



AGROECOLOGY PARTNERSHIP



3RD CO-FUNDED CALL

Fostering plant and animal genetic diversity and empowering farmers to accelerate the agroecological transition

version 1.8



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This call focuses on two key pillars of the agroecological transition: the genetic dimension and the social dimension. The first topic addresses genetic diversity and variability in crops and livestock, with the aim of laying the foundations for increasing the availability of species, varieties, and breeds that will support the development of agroecological farming systems.

The second topic addresses the social challenges of today's agriculture, with a particular focus on farmers' motivation, skills, and knowledge and the role of stakeholders in encouraging their engagement in the agroecological transition.



The partnership will fund R&I projects providing significant contributions to either one of the following two topics:

- Topic 1 Enhancing the genetic diversity of crops and livestock for the agroecological transition
- Topic 2 Strengthening farmer's involvement and empowerment in the transition towards agroecology

DEFINITIONS AND TASKS

Associated Partner	An Associated Partner in a proposal and transnational project is an entity performing tasks and accordingly having costs budgeted while not requesting any funding from any Funder participating in this call. In particular, entities not eligible for funding by one of the Funders and willing to participate in a proposal are Associated Partners. Each Associated Partner must provide a “Letter of financial commitment” for proposal submission to delineate their own contribution (see Annex VIII).
Call Office	The Call Office is responsible for administrative support in relation to the Co-funded call, all related call documents, submission platform and all related procedures. The Call Office is not responsible for scientific support, i.e. regarding questions on the call scope. In general, the Call Office operates on weekdays between 09:00 and 15:00 CE(S)T.
Co-funded call	The 3 rd AGROECOLOGY Co-funded call, also referred to as “the call”.
Coordinator	The Coordinator is a Partner and thus an entity, which coordinates and manages the research consortium at pre proposal and full proposal stage, as well as over the entire lifetime of the transnational project. The Coordinator appoints one Principal Investigator (PI) who is the central contact point for the Call Office and all Partners of one proposal and selected project, respectively. Details on the role, responsibilities and tasks of a Coordinator are described in section Error: Reference source not found.
Evaluation summary report (ESR)	The Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) of a proposal is the final reached consensus report obtained during the IEP meeting. It is the result of the individual reports of the three IEP member evaluating the proposal and the discussions during the IEP meeting. The ESR of a proposal will be shared with the Coordinator of this proposal and the Funder Board.
Funder Board (FB)	The FB consists of all Funders providing funding to the Co-funded call. The FB will make the final decision on the selection of proposals based on the ranking lists provided by the IEP and on the availability of funds.
Funder Contact Point (FCP)	Each Funder appoints at least one Funder Contact Point (FCP) who provides support to potential applicants regarding eligibility rules and funding procedures of the appointing Funder.
Funder	Funders are organisations providing funding to the call according to their specific Funder regulations.
International Evaluation Panel (IEP)	The IEP consists of international experts in the remit of the Co-funded call. Members of the IEP will evaluate each proposal according to the evaluation guidelines (see also sections 6.2 and 6.3). During the IEP meeting, the IEP will rank the proposals.
Partner	A Partner in a proposal and transnational project is an entity performing tasks and requesting funding from one of the Funders. Accordingly, a Partner must be eligible for funding from a Funder participating in this call.
Principal Investigator (PI)	In a proposal and transnational project, the Coordinator as well as each Partner and Associated Partner appoint each one Principal Investigator (PI). The PI is the person having access and login for the submission platform and the contact point for the Call Office and the Funders. Accordingly, the PI of the Coordinator is the person initiating and submitting the proposal.



Proposal	In the present document, the term “proposal” refers to both pre proposal and full proposal. Where the text refers specifically to either the pre proposal or the full proposal, this will be written explicitly.
Stakeholder	A Stakeholder in a proposal and/or transnational project is an entity or a person/group of persons not performing particular tasks and not budgeting any project costs. A Stakeholder is often used as advising entity e.g. for co-creation processes.
Science Policy Interface	Science Policy Interface aims to provide evidence-based scientific support to the European policymaking process. Science for Policy Handbook Knowledge for policy (europa.eu)

1 Preamble

1.1 Background

The European Green Deal and its underlying strategies - the Farm to Fork Strategy, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the action plan for the development of organic production - set very ambitious goals that need to be addressed urgently. Agroecology¹ is identified in these strategies as a promising approach to support the transition towards more sustainable agriculture. In addition, one of the European Green Deal inspirational targets is to reach 25% of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming by 2030².

The many shared objectives between agroecology and organic farming imply that more widespread application of agroecological approaches will also further progress towards meeting this target. Despite strong ambition at national and European levels, the transition towards agroecology is not happening quickly enough. It faces what scientists and design thinking experts call “wicked problems”, mostly driven by the tension between private goods for today and public goods for tomorrow. The divergence of interests and values between different stakeholders, such as farmers, public authorities and civil society, is clearly illustrated in relation to many issues such as pesticide use and biodiversity conservation, implications of water use and management in soil quality, and climate change mitigation. Still, the recent report on the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture³, issued by a large stakeholder group with diverse views on EU agriculture, has signalled the role of agroecology as means to shift to more sustainable farming practices and systems. Furthermore, the importance of shaping an attractive EU farming and food sector together: one which is attractive, competitive and fair, and at the same time designing appropriate policy responses for a thriving agri-food sector, is emphasized⁴. The objective of achieving prosperous and environment-friendly farming systems is a complex and bold endeavour and requires tremendous change to prevailing mind-sets regarding agricultural production and consumption. It requires transdisciplinary knowledge obtained from research, innovation and practice, as well as stakeholder engagement in co-creation processes and the design of new policies.

1.2 The vision of the AGROECOLOGY partnership

Agroecology can be interpreted as a scientific discipline, a movement or a practice.⁵ As a scientific discipline, agroecology is located at the interface between agronomy, ecological sciences, social sciences and humanities for the design and management of sustainable and resilient agroecosystems. As a movement, agroecology catalyses actions related with social sustainability, fair transition, and power distribution along the value chains. As a practice, agroecology is a knowledge-intensive, systemic approach, benefiting from and contributing to appropriate management of biodiversity and natural processes. Agroecology has implications for the whole span of agricultural practices. It implies a deep transformation in agricultural production as well as up- and downstream value chains. This includes the development of fair business models, the

¹<https://www.fao.org/agroecology/overview/en/>, 10 Oct 2025

²https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/farming/organic-farming/organic-action-plan_en, 10 Oct 2025

³https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/agriculture-and-green-deal/strategic-dialogue-future-eu-agriculture_en, 10 Oct 2025

⁴<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0075>, 10 Oct 2025

⁵Wezel et al. (2009). Agroecology as a science, a movement and a practice. A review. *Agronomy for sustainable development*, 29, 503-515.

creation of market opportunities to secure sufficient incomes for farmers and affordable, high-quality safe food for consumers. Agroecology can contribute to mitigating and adapting to climate change, protecting and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems, and strengthening the sustainability and resilience of farming and land use systems. The adoption of agroecology principles and practices is already emerging in many European countries and could become a fundamental tool for the EU in its effort to address policies objectives such as climate change and biodiversity preservation, and to respond to increasing consumer demands for healthy, affordable, pesticide-free and nutritious food. At the EU level, it should contribute to the elaboration and implementation of policies, such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Nature Restoration Law, the Habitats and Birds Directive, the Water Framework Directive and the EU Soil policy.

The AGROECOLOGY partnership relies on a common vision whereby a broad stakeholder constellation teams up to unlock the transition to agroecology so that farming systems are resilient, productive and competitive, place-sensitive, as well as climate-, environment-, ecosystem-, biodiversity- and people-friendly by 2050⁶. It is based on the concept that the challenges faced by the European agricultural sector can be addressed through agroecology by bringing together researchers, farmers, and other relevant stakeholders to co-develop, test and monitor new practices, innovations, approaches and technologies in real-life contexts. Such a framework is typically adopted in living labs. One of the key objectives of the partnership is to develop networks of living labs and research infrastructures, while building cooperation and links with other related networks of living labs (e.g., EU Mission Soil living labs). This will allow experimentation between practice and science at different levels in order to develop and enhance the concrete and place-based implementation of innovations. This approach will also provide knowledge- and evidence-based information about how to assess the potential performance and impacts of agroecological practices on economic, social and environmental dimensions in both the short and the long-term.

Since the 2000s living labs have been implemented in many thematic sectors as real-life testing and experimentation environments. They place the user at the centre of innovation and operate as intermediaries between research organisations, companies, local and regional authorities and citizens. Their added value consists of co-creation, rapid prototyping and validation to scale up innovation and businesses. According to the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL)⁷, five key elements must be present in a living lab, regardless of their domain of application: 1) active user involvement, 2) real-life setting, 3) multi-stakeholder, 4) multi-method approach, and 5) co-creation (i.e., iterations of design cycles with different sets of stakeholders).

Research infrastructures are facilities that provide resources and services for research communities to conduct research and foster innovation. They can be used beyond research, for example, for education or public services, and they may be single-sited, distributed or virtual. They include: major scientific equipment or sets of instruments; collections, archives or scientific data; computing systems and communication networks; and any other research and innovation infrastructure of a unique nature that is open to external users.⁸ Matching research infrastructures and living labs has great potential to foster the transition to agroecology by enhancing the creation

⁶<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/65c21789238d5029339b09bf/t/670d249c2b9687131b3be160/1728914606546/240726-FECYT-The+Agroecology+Partnership%E2%80%99s+SRIA-v6-DIGITAL.pdf>, 10 Oct 2025

⁷<https://issuu.com/enoll/docs/423662117-short-history-of-living-labs-research-an>, 10 Oct 2025

⁸https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/european-research-infrastructures_en, 10 Oct 2025

and adoption of innovations, enabling their fast evaluation and their re-adjustment whenever needed.

2 Expected impacts of the 3rd AGROECOLOGY call

With this third call, the AGROECOLOGY partnership continues the implementation of the priorities identified in AGROECOLOGY's strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA)⁹.

Research and innovation efforts are necessary to enhance the performance and scaling-up of agroecology from the perspectives of environmental and climate-related benefits, sustainability of agricultural production systems, economic viability and competitiveness of farms, and food security. These efforts should focus on changes in practices at the farm level but broadly encompass entire value chains that play a crucial role in the transition of agricultural production systems.

The genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farm animals is a cornerstone for the development of more resilient, economically viable, and environmentally sustainable production systems. The agroecological transition largely relies on farmers' access to new species, varieties, and breeds that can support the redesign of their farming systems and evolution towards agroecology. Moreover, farmers' motivations and capacities to engage in the agroecological transition strongly depend on social and behavioural factors, including their skills and knowledge, their personal characteristics and those of their farms, as well as the support provided by advisory systems and public policies.

This third call of the AGROECOLOGY partnership will fund research and innovation projects contributing to the objectives of the call by delivering scientific evidence and knowledge as well as solutions and/or innovations that will enable either : (1) the enhancement of plant and animal diversity on farms and the contribution of this diversification to the agroecological and food systems transition; or (2) the strengthening of farmers' capacities to engage in the agroecological transition, and the development of tools, support schemes, and policies that facilitate this transition for diverse categories of farmers.

It is expected that, through this, proposals will provide a clear added value regarding at least one of the general objectives and corresponding core themes of the AGROECOLOGY partnership, as outlined in the corresponding AGROECOLOGY SRIA, under whose framework this co-funded call is being conducted.

Furthermore, successful proposals shall contribute to all of the following outcomes/impacts:

- Practical-oriented knowledge, tools and/or innovations available to farmers and the sector, contributing to the uptake of agroecological practices at local, regional and national scales.
- Increased knowledge, knowledge transfer and capacity of farmers and agricultural advisors to implement agroecological practices.
- Increased socio-economic and/or environmental performance of agroecological approaches.
- Enhanced science-policy interfaces serving to facilitate a faster transition to agroecology.

⁹<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/65c21789238d5029339b09bf/t/670d249c2b9687131b3be160/1728914606546/240726-FECYT-The+Agroecology+Partnership%E2%80%99s+SRIA-v6-DIGITAL.pdf>

3 Call objectives and scope

With this third call, the AGROECOLOGY Partnership continues to implement the priorities outlined in its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), adopted by the AGROECOLOGY partnership Governing Board in March 2024.¹⁰ As stated in the preamble of this Call text, Agroecology¹¹ has been identified as a promising approach to support the transition towards more sustainable agriculture in line with the European Green Deal and its underlying strategies. Research and innovation efforts are essential to improve the performance of agroecological farming systems in terms of environmental and climate-related benefits, the sustainability of agricultural production systems, the economic viability of farms, and food security.

Building on the SRIA and on the previous calls, two specific topics have been identified that require further attention and are the targets of this call. Both relate to Core Theme 1 (Redesigning Agroecosystems) and are also connected to Core Theme 2 (Redesigning Agroecological Value Chains).

The first topic, corresponding to Item 4.1.1 of the SRIA, focuses on genetic diversity and variability, with the aim of laying the foundations for increasing the availability of crop and animal species, varieties and breeds that will support the development of agroecological farming systems. The second one addresses the social challenges associated with the agroecological transition—particularly at the farm level, but also beyond. Both topics are outlined in detail below.

Research and innovation proposals are expected to address one of the two following topics in a multi-actor approach that should be interactive, transdisciplinary, and to apply co-creation and co-implementation processes, using Living-Lab or Living-Lab-like approaches.

3.1 Topic 1: Enhancing the genetic diversity and variability of crops and livestock for the agroecological transition

Diversity, variability, adaptability, and resilience are key characteristics of agroecological systems that should be strengthened through research and innovation across various dimensions. Genetic resources are a major pillar in this effort.

The objective of this call topic is to develop and deploy plant and animal genetic resources adapted to agroecological farming through targeted selection, evaluation, and collaboration across disciplines and among stakeholders. This entails identifying, assessing, using, and ensuring access to context-adapted genetic resources within farming systems. In particular, crops and livestock must be adapted to increasingly variable environmental conditions including resilience to predictable and unpredictable biotic and abiotic stresses. They must be suited to agroecological practices such as mixed cropping, dual-purpose integrated livestock systems, agroforestry, longer rotations, while contributing to an efficient use of water and to the reduction of the use of fertilizers, antibiotics, and chemical pesticides. Furthermore, there is a particular need to develop resilient varieties and breeds adapted to systems such as organic farming, which rely on minimal or no use of fertilizers, plant protection products and antibiotics.

