



SUSFOOD - An FP7 ERA-NET on Sustainable Food Production and Consumption

Announcement

1st Transnational Call for Proposals

The 1st joint call for transnational research projects of the SUSFOOD ERA-Net initiative opens on February 15th, 2013 with a total budget of approx. € 9.4 million.

This announcement will provide you with the relevant information on the topics, project eligibility and evaluation criteria, timeline, application procedure, and contact details.

1. BACKGROUND OF THE CALL

SUSFOOD is the acronym for “SUStainable FOOD production and consumption”.

The European transnational research cooperation project consists of a network of 25 partners from 16 European countries.

As an ERA-Net, SUSFOOD intends to increase collaboration and coordination between national research activities on sustainable food production and consumption.

The strategic goal of SUSFOOD is to reinforce the scientific cooperation between EU members and associated states in order to maximize the contribution of research to the development of more sustainable food systems from production to consumption.

The scope of SUSFOOD includes the entire food supply chain with main focus on food chain sustainability beyond the farm gate. The farm level will just be considered if it has direct impact on the sustainability of the other chain steps.

SUSFOOD promotes a multi-disciplinary approach from biology to food engineering and social sciences and tends towards the following socio-economic and environmental goals:



SUSFOOD COORDINATOR INRA

AN FP7 ERA-NET ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

Call Announcement - SUSFOOD - 1st Joint Call for proposal

- To develop sustainable food systems from production to consumption, to increase food production sustainability while reducing waste in food supply chain and limiting environmental impacts ;
- To improve the quality of life by improving food quality in a sustainable way and to ensure the resilience of the food supply chain;
- To encourage sustainable consumer behaviours and food choices;
- To improve competitiveness and economic growth in the European food industry with special attention to SMEs.

The ERA-Net SUSFOOD is launching a first transnational joint Call for project proposals based on funds from participating countries.

The call is divided into two sections:

1) Section “Research”:

Project consortia are expected to be formed by research organisations

2) Section “Research and Innovation”:

Project consortia are expected to be formed by research organisations and industry (enterprises)

Project consortia should apply to one of the **three thematic call topics** (for a detailed description see [2\) Call topics](#)):

- 1) Improving input, waste and side flow strategies to increase resource efficiency and provide added value in food products and food processing, manufacture, reducing input (energy, water etc.) in the food chain
- 2) Innovation in food processing technologies and food products to support a sustainable food chain
- 3) Understanding consumer behaviour to encourage a (more) sustainable food choice

Respecting these topics of the call, the projects may be furthermore considered in the context of the following **cross-cutting issues**:

- a) A whole food systems approach (system governance)
- b) Equity and ethics in food production and consumption and access for all consumers to a variety of food products
- c) Localisation of activities and internalizing external costs of food to optimize environmental, health and social impact and economic efficiency
- d) Role of knowledge exchange, translation of research into use; information management and sharing ; the need for harmonised EU databases, accessibility by SMEs to innovation and new solutions

2. CALL TOPICS

Research project consortia should apply to one of the three thematic call topics, which will be funded according to the table under paragraph [6\) Budget](#).

Each topic contains several sub-topics (listed under each of the thematic research areas) which may be considered.

TOPIC I

Improving input, waste and side flow strategies to increase resource efficiency and provide added value in food products and food processing, manufacture, reducing input (energy, water etc.) in the food chain

Rationale: The food supply chain is complex and at all stages resources are used, greenhouse gas emissions and waste are generated. Rising raw material and energy costs, regulation of greenhouse gases and waste management increases the impact on food production. In order to achieve more sustainable and resilient food production there is a strong need to address waste and other impacts of resource use in the whole production chain from raw material to consumption, by redesign of processes to eliminate wastage. Where waste is unavoidable, many such streams have potential value as sources of energy or feedstock as part of closed loops within food production, or for other processes. This requires the identification and redesign of processes at critical points in food processing/manufacture to optimise opportunities for exploitation of side/waste streams (by-products); and reducing energy and water use in production. Furthermore, there is a need to develop and align methods or metrics to support the integrated assessment and monitoring of sustainability in the food chain including understanding the impacts of food production and food manufacture, and the nutritional and socio-economic impact on society. Proposals should be targeted to establishing new solutions for the food industry to reduce/recover/re-use waste and optimise the use of side/waste streams, and reduce energy and water use.

The projects in this theme could include one or more of the following sub-topics:

- Identification of critical points in operation in the whole food chain (processes, systems) to optimise the reduction of inputs and to achieve a sustainable efficient food production.
- Identification where in the processing chain it is possible to add value to side/waste streams (e.g. recycling/re-use of materials and by-products) and to secure an optimal use of food materials and subsequently redesign the food processing chain to improve resource efficiency.
- Reusage of energy and process water and use of process validation to secure the right quality of process water in the whole production chain.
- Development of novel methodologies to monitor processing plant efficiency.

