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Call for Expression of Interest EIT Food Evaluators

June 2025

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
EIT Food Calls	3
This Call for Expression of Interest	3
Evaluator profiles	4
Eligibility to become an Evaluator	5
Application Procedure	5
Timeline and Deadlines	6
After Selection: Contracting & Payments	6
Conflict of Interest	7
Annex 1: Eligibility Exclusions	9
Annex 2: Data and Liability	10
Data	10
Record keeping	10
Ownership and use of the results — IPR	10
Data Protection	10
Liability	10
Annex 3: Application via MyEITFood portal	11

Introduction

EIT Food is the world's largest food innovation community, creating connections right across the food system. Supported by the European Union (EU), we invest in projects, organisations and individuals which share our goals for a healthy and sustainable food system.

We have built a unique not-for-profit business to carry out transformative programmes in skills, education, entrepreneurship, start-up investment and communications. We deliver these programmes in partnership with our members to create a culture and build a community which sees the long-term value in the food innovation we fund through open, competitive calls.

EIT Food has a strategic approach to systems change to create societal and economic impact. This is underpinned by a robust Theory of Change and a clear set of impact indicators and goals published in our [Strategic Agenda 2021-27](#).

EIT Food Calls

To select the highest quality activities and implementing participants, EIT Food runs several types of Calls throughout the year.

Our primary call for new activities is the **Impact Funding Framework**. This programme aims to promote ambitious, long-term collaboration that will lead to food systems change to benefit us all. Impact matters at EIT Food. This refers to the identifiable extra benefit that specific groups of people, businesses, organizations, or society as a whole will experience as a result of the work funded. That impact may be economic, environmental, societal, political, or health-related in nature. The [Impact Funding Framework](#) is looking for projects that deliver impact in one of the following Missions:

1. Healthier Lives Through Food
2. Net Zero Food System
3. Reducing risk for a fair, and resilient food system

EIT Food also funds projects that drive innovation, sustainability, and resilience in the agrifood system. These include initiatives focused on product and process innovation, education and skills development, startup support, and public engagement to promote healthier diets, reduce environmental impact, and improve food system transparency. You can find an overview of our currently open call for proposals on our [website](#).

Each proposal submitted via these calls is carefully evaluated by a team of experts.

This Call for Expression of Interest

EIT Food invites experts from the agri-food industry to join our database of independent evaluators for our various calls for proposals. **The deadline for applications is 23:59 CET on 22 June 2025.**

Prior to assignment to an evaluator team, evaluators will be contracted and given a description of the tasks, duration, remuneration rates, and reimbursement methods. Evaluators will be trained, issued a Code of Conduct, including confidentiality, and a Conflict of Interest for each assignment to be reviewed and signed.

EIT Food has a policy to attain a balanced and mixed-gender evaluation panel. In this context, EIT Food has set a target of 40% of the under-represented gender in all evaluation panels.

Selected experts will be part of a database of evaluators that will be invited to assist EIT Food in selecting the best and most innovative proposals. If selected, evaluators will be tasked with:

- Participating in online training sessions.
- Reviewing full proposal applications, with a specific focus on determining the financial, innovativeness and feasibility of the proposal.
- Qualitatively assessing proposals according to pre-defined evaluation criteria.
- Producing evaluation reports, proofreading and doing quality assurance.
- Preparing for and actively engaging in the Panel Meetings with the evaluation team and contribute to the panel report.
- Agreeing on which proposals get funding.

Evaluator profiles

With this open call, we would like to increase our database of evaluators in different fields and with different profiles. The areas below refer to the main areas where EIT Food issues calls for proposals.

1. Agri-food innovation

At least 10 years professional experience in the food sector and in one of the broad key domains of EIT Food. These include, but are not limited to:

- Agriculture/agricultural practices and technologies.
- Bioeconomy/resource stewardship/sustainability.
- Consumer testing/sensory science.
- Education/andragogy, in particular in entrepreneurship or food systems.
- Food-health nexus.
- Food production/manufacturing/processing.
- Food science/chemistry/technology.
- Food safety/quality.
- Food systems/food value chains.
- Food waste/side stream valuation.
- Nutrition/food-related health.
- Product development in the food sector.
- Agri-food biotechnology
- Digital literacy in information technology (IoT, robotics, AI, machine learning, predictive tools, etc applied to agri/food context)

2. Public Engagement and Education

At least 10 years of professional experience in roles related to public and /or youth engagement as well as education programmes, for example some or all of the following:

- Developing and/or implementing public engagement and/or youth outreach activities and/or strategies.
- Providing advice on engagement strategies.
- Science communication/public engagement.