¹⁰<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/65c21789238d5029339b09bf/t/670d249c2b9687131b3be160/1728914606546/240726-FECYT-The+Agroecology+Partnership%E2%80%99s+SRIA-v6-DIGITAL.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.fao.org/3/ca5602en/ca5602en.pdf>

3.1.1 Expected Outcomes topic 1

Projects funded under this topic will contribute to enhancing the availability, use, and valorisation of genetic diversity/variability in crops and livestock to support the agroecological transition across diverse farming systems, including organic production.

Projects are expected to support the development of resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agrifood systems aligned with the EU Green Deal, the Vision for Agriculture and Food, the Common Agriculture Policy, the EU Action Plan for the Development of Organic production and the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas. Furthermore, projects should contribute to target 4 of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by supporting activities aiming at maintaining the genetic diversity of domestic species, at risk of being lost.

In addition, they are expected to contribute to at least two of the following expected outcomes:

- Improved understanding and mobilisation of genetic and phenotypic diversity for greater resilience, adaptability, and performance under diverse environmental contexts, with the purpose of enhancing agroecological transition of cropping systems, livestock systems and integrated crops- livestock systems.
- Development of breeding approaches that address multi-stress resilience and functional diversity at the holobiont (host + microbiome) level for plants and animals. Special attention should be paid to enhancing resistance to pests and diseases to avoid the use of pesticides and chemical antibiotic veterinary treatments.
- Enhanced conservation, characterisation, and accessibility of genetic resources, including (old) landraces, local breeds and progenitor races, especially under changing environmental conditions and improved used potential of under-utilised crops or wild plants.
- New strategies for participatory and co-designed breeding programmes that meet the needs of farmers, breeders, and value chain actors, with a focus on system-level sustainability and sovereignty.
- Evidence-based insights into how genetic diversity contributes to sustainable food systems, including animal-plant-microbiome complementarities, consumer-relevant traits, and nutritional quality, as well as positive interaction with ecosystems and reduced environmental impact (e.g. GHG emissions)

Both crops and animals¹² are targeted in this topic. Projects may focus on one, the other, or both. Similarly, they may address conventional production systems in agroecological transition, organic farming systems, or both.

Projects are expected to use living labs or similar participatory frameworks, ensuring co-creation of knowledge and real-life applicability of results. Integration in the projects of research infrastructures for phenotyping and genotyping is encouraged.

Furthermore, projects are expected to build on the efforts of and make sure there is no duplication with relevant past, ongoing and upcoming EU-funded R&I projects and relevant Horizon Europe

¹² Some countries have specific restrictions on this point. See funder regulations in Annex IX for detailed information

initiatives, including Partnerships, as well as relevant EIP-AGRI Operational Groups¹³, related to genetic resources and conservation in both crops and animal production, and to provide complementary work where relevant, depending on the crops selected. Projects should allocate a part of their budget to ensure interaction with ongoing projects, particularly with those funded under the specific Horizon Europe calls on breeding. This is also the case for organic farming, where projects must avoid duplication and clearly explain how they will complement or build upon the results of other EC-funded research projects focused on organic crop breeding.

3.1.2 Scope topic 1

Genetic diversity is a cornerstone of resilient, productive, and sustainable agroecological systems. Crops and livestock must perform under heterogeneous and dynamic conditions—across time, space, and systems—while delivering value for producers, consumers, and ecosystems.

Projects should integrate at least one of the subtopics below. Bullet points under each subtopic are indicative. Given the maximum duration of the funded projects (3 years), projects under this topic are required to build on already acquired knowledge.

SUBTOPIC 1.1. ENHANCING THE USE OF GENOTYPES ADAPTED TO SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS TO IMPROVE RESILIENCE AND PERFORMANCE

Research is needed to develop crop varieties and animal breeds able of supporting the agroecological transition and adapted to specific environmental conditions. Projects should aim to make use of genetic diversity (plant and/or animal) at various scales and ensure its context-specific integration into agroecological production systems at farm and landscape levels. For this reason, projects must be developed in co-creation with farmers and other stakeholders in order to define relevant objectives and carry out the testing of new breeds, varieties, etc., under real field conditions.

Projects should:

- Study how interactions between genotype, environment and management influence key phenotypic traits critical for adaptation to agroecological systems.
- Explore genetic and epigenetic adaptation mechanisms in variable or constrained environments,
- Develop methods to assess performance under multiple stresses, and analyse phenotype performance at different scales.
- Include the characterization, conservation, and use of genetic resources, including at the holobiont level (host and microbiome), with emphasis on traits that enhance agroecological system performance.
- Contribute to increase long-term access to diverse genetic material.
- Support conservation of landraces and traditional breeds, and improve genetic diversity analysis using modern molecular tools (e.g. genotyping, epigenetics, expression profiling).

¹³ [Projects / EU CAP Network](#)

SUBTOPIC 1.2 PLANT BREEDING FOR AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITIONS

Plant breeding is a corner-stone of the transition towards agroecology. The intended outcomes should promote the use of intra-and interspecific diversity— including the mixing of varieties, the combination of species (including service plants or new crops), the use of cover crops and service plants, agroforestry, etc. The projects should follow a participatory breeding approach to ensure that critical criteria (e.g. yield stability) and the preferences of end-users, particularly farmers are fully considered.

Projects should:

- Focus on traits that enhance resilience to biotic and abiotic stresses, including climate variability, and resistance to pest and disease pressures species (with the objective to avoid the use of pesticides)
- Develop varieties capable of leveraging ecological processes, including plant–plant and plant-microbiome interactions, adapted for use in genetically diverse cropping systems, such as intercropping (e.g. cereal-legume combinations), temporary grassland mixtures, or intraspecific varietal mixtures.
- Consider ecosystem services beyond production, such as erosion control, carbon sequestration, and air and water quality.
- Integrate into the breeding strategies ecological concepts of plant–environment interactions—particularly those mediated by beneficial soil microorganisms.

SUBTOPIC 1.3 ANIMAL BREEDING FOR AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITIONS

Genetic selection should focus on traits that facilitate the transition towards more adaptable, resilient, and robust livestock systems with a positive impact on the environment as well as on animal health and welfare. Following a participatory breeding approach, projects should:

- Address the multiple dimensions of robustness and resistance, including adaptation to climate change (e.g., heat stress), diseases resistance (with the aim to reduce the use of antibiotics and other veterinary treatments),
- Address feed efficiency (e.g. utilizing locally produced, heterogeneous resources such as pasture, crop residues, and diverse forage crops integrated into long rotations) and the reduction of GHG emissions (methane).
- Consider the health and welfare of animals, in coherence with the vision of the Animal Health and Welfare Partnership¹⁴ and in complementarity with the actions implemented in this partnership
- Consider the management of within-herd diversity in mixed farming systems, by mobilizing the genetic diversity of landraces and local breeds, taking into account the fact that variability among individuals within a herd, whether of a single or multiple breeds, is a

¹⁴ <https://www.eupahw.eu/>

potential source of resilience, adaptability to changing conditions, which can also contribute to enhanced group immunity.

SUBTOPIC 1.4 CO-BREEDING FOR ANIMAL-PLANT INTEGRATION IN AGROECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

Agroecological farming systems are intended to close the cycle of major elements of agri-food systems to decrease losses and waste, and to reduce negative environmental impacts. This requires better integration of the biological processes involved in farming systems, and in particular between plant and animal components. This calls for the development of new genetic improvement strategies that reconnect plant and animal breeding approaches. In this perspective, projects should:

- Consider simultaneously the selection of plants varieties and animal breeds in order to close nutrient cycles, reduce losses and waste, improve efficiency and minimize negative environmental impacts of production (e.g., management of manure and fertilizing)
- Align the selection of animal breeds capable of coping with more variable feed composition and/or quality (e.g., mixtures of plant varieties, population varieties), with the selection of crops suitable for diversification in agroecological production systems.
- Address the genetic dimension of herd reproductive management and the selection of plant species/varieties, in order to simultaneously consider the nutritional needs calendar of the animals and the availability of the crops/feeds produced
- Consider in plant breeding the production of feedstuffs that meet the expectations of alternative livestock systems (e.g. plants with higher contents of specific compounds, notably proteins) in parallel with the selections of animals that can make optimal use of them.
- Study how to facilitate the dynamic management of animal populations and plant genetic resources, in specific environments with the participation of selection operators, research and innovation actors, and direct or indirect users (farmers, consumers, citizens).

SUBTOPIC 1.5 BREEDING FOR THE AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITION AND THE TRANSITION OF THE ENTIRE FOOD SYSTEM

Breeding for agroecology should take into account the transition of the food system and the evolving needs across the entire value chain. The entire value chain—from processing and storage to distribution and consumption—is involved in the valorization of agricultural products derived from agroecological production systems. Projects should:

- Integrate the evolution of consumer expectations and purchasing behaviors (e.g., partial substitution of animal-based with plant-based proteins, types of meat consumption, etc.) into crop and animal breeding strategies.
- Consider the characteristics of crops and animals that support diversification both at farming system and food chain levels (e.g. qualities of the agriculture products relevant to processing), as well as their nutritional value (e.g., in terms of micronutrients, vitamins, and minerals essential for a healthy diet).
- Integrate the potential contribution of value chains to diversification (e.g. market, valorization) into breeding strategies.
- Take into account the valuation of genetics within short or local value chains.

3.2 Topic 2. Strengthening farmers' involvement and empowerment in the transition towards agroecology

To face the social challenges of today's agriculture, the agroecological transition is part of the solution and is actually seen as attractive to several farmers in particular from the younger generation. This topic focuses on farmers' motivations, skills, and knowledge, the role of advisors, stakeholders and policies in facilitating the transition.

Supporting and encouraging farmers in the agroecological transition requires a deep understanding of their motivations as well as why they might be reluctant to engage in this shift. This involves analyzing the transformation of the farming communities, the evolution of farm structures, and the new forms of work organization that the transition entails. Insights must then be used to inform actions that enable change. Implementing the agroecological transition on a farm is not solely a matter of agronomic efficiency; it also depends on farmers' ability to redesign their farming systems, taking into account the impacts on their lifestyles and their interactions with the local community and the broader environment. Knowledge and tools to support science-based farmers' choices are needed, along with ways to disseminate their use and expand appropriate skills through peer-to-peer interactions. Procedures are to be explored aiming to support farmers – particularly younger generations – to engage in the transition, to take up opportunities, despite the complexity involved in redesigning crop and livestock systems. This transition therefore relies on the quality and improvement of the support provided by advisory services, the opportunities offered by digital tools and technologies, the collective change processes, the transformation of relationships with upstream and downstream actors along the supply chain, and the role of public policies and policy development.

3.2.1 Expected Outcomes

This topic addresses factors which affect farmers' transition to agroecology and thus provide evidence that enable the implementation of strategies, tools and policies to facilitate this change. The goal is to instigate the development of context-sensitive approaches based on farmer participation.

Projects are expected to support the development of resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agrifood systems aligned with the EU Green Deal, the Vision for Agriculture and Food, the Common Agriculture Policy, the EU Action Plan for the Development of Organic production and the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas.

Furthermore, projects are expected to contribute to at least two of the following expected outcomes:

- Insights into the motivations, opportunities and constraints faced by farmers and associated diverse rural communities regarding agroecological transitions.
- Evidence-based strategies to support generational renewal, inclusiveness and gender equity in agroecological farming.
- Innovative approaches to strengthen advisory services, peer-to-peer learning and collective action, towards the agroecology transition.
- Evaluation of how effectively the decision support systems used by farmers and advisors support the implementation of agroecological practices

All projects are required to deliver policy recommendations to facilitate farmers' engagement in agroecology.

Proposals are expected to use Living labs approaches by gathering diverse stakeholders and ensuring that actors from social sciences and humanities play a significant role. It is expected that projects funded under this topic will interact with relevant projects funded under this Partnership, under Horizon Europe and other initiatives and allocate budget for these interactions.

Furthermore, projects are expected to build on the efforts of and make sure there is no duplication with relevant past, ongoing and upcoming EU-funded R&I projects and relevant Horizon Europe initiatives, including Partnerships, as well as relevant EIP-AGRI Operational Groups¹⁵.

3.2.2 Scope of topic 2

The shift to agroecology involves significant transformations in agricultural methods and production systems and affects farmers' working conditions, roles, and identities. While many farmers are actively engaged in this transition, others remain hesitant or face barriers to engagement. A successful transition requires addressing all relevant social and societal factors. The goal is therefore to take these dimensions into account when endowing farmers with the tools and skills needed to adopt agroecology, and ensuring meaningful guidance towards the agroecological transition - through advisory services, collective change approaches, supply chains actors, and public policies.

Various activities are being carried out within the AGROECOLOGY partnership to promote the development of agroecology through living labs, to study how Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) should evolve to support the agroecological transition, and to provide science-based recommendations to policy makers. Projects under this topic should complement these activities and should therefore explain how they will take into account and interact with the actions carried out within the partnership.

Projects should integrate at least one of the following subtopics. Bullet points under each subtopic are indicative. Proposals are expected to involve social sciences and humanities.

SUBTOPIC 2.1 FARMERS COMMUNITIES AND MOTIVATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENT

More research is needed to identify what makes agroecological farming appealing to farmers, which opportunities may attract them to engage in the transition and what barriers and challenges can hinder farmers to engage. The objective of this subtopic is to provide understanding of the factors influencing the decision to engage in agroecological farming and what measures could be implemented to strengthen their motivation.

Proposals should

- Study and analyse farmer communities and motivations for engagement and research to uncover what makes agroecological farming attractive to farmers, including how personal

¹⁵ [Projects / EU CAP Network](#)

and group values and perceptions (such as environmental responsibility and economic sustainability) drive decision-making.