TOPIC II

Innovation in food processing technologies and food products to support a sustainable food chain

Rationale: The need to feed a growing global population, set against the context of changing diets (increased global demand for animal protein and for healthier food) resource/land-use constraints and climate change impacts/greenhouse gas reduction sets food security high on the agenda. There is a need to optimise the efficiency of the whole production chain processes and systems, supply chains e.g. optimising logistics and distribution chains to increase resource efficiency and reduce waste and emissions. Research proposals need to point out solutions to achieving sustainably produced food through more efficient food processing, packaging and distribution embracing the retail and catering sectors, and which are healthy, affordable and nutritionally balanced. This will require development of new technologies including functional directed isolation of food components from complex plant or animal (included fish) based matrices to ensure optimal use of raw materials.

The projects in this theme could include one or more of the following sub-topics:

- Development of engineering solutions and process/systems automation for increasing efficiency and flexibility in food processing, manufacture, and distribution.
- Improvement of the efficiency and management of refrigerated supply chains, logistics and distribution chains.
- Reformulation of food products in response to consumer demands through processes which lower environmental impact.
- Development of novel approaches to food formulation, preservation and food spoilage control.
- Improvement of the match between processing technologies and raw materials availability and quality to maximise exploitation and functionality and reduction of waste, to include extraction of specific components such as high quality proteins from crops.
- Development of novel packaging concepts, materials and designs which promote re-use or recycling, minimise the overall environmental impact of food and are consistent with functionality.
- Development of smart technologies for single process operations or full chain redesign.

TOPIC III

Understanding consumer behaviour to encourage a (more) sustainable food choice

Rationale: Sustainable production and consumption of food i.e. with reduced impact on environment and climate can only be achieved if all the food chain actors i.e. the food industry, government, customers and consumers (low-income population in particular) work together to encourage, produce and consume a healthy, nutritious, affordable and sustainable diet. There is a need to develop new nutritional recommendations that take dietary value as well as sustainability into account.

The projects in this theme could include one or more of the following sub-topics:

- Identification of major drivers/barriers for consumers food-related behaviours to make food choices sustainable.
- Understanding how to effectively encourage consumers to make healthy and sustainable food choices by informing the consumers (for example to provide both sustainability and nutritional value information).

3. OVERVIEW OF CALL PARTICIPATION

The 1st joint call for proposals of SUSFOOD is divided into two sections.

The described topics apply to both sections. The difference just concerns the participation of industry:

In the *Research Section* of the call (*) just academic partners may participate. Whereas in the *Research and Innovation Section* (**) of the call industry participation is mandatory. For further details and clarification see National Regulations.

Table 1: Call participation

Organisation	Country	Research Section *	Research & Innovation Section **
IWT	Belgium	0	x
DASTI	Denmark	x	x
EVPM	Estonia	x	0
MMM	Finland	x	0
Foundation	France + Spain	x	x
BMELV	Germany	x	x
MIPAAF	Italy	x	x
EZ	Netherlands	x	x
RCN	Norway	x	x
NCBiR	Poland	x	x
UEFISCDI	Romania	x	x
ELIKA	Spain	x	x
Info Murcia	Spain	0	x
INIA	Spain	x	0
FORMAS	Sweden	x	x
GDAR	Turkey	x	0
DEFRA	UK	x	x

Note: the French and Spanish teams may benefit from the funding of a potential partner, a foundation legally established as a state-approved family foundation.

4. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The application has to meet and consider the following eligibility criteria:

- The language of the call and applications is English;
- Project duration is up to three years;
- The project consortia has to consist of researchers from at least three countries funding the ERA-Net SUSFOOD call (see these countries in table 1);
- Researchers from countries who do not fund the SUSFOOD call are welcome to participate in project proposals as associated project partners on the condition that they are proven financially covered;
- Industry participation is possible via the “Research and Innovation”-section of the SUSFOOD call (see National Regulations);
- The eligibility of each organization has to be checked according to the national criteria published in the National Regulations;

Call Announcement - SUSFOOD - 1st Joint Call for proposal

- If one or more partners of the project consortium appear not to be eligible, the Call Group, which consists of all funding partners, will decide case-by-case whether to give the project consortium the possibility to solve the eligibility problem or to reject the pre-proposal.

