. Not all Funding Organisations may fund all topics.*

| **Country** | **Funding Organisation Acronym** | **Funding Organisation Full Name** (exceptions) |
|---|---|---|
| **Austria (AT)** | FWF* | Österreichischer Wissenschaftsfonds |
| **Belgium (BE)** | F.R.S. – FNRS | Fonds de la recherche scientifique |
| **Belgium (BE)** | FWO* | Fonds Voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen |
| **Belgium (BE)** | SPW | Service public de Wallonie, Département de la Recherche et du développement technologique |
| **Belgium (BE)** | VLAIO | Vlaanderen Agentschap Innoveren & Ondernemen (only Topics 1 and 3) |
| **Bulgaria (BG)** | BNSF | Bulgarian National Science Fund |
| **Denmark (DK)** | DAFA | Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries |
| **Estonia (EE)** | ETAG | Sihtasutus Eesti Teadusagentuur |
| **Estonia (EE)** | REM | Regionaal- ja Põllumajandusministeerium |
| **Finland (FI)** | MMM | Maa- ja metsätalousministeriö (only Topics 1 and 2) |
| **Finland (FI)** | BF | Innovaatiorahoituskeskus Business Finland |
| **France (FR)** | ANR* | Agence nationale de la recherche |
| **Ireland (IE)** | DAFM | Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (only Topic 3) |
| **Italy (IT)** | MASAF | Ministero dell'Agricoltura, della Sovranita' Alimentare e delle Foreste |
| **Italy (IT)** | PROV.BZ/BOZEN | Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano |

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| Country | Funding Organisation Acronym | Funding Organisation Full Name (exceptions) |
|---|---|---|
| **Lithuania (LT)** | LMT | Research Council of Lithuania |
| **Lithuania (LT)** | ZUM | Lietuvos Respublikos Zemes Ukio Ministerija |
| **Norway (NO)** | RCN | Norges Forskningsrad |
| **Poland (PL)** | NCBR | Narodowe Centrum Badan i Rozwoju |
| **Portugal (PT)** | FCT | Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. |
| **Romania (RO)** | UEFISCDI | Unitatea Executiva Pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior a Cercetarii Dezvoltarii si Inovarii |
| **Slovakia (SK)** | MARD* | Ministerstvo Podohospodarstva a Rozvoja Vidieka Slovenskej Republiky |
| **Slovakia (SK)** | CVTISR | Centrum Vedecko Technickych Informacii Slovenskej Republiky |
| **Spain (ES)** | AEI | Agencia Estatal de Investigación |
| **Spain (ES)** | CDTI | Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnóologico y la Innovacióon E.P.E. |
| **Spain (ES)** | ELIKA | Nekazaritzako Elikagaien Segurtasunarako Euskal Fundazioa |
| **Spain (ES)** | SEKUENS | Agencia de Ciencia, Competitividad Empresarial e Innovación Asturiana (only Topics 1 and 3) |
| **Sweden (SE)** | VINNOVA | Verket for Innovationssystem |
| **The Netherlands (NL)** | MIN-LVVN | De Staat, Vertegenwoordigd door de minister van Landbouw, Visserij, Voedselzekerheid en Natuur |
| **The Netherlands (NL)** | NWO | Nederlandse organisatie voor wetenschappelijk onderzoek |
| **The Netherlands (NL)** | SIA | Taskforce for Applied Research - Regieorgaan SIA |
| **Türkiye (TR)** | TAGEM | Tarımsal Araştırmalar ve Politikalar Genel Müdürlüğü |
| **Türkiye (TR)** | TÜBITAK | Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Arastirma Kurumu |

* final decision pending

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