- Analyse social systems as well as structures and individual farm characteristics that facilitate or hinder adoption, focusing on barriers such as access to land, capital, and knowledge.
- Study how these dimensions interact with broader themes, e.g. collective action, peer learning, social innovation, advisory services, climate or market-induced land use changes and policy frameworks. Integrate these perspectives to help design strategies that foster engagement, inclusiveness, and sustainability in agroecological transitions.
- Examine generational renewal, highlighting the specific challenges and opportunities faced by young farmers, including their openness to technology and innovation and investigate gender equality issues, assessing how gender influences environmental sensitivity, well-being, responsibility-taking, decision-making authority, and access to supporting structures.
- Based on farmers' experiences and needs, identify the main challenges and opportunities in accessing and using digital and data-driven decision support (DDS) tools. The focus should be on tools – existing or under development – that are co-designed and adapted to agroecological practices across diverse farm structures, agroclimatic conditions, socio-environmental contexts, and market realities relevant to agroecology in the targeted regions.

SUBTOPIC 2.2 COLLECTIVE ACTION, PEER LEARNING, AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

Engaging in an agroecological transition requires farmers to acquire new knowledge and gain access to new market opportunities, processes often accelerated by collaborative initiatives, such as farmer groups, cooperatives, or producer organisations. Therefore, farmers' active inclusion in the creation of innovations and in the dissemination/transfer of new knowledge plays a key role.

Living labs, experimental farms, multi-stakeholder platforms, as well as designing peer-to-peer knowledge exchange mechanisms, are part of this approach to strengthen and accelerate the transition towards agroecology.

Proposals should:

- Identify the types of knowledge required (including on ecosystem services) and the mechanisms of knowledge sharing to encourage the adoption of agroecological practices.
- Analyse collaborative structures and examine the role and effectiveness of farmers' groups, cooperatives, producers organisations, and multi-stakeholder platforms in accelerating agroecology adoption while considering how these entities enable access to and exchange of knowledge and market opportunities.
- Describe how living labs, experimental farms, and peer-to-peer exchange mechanisms can be designed and leveraged to support the development, testing, and scaling of agroecological innovations.
- Explore how the profession of agricultural advisor should evolve to better support farmers in peer learning and collective action to accelerate agroecological transition. Assess advisor training needs and propose models for facilitating peer-to-peer exchanges and co-learning targeted to agroecological practices.

- Link collective action and peer learning to wider themes such as advisory services, policy frameworks, and Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) and recommend ways to align these elements to create an enabling environment for agroecological transition.
- Propose methods to measure the impact of collective action and peer learning on agroecological adoption and suggest pathways for scaling successful social innovations across different regions and contexts.

By addressing these elements, proposals can help ensure that collective action and peer learning are effectively harnessed to drive sustainable, inclusive agroecological transitions. Proposals should also be sensitive to the interplay between individual and community motivations, barriers, and opportunities, as discussed in the broader context.

SUBTOPIC 2.3 FARM WORK ORGANISATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

A critical barrier to agroecological engagement lies in the organization of farm work, the relative allocation of production factors (capital, land, and labour), and the type of workforce present on farms (farmers, employees, contractors) – all of which vary depending on farm type and production systems. Agroecological farming systems often require more labour, involve more complex tasks and work organization, and demand specific skills but can provide benefits related to well-being at work, smoothing of workload peaks on the farm, relationships with peers, stronger connectivity with the local community and recognition by society.

Understanding these possible barriers, underlying causes, values, opportunities etc. while taking into account both the diversity of farm characteristics and the different evolutions in farming practices is key to find ways to tackle these challenges and thus support agroecological transitions. Solutions should cover co-creative and practical knowledge exchange, technical support, and public policy adaptation.

Proposals should:

- Evaluate how the structure of farm work, allocation of production factors (capital, land, labour), and workforce composition (farmers, employees, contractors) influence agroecological engagement. The proposals should account for the diversity of farm types and production systems, identifying specific barriers and opportunities linked to work organisation.
- Assess the labour needs and level of complexity of tasks associated with agroecological practices, the demand for specialised skills, as well as the potential improvement of work organisation on the farm. The proposal should outline approaches to measure and address these requirements, considering both the challenges and the potential positive impacts on well-being, peer relationships, and social recognition.
- Recommend co-creative and practical skill development initiatives that support farmers and farm workers in adopting agroecological systems. This could include peer-to-peer learning, technical workshops, integration with advisory services...
- Suggest public policy interventions to address barriers and encourage positive changes in farm work organisation and working conditions that could favour transition towards agroecology. This could include incentives for labour-intensive agroecological practices, recognition schemes, and measures to improve workplace well-being and social status for farmers and workers.

- Outline methods for tracking the impacts of proposed interventions on farm work organisation, labour dynamics, and working conditions, ensuring that lessons learned can inform future scaling and adaptation efforts.

By covering these areas, proposals will offer a holistic approach to supporting agroecological transitions, taking into account the diversity of farm characteristics, evolving practices, and the interplay between individual and collective motivations. The proposal should also align with broader themes of collective action, peer learning, advisory services, and policy frameworks as discussed in the surrounding context.

SUBTOPIC 2.4 ROLE OF POLICIES, ADVISORY SERVICES, AND AKIS

Understanding how existing policies and governance frameworks support or hinder the agroecological transition is critical. Advisory services play a key role in guiding farmers through the agroecological transition. The governance of advisory services, and more broadly, of knowledge and innovation systems needs to evolve to better support the transition.

Projects should:

- Assess the effectiveness of existing advisory and training systems to deliver knowledge adapted to agroecology, and the potential for transforming AKIS (Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems) to better respond to farmers' needs and contexts.
- Examine the way Decision Support Systems (DSS) are currently used, and evaluate their efficiency, including evidence-based decision-making capabilities, local relevance, accuracy, ease of use, autonomy, affordability, and trustworthiness, considering cultural values, user perceptions, and the diversity of digital literacy among users in living labs or experimental farms. The aim should be to co-design and validate these tools in their ambition to guide farmers in the agroecological transition.
- Examine current public EU, national and regional/local level policy incentives and suggest improvements to encourage the adoption of agroecological practices. This can include incentives for agroecological practices that provide environmental services, support for purchasing specific equipment, assistance for conversion to agroecology or organic farming, as well as measures aimed at improving the social recognition of agroecology farmers.
- Examine the alignment of agricultural, environmental, and rural development policies with agroecological principles and recommend improvements to policy instruments and advisory mechanisms at local, regional, national, and EU levels.

Proposals are expected to collaborate with the activities carried out under the AGROECOLOGY partnership on facilitating science-policy dialogue

4 Funding modalities and who can apply

The Funders of the Co-funded call (also referred to as “the Funders” in the present document) are listed in Table 1: Funder Board.

The funding for transnational projects will be based on a virtual common pot mechanism. This means that, although this call is co-funded by the EU, Partners (applicants) of projects that are selected for funding will receive the grant directly and only from their corresponding national/regional Funder, according to their legal terms and conditions for project funding (“Funder regulation”, see Annex IX). The EU contribution is managed by the Funders following agreement

among them. It is not possible to apply for the EU contribution directly but only to apply for funding from Funders listed in Table 1: Funder Board.

4.1 Who can apply

Universities and other higher education institutions, public research institutions, profit and non-profit organisations, consumers/citizens, civil society representatives and private companies may apply, subject to the Funders regulations (see Annex IX) and eligibility criteria (section 4.3). Subject to Funders regulations and where a Living Lab is a legal entity, a Living Lab may be eligible. Research consortia must consist of a minimum of three Partners requesting funding from at least three different Members States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries and Funders of this Co-funded call. Applicants, not requesting funding from any Funder are defined as Associated Partner and are welcome to participate in consortia as well. However, Associated Partners cannot be Coordinator, their contribution should not be essential for the project's successful implementation and they will not count towards the minimum number of Partners.

Coordinator, Partners and Associated Partners must have a Participant Identification Code (PIC). A PIC is a 9-digit number that serves as a unique identifier for legal entities participating in European funding programmes. You can find your PIC or register your organisation to receive one in the EU Funding & Tenders Portal¹⁶.

Contributors to one proposal which do not perform any tasks but play a role as e.g. advisory body, can be listed as Stakeholder. They do not need a PIC number.

4.2 Eligibility

Proposals and Partners must meet both sets of eligibility criteria, general and Funder specific eligibility criteria as described in Annex (see Annex IX as download in the online submission platform). Proposals not meeting the general eligibility criteria will be rejected (see 4.4.1). Partners not meeting their Funder specific eligibility criteria will be rejected (see 4.4.2), this results in the rejection of the pre proposal if general eligibility criteria are no longer fulfilled and will result in the rejection of the entire full proposal at any case.

4.2.1 General eligibility criteria

The following general eligibility criteria apply for this Co-funded call:

- 1) The proposed research project must be consistent with the scope of this call. In addition, if applicable, specific Funder thematic priorities have to be respected as well in order to fulfil also the Funder specific regulations in terms of the scope and Topic (see Annex IX). The proposed project must address one of the two Topics (see section 3) and at least one sub-Topic under the selected Topic. The scope or scale of the proposed research project must exceed a single country. The proposal must not overlap, but rather be complementary with AGROECOLOGY internal activities as well as ongoing or completed projects funded by AGROECOLOGY and by other instruments, programmes or projects, in particular past/ongoing Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects, projects funded under the EU Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' and

¹⁶<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register>, 10 Oct 2025

- European Innovation Partnership Operational Groups (EIP-AGRI Operational Groups) funded under the Common Agricultural Policy¹⁷.
- 2) Proposals must be written in English.
 - 3) Proposals must be complete, respect any page and character limits and include any mandatory Annexes as described in Annex II and Annex IV, respectively, and in the online submission platform. Proposals must meet all formal eligibility criteria and in accordance with the procedure and must be submitted via the online submission platform. Incomplete proposals will be rejected.
 - 4) Pre proposals must be submitted by 18 February 2026 2 pm CET via the online submission platform¹⁸ (see section 5.1 and Annex II for pre proposal details). Pre proposals not submitted in time will be not considered and rejected.
 - 5) Full proposals must be submitted by 08 July 2026 2 pm CEST via the online submission platform¹⁹ (see section 5.3 and Annex IV for full proposal submission details). Full proposals not submitted in time will be not considered and rejected.
 - 6) The submission of a pre proposal is compulsory. A full proposal submission is only possible following the invitation to submit a full proposal. Applicants cannot submit a full proposal if no pre proposal was submitted.
 - 7) Consortia must include at least three eligible Partners requesting funding from at least three different Members States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries and from Funders who provide funds to the Co-funded call. Associated Partners do not count towards this limit. There is no upper limit to the number of Partners and Associated Partners. However, the number should be appropriate to meet the project goals and should remain reasonable.
 - 8) Associated Partners are welcome to participate at their own expense or by making use of their own funding. In order to participate, each Associated Partner must provide a “financial commitment letter” (see Annex VIII). Associated Partners must follow all rules and obligations for Partners as outlined in this call announcement.
 - 9) In order to achieve balanced consortia, the combined proportion of the person-months of all the Partners from a single country may not exceed 60% of the total number of person months allocated to the transnational project. Person-months of Associated Partners do not count towards this limit.
 - 10) A PI affiliated to several organisations cannot request funding from more than one Funder in this call. If affiliated to more than one organisation, an individual researcher may be PI of only one organisation in a proposal and that person cannot be PI of two or more different Partners within the consortium.
 - 11) Each consortium applying for funding must be led by an organisation, the Coordinator, which must be an organisation eligible for funding from a Funder of this call and requesting funding. In consequence an Associated Partner cannot be Coordinator.
 - 12) The same person cannot act as PI of a Coordinator for more than one proposal. Some Funders do not allow the same person to participate in more than one proposal per call: please check the relevant Funder regulations (Annex IX).
 - 13) The minimum project duration is 24 months and the maximum is 36 months (please check Annex IX for exceptions). The earliest possible start date for projects recommended for funding is January 2027. All projects must be completed by June 2030 unless otherwise informed.
 - 14) Applicants must complete an ethics self-assessment as part of the proposal.

¹⁷Currently 36 EIP-AGRI Operational Group projects selected “Agroecology” as a keyword for their project. Projects and with free text search 46 EIP-AGRI Operational Groups projects can be identified in the EIP-AGRI database: EU CAP Network (europa.eu)

¹⁸<https://agroecology.ptj.de/call3>, 10 Oct 2025

¹⁹<https://agroecology.ptj.de/call3>, 10 Oct 2025

- 15) In addition, entities subject to EU restrictive measures²⁰ under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) as well as Article 75 TFEU and their updates are not eligible to participate in any capacity. In addition, restrictions apply to legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine need to be respected²¹.
- 16) Hungarian legal entities affected by the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506²² are not eligible for funding but may participate as Associated Partners (i.e. without requesting or receiving funding from the Call). The purpose of the measures adopted by the Union is to protect the financial interests of the Union but not to prevent the participation of the concerned Hungarian entities in EU-funded actions (see EU Funding & Tenders Portal²³).
- 17) The information given in the pre proposals is binding. No substantial change to the scope and objectives outlined in a proposal is allowed, however revision to address the ESR of a pre proposal is allowed. A limited number of changes with respect to the administrative details may be allowed upon approval by the Call Office and the Funders concerned. A list of permissible changes is provided in section 5.2.
- 18) The total project costs and requested funding in a proposal is by default not restricted; the costs must be appropriate to meet the project goals. Nonetheless, individual Funders may have regulations and/or restrictions concerning the funding they can award within research projects that must be respected (as an example, some Funders may limit the maximum budget a single Partner in a project can request to € 200,000). It is, therefore, essential that each Partner carefully reads the Funders regulations (see Annex IX). If in doubt, applicants are strongly encouraged to consult their FCPs who can inform them of the relevant regulations.

Note that the inclusion of Associated Partners is permitted ONLY upon submission of a letter of financial commitment (see Annex VIII). The absence of such letter will result in rejection of this Associated Partner.

