



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

**Call reference:** EUBA-EFSA-2024-BIOHAW-02

**Call title:** Animal Welfare: heat stress in livestock during transport

Restricted to **the list of competent organisations** established by the Authority's Management Board in application of article 2 the Commission Regulation (EC) No 2230/2004 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 with regard to the network of organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's remit.

**Brief description of the call objectives and key messages:** The aim is the identification of Article 36 organisations to develop and validate an algorithm or model that can predict the effective temperature in a livestock vehicle using the weather forecast and the effect of mitigating strategies such the use of mechanical ventilation and varying the space allowance given to livestock.



## INDICATIVE PROCEDURE TIMETABLE

Milestone	Date <sup>1</sup>	Comments
<b>Launch date</b>	28/05/24	Date of call publication on EFSA's website and Funding & Tenders portal.
<b>Deadline for applicants to raise clarification questions to EFSA</b>	23/07/24	If, after having read this Call for proposals and guide for applicants, you have any questions, you may address them to <a href="mailto:EFSAProcurement@efsa.europa.eu">EFSAProcurement@efsa.europa.eu</a> by indicating the Call reference.
<b>Deadline for EFSA to reply to clarification questions</b>	25/07/24	Replies will be provided on EFSA's webpage where this Call is published and which the applicants are requested to consult regularly.
<b>Deadline for submission of proposals</b>	31/07/24 At 17:00 (CEST)	Applicants can submit proposals by following the instructions in section 3.1 of this call for proposals. All applications must be submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders portal, following the instructions provided. <b>Hard copy paper applications will not be accepted.</b>
<b>Notification of the evaluation results</b>	October 2024	Estimated <i>Attention: outcome of the present call will be communicated to all applicants to the e-mail address indicated in their proposal. Accordingly, applicants who have submitted proposals under the present call are strongly invited to check regularly the inbox in question.</i>
<b>Grant agreement(s) signature</b>	December 2024	Estimated

<sup>1</sup> All times are in the time zone of the country of the EFSA.



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**ANNEXES**

Annex 1: Draft grant agreement

Documents to be submitted with proposals (to be downloaded from the EU Funding and Tenders portal Submission Service, see section 2 'Selecting proposal'):

Annex 2: Administrative Declaration

Annex 3: Declaration on honour on exclusion criteria

Annex 4: Declaration on honour on selection criteria

Annex 5: Selection criteria template (all requirements including CVs)

Annex 6: Award criteria template



## 1. GRANT OPPORTUNITY AND CONDITIONS<sup>2</sup>

### 1.1 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Article 36 (1) of the Regulation (EC) 178/2002<sup>3</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety, stipulates that the Authority shall promote the European networking of organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission. The aim of such networking is, in particular, to facilitate a scientific cooperation framework by the coordination of activities, the exchange of information, the development and implementation of joint projects<sup>4</sup>, the exchange of expertise and best practices in the fields within the Authority's mission. The list of competent organisations designated by the Member States, which may assist EFSA with its mission, is approved and regularly updated by EFSA's Management Board. The full list of Article 36 organisations can be found [here](#).

EFSA's founding regulation was amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain.

The Commission Regulation (EC) 2230/2004 of 23 December 2004 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of the European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) 178/2002 with regard to the network of organisations operating in the fields within the EFSA's mission specifies in Article 4 that tasks may be entrusted by the Authority to organisations on the list of competent organisations.

#### **The present call specifically focuses on the below tasks defined in Article 4(3):**

1. preparing the harmonisation of risk assessment methods;
2. sharing data of common interest, e.g. the establishing of databases.

Article 5(2) of the Commission Regulation (EC) 2230/2004<sup>5</sup> of 23 December 2004 specifies that the financial support to the networking organisations shall take the form of subsidies (grants) awarded in accordance with the EFSA's financial regulation and implementing rules.

The present Call for proposals and guide for applicants (hereinafter referred to as "the Call") is procedurally governed by Title VIII of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union. This call is based on EFSA Founding regulation<sup>6</sup> and EFSA's 2024 Work Programme for grants and operational procurements as presented in Annex XII of the Programming Document 2024-2026, available on the EFSA's website<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> The applicant is reminded that this Call and guide for applicants contains a selection of the most important conditions for the grant implementation. For the full set of conditions, the applicant is invited to consult the draft grant agreement in Annex 1 of this Call.

<sup>3</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2002:031:0001:0024:EN:PDF>

<sup>4</sup> Project is frequently referred to in this Call as "action", in line with EU Financial Regulation terminology.

