

2021 Joint Call ERA-NET Cofund SusAn, FACCE ERA-GAS, ICT-AGRI-FOOD and SusCrop

“Circularity in mixed crops and livestock farming systems with emphasis on climate change mitigation and adaptation”



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Scope of the Call

Q: Could a project proposal have an ICT solution as main accent point (focus)?

A: It depends on the overall project. The scope of the call, as outlined in the Call Announcement, describes four main points that all proposals must follow. The Call Announcement also outlines the expected impact of the funded projects. Applicants should bear these in mind when formulating proposals. Evaluators will consider both of these aspects under the evaluation criterion “2. Relevance and potential impact”. If you feel that your proposal addresses all aspects of the Scope of the Call and will help to achieve the Expected Impact, you should explain this in the proposal and it will be evaluated by independent experts.

Q: Would a modelling component in the project satisfy the ICT requirement?

A: As outlined in the Call Announcement, proposals must “Contain an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) dimension, for example the use of sensors, communication technologies, data analytics, modelling, robotics, precision farming or decision support systems.” It can be seen that modelling is one of the possible ways to include an ICT dimension. Applicants should bear in mind that evaluators will consider relevance to the Scope of the Call under the evaluation criterion “2. Relevance and potential impact”.

Q: Projects that will analyze the impact of GHG emissions and other aerial pollutants exhaled from animal buildings on the phyto-characteristics of crops, in the same farm or neighboring farms, can be considered of interest for this call? Can they be characterized within the required circularity criteria, considering that the results could be a data collection of GHG impact and not, necessarily, a GHG mitigation action?

A: It is not possible to evaluate a proposal in advance or based on an online description. Specifically regarding GHGs, in terms of Scope of the Call, the requirement is to address the monitoring or mitigation of GHGs from agriculture or agroforestry. In terms of expected impact, the requirement is to contribute to GHG mitigation. The proposal would need to be able to convincingly describe how it will address the Scope of the Call and contribute to achieving the Expected Impact. This will be assessed by evaluators under the evaluation criterion “2. Relevance and potential impact”.

Q: Would you please elaborate a bit on this obligatory Point: Contain an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) dimension, for example the use of sensors, communication technologies, data analytics, modelling, robotics, precision farming or decision support systems. What exactly is meant by this?

A: It is not possible to reword the Scope of the Call within the FAQs.

Q: Are there other already funded EU projects that can be considered as inspiring proposal ideas for this call, or similar to what this call is expecting to be proposed?

A: No. All the information on what is required is in the Scope of the Call section of the Call Announcement.

2. Funding modalities and who can apply

Q: What is GRA?

A: GRA means Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (<https://globalresearchalliance.org/>). GRA participates to this call as funder, and partners from all countries listed in GRA regulation can seek funding from GRA, after contacting them.

Q: With respect to the partners under the GRA, is a contact list available?

A: Please refer to GRA's National Contact Point and National Regulations published in the Annexes F and G of the Call Announcement.

Q: How many proposals are expected to be funded?

A: It depends on the funds available from different countries and on the composition of consortia in terms of countries. It is not possible to answer in advance.

Q: Is it possible that only some partners are going to be selected to receive funding within one proposal?

A: No, failure of one applicant to meet any of the eligibility criteria, including the national/regional eligibility criteria will result in the rejection of the entire proposal. Each applicant is therefore strongly recommended to consult, well in advance of submission, the National/Regional Contact Point of the Funding Party to which the funding request is addressed to (Annex F of the Call Announcement).

Q: Can the project finance the creation of the equipment?

A: It depends on the costs eligible at national/regional level. Different rules may apply to different funding institutions. Please refer to each National/Regional Regulations (Annex G of the Call Announcement) in order to verify the eligibility of costs for each partner.

Q: Is there a difference between partners (e.g., RTOs, SMEs, large companies, etc.) in terms of the rate of funding?

A: Different rules may apply to different funding institutions. Please refer to each of the National/Regional Regulations (Annex G of the Call Announcement).

Q: Is the total budget the sum of the budgets of applicants participating in the proposal? Should we consider the threshold of funding set by different countries to calculate the total maximum amount that can be requested?

A: Yes for both. The total budget of the project is the sum of the individual partners' budget. There is a maximum limit of 500.000 € per country, but some countries may have set a limit which is less than 500.000 €. The total budget rules have to be respected at the level of each country. So, for example, having 10 partners does not automatically mean that you can have a total budget of 5.000.000 €.

Q: Concerning the coordinator, what if the person responsible is not the PI?

A: The call document does not include the term PI. Some of the individual National/Regional Regulations reference the term PI or Principal Investigator. If you have queries regarding these National/Regional annexes, they should be addressed to the relevant National Contact Point (Annex F of Call Announcement).

Q: In case of more research units from a single country, are they considered as a single partner of the project or as independent partners of the same project? Do we also need to have a national coordinator beside the project coordinator?

A: Each legal entity will be considered as an individual partner. The call does not have a limit on the number of partners/countries, but please note the overall limit of 10 partners. Individual countries may have a limit on the number of partners in a project from their country. Please check the National/Regional Regulations (Annex G of the Call Announcement) for this information. Unless specified in the National/Regional Regulations, there is no need to have national coordinators or leaders. There will be only one coordinator for each consortium.

3. Eligibility criteria

Q: Can the same organisation submit more than one application with different coordinators?

A: The general rule is that the same person cannot apply as coordinator of more than one proposal, but more restrictive requirements by national/regional funders may apply. Please refer to each National/Regional Regulations (Annex G of the Call Announcement).

Q: How many partners per country are allowed?

A: There is not a general limit in terms of number of partners per country, but you have to check the National/Regional Regulations. The limitation is on the budget: no more than 500.000 € per country are allowed, if lower limits are not explicitly written in the National/Regional Regulation.

4. Selection criteria

Q: Is there a list of evaluators, in order to decide if to refuse one of them?

A: The composition of the Expert Panel is strictly confidential. However, in the online application, applicants may name a maximum of two experts who should not review their proposal because of potential conflict of interest.

5. Online application

Q: Are CVs referred to institution CVs? Or individual?

A: Individual CVs. One CV should be uploaded for the main researcher of the Coordinator partner and the main researcher in each partner organisation.

Q: Only Implementation is 20 pages PDF? DOW: Excellence & Relevance/Impact has to be put in the tool, not in the PDF?

A: Scientific Excellence; Relevance & Impact; Implementation – Part A are inputted on the online submission tool. Implementation – Part B is uploaded as a PDF file (maximum length 20 pages)

Q: Do the partners have to create an account in the application platform?

A: Yes, each partner needs to create an individual account on the submission tool.

6. Partnering Platform

Q: What is the best way to find new Partners? Do you suggest any Partner Search tool?

A: The online submission tool features a partnering platform:

<https://www.suscrop.eu/partneringtool>