- Citizen science.
- Measuring the impact of projects with a public engagement component.
- Evaluating project proposals with a public engagement component and/or early education component.
- Developing and running educational programmes for adults and children.
- STEM/STEAM.
- Marketing/consumer behavioural change/market research.

3. Commercialisation/business

At least 10 years of professional experience in roles with demonstrable responsibility for running commercial activities, for example some or all of the following (consulting experience will be considered, but we are looking for hands-on experience in managing and running businesses):

- Business planning, including budgeting, investment planning, objective and KPI setting etc.
- Financial management.
- Commercial activities including sales and marketing, business development, developing go to market strategies and commercialization plans.
- Strategy setting.
- Experience with criticality concept of technologies and innovation, TRL (technology readiness levels) and MRL (manufacturing readiness levels).
- Comfortable analysing detailed information such as market analysis and sales forecasts, to establish risks, issues and the viability of the opportunities presented.
- Coaching / mentoring experience desirable, in particular with start-ups. Have developed an open questioning style to enable you to draw out honest intelligence from organisations in a collaborative manner, whilst also able to identify weaknesses and risks.
- Participation in the evaluation of EU-funded programmes, Horizon Europe (preferred).

Eligibility to become an Evaluator

- To be eligible to apply for this Call you must meet one of the three above profiles and not be subject to EU administrative sanctions as listed in Annex 1.
- Fluency in English (written and spoken).
- Ability to work well with a team and an open questioning style to enable you to draw out honest intelligence from organisations during Panel meetings.
- Familiarity with EU-funded programmes such as Horizon Europe is a plus.

Application Procedure

Individuals with relevant experience are invited to apply by **22 June 2025, 23:59 CET**.

Steps in the application and selection a process:

1. Applicants should fill out the application form in the the [MyEITFood](#) Portal, completing all required fields, giving as much detail as possible, and uploading their CV (see Annex 3).
2. Applications are evaluated by EIT Food.
3. Applicants scoring above the quality threshold (3.0) are invited to do a mock evaluation and prepare a short report.

4. EIT Food assesses the applications and notifies the top applicants that they have been added to the Evaluator Database.
5. Independent experts will be selected based on the following criteria:

Technical Expertise, including proven track record in the expert areas	60%
Experience with EU-funded project evaluations	30%
Experience with the EIT Community	10%

For further instructions on the application portal, please see Annex 3.

Timeline and Deadlines

The application period for 2025 for this call is:

Dates	Selection Process
22 June 2025	<i>Application deadline</i>
23 - 27 June 2025	<i>Evaluation and assessment by EIT Food (phase I)</i>
30 June – 04 July 2025	<i>Mock evaluation exercise for selected candidates</i>
07 – 11 July 2025	<i>Evaluation and assessment by EIT Food (phase II)</i>
14 July 2025	<i>Notification of selection</i>

Please note the next Impact Funding Framework evaluation window is happening from mid-July 2025.

After Selection: Contracting & Payments

If you are accepted, you will be added to the list of evaluators, and you might receive requests for assignments.

If you accept an assignment, you will enter into a direct agreement with EIT Food. The evaluator must acknowledge the receipt of the request from the EIT Food without undue delay. If the evaluator does not accept the assignment within three days, EIT Food will choose a different evaluator. Provision of the service will be agreed on an ad hoc basis with the EIT Food and in all cases must be completed in accordance within three months from the day the beneficiary requested the service.

While there will be no compensation for being included in the database, when selected as an evaluator to review a specific Call for Proposals, **EIT Food will pay a fee of 56.25 EUR per hour of work** to all evaluators. **It is estimated that on average it takes around 7 hours to evaluate one proposal for the Impact Funding Framework.**

Evaluators can normally not be paid more than EUR 90 000 in total during a period of four consecutive calendar years.