<sup>5</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:379:0064:0067:EN:PDF>

<sup>6</sup> Regulation (EC) 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-01/programming-document-2024-2026.pdf>



## 1.2 BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

The objective of this call is to sign a grant agreement to carry out the activities in animal welfare described below:

- Develop and validate a mathematical algorithm that can estimate the effective temperature inside a livestock truck.

### 1.2.1 – Modelling the effective temperature inside a livestock truck.

Heat stress was identified as an important welfare consequence experienced by livestock during transport in the recently published series of EFSA opinions dealing with the welfare of animals during transport produced by the BIOHAW Unit (see EFSA AHAW panel (2022) for details <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7442>).

Heat stress, depending on its severity, can have a very negative impact on the welfare of the transported livestock potentially leading to dehydration, fatigue and sometimes death.

The effective temperature within a transport vehicle, which encompasses both air temperature and humidity, is influenced by multiple factors such as the temperature and humidity of the air coming into the truck, the heat and moisture generated by the animals in the vehicle (in turn related to space allowance), the solar radiation shining on the roof and sides of the truck, the heat loss from the vehicle and the ventilation rate within the truck, to name a few. Relatively simple but incomplete mathematical models have already been developed describing the relationship between a number of these factors or variables and the temperature inside a livestock truck, for example Wikner et al. (2003) ([PDF](#)) [Assessment of air quality in a commercial cattle transport vehicle in Swedish summer and winter conditions \(researchgate.net\)](#), in the context of commercial cattle transport.

The aim of the present call is the identification of one or several partners among Article 36 organisations to develop and validate a comprehensive algorithm that describes the relationship between weather forecasting data (temperature, humidity, solar radiation), space allowance (using the allometric K value), the ventilation of the truck and the effective temperature (temperature and humidity) within the truck at various times (hourly, for example) and in various geographic places from a transport route. The target species are weaned cattle.

Please note the objective is to estimate and validate summary effective temperature data (max, min, median, for example) within the vehicle using weather forecasting data.

The tasks and deliverables are described in section 1.3 of this document.

## 1.3 TASKS, DELIVERABLES, TIMELINES, MEETINGS AND PAYMENTS

The reports should use EFSA templates, which will be provided upon request. The written deliverables must be drafted in English and may be subject to publication at EFSA's discretion.

Please note that all reporting, minutes, outcome of the discussions could be submitted at EFSA's discretion to EFSA's Panel and Working Group members. Use of the grant deliverables may be subject to publication, subject to the terms and conditions set out in the draft grant agreement (Annex 1 of the call for proposals).



Work Package / Objective	Tasks	Deliverables	Deadline
<p>WP 1</p>	<p><b>Task 1:</b> The development of an algorithm or model that describes the relationship between weather forecasting data (temperature, humidity, solar radiation), ventilation in the truck, space allowance (using the k value) and the internal microclimatic conditions (temperature and humidity) in a livestock vehicle, at different points in time (hourly) and geographic places taken from a transport journey log or route plan, for weaned cattle in a commercially used livestock vehicle,</p> <p>This includes the quantification of each parameter in the context of the transport of livestock by road.</p> <p>A sensitivity analysis will be carried out at this stage. This will indicate which of the parameters can be best used as mitigation measures i.e. changes to ventilation rates, changes to stocking density, sunny day versus a cloudy day, night versus day, over a broad range of temperatures etc.</p>	<p><b>Deliverable 1:</b></p> <p><b>1a.</b> An interim report describing the algorithm, the values of the parameters for weaned cattle in a commonly used type of livestock transport truck and the result of the sensitivity analysis.</p> <p><b>1b</b> A user friendly standalone interim prototype tool, in the form of a spreadsheet or other format, that demonstrates the relationship between the variables (weather forecasting data, space allowance(k-value), ventilation rate in the truck etc.) and the temperature and humidity inside a commonly used livestock vehicle for weaned cattle, with relevant instructions.</p>	<p>6 months from kick-off meeting</p>
<p>WP 2</p>	<p><b>Task 2:</b> validate the algorithm during livestock transport</p> <p>Test the accuracy of the model algorithm to estimate the microclimatic conditions inside a livestock vehicle during the transport of multiple transport consignments of weaned cattle over a range of environmental temperatures, varying main parameters of the model (space allowance (k-value), ventilation etc.). Different scenario's to be tested should be described, discussed and agreed with EFSA.</p> <p>Modify model and parameters as necessary.</p>	<p><b>Deliverable 2.a:</b> An intermediate report describing progress of the testing of the model algorithm.</p> <p><b>Deliverable 2.b:</b> A final report describing the results of the validation of and modifications to the algorithm during transport of livestock.</p> <p><b>Deliverable 2.c:</b> A final/updated tool in the form of a spread sheet or something similar.</p>	<p>Deliverable <b>2.a</b> 12 months from kick-off meeting</p> <p>Deliverable <b>2.b</b> 18 months from kick-off meeting</p> <p>Deliverable <b>2.c</b> 18 months from kick-off meeting</p>

Subcontracting is allowed for non-core tasks only. Core tasks for this project are the ones listed under Tasks 2. Please also refer to section 1.7 'Possibility of implementing contracts and subcontracting'.

