



SmartAgriHubs Open Call Definition

RESTART the European Agri-Food Economy after the COVID-19 Crisis

Author	SmartAgriHubs WP2
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Topic	Open call for hackathon type of activities that will contribute to the RESTART of the European Agri-Food Economy with short and medium-term impact to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 crisis.

This open call is realised in the scope of the SmartAgriHubs project that received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 818 182 (see also www.smartagrihubs.eu). This document compiles the key information about the open call "RESTART".

More information about the overall SmartAgriHubs open call programme, including definitions as well as eligibility and evaluation criteria is provided in the document "SmartAgriHubs-OpenCall-Programme".

Call Topic:

Open call for hackathon type of activities that will contribute to a RESTART of the European Agri-Food Economy after the COVID-19 Crisis. Proposals shall realise potential opportunities that are addressing the effects of the CORONA COVID-19 pandemic from the perspective of what digital innovation can contribute to mitigate consequences in the agri-food domain. Such activities¹ can be specifically:

- Online & offline Hackathons
- Focused Challenges
- Datathons

Proposals can have a direct as well as indirect impact on the effects of the CORONA COVID-19 pandemic.

Expected Results:

The main objective is to generate ideas for potential Innovation Experiments that are contributing to a RESTART of the European agri-food economy in the scope of the CORONA COVID-19 crisis. Results of hackathon type of activities can be presented as conceptual implementations or also Minimum Viable Products² that can serve as implementation baseline for a follow-up by the involved teams or by other third parties.

The activities shall facilitate networking of organisations and individuals, aim at the mobilisation of talent. All results will be presented in detail via the SmartAgriHubs Innovation Portal. The owners of the developed intellectual property need to provide a description for publication via the SmartAgriHubs communication channels, specifically explaining the following:

- Realised solution
- Approach for validation
- Involved parties, infrastructure and places
- Value propositions
- ICT challenges/ opportunities addressed
- Software and hardware components developed and/or used

The proposal needs to explain a strategy for the exploitation and ownership of the results (for instance explaining potential open source strategies or in-kind contributions by third parties).

¹ The SmartAgriHubs open call programme provides further information about the definition of those activities.

² A Minimum Viable Product is the implementation of a product that can be used by the addressed end-user in a real operational environment and must not represent a test, demo or prototype implementation. It needs not to address all end-user requirements, but enough features to satisfy key customer requirements, enabling creation of end-user feedback for future product development and related innovation experiments.

Potential Proposers: Activities shall be proposed by one or several Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH)³ in accordance to their definition in the SmartAgriHubs open call programme document.

Organisations can only receive funding in maximum of two different projects (i.e. sub-grants) funded by SmartAgriHubs in the scope of the open calls.

DIHs and CCs participating in a proposed project, must register in the SmartAgriHubs portal before submitting a proposal (<https://www.smartagrihubs.eu/portal/network>), and DIHs need to perform a DIH innovation services maturity self-assessment⁴, providing the self-assessment results as part of the proposal.

Available Funding: SmartAgriHubs considers that proposals for hackathon type of activities requesting a contribution from SmartAgriHubs of 10,000 to 60,000 Euro would allow to support the realisation of single or a series of activities appropriately. The contribution of SmartAgriHubs would represent a max. of 20% of the total budget required for realising the proposed work.

Currently, SmartAgriHubs considers a total amount of max. EUR 500,000 Euro funding for the overall open call as appropriate to realise hackathon type of activities in the scope of the RESTART open call.

Proposals shall allocate min. 75% of the overall budget to the support of small, medium, and micro enterprises and need to explicitly present the overall amount of budget to be assigned to SMEs & startups in their proposal.