5. TIMELINE

Event	Date
Open Call for pre-proposals	15/02/2013
Closing date for pre-proposals	03/05/2013 – 3 p.m. CET
Evaluation/Selection (internal review)	04/06/2013
Selection Meeting	12/06/2013
Invitation for submission of full proposals	15/07/2013
Closing date for full proposals	01/10/2013 – 3 p.m. CET
Evaluation/Selection (peer review)	08/12/2013
Selection Meeting	Mid December
Negotiation and start of the projects	February-June 2014

6. BUDGET

Country	Funding Partner	Contribution up to (in EURO)
Belgium	IWT	500.000 €
Denmark	DASTI	500.000 €
Estonia	EVPM	192.000 €
Finland	MMM	200.000 €
Germany	BMBF	2.000.000 €
Germany	BMELV	1.000.000 €
Italy	MIPAAF	200.000 €
Netherlands	EZ	200.000 €
Norway	RCN	810.000 €
Poland	NCBIR	800.000 €
Romania	UEFISCDI	500.000 €
Spain	ELIKA	20.000 € ¹
Spain	INFO Murcia	n.a
Spain	INIA	400.000 €
Sweden	FORMAS	1.740.000 €
Turkey	GDAR	n.a. ²
United Kingdom	DEFRA	360.000 €
TOTAL		9.422.000 €

Note: the French and Spanish teams may benefit from the funding of a potential partner, a foundation legally established as a state-approved family foundation (see national regulations).

¹ The contribution is per project; more than one can be financed

² Participation is limited to the governmental research institutions (see [further information](#))

7. FORMS AND GUIDELINES

The online submission platform and the guidelines will be available via the website <http://www.susfood-era.net/submission> from February 15th, 2013 onwards.

8. CONTACTS

Please do not hesitate to contact the SUSFOOD ERA-Net Call Secretariat or your National Contacts (see [ANNEX 1](#)) if you need support. We will be pleased to assist you and guide you through this process.

ANNEX 1

SUSFOOD ERA-Net Coordinator:

France; French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA)

Marie Russel

e-mail: Marie.Russel@paris.inra.fr

SUSFOOD ERA-Net Call Secretariat:

Germany; Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)

Annika Fuchs

Phone: +49 228-6845-3746

e-mail: annika.fuchs@ble.de

Questions concerning the **submission tool**:

Germany; Forschungszentrum Juelich GmbH (Juelich)

Veronika Deppe

Phone: +49 2461-61-9416

e-mail: v.deppe@fz-juelich.de

NATIONAL CONTACTS

Belgium; Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology (IWT)

Marianne Claessens

Phone: +32 2 432 42 09

e-mail: mcl@iwt.be

Belgium; Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (EV-ILVO)

Hendrik de Ruyck

Phone: +32 92723031

e-mail: hendrik.deruyck@ilvo.vlaanderen.be

Denmark; Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation (DASTI)

Susanne Hede

Phone: +45 72378392

Call Announcement - SUSFOOD - 1st Joint Call for proposal

e-mail: Sehe@fi.dk

Estonia; Ministry of Agriculture (EVPM)

Kylli Kaare

Phone: +372 624 6554

e-mail: kylli.kaare@agri.ee

Finland; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM)

Suvi Ryyänen

Phone: +358 295162126

e-mail: Suvi.ryynanen@mmm.fi

France; Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (INRA)

Marie Russel

e-mail: Marie.Russel@paris.inra.fr

Germany; Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)

Annika Fuchs

Phone: +49 228-6845-3746

e-mail: annika.fuchs@ble.de

Germany; Forschungszentrum Juelich GmbH (Juelich)

Veronika Deppe

Phone: +49 2461-61-9416

e-mail: v.deppe@fz-juelich.de

Italy; Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (MIPAAF)

Elena Capolino

Phone: +39 0552491258

e-mail: e.capolino@mpaaf.gov.it

Netherlands; Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ)

Erwin Maathuis

Phone: + 70 757 31 42

e-mail: e.j.r.maathuis@mineleni.nl

Norway; Research Council of Norway (RCN)

Turid Hiller

Phone: + 47 40634254

e-mail: thi@forskningsradet.no



Poland; The National Centre for Research and Development (NCBiR)

Michal Podniesinski

Phone: +48 22 39 07 276

e-mail: michal.podniesinski@ncbr.gov.pl

Romania; Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)

Luciana Bratu; Adrian Asanica

Phone: +40 21 307 19 35

e-mail: luciana.bratu@uefiscdi.ro & adrian.asanica@uefiscdi.ro

Sweden; The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (FORMAS)

Lena Strålsjö

Phone: +46 8 7754032

e-mail: lena.stralsjo@formas.se

Spain; Basque Foundation for Agro-Food Safety (ELIKA)

Antton Alza

Phone: +34 945 122176

e-mail: aalza@elika.net

Spain; National Institute of Agricultural Research, Technology and Food (INIA)

Anabel de la Peña,

Phone: +34 913 47 8776

e-mail: anaisabel.delapena@inia.es

Spain; Public Regional Development Agency from Murcia (INFO Murcia)

Maria Luisa Lopez

Phone: +34 968 36 28 00

e-mail: Marialuisa.lopez@info.carm.es

Turkey; Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (GDAR)

Ahmet Budaklier

Phone: +90 312 3157623

e-mail: abudaklier@tagem.gov.tr

United Kingdom; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Lucy Foster

Phone: +44 20 72 38 59 32

e-mail: Lucy.foster@defra.gsi.gov.uk