4.2.2 Funder specific eligibility criteria

Funders eligibility criteria must be respected at all stages and the proposed research project must be consistent with the thematic priorities of the Funder. These requirements are described in the document “Funders regulations” (see Annex IX). Funders may require additional documents according to their own regulations (see Annex IX). It has to be also noted that the budgetary figures may be adapted between pre and full proposal step upon request of a Funder and later during the bilateral grant negotiation process between one Partner and its respective Funder. By submitting a proposal, all Partners agree to this. The final decision on the total grant per Partner is decided by the respective Funder during the bilateral grant negotiation process.

Partners must read carefully the Funders regulations and, if necessary, contact their FCPs before submitting a proposal to make sure that they respect all the Funders eligibility criteria and rules.

²⁰<https://www.sanctionsmap.eu/#/main>, 10 Oct 2025

²¹Further information can be found in the Horizon Europe Work Programme/ Annex D: wp-13-general-annexes_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf (europa.eu), https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2025/wp-14-general-annexes_horizon-2025_en.pdf, 10 Oct 2025

²² See the list of public interest trusts (PITs) and maintained entities in Annex I of the PITs Act (in Hungarian: <https://njt.hu/eli/TV/2021/9>) & list translated into English (only for information purposes: <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/en/2021-9-00-00>). The lists are indicative, non-exhaustive and may change at any time.

²³ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/faq/21511>

4.3 Eligibility check

Each proposal will undergo a general and Funder specific eligibility check. Only eligible proposals will advance the evaluation procedure.

4.3.1 General eligibility check

The general eligibility check will be performed by the Call Office. Proposals will be checked for compliance with the general eligibility criteria as laid out in chapter 4.3. Proposals not meeting those criteria will be rejected. Rejected proposals will not be evaluated.

The general eligibility check also includes the eligibility check of Associated Partners. Only Associated Partners, where a “financial commitment letter” is part of the proposal will be eligible. Associated Partners who do not fulfil this eligibility criterion will be rejected. The International Evaluation Panel will be informed in case one Associated Partner is not eligible in a proposal.

4.3.2 Funder specific eligibility check

Each Funder will conduct a Funder specific eligibility check of the Partners requesting funds from them. The Funders will check if their specific Funder regulations are fulfilled and considered (Annex IX) by the respective Partners and proposals.

Failure of one Partner to meet any of the eligibility criteria at pre proposal phase, will result in the rejection of this Partner to participate in this pre proposal. The rejected Partner will then not be part of the consortium of this pre proposal anymore and must be deleted as Partner from the consortium during the full proposal submission (see 5.4.2). Any full proposal submitted with a rejected Partner will be considered as ineligible. The rejected Partner will no more be considered for any general eligibility criteria either. For example, if the rejection of one Partner results in a consortium with two Partners only, the entire pre proposal will be rejected because the general eligibility criteria are no longer full filled. The International Evaluation Panel will be informed about rejected Partners and this Partner will not be considered in the evaluation process.

Failure of one Partner to meet any of the eligibility criteria at full proposal phase, will result in the rejection of the entire proposal.

4.4 Coordinator

Each research project consortium must appoint a Coordinator which has to be a Partner of a consortium. The Coordinator has the following roles and responsibilities:

- Read carefully the entire call announcement, the present document, to make sure to understand fully the submission process and rules. While it is not mandatory, it is strongly recommended that all Partners do so as well.
- Lead the consortium throughout the application procedure and be responsible for the correct proposal submission. The PI of the Coordinator creates an account for the proposal in the online submission platform and then invites all Partners and Associated Partners to the proposal. Partners and Associated Partners cannot edit the proposal and have only editing rights in their own Partner profile. The PI of the Coordinator is also responsible for providing correct budget figures, in agreement with the Partners, in the related section of the proposal.
- Make sure that the Funders regulations and funding modalities of all Partners involved are met – confirmation of compliance provided to the Coordinator by the Partners themselves –.
- Be responsible for the overall project coordination and act as the central contact point for the consortium during the submission phase and the full lifespan of the research project.

- Inform the Call Office about any situation or event that might affect the implementation of the project.
- Ensure that all work is carried out to a high standard and meets contractually bound deliverables and milestones presented in the proposal.
- Be responsible for sharing all information without undue delay within the research consortium.
- Be responsible for monitoring data and for the punctual delivery of project reports.

The Coordinator will not be responsible for the financial management of project funding, which shall be handled directly between the Partners and their corresponding Funders.

4.5 Funder Board

The following Funders provide funds to this call and altogether form the Funder Board.

Table 1: Funder Board.

Country	Funder
BE	Vlaamse Gewest (VL O)
BE	Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique (FRS-FNRS)
CY	Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF)
DE	Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt (BMFTR)
DK	Innovationsfonden (IFD)
EE	Sihtasutus Eesti Teadusagentuur (ETAG)
ES	Agencia Estatal de Investigacion (AEI)
ES	Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico y la Innovacion E.P.E (CDTI)
ES	Consejería de Economía Ciencia y Agenda digital – Junta de Extremadura (JUNTAEX)
FI	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland (MMM)
FR	Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR)
FR	Pays de la Loire Regional Council (RPL)
HU	Nemzeti Kutatási, Fejlesztési és Innovációs Hivatal (NKFIH)
IE	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
IT	Autonomous Province of Bolzano / Bozen – South Tyrol (BOZEN)
LT	Lietuvos mokslo taryba (LMT)
LT	Lietuvos Respublikos Zemes Ukio Ministerija (ZUM)
NL	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature (MINLNVN)
NO	Norges Forskningsrad (RCN)
PT	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)
RO	Unitatea Executiva Pentru Finantarea Invatamantului superior a Cercetarii Dezvoltarii si Inovarii (UEFISCDI)
SE	Forskningsrådet för miljö, areella näringar och samhällsbyggande (Formas)
SI	Ministrstvo za Kmetijstvo Gozdarstvo in Prehrano (MKGP)
SK	Slovenska Akademia Vied (SAS)
SK	Ministerstvo Podohospodarstva a Rozvoja Vidieka Slovenskej Republiky (MARD)
SK	Centrum vedecko-technických informácií SR (CVTI SR)
TR	Turkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Arastirma Kurumu (TÜBİTAK)

Country	Funder
TR	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (TAGEM)

5 Co-funded call procedure

The Co-funded call is conducted as a two-step-procedure. As a first step, a pre proposal has to be submitted. If this pre proposal is successfully evaluated and selected to submit a full proposal, the Coordinator receives a respective invitation to submit a full proposal. A full proposal may be submitted only following such an invitation

Deadline for pre proposals submission is 18 February 2026, 2 pm CET

Deadline for full proposals submission is 08 July 2026, 2 pm CEST

Proposals that are not submitted on time within the submission platform will not be considered and rejected (see 4.3.1 and 4.4.1).

It is strongly recommended to submit the proposal well ahead of the deadline and to make use at an early stage of the “Validation” function of the submission platform in order to identify any missing but mandatory information in the proposal. It is possible to re-submit and therefore update the proposal anytime until the deadline. Previously submitted versions will be deleted and only the latest version submitted in the submission platform will be considered.

Details on each step are explained in the following sections.

5.1 Step 1 Pre proposal phase

5.1.1 Submission and eligibility

The objective of a pre proposal is to present the project idea and the consortium without providing much detail on the work plan. The detailed template for the pre proposal with explanations is provided in Annex II and an example is also available within the document section of the submission platform: <https://agroecology.ptj.de>.

Following submission, pre proposals will be checked against the general and applicable Funders eligibility criteria as defined in the respective Funder Regulations (see Annex IX). Pre proposals. not meeting the general eligibility criteria will be rejected. Partners not meeting the applicable Funder specific eligibility criteria will be rejected and must be deleted from the consortium.

Eligible pre proposals will be evaluated.

5.1.2 Evaluation

Eligible pre proposals will be evaluated against the two equally weighted evaluation criteria *Excellence* and *Impact* as described in section 6.2. The evaluation procedure will be conducted as described in section 6.4.

5.1.3 Selection

The selection of pre proposals will be decided by the Funder Board (FB) based on ranking lists per Topic and the availability of funds (see section 6.4 and Annex I). The Coordinators of the successful pre proposals will be invited via email to submit a full proposal; the invitation letter may include remarks from individual Funders or the Call Office to be strictly respected for the submission of the full proposal. The Coordinators of pre proposals that are not selected will also be also informed

accordingly by the Call Office. All letters will include the ESR prepared by the IEP in response to the pre proposal.

5.2 Changes to the consortium from pre proposal to full proposal

The following changes between the pre proposal stage and the full proposal stage are possible, but always require prior endorsement by the respective concerned Funder(s) and the Call Office, as described below for each case. Since requests for changes may take time to be processed, such requests should be made as early as possible in the full proposal submission phase.

5.2.1 Changes of budget

The deadline for changes in the budget is 17 June 2026.

All changes of budget are managed directly between each Partner of one consortium and its respective Funder. A FCP can then decide according to its own rules whether a justification is needed. Prior to such a change, the Call Office must be informed.

Changes to the budget are also needed in case this is part of the requirements for full proposal submission. This might be the case for example if a budget limit of a specific Funder has not been respected and/or budget reductions are needed because of a high oversubscription of one Funder.

The amount of requested funding of each Partner in a full proposal may be lower, **but not higher** than in the pre proposal. Requesting more funding at the full proposal stage is allowed only in exceptional cases and requires the written consent of the concerned Funder.

Shifting of budget among cost categories without any changes to the total amount of requested funding does not need to be reported to the Call Office. However, this might be subject to negotiations and agreement of the respective Funder. There also, the Funders regulation must be respected.

5.2.2 Change of project Coordinator

No change of the Coordinator (PI and organisation) will be allowed, except in case of force majeure. In this case, a request to change the Coordinator must be submitted to the Call Office and to all the Funders from whom the Partners in the consortium request funding. The deadline for such a change is 17 June 2026.

5.2.3 Changes to the consortium composition – Partners and PI

Any changes to the consortium composition can be only computed by the Call Office in the submission platform at the full proposal stage. Changes to the consortium include addition, removal and substitution of a Partner or a PI. Regardless of the type of changes, the eligibility criteria (section 4.3) and Funders regulations must be respected.

All types of requests to change Partners or PI in the consortium must be formally submitted via E-mail to the Call Office and to the regarded Funder(s), e.g. in the case of new Partners joining the consortium, to the Funder from whom the new Partner plans to request funds from. The deadline for any such request is 17 June 2026. Any changes must be formally submitted using the template (see Annex X) which is also available as word document in section CALL DOCUMENTS of the submission platform. The final decision will be taken by the Funder concerned taking into account the oversubscription factor of this Funder. The final decision of one Funder does not correspond to an entire eligibility check of a new Partner or PI towards the specific Funder regulations. The Funder specific eligibility check will be performed during the eligibility check phase following the

submission. Thus, it is strongly recommended to get in contact with the respective Funder before submitting a request to add one Partner to a consortium or before the change of any PI of one Partner.

Changes to the consortium might be also requested in the invitation letter for full proposal submission. This can be the case in particular for the following reasons:

- One Partner was not eligible and has to be substituted or deleted.
- One Funder is highly oversubscribed and in order to invite a certain pre proposal for full proposal submission a Partner will not receive any funding.

In any case, the Coordinator must follow the same procedure and respect the same deadline described here to request the respective changes to the consortium. For instance, if one Partner was not eligible, the Coordinator must submit a formal request to the Call Office until 17 June 2026 by using the template (see Annex X).

All new Partners must comply with the applicable Funder regulation. If a new Partner is declared ineligible at step 2 (full proposal phase), this Partner will be rejected and the entire consortium will be declared ineligible in case the general eligibility criteria, in particular 1), 7) and 9) are then not fulfilled anymore.

It is the responsibility of the Coordinator to ensure that a new Partner is eligible to receive funding from the respective Funder. This includes checking e.g. whether the proposal is compatible with the Funder regulation.

5.2.4 Changes to the consortium composition – Associated Partners

Any changes to the consortium composition can be only computed by the Call Office in the submission platform at the full proposal stage.

Adding and/or removing an Associated Partner does not need the approval of a Funder but requires a formal request to the Call Office who will add and/or remove an Associated Partner from the consortium. The deadline for any such request is 17 June 2026. Requests can be submitted via E-mail to the Call Office using the template (see Annex X) which is also available as word document in section CALL DOCUMENTS of the submission platform. Please note that it is obligatory to submit a Letter of financial Commitment for any Associated Partner.

Any new Partner or Associated Partner, once added to the consortium, will have to complete the Partner profile in the submission platform. It is therefore essential that this Partner and Associated Partner is able to perform this on time for proposal submission.

5.3 Step 2 Full proposal phase

5.3.1 Submission and eligibility

Following the invitation to submit a full proposal, the Coordinator can submit a full proposal via the submission platform: <https://agroecology.ptj.de>. At this stage, Coordinators might be invited to add Partners requesting funding from undersubscribed Funders. Adding Partner(s) requesting funding from undersubscribed Funder(s) occurs only on a voluntary basis and does not automatically result in more chances of success. Any proposed change must be requested as described in section 5.2 and must be submitted on time. Any new Partner must meet all eligibility criteria to receive funding from its Funder. It is strongly recommended to get in contact with the respective Funder first before submitting a request to add a Partner.

The detailed template for full proposals with explanations is provided in Annex IV and an example is also available in the document section of the submission platform.

Funders eligibility criteria, as defined in the respective Funder regulation (see Annex IX), must be respected and the proposed research project must be consistent with the Funder thematic priorities. The Funders may require additional documents according to their own regulations.

Failure of one Partner to meet any of the eligibility criteria, including the Funders eligibility criteria, will result in rejection of the entire full proposal.

An Associated Partners is considered not eligible if the letter of financial commitment (see Annex VIII) is missing. Thus, the absence of the letter will result in the rejection of the Associated Partner and will be communicated to the IEP before evaluation of this proposal. The Associated Partner will be removed from the consortium.

After the submission deadline, the Call Office will carry out the general eligibility check as described in section 4.4.1. Full proposals not meeting the requirements will be rejected by the Call Office, following consultation with the Funder Board. The members of the Funder Board will check the full proposals against their Funders eligibility criteria as described in the Funding regulations.