Eligible Costs: Reimbursement of eligible costs of selected proposers to prepare, organise and realise the activities (i.e. specifically personnel costs, travel, and other goods and services). The requested funding representing the 20% should be used for personnel costs and consumables to prepare, organise and realise the hackathon type of activities. The additional 80% (i.e. not reimbursed by SmartAgriHubs) represents other budget used e.g. for

- Covering efforts of participating stakeholders (e.g. based on lump sums or also based on funnelling procedures to provide more support to those with more promising results),
- Payment of travel and accommodation for participants or
- Financing consumables required for the implementation of the activities. This could be e.g. data centre usage, rental fees for temporary equipment/infrastructure, devices that can only be used once, but necessary for experimentation (like certain devices for experiments, RFID tags, rumen bolus, specific seeds, fertilizer or pesticides).

Financial support in the form of prizes is not funded by SmartAgriHubs but appreciated to be covered by own sources or third-party funding.

Funding Rates: Eligible costs can be funded up to a maximum of:

- 100% for non-profit organisations (e.g. research),
- 70% for project partners that are profit legal entities.

³ DIHs and Competence Centres (CCs) participating in a proposed project, must register in the SmartAgriHubs portal before submitting a proposal (<https://www.smartagrihubs.eu/portal/network>). DIH(s) and CC(s) submitting a proposal to SmartAgriHubs need to explain their qualification and the offered service portfolio. It is not required to undergo a specific external certification procedure at proposal stage

⁴ Using the SmartAgriHubs Innovation Services Maturity Model self-assessment, available in the SmartAgriHubs portal via the "Your organisations" page (<https://www.smartagrihubs.eu/portal/settings/organisations>). Just press the last growth symbol for the maturity self-assessment displayed besides your organisation name.

Reimbursement:	SmartAgriHubs will reimburse the realisation of hackathon type of activities that need to be defined in terms of expected deliverables (e.g. finalised events), milestones (i.e. timing of activities) and KPI (e.g. number of delivered solutions, supported teams, attracted additional investors) on a lump sum basis.
Evaluation Criteria:	<p>Proposals will be evaluated with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance to RESTART the European Agri-Food Economy after the COVID-19 pandemic • Excellence of the strategic approach to achieve impact in the region • Number of solution providers and end-users to be attracted • Reusability of results by stakeholders • Support offered by the proposing DIH and other stakeholders • Excellence of the team • Quality of project plan and budget
Examples for Key Topics facilitating a RESTART:	<p>Proposals could realise hackathons, challenges and datathons that have a direct as well as an indirect impact to mitigate effects of the CORONA COVID-19 or similar (future) pandemics. By such initiatives, the RESTART of the agri-food economy after the COVID-19 crisis shall be facilitated. The underlying idea is to support the European agri-food economy to better cope with the requirements of the “new normal” and maintain its global competitive position. Examples for topics that would match this underlying strategy are presented in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping specific sub-sectors and regional economies to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic impact, by new digital innovation potentials. • Stimulating private investments in the agri-food sector and promoting opportunities across the European investment community. • Proposals in line with the Farm to Fork Strategy that is at the heart of the European Green Deal, aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally friendly. • Enabling a significant contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals by initiatives in the agri-food economy. • Introducing principles of circular economy in the agri-food sector. • Generally disburdening agri-food stakeholders (e.g. farmers) from non-added value tasks, by e.g. automating monitoring and/or control of farming activities. • Increasing the resilience of the agri-food chain. • Increasing the availability and the shelf-life of agri-food related products. • Tracking & tracing of food and related products/items from farm to fork, facilitating regional sourcing. • Helping consumers to make informed decisions about the selection of their food. • Facilitating access to data and services for an easier digital innovation in the agri-food sectors
Opening:	Wednesday, July 08 th , 2020
Closure:	Wednesday, July 28 th , 2021, 17:00 CEST; or at an earlier date, in case the budget that is reserved for open calls in SmartAgriHubs (i.e. for this and other SAH open calls) is completely allocated. If other open calls, with similar or deviating conditions, will be published by SmartAgriHubs, potential proposers can find related information on the SmartAgriHubs website.