Tasks will be remunerated only if accomplished in accordance with the provisions of the Contract, within the given deadlines, to the highest standards of quality and if they were approved by EIT Food.

Conflict of Interest

The task of the Evaluator is to be performed in a confidential, fair, and equitable manner, according to the rules of the evaluation process established by the EIT Food.

To ensure the independence of the work that they are called upon to perform in their capacity as 'independent evaluator's', prior to the signature of their contract, evaluators will be required to attest that they abide by the terms of the EIT Food Code of Conduct (including confidentiality aspects) in the electronic exchange system.

Evaluators shall be excluded from participation in this call if they have a conflict of interest in connection with the proposals or proposers; a conflict of interest could arise, in particular as a result of economic interests, political or national affinities, family or emotional ties or any other relevant connection or shared interest.

A disqualifying conflict of interest exists if Evaluator:

- Was involved in the preparation of the KIC added value activity.
- If he/she or his/her organisation could stand to benefit, or be disadvantaged, as a direct result of the evaluation carried out.
- Has a close family relationship with any person representing a participating organisation in the KIC added value activity.
- Is a director, trustee or partner of any beneficiary, participating in the KIC added value activity, or is a subcontractor/third party carrying out work for any beneficiary in the KIC added value activity concerned.
- Is employed by one of the beneficiaries, participating in the KIC added value activity or by a subcontractor/third party carrying out work for any beneficiary in the KIC added value activity concerned.
- Is in any other situation that compromises his/her ability to evaluate the KIC added value activity impartially.

A potential conflict of interest may exist, even in cases not covered by the clear disqualifying conflicts indicated above, if an Evaluator:

- Was employed by one of the participating organisations in an KIC added value activity within the previous three years – in this case the reviewer should indicate this potential conflict of interest. This does not disqualify him / her from the review process all together, special measure will be put in place to maintain impartiality.
- Is involved in a contract or research collaboration with a participating organisation or had been so in the previous three years.
- Is in any other situation that could cast doubt on his/her ability to evaluate the KIC added value activity impartially, or that could reasonably appear to do so in the eyes of an external third party.
- At the signature of the contract, evaluators shall be aware that based on the contract terms. If an evaluator selected for performing evaluation tasks has a conflict of interest or potential

conflict of interest with any proposed KIC Added value activity, they must declare such facts to EIT Food as soon as they become aware of this. In this case, they must immediately stop reviewing the proposal in question until instructed otherwise by EIT Food.

Detailed information on Conflict of Interest for Horizon Europe can be found in [Horizon Europe Code of Conduct](#)

Annex 1: Eligibility Exclusions

Persons who are subject to EU administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion or financial penalty decision) or in one of the following exclusion situations that bar them from receiving EU funds CANNOT work as experts:

- bankruptcy, winding up, court-ordered administration, arrangement with creditors, suspension of business activities or similar procedures
- in breach of social security or tax obligations
- guilty of grave professional misconduct
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95
- have created an entity under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin.

Experts will also be refused if it turns out that:

- during the contract award procedure, they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they are in a conflict of interest.

Annex 2: Data and Liability

Data

The personal data collected in the context of the present call will be processed by EIT Food for the purposes of performing, managing, and monitoring the contract, in accordance with EU regulations.

Record keeping

Records and other supporting documentation to prove compliance with the evaluator's obligations (original supporting documents) must be kept for at least three years after the final payment under a contract.

In case of on-going checks, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims, the records and other supporting documentation must be kept until the end of these procedures.

Ownership and use of the results — IPR

The results (e.g. evaluation reports, scores, notes) produced (including copyright and other intellectual or industrial property rights) will belong to EIT Food. The rights will be obtained for the full term of intellectual property protection, from the moment the results are delivered and approved. Delivery and approval are considered to constitute an effective assignment of rights. This transfer of rights is free of charge.

Data Protection

If processing your expression of interest involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as your name, address, and CV), such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies and agencies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, your reply to this call and any personal data requested are required for the purposes of this call and will be processed solely for those purposes by EIT Food.

The controller of your data is the EIT Food branch that initially collected your data and decided the purposes and means for using your data.

