



## SmartAgriHubs Open Call Definition

# RESPOND to the COVID-19 Crisis

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<b>Version</b>	Final
<b>Topic</b>	Open call for hackathon type of activities that will RESPOND to the effects of the COPVID-19 crisis in the agri-food sector.

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](http://www.smartagrihubs.eu)). This document compiles the key information about the open call "RESPOND to the COVID-19 Crisis".

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

**Call Topic:** Open call for hackathon type of activities that will RESPOND to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis and use potential opportunities to fight against the CORONA COVID-19 pandemic from the perspective of what digital innovation can contribute to mitigate consequences in the agri-food domain. Such activities<sup>1</sup> can be specifically:

- On-line Hackathons
- Focused Challenges
- Datathons

**Expected Results:** The main objective is to generate ideas for potential Innovation Experiments that are responding to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis. Results can be presented as conceptual implementations or also Minimum Viable Products<sup>2</sup> 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 SAH 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 problems 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).

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

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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

<b>Available Funding:</b>	<p>SmartAgriHubs considers that proposals requesting a contribution from 10,000 to 30,000 Euro would allow to support the realisation of activities appropriately.</p> <p>Currently, SmartAgriHubs considers a total amount of max. EUR 300,000 to 500,000 Euro funding for the overall open call as appropriate to realise initial hackathon type activities to RESPOND to the CORONA COVID-19 crisis.</p>
<b>Eligible Costs:</b>	<p>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).</p> <p>Financial support in the form of prizes is not funded by SmartAgriHubs but appreciated to be covered by own sources or third-party funding.</p>
<b>Funding Rates:</b>	<p>Eligible costs can be funded up to a maximum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% for non-profit organisations (e.g. research),</li> <li>• 70% of the project partners that are profit legal entities.</li> </ul>
<b>Reimbursement:</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Evaluation Criteria:</b>	<p>Proposals will be evaluated with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevance to RESPOND to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the agri-food economy</li> <li>• Excellence of the strategic approach to achieve impact in the region</li> <li>• Number of solution providers and end-users to be attracted.</li> <li>• Reusability of results by stakeholders</li> <li>• Support offered by the proposing DIH and other stakeholders</li> <li>• Excellence of the team</li> <li>• Quality of project plan and budget</li> </ul>
<b>Examples for Key Topics that may require RESPONSE:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilising agricultural workforce for harvesting</li> <li>• Educating individuals from other sectors for being able to support agri-food businesses in the crisis</li> <li>• Regional matching of offer and demand for fresh produce in decentralised settings</li> <li>• Making surplus food available, especially to the poor and people in need</li> <li>• Donating food</li> <li>• Managing food transport along national and international supply chains to avoid food waste</li> <li>• Re-routing of transports to avoid food waste</li> <li>• Identifying anormal situations in food supply/ transport as baseline to enable early reactions</li> <li>• Forecasting of regional food supplies, deviations and/or shortages</li> <li>• Strategies to apply personal distancing along the supply chain from farm to fork</li> <li>• Ensuring fresh food safety along the supply chain</li> <li>• Optimising food storage</li> <li>• Optimising shelf-life of food</li> <li>• Facilitate access to data and services for an easier digital innovation in the agri-food sectors</li> </ul>

<b>Opening:</b>	Tuesday, May 12 <sup>th</sup> 2020
<b>Closure:</b>	Wednesday, June 03 <sup>rd</sup> 2020, 17:00 CEST
<b>Selection of Proposals:</b>	It is planned to select proposals for funding until early July as well as prepare a related contract.
<b>Implementation:</b>	The work shall be implemented until early December 2020 or before, for being able to take effect. Other implementation schedules might be considered for funding but would require a detailed explanation and would need to add value also to an early response effect. Effects that could only be initiated from 2021 should aim at participation in later open calls that are currently planned by SmartAgriHubs.

## Evaluation Procedure

The evaluation in the SmartAgriHubs RESPOND to the COVID-19 Crisis 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.

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

All proposers will receive the numerical score 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 and SAH will invite the first applicant from the reserve list for negotiations.

## Reimbursement and Annex to the Sub-Grant Agreement:

During the contracting phase and before Sub-Grant Agreement signature, the Consortia will be asked to provide allocation of resources, timetable, milestones and deliverables based upon a pre-defined template 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:

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. 100%, or 70% of total eligible costs – depending on the type of organisations)	

No <sup>4</sup>	Deliverable Name/Description <sup>5</sup>	Type <sup>6</sup>	Estimated Costs in Euro	Delivery Date <sup>7</sup>
1				M01
2				

No <sup>8</sup>	Milestones	Means of verification <sup>9</sup>	Delivery Date
1			M01
2	...		

<sup>4</sup> Deliverable numbers in order of delivery dates.

<sup>5</sup> Give a meaningful name, followed by a concise description.

<sup>6</sup> 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.*

<sup>7</sup> Measured in months from the project start date.

<sup>8</sup> Milestone numbers in order of delivery dates.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

# Proposal Template for Hackathon type of Activities

To submit a proposal for Hackathon type of Activities, you need to prepare a short description in English language that shall be sent by email as a pdf file.

Please use the following subject:

- "SmartAgriHubs Proposal Submission – RESPOND to the COVID-19 Crisis – [Acronym of your proposal]" and
- Submit your complete proposal before June, 03<sup>rd</sup> 2020, 17:00 CEST

## Format

Please prepare your proposal text as a pdf file, no longer than 4 pages plus a title page, an optional one page with a figure, presenting your proposal graphically with timing, main activities and expected results.

Therefore, the proposal shall not exceed 7 pages in total. The pdf file must not be larger than 2 MB.

## Title Page

Please include the following information in the title page:

- Title of the call topic:  
"SmartAgriHubs Hackathons and Challenges - RESPOND to the COVID-19 Crisis"
- 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

The body of your proposal shall include the following parts and must not exceed 4 pages (plus one optional extra page for a figure):

- Short description/abstract of your idea, clearly outlining the key elements. It shall not exceed some 150-200 words.
- Relevance to RESPOND to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the agri-food economy
- Strategic approach to achieve impact in the regions and stakeholders to be attracted
- 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 CVs of key individuals

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.