No.	Meetings	Deadline for finalisation
1	Teleconference: one half day	2 months after entry into force



	<p>The kick-off meeting is regarded as the start of the project and must take place no later than 2 months after the signature of the grant agreement. At this meeting, details of the project will be discussed and the objectives, the final report structure, deliverables and timeframe will be clarified. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and provided to EFSA by the beneficiary.</p> <p>The presence at the kick-off meeting of a beneficiary's staff member responsible for administrative/finance issues of the project is advised as this will facilitate understanding by the beneficiary of the grant principles, related financial reporting requirements and significantly ease the financial management of the grant agreement, both for EFSA and the beneficiary.</p>	of grant agreement
2	<p>Teleconference: one half day</p> <p>The purpose of this meeting is to discuss deliverables 1a and 1b as well as any problems or difficulties encountered during the project. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and provided to EFSA by the beneficiary.</p>	6 months from kick-off meeting
3	<p>Teleconference: one half day</p> <p>The purpose of this meeting is the presentation and discussion of deliverable 2a as well as any problems or difficulties encountered during the project. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and provided to EFSA by the beneficiary.</p>	12 months from kick-off meeting
4	<p>Final meeting: teleconference one half day.</p> <p>Final deliverables (2 b and 2c) will be presented and discussed. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and provided to EFSA by the beneficiary.</p>	18 months from kick-off meeting
<b>No.</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Linked to EFSA approval of deliverable No.</b>
1	<b>Pre-Financing payment</b> as specified in point 4.2 (datasheet) of the draft grant agreement (Annex 1 of the call for Proposals).	Within 30 days of Grant Agreement countersignature
2	<b>Interim payment</b> , as specified in point 4.2 (datasheet) of the draft grant agreement (Annex 1 of the call for Proposals).	1a and 1b
3	<b>Payment of the balance</b> as specified in point 4.2 (datasheet) of the draft grant agreement (Annex 1 of the call for Proposals). The amount due as the balance payment is calculated by EFSA by deducting from the final grant amount the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments already made. The final payment is subject to the approval by EFSA of all the deliverables and final report.	2a, 2b and 2c

### **Foreseen milestones and corresponding completion rate**

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Project completion rate %</b>
Approval of Deliverable 1.a	20 %
Approval of Deliverable 1.b	20%
Approval of Deliverable 2.a	20%
Approval of Deliverable 2.b	20%
Approval of Deliverable 2.c	20%
<b>Full approval of all deliverables</b>	<b>100%</b>





Deliverables must be drafted in English and may be subject to publication at EFSA's discretion.

Please note that all reporting, minutes, outcome of the discussions could be submitted at EFSA's discretion to EFSA's Panel and Working Group members. Use of the grant deliverables may be subject to publication, subject to the terms and conditions set out in the draft grant agreement (Annex 1 of the call for proposals).

#### **1.4 INFORMATION ON THE GRANT AGREEMENT**

Applicants should note that the draft grant agreement is published with the call for proposals. If any applicant should have specific comments on the provisions of the draft grant agreement, these must be raised in a clarification, prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals so that a clear and transparent reply may be published for the benefit and information of all applicants.

**The total amount EFSA has available to award grants under this call for proposals is € 402,900.** Applicants should note that in the Funding and Tender opportunities portal submission service under Administrative Form (Part A) there is an obligatory field regarding the budget (section 3). Applicants must insert the total budget in the 'Requested grant amount' field.

##### **1.4.1 Direct Agreement**

This Call for proposals aims to conclude a Direct Agreement for the performance of the tasks described in these specifications for a fixed duration. The Agreement can be signed between the Authority and one or several partners.

The maximum duration of this Direct Agreement is 18 months from the kick-off meeting.

EFSA intends to fund one proposal following this Call. However, EFSA reserves the right not to award all the funds available at any cost, e.g. if the quality of submitted proposals will not be satisfactory.

Please note that EFSA reserves the right not to award any grant and/or to cancel the whole grant procedure at any time before the signature of the grant agreement without any compensation to be paid to the applicant.