Full proposals complying with both sets of criteria (general eligibility criteria and Funders eligibility criteria) will advance to the evaluation procedure.

5.3.2 Evaluation

Full proposals will be evaluated by the IEP against the following three equally weighted evaluation criteria *Excellence*, *Impact* and *Quality and efficiency of the implementation*, as described in section 6.2. The procedure will be conducted as described in section 6.4

5.3.3 Selection

The selection of full proposals is the sole responsibility of the Funder Board and will be conducted strictly following the ranking lists and based on the availability of funds. This is in accordance with the Horizon Europe regulations and restrictions for Co-funded calls in partnerships.

5.4 Submission platform

The submission of proposals will be carried out using an online submission platform, where applicants will find all of the information necessary for the preparation and submission of proposals. The submission platform is available at <https://agroecology.ptj.de>.

A webinar will be hosted on 10 December 2025 from 9:00 to 12:00 CET for interested applicants. The webinar will provide an overview of relevant aspects of the call and a short introduction to the submission platform. The relevant link and agenda will be made available on the submission platform in due course. The webinar will be recorded and recordings made available on the submission platform in due course.

5.5 Partnering tool

A partnering tool is available in the submission platform, where interested parties can submit and search profiles.

5.6 Management of the Co-funded call

The Call Office will be operated by Project Management Jülich (Germany). In general, the Call Office operates on weekdays between 09:00 and 15:00 CE(S)T.

Name	Contact
Call Office	ptj-agroecology-call-office@fz-juelich.de
Marius Weisweiler	+49 2461 61 847 06
Silvana Hudjetz	+49 2461 61 859 86
Daniela Piazz Barbosa Leal	+49 2461 61 843 06
Nicolas Tinois	+49 2461 61 24 22
Ulrike Ziegler	+49 2461 61 55 66

All technical issues with the submission platform shall be addressed to the Call Office.

The Call Office will provide guidance to all administrative and technical aspects but will not advise on any scientific content of one proposal.

5.7 Schedule

The Co-funded call follows a two-step procedure. A full proposal can be submitted only if the pre proposal has been selected and the respective invitation to submit a full proposal has been sent to the Coordinator by the Call Office.

Item	Date
Call pre-announcement	23 Oct 2025
Call launch	03 Dec 2025
Webinar & workshop for applicants	10 Dec 2025
Deadline for pre proposal submission	18 Feb 2026
Eligibility check and evaluation of pre proposals	Feb-Apr 2026
Decision letters sent to Coordinators	End Apr 2026
Deadline for any exceptional changes in the full proposal (see 5.2)	17 Jun 2026
Deadline for full proposal submission	08 Jul 2026
Eligibility check and evaluation of full proposals	Jul-Oct 2025
Decision letters sent to Coordinators	End Oct/Beginning Nov 2026
Earliest starts of projects (tentative)	Jan 2027

6 Evaluation

6.1 International Evaluation Panel (IEP)

An International Evaluation Panel (IEP) will be established. The IEP will be endorsed by the Funder Board and has the following mandate:

- Provide a peer review of proposals, based on the evaluation criteria outlined in section 6.2.
- Provide a written Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) of each eligible proposal to explain the evaluation result to the Funder Board. The ESR will be provided to the Coordinator of each eligible proposal by the Call Office.

- Provide a ranking list per Topic of proposals based on the evaluation scores.

A chair and a vice-chair of the IEP will coordinate the work of the IEP. The IEP members will be independent of the FB and applicants involved in this Co-funded call and have to sign a non-disclosure agreement which secures, beside other issues, the confidentiality towards any content of one proposal and applicants. It will be ensured that no conflict of interest (Col) exists concerning the IEP members and the proposals evaluated by them. The IEP members will be required to sign a declaration stating the lack of any conflict of interest (see Annex XII). The online evaluation tool will include a feature that will prevent access to a proposal where a conflict of interest is declared by an IEP member.

Throughout the entire procedure, strict confidentiality will be ensured with respect to the identities of the applicants and the content of the proposals. Proposals will be accessible to the FB, the IEP members involved and the Call Office. Full proposals will also be screened by the AGROECOLOGY Ethics Advisory Board in order to fulfil the obligations outlined in section 10.5. The members of the Ethics Advisory Board have signed a declaration of confidentiality which secures among other things strict confidentiality towards the content of the proposal and applicants. All collected data will be handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), see also section 9.

Each eligible proposal will be evaluated online by three IEP members. The IEP members will then discuss and agree on consensus scores for each proposal during the IEP meeting.

6.2 Evaluation criteria

Eligible proposals will be evaluated following the procedure described in section 6.4. A detailed description of each criterion is provided in Table 2. Scoring for each criterion and the thresholds applied are defined in section 6.3.

Table 2: Description of the evaluation criteria. Pre proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the evaluation criteria Excellence and Impact described hereunder and only the aspects in bold are considered. Full proposals will be evaluated according to the hereunder described criteria Excellence, Impact and Quality and efficiency of the implementation and all aspects listed.

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious and goes beyond the state of the art. ▪ Soundness of the proposed [for the pre proposal: overall (*)] methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, interdisciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices, including sharing and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the call announcement, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project. ▪ Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall. ▪ Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
<p>management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end-users where appropriate.</p> <p>(*) Including all aspects mentioned in the first stage proposal template, which also include the integration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content as well as open science practices.</p>	<p>including communication activities.</p>	

6.3 Scoring

Individual scores will be attributed only to the main criteria, even though the evaluators will evaluate all sub-criteria described above in section 6.2. Each criterion will be scored out of 5 (half scores are allowed) and equally weighted. The 0-5 scoring system for each criterion indicates the following assessment:

- **0: The proposal fails to address the criterion** or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- **1: Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed**, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- **2: Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion**, but there are significant weaknesses.
- **3: Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well**, but a number of shortcomings are present.
- **4: Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well**, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- **5: Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion.** Any shortcomings are minor.

A consensus score is agreed upon for each criterion by the IEP members who evaluated the proposal. The consensus score will be obtained during the IEP meeting. A **threshold of 3/5** will be applied for each criterion for both pre proposals and full proposals; i.e., full proposals with a consensus score < 3 for any criterion will not be recommended for funding and pre proposals with a consensus score < 3 for any criterion will not be recommended for invitation to submit a full proposal. For full proposals, a second **threshold of 10/15** will be applied with respect to the total score (sum of the three consensus scores per criterion); i.e., proposals with a total score < 10 will not be selected for funding. All proposals will be ranked according to the final consensus scores agreed during the evaluation meeting. **The outcome of the evaluation is irrevocable.**

6.4 Evaluation procedure

Each eligible proposal will be evaluated individually by three IEP members. They will, independently from each other, apply evaluation criteria and score the proposals as described in sections 6.2 and 6.3, respectively. Following the individual evaluation, a rapporteur will summarise the individual evaluations and write a draft summary report, which will be used to present the proposal at the IEP meeting. During the IEP meeting, each evaluated proposal will be introduced and evaluations presented. The IEP members will discuss each proposal and will agree on consensus scores for each proposal. Based on the scores, two ranking lists of proposals will be compiled, one ranking

list per Topic. Rapporteurs will, based on the discussions, consolidate and finalise the ESR. The ranking lists and the ESRs will be shared with the FB.

An independent observer will be appointed and will report on the eligibility and evaluation process. The independent observer will sign a Non-disclosure agreement which secures, beside other issues, the confidentiality towards any content of proposals and applicants. This includes the review of each eligibility and evaluation step and its compliance with the described procedures in this call document and the Horizon Europe regulations for Co-funded calls as defined in the AGA Annex 5²⁴. For this, the independent observer will get access to all relevant documents and attend the evaluation meetings. The independent observer will prepare accordingly a report which will be made available to the AGROECOLOGY coordination team, the FB and the European Research Executive Agency.

7 Selection

7.1 Funding decision

The selection of proposals is the sole responsibility of the Funder Board, which is the decision-making body of the call. Details on the selection procedures for proposals are provided in sections 5.1.3 and 5.3.3.

The outcome of the evaluation process and the funding decision will be communicated to the Coordinators by the Call Office. Evaluation Summary Reports (ESRs) will be provided to the Coordinators. The Coordinators are responsible for forwarding without undue delay all of the information to their Partners and Associated Partners. Following receipt of the communication, the Coordinator and all the Partners and Associated Partners involved in a successful proposal must initiate without undue delay all necessary steps for the project start as described in section 10.1

7.2 Publication of the selection results for full proposals

A list of the funded projects (project title and project acronym) will be published on the website of the AGROECOLOGY partnership with a mention that this decision is subject to final approval by the Funders concerned. Upon completion of all contract negotiations, the following information will be added on specific project-related pages:

- Duration of the project
- Project summary
- Total requested funding of the project
- Country, Coordinator organisation, as well as name and contact information of the Principal Investigator (PI) of the Coordinator
- Country, organisation and Principal Investigator name of each Partner and Associated Partner

The project summary should therefore not disclose any confidential information.

Coordinators of funded projects are invited to check the information published and update it at any time.

²⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf

8 Redress procedure

A mechanism will be established according to Article 30 of the REGULATION (EU) 2021/695 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 28 April 2021 to ensure the independent and fair treatment of complaints related to this call.

Applicants can request redress concerning the evaluation, if they suspect there has been a breach in the application of the evaluation and selection procedures. **This redress procedure only covers the procedural aspects of the evaluation and/or eligibility checks, including the Funders eligibility checks. The request for redress will not call into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts of the International Evaluation Panel.**

Where redress is sought, the Coordinator of the proposal shall submit their appeal to the AGROECOLOGY coordination team (ptj-agroecology-secretariat@fz-juelich.de) and the Call Office (ptj-agroecology-call-office@fz-juelich.de) via email. The appeal must be submitted within no more than 14 calendar days of the date of dispatch of the evaluation outcome email by the Call Office at the end of relevant phase (pre proposal or full proposal phase).

9 General data protection issues

All personal data provided to the AGROECOLOGY partnership in the execution of the call (e.g., proposals, reviewers and expert assessments, mailing lists, tracking websites, registration for activities and events) will be collected, stored and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation EU 679/2016). For more information, please consult the privacy policy on the submission platform.

10 Obligations of the funded projects

10.1 Contract negotiation

Once the Coordinators have been informed of the funding decision, all Partners of the proposals selected for funding will be contacted by the Funders or will need to contact their Funders themselves, according to the applicable regulations, in order to start the grant negotiation processes and accomplish the remaining steps until the research project can start. Within the grant negotiation process a final decision on the individual budget of each Partner will be taken subject to the Funder specific regulations. Please be aware that applicable European regulations on all aspects of funding must also be respected, e.g., state aid regulations²⁵.

Each Funder will fund their respective applicant(s) within the research project. Formal funding decisions are made by the Funders and funding will be provided according to applicable Funders regulations and subject to clarification of any specific ethical issues raised by the evaluation or the AGROECOLOGY Ethic Advisory Board.

For some Funders, a signed consortium agreement might be required for release of the funds. It is strongly recommended that successful consortia check this requirement at an early stage with their Funders and negotiate and sign a consortium agreement before start of the project to satisfy

²⁵https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/state-aid/overview_en, 10 Oct 2025

applicable Funders regulations if required. Support for the preparation of a Consortium Agreement can be found on the DESCA webpage²⁶.

10.2 Communication and dissemination

10.2.1 AGROECOLOGY partnership level

A list of the funded projects will be published on the website of the AGROECOLOGY partnership and all communication channels the partnership is contributing to upon selection of proposals for funding. Applicants must be aware that, upon completion of all contract negotiations, the information from the proposals, as listed under section 7.2, will be published as well.

10.2.2 Acknowledgement of AGROECOLOGY

Communication and dissemination of project-related information and results (e.g., oral/poster presentations during workshops or conferences, a webpage, scientific publications or public articles) must provide a clear reference to the AGROECOLOGY partnership. AGROECOLOGY logos are provided in the resources section of the AGROECOLOGY website. In addition, the EU emblem and the statement "Co-funded by the European Union" must also be displayed in all the communication and dissemination activities. The EU emblem can be downloaded here: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information-sources/logo-download-center_en.

For practical reasons, the combination of the AGROECOLOGY logo and the EU emblem is also provided in the resources section of the AGROECOLOGY website.

Funders regulations in terms of acknowledgement of national/regional grants, if any, must also be respected.

10.2.3 Project level

All projects require not only the adoption of a co-creation approach involving stakeholders, as required in the living lab approach, but also a clear dissemination, exploitation and communication plan that outlines the relevant channels for each activity and the target audiences. Each full proposal must include a one-pager about the main aspects of dissemination, exploitation and communication plan which evolves during the project duration (see Annex VII). This plan is part of the evaluation criterion *Impact* (see section 6.2).

Communication tools, e.g. the AGROECOLOGY corporate design including the AGROECOLOGY logo are provided in the resource section of the Partnership website.

Applicants have to make sure that any peer-reviewed journal article they publish is openly accessible, free of charge. Open access is the practice of providing online access to scientific information that is free of charge to the user and is reusable²⁷. Please note that the respective Funder may also have specific requirements in terms of open access to data.

10.3 Collaboration with partnership AGROECOLOGY

10.3.1 Meetings and workshops

²⁶<https://www.desca-agreement.eu/desca-model-consortium-agreement/>, 10 Oct 2025

²⁷https://rea.ec.europa.eu/open-science_en, 10 Oct 2025

In order to enhance knowledge sharing amongst the projects and the dissemination of the project results, kick-off, mid-term and end-term meetings will be organised by AGROECOLOGY. The Coordinators shall represent their projects at these meetings. **Coordinators must include accordingly budget for attendance of three mandatory joint network meetings (kick-off in 2027, mid-term in 2028 and end-term meeting in 2029) in their finance plan during proposal submission, subject to Funder specific regulations.** In addition, AGROECOLOGY will also arrange meetings focusing on specific aspects, such as the science-policy dialogue, knowledge transfer, dissemination of results, etc. Coordinators or Partners must include accordingly budget for attendance of two further meetings to be able to attend (some of) these meetings. These meetings will take place in Europe. For budgeting purposes, it is suggested to assume these meetings will take place in Brussels.