Selection of Proposals:

Proposals can be submitted for evaluation until closure of the open call and will be evaluated in batches at regular points in time. Dates and time for the evaluation of batches of submitted proposals will be communicated via the SmartAgriHubs website.

Implementation:

The work shall be implemented until December 2021 or before, for being able to take effect. Other implementation schedules might be considered for funding but would require a detailed explanation and need to add value.

Evaluation Procedure

The evaluation in the SmartAgriHubs RESTART open call will be organised as single stage evaluation with the involvement of three experts evaluating the submitted proposal. The content of each proposal will be evaluated against the following criteria.

Impact of Proposed Activity	50%
Relevance of the digital innovation related topics for the stakeholders and citizens, in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic	30%
Involvement of solution providers, end-users and reuse of results by stakeholders	20%
Activity Realisation	50%
Support offered by the proposing DIH and other stakeholders	15%
Excellence of the team	25%
Quality of project plan and budget	10%

Each proposal will be evaluated against the abovementioned criteria by three different evaluators. All proposers will receive the numerical score⁵ of their evaluation, and a short narrative explanation of the decision. Decisions of the committee will be delivered "as-is" and are not subject to further discussions.

Selected applicants will be requested to present a detailed plan with respect to deliverables, milestones and associated costs. If needed both parties will enter negotiations to agree upon mutually acceptable plan. In case the negotiations are not concluded in a short period of time (e.g. 2 weeks) the proposal will be not considered eligible.

⁵ The evaluation will use the evaluation criteria presented above and 6 scores from 0 to 5 as detailed in chapter 3 of the SmartAgriHubs Open Call programme document. In order to be considered for funding, all scores (on a scale from 0 to 5) must be above a threshold of 2 for each criterion, and the total score must be above an overall threshold of 4.

Reimbursement and Annex to the Sub-Grant Agreement:

Every proposal needs to detail the individual budget plan. Generally SmartAgriHubs will ask the consortia during the contracting phase and before Sub-Grant Agreement signature, to detail the allocation of resources, timetable, milestones and deliverables based upon a pre-defined templates that will be an Annex to the Sub-Grant Agreement. Key elements of the requested information that will be part of Annex to the Sub-Grant Agreement can be found below. At least the information in these tables shall be provided together with the proposal. Proposers need to decide, if additional details are required for being able to evaluate the proposal accordingly.

Budget Category	Amount
1. Personnel costs	
2. Other direct costs (<i>travel, equipment, software, services, etc.</i>)	
3. Total direct costs (<i>Sum of row 1 and 2</i>)	
4. Indirect costs (<i>25% of Total direct costs</i>)	
5. Total costs (<i>Sum of row 3 and 4</i>)	
6. Funding requested (max. 20% of the total budget required for the overall implementation of activities)	
7. Additional budget (i.e. not reimbursed by SmartAgriHubs, like prizes for hackathons, third parties' effort, infrastructure sponsored for hackathon realisation, etc.)	

No ⁶	Deliverable Name/Description ⁷	Type ⁸	Estimated Costs in Euro	Delivery Date ⁹
1				M##
2				

No ¹⁰	Milestones	Means of verification ¹¹	Delivery Date
1			M##
2	...		

⁶ Deliverable numbers in order of delivery dates.

⁷ Give a meaningful name, followed by a concise description.

⁸ Use one of the following codes:

R: Document, report (excluding the periodic and final reports)

DEM: Demonstrator, pilot, prototype, plan designs

DEC: Websites, patents filing, press & media actions, videos, etc.

OTHER: Software, technical diagram, etc.

⁹ Measured in months from the project start date.

¹⁰ Milestone numbers in order of delivery dates.

¹¹ Show how you will confirm that the milestone has been attained. Refer to indicators if appropriate.