#### **1.5 ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS**

To be eligible, applicants must be on the list of competent organisations designated by the Member States in accordance with Article 36 of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and Commission Regulation (EC) 2230/2004. This list is regularly updated by EFSA Management Board and is available for consultation using this link <https://efsa.force.com/competentorganisations/s/>.

In order to achieve the main objective of the call, proposals can be submitted by **one eligible organisation or by a consortium of eligible organisations**. In case of a consortium, one of the partners must be identified in the proposal as the consortium leader. The applicant (consortium leader) is responsible for identifying consortium partners.

If you are searching for consortium partners, please contact your Focal Point at the following address: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/eumembers> (section: Focal Points members and observers).

#### **1.6 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

For proper understanding of this call it is important to have clarity on the terminology regarding involved organisations and their roles.

**Proposals submitted by a sole applicant:**

- **The Applicant** submits the proposal to EFSA. There can be only one applicant in the proposal.

As soon as the grant agreement is signed, the applicant becomes the beneficiary. The beneficiary is liable for the technical implementation of the project as described in the proposal which becomes Annex 1 of the grant agreement.

**The beneficiary:**

- Communicates with EFSA;
- Receives and answers all claims EFSA might have in relation to the implementation of the project;
- Requests and reviews any documents or information required by EFSA and verifies their completeness and correctness before passing them to EFSA;
- Informs EFSA of any event that is likely to substantially affect the implementation of the project;
- Submits the deliverables and reports to EFSA;
- Requests and receives payments from EFSA.

**Proposals submitted by consortium:**

- **The Applicant** submits the proposal to EFSA on behalf of the consortium. The applicant is the leading entity of the consortium.
- **The Partner** is the other entity in the consortium. There can be a minimum of one partner or more partners.

Once the grant is awarded, the grant agreement is signed between EFSA and the applicant (leading entity of the consortium).

Partners do not sign the grant agreement directly but instead sign a mandate (template provided by EFSA) authorising the applicant to sign the grant agreement and any future amendments on their behalf.

As soon as the grant agreement is signed, the applicant becomes the Coordinator and partner/s become co-beneficiary/ies. The coordinator and co-beneficiary/ies are referred to as the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are jointly and severally liable for the technical implementation of the project as described in the proposal which becomes Annex 1 of the grant agreement. If a beneficiary fails to implement its part of the project, the other beneficiaries become responsible for implementing that part.

**The coordinator** has the following important roles:

- Takes part in implementing the project;
- Monitors the action is implemented properly;
- Act as intermediary for communication between the consortium and EFSA;
- Receives and answers all claims EFSA might have in relation to implementation of the project;
- Requests and reviews any documents or information required by EFSA and verifies their completeness and correctness before passing them to EFSA;
- Informs EFSA and the partner/s of any event that is likely to substantially affect implementation of the project;
- Submits the deliverables and reports to EFSA;



- Requests and receives payments from EFSA and distributes the funds to partner/s without unjustified delays.

The coordinator may not delegate the above-mentioned tasks to the co-beneficiary/ies or subcontract them to any third party.

**The other beneficiary/ies:**

- Take part in implementing the project;
- Forward to the coordinator the data needed to draw up reports, financial statements and other documents required under the grant agreement;
- Inform the coordinator of any event or circumstances likely to substantially affect or delay the implementation of the project.

## 1.7 IMPLEMENTING CONTRACTS AND SUBCONTRACTING

**Implementation contracts:**

Where the implementation of the project requires the award of procurement contracts (implementation contracts), e.g. purchase of services and/or goods or equipment necessary for the implementation of the action, the beneficiary must award the contract to the entity offering the best value for money or the lowest price (as appropriate), avoiding conflicts of interests. The beneficiary is expected to clearly document the tendering procedure and retain the documentation for the event of an audit.

Entities acting in their capacity as contracting authorities within the meaning of Directive 2014/24/EU<sup>8</sup> must comply with the applicable national public procurement rules.