10.3.2 Synergies with the AGROECOLOGY Work Packages

At full proposal stage, a specific field is provided in order to describe how the proposed project could link with the AGROECOLOGY internal activities (Work Packages of AGROECOLOGY, WPs). Hereunder a short description of the AGROECOLOGY internal activities is provided, including example of potential synergies with transnational research projects. Applicants are strongly encouraged to consider in their proposals how they could link with WPs. It is expected that projects funded in this call will be contacted by appropriate AGROECOLOGY members to develop win-win situations. Complementary information can also be found on the Partnership website²⁸.

WP2: Science-Policy Interface

WP2 puts in place mechanisms for science-policy dialogue and ensures that the enablers of agroecology transition put in place appropriate conditions to accelerate agroecology transition. The objectives are:

- To create and support mechanisms for exchange between scientists and policymakers, taking into consideration current policies and governance models, in order to provide an evidence base for policy that supports AE transition (development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies); and to contribute to improved governance and policies.
- To exchange with the multiple actors in AE LLs, RIs and beyond to understand the policy-related challenges of AE transition that they face.
- To provide capacity building for researchers and policymakers to raise awareness on policy issues and strengthen dialogue among them.

WP2 is looking for research results that can inform research and sectoral policies (in the form of policy briefs, reports, etc.) and would be interested in working with projects that are interested in organizing science-policy-society dialogues in their Living Labs in line with the annual theme of the European Panel for Agroecological Transitions (EPAT).

²⁸<https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/>

WP5: Data and Monitoring for Agroecological Transition

WP5 develops a conceptual framework, methodologies, and indicators to monitor the partnership and agroecological transitions, assessing their social, economic, and environmental performance across actors, contexts, and scales. It establishes harmonised monitoring approaches and a robust data infrastructure to enable evidence-based policy and long-term impact assessment.

Input expected from funded projects:

Funded projects are key contributors to WP5 by **co-developing and testing the monitoring framework** across the different **monitoring settings** – farms, living labs, territorial contexts, and national/EU scales. They will contribute their **own data, results, and methodological developments** to enrich the shared framework and ensure its applicability across diverse contexts. Projects will also participate through **questionnaires and participatory evaluation approaches** to assess how their activities contribute to agroecological transitions and to iteratively refine their **impact pathways**.

Output useful for funded projects:

WP5 will provide funded projects with **shared monitoring guidelines, indicator sets, and practical tools**, fostering **co-creation and shared learning** to strengthen projects' contribution to agroecological transition and enhance their collective impact within the Partnership.

WP7: Expanding the Capacities of Living Labs and Research Infrastructures

WP 7 aims to enhance the capacities of agroecology living labs and research infrastructures, and through improved sharing of, and access to knowledge, strengthen the agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS) for agroecology transition across Europe.

Relevant inputs from research projects:

Applying an overall barriers and enablers framework, WP7 addresses the key transformative agroecology principles of knowledge co-creation and participation within open innovation ecosystems. WP7 seeks contributions that reframe research towards sensitive, adaptive and transdisciplinary methodologies within the following focus areas:

- Co-created innovation, considering technological, agronomic, socio-cultural, socio-economic and institutional domains; and the intertwined nature of these domains within the political economy of agroecology transition
- Methods for co-learning, co-creation, participatory evaluation and reflection on co-creation processes, equity-oriented and empowering participatory processes in relation to living labs at agroecosystem and food system levels
- Co-designing and piloting sustainable business models that integrate agroecology living labs and infrastructure services including the role of digitalization and data sharing

- Case studies on transformative governance and policy interventions that strengthen the capacity of living labs and research infrastructures in agroecology transitions in different European contexts.

Outputs to disseminate/test/exploit in the research projects:

WP7 will provide funded projects with conceptual and methodological guidance on agroecology living labs and research infrastructures, practical tools such as inventories of living labs and research infrastructures and scientific articles including critical reviews, synthesis, comparative studies.

WP10: Education and Training

Role and aim of WP 10

Intensify education and training in agroecology by developing networks and dedicated curricula for all levels of education (academic, high school, young farmers vocational training, ...), ensuring Europe-wide cohesion of knowledge on agroecology.

Objectives

- Increase knowledge about the agriculture education landscape across Europe including identifying curricula and institutional and capacity development barriers and needs
- Fostering cohesion between European educational institutions and increase the capacities for practicing inter-, transdisciplinary and transformative education
- Enhance the agroecology dimensions of agricultural education at agricultural schools at high school level
- Enhance the abilities of young farmers and farmer advisers as AKIS actors to contribute to the co-creation and implementation of innovations in agroecology transition

Main Activities

- Mapping the agriculture education landscape across Europe programmes for higher education
- Provide guidance for inter-and transdisciplinary curriculum development and action learning at academic levels as well as at agricultural schools
- Building an agroecological culture in the new generations (Primary/lower secondary education level)
- Network building, knowledge exchange and training for agroecological advisors

Relevant inputs from research projects

Inputs about elements of the agricultural education and training in European countries (related to agroecology):

- training of farmers; farmer-field schools; Living lab training and knowledge exchange actions; network building for learning agroecology and training; advisory services dealing with agroecology.

Outputs to disseminate/test/exploit in the research projects

- Setting up transdisciplinary social learning networks of young researchers, and young farmers
- Mutual learning across non-formal initiatives proposed by experiential and farmer-to-farmer schools
- Targeted communication for engaging networks (next generation of farmers), content and open innovation in living labs

WP11: European Network at Scale

Relevant inputs from research projects:

Adding living labs diversity to Network, communicate training needs, policy co-development and policy experimentation with novel approaches, contribution to impact assessment, market development and agroecological supply chains on a territorial level (e.g. Bio-Districts), appropriate scaling up of agroecology and organic farming innovations. Contribution to critical analysis of agroecology.

Outputs to disseminate/test/exploit in the research projects:

Training material, policy briefs, impact assessment within your project, using market development tools, apply scaling opportunities.

WP11 overview

Lead: Coventry University (CU) United Kingdom, Co-Lead: KVANN, Norway

Brief: WP11 integrates joint activities of key participants of the “Agroecology Network of Living Labs (LLs) and Research Infrastructures (RIs)” – called ‘Network’. The Network has been set-up and is being coordinated by WP8. WP11 supports the partnership by testing high-level strategies under real-life conditions and providing knowledge and input for their further improvements. It can be complemented by projects funded the Partnership’s calls, which the 2nd round being just completed. There are 6 Tasks:

Task 11.1 Training and capacity building for the Network at scale. Lead: ILVO.

This task will focus on the design and implementation of capacity building programme tailored to the needs of the member LLs and RIs of the Network.

Task 11.2 Support, guidelines and policy briefs on informing about the results of agroecology LLs and RIs at local, national and international levels. Lead: KVANN

This task aims at developing clear, actionable guidance for Agroecology (AE) LLs and RIs to effectively communicate their agroecology results to policymakers and are able to cooperate with policymakers.

Task 11.3 Testing agroecological strategies with science-policy labs. Lead: INRAe

This tasks build on Tasks 11.2 and adds further depth. It will involve experimental approaches in the social sciences, with the goal of creating a policy-testing environment that allows for evaluating the true impact of innovative policy measures (e.g. CAP measures such as AECM, supply chain stakeholder engagement, risk management tools, nature credits).

Task 11.4 Impact assessment framework for Agroecology LLs and RIs. Lead: ÖMKi

This task is responsible to co-design a general impact assessment framework for AE LLs and RIs to provide them a structured approach for evaluating the environmental, socio-economic, technical, and institutional effects.

Task 11.5 Assessing agroecology market development opportunities of AE LLs. Lead: CU

This task aims to assess agroecology market development opportunities and market transitions through the Network and of co-funded projects of the partnership operating across diverse agro-climatic regions.

Task 11.6 Scaling opportunities of Agroecology LLs and RIs. Lead: CU

This task aims to design and test a conceptual framework for scaling activities (e.g. scaling up, scaling out, scaling deep) in AE LLs and RIs tailored to the different needs, sizes, scopes and geographical contexts.

WP12 – Regions as Catalysts for the Agroecological Transition

The overall objective is to leverage the strategic role that regions can play in driving the AE transition to transform agrifood systems towards more sustainable models, connecting European policies with local realities.

This includes the creation of a European-level group of regions actively engaged in AE transition, integrating the GLOCAL (global-local) approach to local realities; the promotion of local initiatives for AE transition (local bio-districts or ecoregions) or the co-design and operationalisation of territorial/regional monitoring of Agroecological Transitions

This WP will also work on the adaptation of best practices to Regional Agroecological Governance structures of European regions or the Knowledge Exchanges on Regional and Interregional Dialogue generation in AE.

Which input you would see as relevant from research projects into your WP

- Best practices related to promote shorter, closer and more circular flows in food production, processing, distribution, and consumption, while also mobilizing stakeholders through a shared sense of community and purpose (ecoregions, biodistricts, and territorial food projects).
- Best practices related to governance models and practices (governance models, policy instruments, communication strategies, and dissemination approaches).
- Different indicators associated to the "Building on the Conceptual Framework and Monitoring Operationalisation Framework (WP5)", which are related to the region's competences (activities, data gathering, planning, and so on).

Which output from your WP you would like to disseminate/test/exploit in the research projects

- Best practices in AE governance, instruments, and tools developed by European regions to support AE transitions.
- Transferring successful EA governance practices (governance models, policy instruments, communication strategies, and dissemination approaches) to regional realities (GLOCAL approaches).
- The "Regions for Agroecology" group and the Strategic Plan for New Regions engagement and enlargement.

10.3.3 Project monitoring

In addition to the reporting required by the Funders regulations, reporting will be required half-way through the project in the form of a mid-term report (MTR; M12 or M18, depending on the project

duration) and at the end of each project (end-term report, ETR). Reporting will consist of a project status report and an in-depth monitoring survey to measure project progress and the contribution made to the overall aims of the Co-funded call and AGROECOLOGY's general objectives. All Partners and Associated Partners will have to deliver input for these reports. However, it is the responsibility of the Coordinator to submit the complete MTR and ETR via the submission platform on time. The MTR and ETR will include an update on the ethics self-assessment and documentation on how potential ethical issues are addressed. These reports will feed into the monitoring of the implementation of the AGROECOLOGY partnership.

Detailed information on the reporting and monitoring procedures, as well as templates, will be provided to the Coordinators of the funded projects in due course by the Call Office.

10.4 Data management issues

As relevant, applicants must include information on how the Partners will manage the research data generated and/or collected during the project. Each proposal must include a maximum one pager describing their plans to develop a Data Management Plan (DMP). It is strongly recommended to comply with the AGROECOLOGY Data Management Plan²⁹.

Support on how to develop a DMP can also be found here: <https://agroecologypartnership.github.io/agroecology-data-guide/>.

Further information on DMP can be gained here: <https://www.openaire.eu/how-to-comply-with-horizon-europe-mandate-for-rdm>.

In addition, applicants must include a Data Management Plan as a distinct deliverable within the first six months of the project. This deliverable will evolve during the lifetime of the project in order to present the status of the project's reflections on data management.

10.5 Ethics assessment

Any work involving the use of animals or humans should be carried out with the appropriate authorisation, taking into account the European Union and national ethics requirements. In order to identify any potential ethical issues, applicants are required to complete an ethics self-assessment and provide support documentation referred to in the ethics issues checklist. Please consult the available Horizon Europe programme guidance: [How to complete your ethics self-assessment](#) (10 Oct 2025). If any ethical issues are expected to arise during the proposed project, these must be addressed in the full proposal.

The Horizon Europe guidelines address ethical issues in relation to the following: human embryos & fetuses, human beings, human cells or tissues, personal data, animals, non-EU countries, environment, health & safety, artificial intelligence, other ethics issues and the crosscutting issue of potential misuse of results. Applicants can also consult the European Commission's Guidance Note – Ethics and Food-Related Research³⁰ on core issues of ethical concern in the field of food-related research, including an appendix that addresses broader concerns in the field of food ethics.

This self-assessment, as well as any additional ethical issues that are raised by the evaluation committee and the Ethics Advisory Board of AGROECOLOGY, will be shared with Funders who may

²⁹https://static1.squarespace.com/static/65c21789238d5029339b09bf/t/670fb63e8fe0ce3e5a315347/1729082943831/AGROECOLOGY_D5.1_v1.0.pdf, 10 Oct 2025

³⁰Guidance Note – Ethics and Food-Related Research: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/fp7/89847/research-food_en.pdf, 10 Oct 2025



stipulate specific ethics requirements, which in turn must be met by successful applicants as part of the funding contract.

Any proposal deemed to violate fundamental ethical principles shall not be selected. Assessment of the significance of ethics issues will be made applying the criteria published by the European Commission in its guidelines for the Horizon Europe Framework Programme.

Where activities undertaken in non-EU countries raise ethics issues, the applicants must ensure that the research conducted outside the EU is legal in at least one EU Member State.

Following a screening of proposals via ethics experts appointed by the Partnership AGROECOLOGY, proposals selected for funding might be requested to take corrective measures in order to ensure compliance with European Union and national ethics requirements.



Annex I Overview of the funding regulations per Funder

Table 3: Overview of individual funding regulations of each Funder. The information presented here is provided without guarantee and serves as an indicative overview only. For more details, please refer to the document Annex IX.

Country	Funder	Eligible Partners							Budget limit per project (k€)	Total initial budget (k€)
		Universities	Research institutes	Non-profit organisations	Consumers/citizens	Civil society representatives	Private companies	Other		
BE	VL O	x	x	x			x		300	300
BE	FRS-FNRS	x	x						300	300
CY	RIF	x	x	x		x	x	x	500	508
DE	BMFTR	x	x	x			x		500	3,000
DK	IFD	x	x	x		x	x	x	500	1,600
EE	ETAG	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	150/300 ³¹	150/300
ES	AEI	x	x					x	175	1,350
ES	CDTI						x	x	N/A	500
ES	JUNTAEX	x	x	x		x	x	x	200	400
FI	MMM	x	x	x	x	x	x		250	500
FR	ANR	x	x	x		x	x		300	2,000
FR	RPL			x		x	x	x	300	300
HU	NKFIH	x	x	x		x	x		140	140
IE	DAFM	x	x						325	650
IT	BOZEN	x	x					x	300	450
LT	LMT	x	x						150	300
LT	ZUM	x	x						120	240

³¹Maximum funding per project: 150,000 € if the Estonian applicant is project Partner. Maximum funding per project is 300,000 euros if the Estonian applicant is the project coordinator.