Depending on the nature of results and envisaged milestones, SmartAgriHubs considers providing an advance payment of 20% from the requested eligible max. funding. The remaining 80% would be reimbursed upon delivery of deliverables and accomplishment of milestones as contractually agreed.

With the submission of the proposal, proposers are accepting that future sub-grant agreements will annex the SmartAgriHubs General Conditions as part of the contract. Further information about the General Conditions as well as about the Sub-grant Agreement and related annexes is presented in the Open Call Programme Document.

Proposal Template for the SAH RESTART Open Call

To submit a proposal for Hackathon type of Activities, you need to prepare a description in English language that shall be submitted via the proposal management system. The link is published via the open call announcement on the [SmartAgriHubs Website](#). You can ask open call related questions by using the SmartAgriHubs forum. A dedicated open call category is used for this purpose (<https://forum.smartagrihubs.eu/>). Any individual communication via email shall use the following subject:

- "SmartAgriHubs Proposal Submission – RESTART Open Call – [Proposal Acronym]"

Format

Please prepare your proposal text as a pdf file, including the following:

- Title Page
- Proposal text no longer than 5 pages
- One page, listing the budget, deliverables, and milestones, using the tables above
- Optional one extra page with a figure, presenting your proposal graphically with timing, main activities and expected results
- Related pages, presenting the results of the DIH innovation services maturity self-assessment.
- One page per proposer with the declaration for proposal submission signed by every proposer requesting funding from SmartAgriHubs and the SME Self-Declaration (only for SME type of organisations requesting funding).

The proposal shall not exceed 8 pages in total plus the DIH innovation services maturity assessment results and the signed declarations. The pdf file must not be larger than 10 MB.

Title Page

Please include the following information in the title page:

- Title of the call topic:
"SmartAgriHubs Hackathons and Challenges – RESTART Open Call"
- Title and Acronym of your proposal
- Name and webpage of your organisation
- Name, email, telephone number, and address of the contact person
- Date of preparation and version number

Content of Your Proposal Text

The body of your proposal shall include the following parts:

- Short description/abstract of your idea, clearly outlining the key elements. It shall not exceed 150-200 words.
- Relevance of the digital innovation related topics to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the agri-food economy
- Strategic approach to achieve impact in the regions and to involve relevant stakeholders (e.g. solution-providers, end-users)
- Reuse of results by stakeholders
- Support offered by the proposing DIH and other stakeholders

- Timing of activities, milestones and related deliverables
- Budget planning
- Short description of partner organisation(s) with website link
- Short description of the team, including CVs of key team members

It is up to you to decide on the most appropriate format for presenting your proposal: plain text, tables and/or graphical presentation. We recommend to add an optional one page with a figure, presenting your proposal graphically with timing, main activities and expected results as well as an optional page for listing details with respect to the budget, deliverables & milestones.

Declarations to Sign

Declaration for Proposal Submission

My organisation [*legal name*] declares the following:

- My Organisation will NOT accept any funding or financing aid of more than two sub-grants from SmartAgriHubs in the scope of the SAH open calls.
- My Organisation will NOT request more than EUR 100,000 in total in one or more proposals selected by SmartAgriHubs.
- In case my Organisation is accepted for funding by SmartAgriHubs, we will provide the legal entity form¹² to SmartAgriHubs.

Place & Date

Full name in block letters and signature of legal representative

SME Self-Declaration

My organisation [*legal name*] is an SME meaning “micro, small and medium sized enterprise” within the meaning of Recommendation 2003/361/EC in the version of 6 May 2003¹³, declaring the following¹⁴:

- employs fewer than 250 persons
- has an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or
- an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million
- is autonomous and
- is an SME with the meaning of Recommendation 2003/361/EC, also taking into account partner or linked enterprises

Place & Date

Full name in block letters and signature of legal representative

¹² http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legEnt_privComp_en.pdf

¹³ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/sme_definition/index_en.htm

¹⁴ Please tick every box that applies.