



CLARIFICATION N.3

Call for Proposal: GP/EFSA/PLANTS/2022/10

Call title: Development of crop-based survey tools for plants pests of fruit-bearing vegetables (Lot 1), cereals and fibre crops (Lot 2), grape, berries and exotic fruits (Lot 3), palms and ornamentals (Lot 4) in the EU.

Question 1:

Coordinator and co-beneficiary signatures on the Consortium agreement must be holographic signatures? Digital signatures are allowed? In this case, the documents have to be printed after signatures? Digital signatures are allowed on the other documents (administrative-data-forms-grants-including-lef-and-baf, Financial identification form, declaration on honour, institutional declaration of interest).

Answer:

At the time of submitting the application, all the documents can be signed electronically (any type of digital signature) or with hand-written signatures.

After the call is awarded, when signing the Grant agreement, Coordinator and co-beneficiary signatures are required to be Qualified electronic signatures (QES). More background information is available here: <https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/eSignature+-+Businesses> QES is the preferred choice, however, in case you do not have the possibility to sign the grant agreement using a qualified electronic signature, you can print the grant agreement and have it signed and dated by the authorised representative using a hand-written signature and send the signed original by post to EFSA to the address indicated in the award letter.

Please note that we assume that the term "Consortium agreement" in question 1 is intended to refer to "Grant Agreement".

Question 2:

Can the application and technical report be signed by the coordinator?

Answer:

Yes, the application can be signed by the coordinator only.

Question 3:

In support of the Financial Identification Form, can we attach an account balance updated at December 2022?

Answer:

Yes, you can attach a bank account statement not older than 6 months.

Question 4:

Could you provide a copy of the mandate to be signed between the partner and the coordinator?

Answer:

Partners do not sign the grant agreement directly but instead sign a mandate (template provided by EFSA) authorising the Coordinator to sign the grant agreement and any future amendments on their behalf. The template is now available [here](#) among the call documents. Please note that the signed mandate is not requested at the stage of application as it will be required only in case of award.

Question 5:

Can the partnership statement be written in form of a Consortium agreement? We are using a modified version of the DESCA model.

Answer:

As stated in the Call for proposals on page 26, *'The applicant and partner/s must provide EFSA with a statement indicating their involvement in the action. The applicant and partner/s must sign the partnership statement. No template is provided by EFSA'*.

A statement is deemed sufficient.