Right to Access: You have the right to confirmation as to whether or not we process your personal data and, in the event we do so, you have the right to access such personal data.

Right to Rectification: If your personal data is inaccurate or incomplete, you have the right to request that it be corrected or completed.

Right to Erasure (Right to Be Forgotten): In some circumstances, you have the right to the erasure of your personal data without undue delay. For further information please review the [EIT Food Privacy Policy](#).

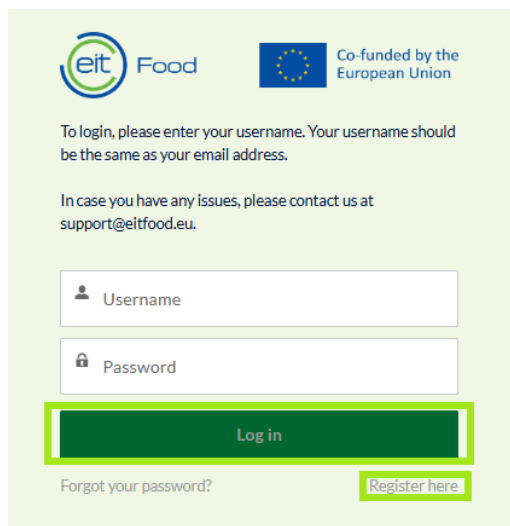
Liability

EIT Food cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the evaluator (or any third party) as a consequence of performing the assignment. Evaluators are liable only in cases of gross negligence or wilful misconduct.

Annex 3: Application via MyEITFood portal

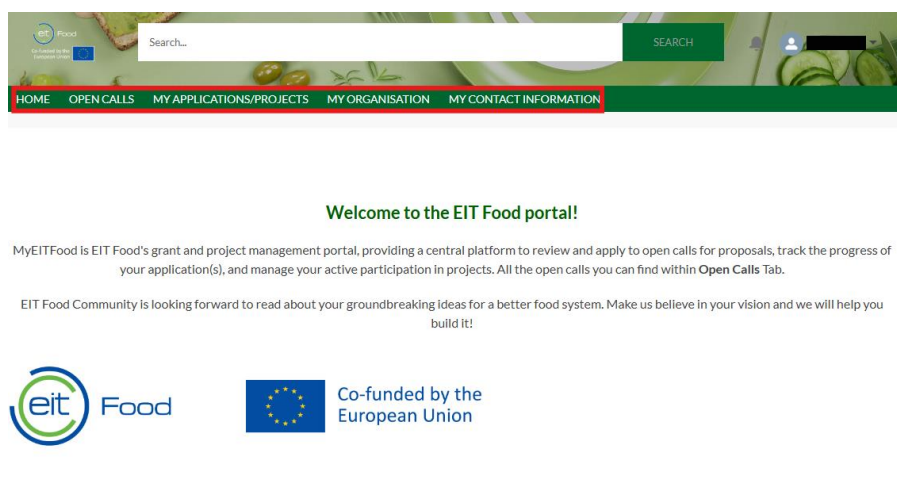
The applicants are requested to submit their application via our MyEITFood portal, [here](#).

If you have used the platform before, you can login using your already existing credentials. If you are new to the platform, click “Register here” and continue to fill the fields as requested. Once registered, you will receive an email confirmation. Click on the link in the email to set your password.



The image shows the login and registration interface of the MyEITFood portal. At the top, there are logos for 'eit Food' and the European Union, with the text 'Co-funded by the European Union'. Below the logos, a message states: 'To login, please enter your username. Your username should be the same as your email address.' and 'In case you have any issues, please contact us at support@eitfood.eu.' There are two input fields: 'Username' and 'Password'. Below these fields is a green 'Log in' button. At the bottom, there are links for 'Forgot your password?' and 'Register here'.

Once you login you will be directed to the EIT Food application portal where you can create and work on your application.



Please take note of the five tabs aligned on the dashboard.



To find the Call for Evaluators 2025 and begin your application process, click on “Open Calls” in the dashboard. Here you will see all open calls.

To select the correct call, click on “Call for Evaluators 2025” .

To proceed with your application, click the “Create application” button in the top right corner.