Country	Funder	Eligible Partners							Budget limit per project (k€)	Total initial budget (k€)
		Universities	Research institutes	Non-profit organisations	Consumers/citizens	Civil society representatives	Private companies	Other		
NL	MINLVVN	x	x	x			x		250/330 ³²	1,000
NO	RCN	x	x	x		x	x		400	1,300
PT	FCT ³³	x	x	x	x	x	x		250/150	500
RO	UEFISCDI	x	x	x		x	x		200	500
SE	Formas	x	x						300/400 ³⁴	1,300
SI	MKGP	x	x	x	x	x	x		150	300
SK	MARD		x						150	150
SK	SAS		x						120	120
SK	CVTI SR	x	x	x		x	x		200 ³⁵	400
TR	TÜBITAK	x	x						100	500
TR	TAGEM		x				x		30	100

³²330,000 €, in case of participation of two applicants from different Dutch organizations

³³ The maximum amount of funding to be requested to FCT by a consortium with Portuguese Coordination is 250,000 €

³⁴The maximum amount of funding to be requested to Formas by a consortium with Swedish Coordination is 400,000 €

³⁵Minimum amount of funding per awarded Partner or project: 100,000 €.



Annex II Pre proposal template

The list below, for information only, indicates menu items within the submission platform, including explanations. Please be aware that the character counts might differ in the submission platform than in a word document. This is due to the fact that the submission platform uses an HTML code for text transcription. Figures can be only inserted where indicated within the explanations. Not mandatory fields are marked as such. An example of a pre proposal is available at the section CALL DOCUMENTS. Please do not upload any additional documents to the requested and possible ones. Any additional documents will be not considered and clearly marked as “not applicable”.

Unless specified, all documents shall have the font Arial and size 11pt, with line spacing of 1.15, and must be uploaded as .pdf. In addition to the documents, up to six images can be uploaded (please pay attention to format and size – see Annex IV).

Please note that only complete pre proposals, all mandatory menus are addressed and requested information provided and respective documents uploaded, can be submitted via the submission system. Not completed pre proposals cannot be submitted. Make use of the VALIDATION button to check on the completeness of the pre proposal.

PROJECT COORDINATOR/PARTNER/ASSOCIATED PARTNER INFORMATION

INPUT MASK

- Applicant legal name
- Contact data of the organisation as linked to the PIC number
- PIC number³⁶
- Department(s) carrying out the work
- 5 references/publications (not mandatory)
- Are you a Beneficiary of (signatory of the Grant Agreement, see Annex XI) the Partnership AGROECOLOGY? (Yes/No) – internal use only
- Do you agree that we will use your contact data for our internal processes in AGROECOLOGY? (Yes/No) – internal use only
- Mandatory confirmation that the proposal does not overlap, but is rather complementary with ongoing or completed projects funded by other instruments, programmes or projects, in particular past/ongoing Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects, projects funded under the EU Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' and European Innovation Partnership Operational Groups (EIP-AGRI Operational Groups) funded under the Common Agricultural Policy.
- Mandatory confirmation of not having received information on this call and prior to the launch, which would result in an advantage towards other potential applicants

FREE TEXT FIELDS

- Tasks within the project

Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces

- Team members' descriptions and their relevant qualifications (not mandatory)

Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces

- Researcher(s) involved in the proposal (not mandatory)

UPLOAD FIELDS

³⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register>



- Scientific CV of Principal Investigator of the Coordinator/Partner with the recommended structure (see also template submission platform)

CV must be uploaded as pdf file max. 1 page, Arial 11pt, line spacing 1.15, max. 1 MB

STAKEHOLDERS (OPTIONAL)

List of stakeholders involved in the project (see definition p.6) and their main role. It is recommended to upload Letter(s) of Intend for the respective stakeholders.

Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces

FUNDER

- Chose the Funder, you will request funds from, chose “other” if the decision will be done by the Funder themselves on one country/region
- Relevance to Funders’ programme (only mandatory, if applicable by Annex IX)
- Upload field for additional documents (only mandatory, if applicable by Annex IX)

Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces

PROJECT DATA

- Project title
- Acronym
- Expected project start date and end date
- Topic and themes addressed

KEYWORDS

- Fixed keyword(s)
- Max. 5 free keywords related to your project, separated by comma

PROJECT SUMMARY

Please provide your project summary. This summary might be used for communication and dissemination activities should your project be selected for funding. Please make sure that it is publishable.

Max. 3,500 characters incl. spaces, figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please provide your project description using the following structure. The project description is separated into the following **3 sections**:

- **Excellence:** this part shall reflect the scientific excellence of the project. The following subheadings are mandatory: Objectives, State of the art, Concept and approach, Ambition, added value for transnational research and innovations. In particular it should be explained how the proposed project relates to the General and Specific Objectives of the AGROECOLOGY partnership³⁷

Max. 8,000 characters per section including spaces. Figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details

- **Multi-actor and Living Lab approach (Excellence):** describe how the living lab approach and methodology is applied in your proposed project, including co-creation and multi-actor approach

³⁷SRIA AGROECOLOGY



Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces, figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details

- **Impact:** specify the expected project outputs, outcomes and impacts and relevance to the call scope/themes and how this contributes to the AGROECOLOGY's vision (Intervention logic, see SRIA³⁸). Describe, credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the call announcement, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project. The following sub headings are mandatory: Expected outputs, outcomes and impacts, Contribution to the AGROECOLOGY vision.

Max. 8,000 characters per section including spaces. Figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details

ETHICS SELF-ASSESSMENT

Please fill in the Ethics Self-Assessment and address potential concerns/issues. Proposals may be rejected on ethical grounds, if they do not comply with European and/or national/regional legislation. Please also visit https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf for more information on the ethics self-assessment.

FINANCIAL PLAN

Please insert the requested budget for all Partners in the consortium into in the appropriate columns on the submission platform. Also add your own (in-kind) contribution, if applicable. Please be aware that only the PI of the Coordinator can fill in the financial plan on behalf of the whole consortium³⁹. The units used are 0 k€. An excel template is provided in the section CALL DOCUMENTS which can be used to collect data from Partners.

Figure 1: Figure of the financial table as shown in the submission platform.

Organisation name	Personnel	Travel	Consumables / Equipment	Subcontracts	Requested Funding * required for pre-registration	Total Own Contribution	Total Costs
Institute of Agrobiodiversity	250	5	10	2	292	5	297
Overhead	25	0	0	0			
Institute of Agriculture	200	2	10	0	212	2	214
Overhead	0	0	0	0			
Institute of Farming	100	2	5	10	140	7	147
Overhead	20	0	1	2			
TOTAL	595	9	26	14	644	14	658

1 k€ = 1000 €

RESSOURCES

Please insert the estimated total amount of person months (PM) per Partner needed to implement the planned work. Pay attention to the eligibility criteria no. 9 (section 4.3.1). An excel template is provided in the section CALL DOCUMENTS which can be used to collect data from Partners.

LETTER(S) OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENT (ONLY MANDATORY IF ASSOCIATED PARTNERS ARE INVOLVED)

³⁸ SRIA, <https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/s/240726-FECYT-The-Agroecology-Partnerships-SRIA-v6-DIGITAL.pdf>

³⁹It is therefore strongly recommended that each Partner checks these figures in the proposal preparation in the platform. In previous exercises, mistakes occurred.

Associated Partners may join the project at their own expense or funded by another agency not contributing to the call. For each of them, a letter of financial commitment must be uploaded via the upload field of the submission platform, using the template provided (Annex VIII and in the Call Documents). All letters of financial commitment must be compiled into one pdf file.

Please do not upload any other letter type unless required by Funder regulations. Additional uploaded documents will not be considered. Upload one pdf file, max. 5 MB



LETTER(S) OF INTENT (OPTIONAL)

Stakeholders may participate in the project. A letter of intent may be uploaded via the upload field of the submission platform. There is no specific fix template for such a letter. All letters of intent must be compiled into one pdf file.

Upload one pdf file, max. 5 MB

ADDITIONAL LITERATURE REFERENCES (OPTIONAL)

Upload pdf file, max. 2 pages, max. 1 MB

FIGURES (OPTIONAL)

You can upload up to six figures. Please make sure you use the correct format (jpg, png or gif) and adhere to the maximum size that is supported by the online submission platform (max. 2MB and 1,500px x 2,000px). Detailed instructions on how to upload figures in the text fields is provided in the submission platform menu FIGURES. Please check in advance the acceptance of your figures by the submission platform.

Upload up to 3 images (2 MB, 1,500px x 2,000px) as jpg, png or gif



Annex III Checklist for full proposal submission

Document	Comment	Done
PI Coordinator CV	Max. 1 page each (incl. name & surname, current and previous position(s), up to 10 relevant publications, relevant research grants awarded in the last 5 years)	<input type="checkbox"/>
PI Partner and Associated Partner CVs		<input type="checkbox"/>
Work plan	Max. 12 pages, please use the template available in the document section	<input type="checkbox"/>
Data Management Plan	Max. 1 page, see Annex VI	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication plan	Max. 1 page, see Annex VII	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letter(s) of financial commitment (only applicable for Associated Partners)	Please compile one pdf file for all commitment letters; a template is also provided in the documents section	<input type="checkbox"/>
Figures	Ensure all figures are displayed correctly	<input type="checkbox"/>
Literature references (optional)	Max. 2 pages	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letter(s) of Intent (optional, applicable for stakeholders)	Please compile one pdf file for all commitment letters; there is no specific template; should a document be provided in another language (than English), please provide a short statement in English in addition in the letter.	<input type="checkbox"/>



Annex IV Template for the full proposal⁴⁰

The list below, for information only, indicates menu items within the submission platform, including explanations. Please be aware that the character counts might differ in the submission platform than in a word document. This is due to the fact that the submission platform uses an HTML code for text transcription. Figures can be only inserted where indicated within the explanations. Not mandatory fields are marked as such. An example of a pre proposal is available at the section CALL DOCUMENTS. Please do not upload any additional documents to the requested and possible ones. Any additional documents will be not considered and clearly marked as “not applicable”.

Unless specified, all documents shall have the font Arial and size 11pt, with line spacing of 1.15, and must be uploaded as .pdf. In addition to the documents, up to six images can be uploaded (please pay attention to format and size – see Annex IV).

Please note that only complete pre proposals, all mandatory menus are addressed and requested information provided and respective documents uploaded, can be submitted via the submission system. Not completed pre proposals cannot be submitted. Make use of the VALIDATION button to check on the completeness of the pre proposal.

PROJECT COORDINATOR/PARTNER/ASSOCIATED PARTNER INFORMATION

INPUT MASK

- Applicant legal name
- Contact data of the organisation as linked to the PIC number
- PIC number⁴¹
- Department(s) carrying out the work
- 5 references/publications (not mandatory)
- Are you a Beneficiary of (signatory of the Grant Agreement, see Annex XI) the Partnership AGROECOLOGY? (Yes/No) – internal use only
- Do you agree that we will use your contact data for our internal processes in AGROECOLOGY? (Yes/No) – internal use only
- Mandatory confirmation that the proposal does not overlap, but is rather complementary with ongoing or completed projects funded by other instruments, programmes or projects, in particular past/ongoing Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects, projects funded under the EU Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' and European Innovation Partnership Operational Groups (EIP-AGRI Operational Groups) funded under the Common Agricultural Policy.
- Mandatory confirmation of not having received information on this call and prior to the launch, which would result in an advantage towards other potential applicants

FREE TEXT FIELDS

- Tasks within the project

Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces

- Team members' descriptions and their relevant qualifications (not mandatory)

Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces

- Researcher(s) involved in the proposal (not mandatory)

UPLOAD FIELDS

⁴⁰Content of the full proposal might be slightly adapted

⁴¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register>

- Scientific CV of Principal Investigator of the Coordinator/Partner with the recommended structure (see also template submission platform)

CV must be uploaded as pdf file max. 1 page, Arial 11pt, line spacing 1.15, max. 1 MB

STAKEHOLDERS (OPTIONAL)

List of stakeholders involved in the project (see definition p.6) and their main role. It is recommended to upload Letter(s) of Intend for the respective stakeholders.

Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces

FUNDER

- Chose the Funder, you will request funds from, chose “other” if the decision will be done by the Funder themselves on one country/region
- Relevance to Funders’ programme (only mandatory, if applicable by Annex IX)
- Upload field for additional documents (only mandatory, if applicable by Annex IX)

Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces

PROJECT DATA

- Project title
- Acronym
- Expected project start date and end date
- Topic and themes addressed

KEYWORDS

- Fixed keyword(s)
- Max. 5 free keywords related to your project, separated by comma

PROJECT SUMMARY

Please provide your project summary. This summary might be used for communication and dissemination activities should your project be selected for funding. Please make sure that it is publishable.

Max. 3,500 characters incl. spaces, figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please provide your project description using the following structure. The project description is separated into the following **4 sections**:

- **Excellence:** this part shall reflect the scientific excellence of the project. The following subheadings are not mandatory but recommended: Objectives, State of the art, Concept and approach, Ambition, Added value for transnational research and innovations

Max. 8,000 characters incl. spaces, figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details

- **Multi-actor and Living Lab approach (Excellence):** describe how the living lab approach and methodology is applied in your proposed project, including co-creation and multi-actor approach

Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces, figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details

- **Impact:** specify the expected project outputs, outcomes and impacts and relevance to the call scope/themes, and how this contributes to the AGROECOLOGY’s vision (Intervention logic,



see SRIA⁴²). Describe, credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the call announcement, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project. The following sub headings are mandatory: Expected outputs, outcomes and impacts, Contribution to the AGROECOLOGY vision. Measures to maximise impact, Dissemination and communication activities and exploitation of results (complemented by a DEC plan as separate upload).

