ICT-AGRI Call 2017 for transnational projects

Farm Management Systems for Precision Farming

Information for Funders   7 November 2016

1 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to define how funding agencies can participate in the ICT-AGRI Call 2017. The call is described in the document *ICT-AGRI Call 2017 for transnational projects, Farm Management Systems for Precision Farming, Information for Applicants*.

ICT-AGRI wants opportunities for as many proposals as possible. The call is therefore open for any funding agency outside the ICT-AGRI consortium, including non-EU countries, with flexible conditions for participation.

Section 2 describes the call procedures regarding the call mode, development and submission of proposals, evaluation of proposals, decisions for funding, contracts with project partners and follow-up on funded projects.

Section 3 describes three different ways for funding agencies to participate in the call and section 4 gives details on the registration for participation.

2 Call procedures

2.1 Call mode
The call follows a one-step procedure with the deadline for submission of proposals as defined in the time schedule. Each project partners are funded by a funding agency determined by the national or regional location of the partner. There is no funding from the European Union. Any partner may participate by own funding (upon proof of the availability of funding). At least three countries or regions must be represented in an eligible proposal consortium, except proposals predominantly on topic 3 (see *Information for Applicants*).

2.2 Preparation and submission of proposals
Proposals are prepared and submitted by dedicated tools in the ICT-AGRI website, which also provides tools for searching for potential partners. A *Guideline for applicants* is provided on the website as is any further information concerning the call. Funding agency conditions are available on the website

2.3 Screening for validity
The validity of proposals is screened by the call office. Validity concerns completeness of proposals and on-time submission of proposals.

2.4 Screening for eligibility
The eligibility of consortium partners (i.e. adherence to funding agency conditions) is determined by the funding agencies involved in individual proposals. The screening is completed online on the ICT-AGRI website.

2.5 Peer review by international experts

Proposals are peer reviewed by international experts. After an online review of each proposal by 3 to 4 experts, the review panel will meet and develop a common commented ranking of proposals. All reviews are accessible on the ICT-AGRI website for the funding agencies. Proposers have access to the reviews of their proposals. Proposals are ranked on the following equally weighting criteria:

Excellence *The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the topic description:*	Impact *The following aspects will be taken into account:*	Quality and efficiency of the implementation *The following aspects will be taken into account*:*
Clarity and pertinence of the objectives; Soundness of the concept, and credibility of the proposed methodology; Extent that the proposed work is beyond the state of the art, and demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models) Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches and, where relevant, use of stakeholder knowledge.	The extent to which the outputs of the project would contribute to the ICT-AGRI objective of developing an eco-efficient, resource-efficient and competitive agriculture through an enhanced and improved use of ICT and robotics. Any substantial impacts not mentioned in the work programme, that would enhance innovation capacity, create new market opportunities, strengthen competitiveness and growth of companies, address issues related to climate change or the environment, or bring other important benefits for society; Quality of the proposed measures to: • Exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), and to manage research data where relevant. • Communicate the project activities to different target audiences	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which the resources assigned to work packages are in line with their objectives and deliverables; Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management; Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as whole brings together the necessary expertise; Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role.

2.6 Selection of proposals for funding

The final selection of projects for funding is completed at a meeting of the funding agencies. **The final funding decisions are at the sole and exclusive discretion** of the funding agencies. Funding agencies may approve projects but award budgets which are lower than those requested. Funding agencies may also suggest reorganisation of project consortia and amalgamation of proposals.

2.7 Negotiation of contracts

The partners in the selected projects must negotiate contracts with the relevant funding agencies. When all contracts are in place, the projects can start.

2.8 Follow-up and monitoring of projects

The current ICT-AGRI-2 ERA-NET project ends at 31st December 2017. A continuation project is planned and may, if granted, continue the follow-up and monitoring of the projects. If necessary, ICT-AGRI will propose an alternative scheme for follow-up and monitoring of projects for agreement among the funding agencies. All funding agencies are expected to monitor funded partners per usual practise.

3 Modes of funding agency participation

3.1 Participation with a funding commitment

This is the usual mode for funding agencies participating in an ERA-NET call. Each funding agency has committed to allocate a specified amount of funding to the call and to allow this funding to be used per the evaluation and decision procedures described above.

The funding agencies are entitled to accompany the commitment with conditions for eligibility and funding.

The funding agencies participating with a funding commitment constitute the FUNDERS GROUP taking the final decisions on funding of projects.

3.2 Participation with a Letter of Support

The funding agencies in this group offer to fund partners in proposals to the call, but reserve the right to decide by themselves which proposals to support. The decision to support a proposal must be indicated by a letter of support/financial commitment which the applicants will include in their proposal. The absence of such a letter of support will make the proposal ineligible.

A decision to support a proposal does not imply any obligations for the Funders Group regarding the selection of proposals for funding. It is advised that the funding agencies in this group provide feedback to applicants before the close of submission and thereby allow the proposal consortium to revise the proposal.

The funding agencies are obliged to provide their conditions for eligibility and funding to ICT-AGRI.

The funding agencies in this group can only participate as observers in the FUNDERS GROUP decision meeting.

3.3 Partnership with already funded projects

Funding agencies can create additional value to already funded projects in a national or regional programme by allowing these to join with similar ICT-AGRI proposals. The coordinator of the funded program will then also be a partner in the ICT-AGRI proposal with a budget for the collaborative work.

The funding agency conditions for this mode of participation must state the conditions for the partnership, including details about the budget.

This mode of participation in the ICT-AGRI Call 2017 can be combined with participation modes described in 3.1 and 3.2.

The funding agencies solely in this group can only participate as observers in the FUNDERS GROUP decision meeting.

3.4 Participation through a proposal partner's own funding

Proposal partners can participate with own funding, which may be provided by an external funding agency. The only requirement from ICT-AGRI is a statement on the availability of funding. This statement must be attached to the proposal by the partner.

Funding agencies solely in this group do not need to register their participation.

4 Funding agency conditions

The participating funding agencies are entitled to apply specific conditions for funding of proposal partners. These conditions may concern

- Types of eligible organisations for funded partners
- Types of eligible work by funded partners (this may be defined by reference to the application elements in *Information for Applicants*)
- Types of agricultural domain for work by funded partners
- Budget conditions regarding funding rates and eligible costs (will be incorporated into the proposal creation and submission tools)
- Supplementary information
- Earlier deadline for submission of proposals (for alignment with a national/regional call)

The funding agency conditions must be submitted to ICT-AGRI before the funding agency can enter the call. ICT-AGRI will publish the conditions in the proposal creation and submission tools.

5 Registration for participation

Funding agencies register to the call by submitting a signed Memorandum of Understanding (scanned pdf) together with the conditions (pdf) to the Call Office. The Memorandum of Understanding is available in the ICT-AGRI website.

Call office

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