The screenshot shows the EIT Food portal interface. At the top, there is a search bar and a navigation menu with links: HOME, OPEN CALLS, MY APPLICATIONS/PROJECTS, MY ORGANISATION, and MY CONTACT INFORMATION. Below the navigation menu, the main content area displays the 'Call for Proposals' section for 'Call for Evaluators 2025'. A green box highlights the 'Create Application' button in the top right corner. Below this, there is a table with application details: Call Manager (Savvas Paschos), Date Opened (19/05/2025), and Application Due (19/05/2025 22:00). A red text prompt 'PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.' is followed by two bullet points: 'Review information below to learn more about this Call. Click on the **Create Application** button to apply to this Call.' and 'In case of questions, please navigate to the "Contact EIT Food" tab to contact EIT Food Help for support.'

To create your application, you will be asked to provide the name of your application which should have the format “Name Surname”. Following this you will reach the first steps of the application.

Create Application

The screenshot shows the 'Create Application' form. The first field is 'Proposal Title', which is marked with a red asterisk (*) and has a red border. Below the field, there is a red text prompt: 'Complete this field.'

You will also be required to add a Description in the Details tab of the application form. Please add: *Evaluator Application – Name + Surname.*

The screenshot shows the 'Details' tab of the application form. The tab is highlighted in green. Below the tab, there is a red text prompt: 'VERY IMPORTANT! READ INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.' followed by four bullet points: 'Follow the guidance provided through field help text (i icon) and the Call Guidelines.', 'Edit fields by click on the pencil (P) icon on the page below. Be aware that fields marked with a red asterisk (*) are required. After editing a field, click **Save** at the bottom of the page to save your updates.', 'Upload any supporting documents under the **Supporting Files** tab.', and 'Click **Submit Proposal** when you are ready to submit your proposal to EIT Food. Please confirm that your proposal adheres to the following minimum criteria before submitting: You have provided a description of the project (Details tab), You have answered all required questions (marked with * on Application Form tab), and In case of questions, please navigate to the "Contact EIT Food" tab to contact EIT Food Help for support.

The form is divided into two main sections: 'Information' and 'Description'. The 'Information' section contains fields for Name, Organisation, Call for Proposals (Call for Evaluators 2025), Proposal Primary Contact, Area (Other), Additional Area, Segment, Application Status (Submitted), Project Website, Proposal Due Date (19/05/2025 22:00), Days Left to Submit (3), Date Submitted (16/05/2025), Planned Start Date, and Planned End Date. The 'Description' section contains a field for Project Description (test).

To start including information for your application you need to navigate to the tab “APPLICATION FORM”. Please ensure that you respond to all questions with the most accurate, complete, and up-to-date information.

To add your CV, click on the “Supporting Files” tab and click on the Upload Files. To adjust the files, click on the drop-down box.

The screenshot shows the EIT Food application portal. At the top is a green navigation bar with links: HOME, OPEN CALLS, MY APPLICATIONS/PROJECTS, MY ORGANISATION, and MY CONTACT INFORMATION. Below this is a header section with a logo, a 'Proposal/Project' title, and buttons for 'Add Optional Indicators' and 'Submit Proposal'. A status bar shows 'Application Status: In Progress', 'Call for Proposals: Call for Evaluators 2025', 'Proposal Primary Contact: [redacted]', and 'Proposal Due Date: 22/06/2025 22:00'. The main section is titled 'Application' and has four tabs: DETAILS, APPLICATION FORM, SUPPORTING FILES (which is selected and highlighted with a green underline), and CONTACT EIT FOOD. Below the tabs is a 'Files (0)' section with an 'Upload Files' button. A table with columns 'Title', 'Owner', 'Last Modified', and 'Size' is visible but empty.

When you have completed all fields according to the call guidelines and uploaded the necessary files to support your application, you can submit using the “Submit Proposal” button.

This screenshot shows the same EIT Food application portal but with the 'APPLICATION FORM' tab selected and highlighted with a green underline. The 'Submit Proposal' button is also highlighted with a green border. Below the tabs, there is a red heading 'PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.' followed by three bullet points: 'Be aware that questions marked with a red asterisk (*) are required.', 'Your responses to the questions will automatically save.', and 'In case of questions, please navigate to the “Contact EIT Food” tab to contact EIT Food Help for support.'