Max. 8,000 characters incl. spaces, figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details

- **Implementation:** provide information on the workflow and connections between work packages. Avoid a repetition of a work package description as this is provided as a separate upload under Work plan (see below).

Max. 8,000 characters incl. spaces, figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details

SCIENCE POLICY INTERFACE CONTRIBUTION

Please describe how your project results may support or contribute to sectoral, regional or research policies in order to support the agroecology transition. References to policy goals at EU, national and regional level can be included as well as examples of existing policies already applied.

Max. 1,000 characters incl. spaces

SYNERGIES WITH THE PARTNERSHIP

Please describe synergies and possible collaborations with the different WPs in the Partnership. One text field is provided for each WP.

Max. 500 characters incl. spaces per text field (each optional)

WORK PLAN

Here the work plan shall be uploaded as a .pdf document. The work plan should clearly describe the individual work packages, tasks, deliverables and milestones of the project including the assigned Partners and their resources. Potential risks for implementation must be listed for each work package (WP). The work plan must also include a Gantt chart. We recommend using the template provided in the document section, although this is not an obligation. If using your own Gantt chart, please ensure that all of the information contained in the template provided is included.

The work plan must include at least the following

- Table showing the person months per Partner and WP
- Gantt chart, incl. Deliverables, milestones and WPs
- Description of each WPs and corresponding tasks, this includes: Partners involved, start and end time, Title, objectives, description, Deliverable and milestones (if applicable) and risk management (identified risk and mitigation of risk)

Upload pdf file, max. 12 pages, Arial 11pt, line pitch 1.15, max. 5 MB

DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Here you can upload your Data Management Plan (DMP). Please consider the recommendations and checklist of questions provided in Annex VI when preparing your plan.

⁴² SRIA, <https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/s/240726-FECYT-The-Agroecology-Partnerships-SRIA-v6-DIGITAL.pdf>

Upload pdf file, max. 1 page, Arial 11pt, line pitch 1.15, max. 1 MB

DISSEMINATION, EXPLOITATION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN

Here the Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (DEC) Plan shall be uploaded as a .pdf document. Please consider the recommendations and guiding information provided in Annex VII when preparing your plan.

Upload pdf file, max. 1 page, Arial 11pt, line pitch 1.15, max. 1 MB

ETHICS SELF-ASSESSMENT

Please fill in the Ethics Self-Assessment and address potential concerns/issues. Proposals may be rejected on ethical grounds, if they do not comply with European and/or national/regional legislation.

Please also visit https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf (10 Oct 2025) for more information on the ethics self-assessment.

FINANCIAL PLAN

Please insert the requested budget for all of the Partners in the consortium into the appropriate columns on the submission platform. Add your own (in-kind) contribution, if applicable. Please be aware that only the PI of the Coordinator can fill in the financial plan on behalf of the whole consortium. The units used are 0.0 k€.

Figure 2: Figure of the financial table as shown within the submission platform.

Organisation name	Personnel	Travel	Consumables / Equipment	Subcontracts	Requested Funding * required for pre-registration	Total Own Contribution	Total Costs
Institute of Agrobiodiversity	250	5	10	2	292	5	297
Overhead	25	0	0	0			
Institute of Agriculture	200	2	10	0	212	2	214
Overhead	0	0	0	0			
Institute of Farming	100	2	5	10	140	7	147
Overhead	20	0	1	2			
TOTAL	595	9	26	14	644	14	658

1 k€ = 1000 €

FINANCE COMMENTS

Please provide a brief justification for each cost item per Partner. Please be aware that only the PI of the Coordinator can fill in the financial plan on behalf of the whole consortium.

Max. 2,000 characters per Partner

RESOURCES

Please insert the estimated total amount of person months (PM) per Partner needed to implement the planned work. Pay attention to the eligibility criteria no. 9 (section 4.3.1). An excel template is provided in the section CALL DOCUMENTS which can be used to collect data from Partners.

LETTER OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENT(S) (ONLY MANDATORY IF ASSOCIATED PARTNERS ARE INVOLVED)

Associated Partners may join the project at their own expense or funded by another agency not contributing to the Call. For each of them, a letter of financial commitment must be uploaded via the upload field of the submission platform, using the template provided (Annex VIII and in the Call Documents). All letters of financial commitment must be compiled into one pdf file.



Please do not upload any other letter types unless required by the respective Funder regulations. Additional uploaded documents will not be considered.

Upload one pdf file, max.5 MB

LETTER(S) OF INTENT (OPTIONAL)

Stakeholders may participate in the project. A letter of intent may be uploaded via the upload field of the submission platform. There is no specific fix template for such a letter. All letters of intent must be compiled into one pdf file.

Upload one pdf file, max. 5 MB

ADDITIONAL LITERATURE REFERENCES (OPTIONAL)

Upload pdf file, max. 2 pages, max. 1 MB

RESPONSE TO ESR (OPTIONAL)

Here you have the opportunity to provide a brief description on how weaknesses and recommendations written in the ESR are addressed in the full proposal.

Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces

FIGURES (OPTIONAL)

You can upload up to six figures. Please make sure you use the correct format (jpg, png or gif) and adhere to the maximum size that is supported by the online submission platform (max. 2MB and 1,500px x 2,000px). Detailed instructions on how to upload figures in the text fields is provided in the submission platform menu FIGURES. Please check in advance the acceptance of your figures by the submission platform.

Upload up to 3 images (2 MB, 1,500px x 2,000px) as jpg, png or gif



Annex V Work plan template

See separate document “Annex V work plan” provided as word file. The document can be found in the CALL DOCUMENTS section of the submission platform at the full proposal stage. It is not compulsory to use the provided template but the content hereunder is mandatory.

A work plan must include the following

- Staff effort per WP and Partner and Associated Partner
- Information on each WP: name, duration, WP lead and contributors, objective and description, list of deliverables and milestones, description of risks and measures to mitigate risks
- Gantt chart: overview WP incl. deliverables and milestones over the entire project duration



Annex VI Data Management Plan template

Data management is an essential component of the success of a research and innovation project. Correspondingly, all projects require a good Data Management Plan.

Representatives of academia, industry, funding agencies and scholarly publishers designed and jointly endorsed a concise and measurable set of principles referred to as FAIR data principles with the intention to provide a guideline for reusability of data holdings. Four foundational principles – findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability – are a necessity of data management. The EC published Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-data-mgt_en.pdf. (10 Oct 2025)

All applicants must include a maximum one-page Data Management Plan. This plan should mainly detail how the consortium will manage the research data generated and/or collected during the project, in particular addressing the following issues:

- What types of data will the project generate/collect?
- What standards will be used?
- How will this data be exploited and/or shared/made accessible for verification and reuse?
- If data cannot be made available, explain why.
- How will this data be curated and preserved?
- How will the costs for data curation and preservation be covered?



Annex VII Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (DEC) Plan template

Plans for dissemination, communication and exploitation of the project and its results have to be described and will be taken into account in the evaluation with the aim to increase the quality of the implementation and to achieve greater impact (see section 6.2). The plan should be organised in the form of various communication routes (both national and international) such as scientific papers, posters, presentations, course or training materials, web-based tools, workshops as well as explicit plans for stakeholder involvement or direct intervention directed towards end users. The DEC should describe the main communication and dissemination channels as well as the respective target audience and exploitation plans for project outcomes and how they will contribute to project impact.

Appropriate resources should be dedicated to the dissemination, communication and exploitation activities and the involvement of stakeholders. A focus should be set on how to communicate and interact with relevant stakeholders to ensure their involvement.

To enhance dissemination of the project results, all project Coordinators should calculate the costs for their participation in three mandatory joint network meetings (kick-off, mid-term and end-term meetings) – in addition to or in parallel to their own project meetings – in their project plan.

Please consider that all Partners must give proper reference to the AGROECOLOGY partnership in any documentation published (in written, oral or electronic form).

There are possibilities to get support and advice for your plan for dissemination, communication and exploitation, for example: https://rea.ec.europa.eu/dissemination-and-exploitation_en (10 Oct 2025).



Annex VIII Financial commitments template

A template is provided as a word document in the section CALL DOCUMENTS of the submission platform.

This template must be used as evidence of the availability of funds by Associated Partners, who are:

- ineligible to receive funding from any of the Funders participating in the Co-funded call or
- eligible to receive funding from a Funder, but not seeking funding from a Funder.

This document must be signed by an authorised representative of the organisation. This letter must be submitted electronically with the proposal through the submission platform.

Failure to provide such a commitment for each Associated Partner at the time of proposal submission may result in the rejection of the whole consortium.

Name and address of organisation, Name and address of contact person

AGROECOLOGY 3rd Co-funded call

Letter of Financial Commitment

Location, Date:

We hereby confirm that (*Organisation Name*) has sufficient resources and is committed to participating in the project (*project title*)

.....

in accordance with the proposal submitted by (*Coordinator name*)



Annex IX Funder regulations

See separate document “Annex IX Funders regulations” in its current version. The document can be found in the CALL DOCUMENTS section of the submission platform.



Annex X Template for changes to consortium composition

A template is provided as a word document in the section CALL DOCUMENTS of the submission platform at the full proposal stage.

It is mandatory to use the provided word template to ensure that the minimum amount of information is provided to apply for changes to the consortium composition:

- Reason for the adaption, e.g. request from the invitation letter
- Contact data of the new Partner, PI or the Partner which needs to be deleted
- For new Partners: Budget figures on requested Funding
- If applicable, description of the tasks to be performed by the new Partner

As a reminder, the deadline to request a change of the consortium composition is the 17 June 2026.



**Annex XI List of beneficiaries and affiliated entities of AGROECOLOGY
(research performing organisations only)**

The table below lists all of the beneficiaries of the AGROECOLOGY partnership who might apply for funding under this Co-funded call. Please be aware that inclusion of any Partner/Associated Partner among these organisations in a consortium will not have any influence on the evaluation procedure or the scores awarded to proposals. All pre proposals and full proposals will be judged solely on their own merits. The organisations listed below have been strictly excluded from all activities related to the preparation and implementation of this call and have no prior information concerning the call or additional insights beyond what is outlined in the official, publicly available call documentation.

Country	Beneficiary
AT	Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit GmbH
AT	Höhere Bundeslehr- und Forschungsanstalt für Landwirtschaft, Landtechnik und Lebensmitteltechnologie
AT	Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau Österreich
BE	Eigen Vermogen van het Instituut voor Landbouw- en Visserijonderzoek
BE	University of Liege - Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech
BE	European Environmental Bureau
BE	FIBL Europe – Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau in Europa
CH	FiBL CH - Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau Schweiz
CH	Agroscope
DK	Aarhus Universitet
DK	Innovationscenter for økologisk Landbrug P/S
CZ	Tomáš-Baťa-Universität ve Zlín
FI	Natural Resources Institute Finland
FR	L'institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement
FR	L'Institut de recherche pour le développement
FR	Le Centre national de la recherche scientifique
FR	Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement
FR	Végépolys Valley
DE	Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH
DE	Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut, Bundesforschungsinstitut für Ländliche Räume, Wald und Fischerei
DE	Leibniz-Zentrum für Agrarlandschaftsforschung
DE	Forschungsinstitut für NutztierbiologieNutztierbiologieNutztierbiologieNutztierbiologie
DE	Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum gemeinnützige GmbH
GR	Benaki Phytopathological Institute
HU	Ökológiai Mezőgazdasági Kutatóintézet Közhasznú Non-profit Kft
IE	Teagasc - Agriculture and Food Development Authority
IT	Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria - CREA

Country	Beneficiary
IT	Freie Universität Bozen
NL	Wageningen Research
PT	Instituto Nacional de InvestigaçãO Agrária e Veterinária, I.P.
RS	Institut za ratarstvo i povrtarstvo, institut od nacionalnog značaja za Republiku Srbiju
SK	Národné poľnohospodárske a potravinárske centrum
ES	Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
ES	e-Science European infrastructure for biodiversity and ecosystem research
ES	Centro de Investigaciones Científicas y Tecnológicas de Extremadura
ES	Agencia de Gestión Agraria y Pesquera de Andalucía
ES	Instituto Andaluz de Investigación y Formación Agraria, Pesquera, Alimentaria y de la Producción Ecológica
SE	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements European Union Regional Group



Annex XII Template Confirmation of no conflict of interest (Col)

In the submission platform each IEP member will get access to the evaluation platform. Here the experts confirm for each proposal individually if a Col, as described below, exists or not. The consortium composition of each proposal will be made available to facilitate this. **Only where no Col exists, as described below, will the IEP member get full access to that specific proposal.**

I declare that I will be independent, impartial and objective in the evaluation of the assigned proposals.

Definition of the conflict of interest:

For a given proposal, a conflict of interest exists, if an evaluator:

- was involved in the preparation of any proposal submitted to the call, or
- benefits directly or indirectly if a proposal is accepted or rejected, or
- has close family ties (spouse, domestic or non-domestic partner, child, sibling, parent etc.) or other close personal relationship with a person involved in the preparation of any proposal submitted to the call, or with a person who would benefit if such a proposal is accepted or rejected or
- is a director, trustee or partner or is in any way involved in the management of an applicant organisation, or
- is employed or contracted by one of the applicant organisations

In the following circumstances, the Call Office will decide whether a Col may or may not exist, taking into account the objective circumstances, available information and related risks. When an evaluator:

- was employed by one of the applicant organisations in the last three years, or
- is involved in a contract or grant agreement, grant decision, membership of management structures (e.g., member of management or advisory board, etc.) or research collaboration with an applicant organisation (or had been so in the last three years) or
- is in any other situation that could cast doubt on their ability to participate in the evaluation of the proposal impartially (or that could reasonably appear to do so in the eyes of an external third party).

If any such Col exists or arises, I will inform the Call Office as soon as possible. The Call Office makes the final decision on the existence of a conflict of interest and on any disqualifications.

During the IEP meeting, even if I have not evaluated a specific proposal, in case of a possible Col with that proposal, I will leave the virtual room during the discussion of this proposal. I will follow the instructions given by the Call Office with the aim of reaching an impartial evaluation of the proposals.