**Sub-contracting:**

Sub-contractors are not consortium partners and are not party to the grant agreement. They do not have any contractual relationship with EFSA. Subcontractors are entities contracted by the beneficiary to carry out some specific tasks or activities. Subcontracting is allowed under these conditions:

- **Core tasks must not be subcontracted.** Only ancillary and assistance tasks can be subcontracted.
- Subcontracts must be awarded to the entity offering best value for money or the lowest price (as appropriate), avoiding conflicts of interests;
- Subcontracting must only cover the implementation of a limited part of the action;
- Recourse to subcontracting must be justified having regard to the nature of the project and what is necessary for its implementation;
- Tasks to be subcontracted must be identified in the proposal and be approved by EFSA before the signature of the grant agreement;
- Recourse to subcontracting during project implementation, if not envisaged from the outset in the proposal, is subject to prior authorisation in writing by EFSA. Approval may be granted as long as it does not entail a change to the grant agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or be contrary to the equal treatment of applicants. No amendment is needed;
- The conditions applicable to the beneficiaries under Articles 13 (*Confidentiality*), 15 (*Processing of Personal Data*), 17 (*Visibility of Union Funding*) of the grant agreement are also applicable to the subcontractor.

<sup>8</sup> Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC (OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 65-242)



## 1.8 GRANT PRINCIPLES

The financial help provided by EFSA under this Call is a grant governed by the EU Financial Regulation referred to in part 1.1. Accordingly, the grant awarded following this Call must comply with the following principles:

The form of grant awarded under this Call is based on financing not linked to the costs of the relevant operations in accordance with Article 125 (1)(a) of the EU Financial Regulation. Grants financed in this way require the fulfilment of conditions set out in sector specific rules of Commission decisions or the achievement of results measured by reference to previously set milestones or through performance indicators.

The present call for proposals comes with an innovative and simplified grant management, where the grant amounts paid to the partner are based on the pre-defined sums which are not linked to the actual costs of the action. This means there is no need for co-financing from the partner, and no need for completion of estimated budgets or timesheets to record the work. The agreed sums are set at a level designed to stimulate the mutually convenient partnership creation. The payment of agreed sums from EFSA will be carried out based on the acceptance by EFSA of the delivered work. If you have questions on this grant form, during the application period, please raise any clarification questions to [EFSAProcurement@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:EFSAProcurement@efsa.europa.eu).

The financial support provided by EFSA under this Call is a grant governed by the EU Financial Regulation referred to in part 1.1. Accordingly, the grant awarded following this Call must comply with certain grant principles established in the EU Financial Regulation, specifically:

- **Non-retroactivity:** A grant may be awarded for a project which has already begun only where the applicant can demonstrate in the grant application the need to start the action before the grant agreement is signed. In accordance with Article 193 of the Financial Regulation. The tasks entrusted by EFSA should not be performed before the signature of the grant Agreement.

Article 180(3) of the EU Financial Regulation specifically states that **the following grant principles are NOT applicable** where the grant takes the form of financing not linked to the costs pursuant to article 125(1)(a):

- **Co-financing:** In accordance with Article 190 of the Financial Regulation, grants shall involve co-financing.
- **No-profit:** In accordance with Article 192(3)(d) of the Financial Regulation, grants shall not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the project for the applicant or partner.
- **Non-cumulative:** In accordance with Article 191(3) of the Financial Regulation, in no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice from the EU budget.

## 1.9 ESTIMATED BUDGET AND ELIGIBLE COSTS

NOT APPLICABLE

## 1.10 PUBLICITY

All beneficiaries are expected to follow the rules on visibility of EFSA funding set out in Article II.8 of the grant agreement.



According to Article 38 of the EU Financial Regulation EFSA is bound to publish information on recipients of its grants at its website. Such publication shall take place no later than 30 June of the year following the financial year in which the grants were awarded and shall cover these data of the beneficiaries:

- name of the beneficiary
- address of the beneficiary
- subject of the grant
- amount awarded

With regards to publications of EFSA outputs that are integrating the preparatory work delivered in the context of this grant, the beneficiary could be mentioned in authorship lists indicating the affiliation to its organisation.

### **1.11 PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA IN RELATION TO GRANT PROCEDURES**

#### Processing of personal data by EFSA

Information on the processing of personal data by EFSA in the context of this grant procedure is available in the [Privacy Statement](#) on the EFSA website as well as in Article II.7 of the draft grant agreement. Any personal data included in the Agreement must be processed by EFSA in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725.<sup>9</sup>

Applicants should note that personal data as applicant or selected beneficiary may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) if you are in one of the situations mentioned in Article 136 of the Financial Regulation. For more information see the Privacy Statement on: [http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect\\_en.cfm#BDCE](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm#BDCE)).

#### Processing of personal data by the beneficiary

In case the implementation of activities under the grant agreement resulting from this call entails the processing of personal data, the beneficiary shall comply with the relevant rules in Article II.7.2 of the Grant Agreement (Annex 1) as a data processor of EFSA.

### **1.12 PUBLIC ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS**

In the general implementation of its activities and for the processing of grant procedures in particular, EFSA observes Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents.

### **1.13 OPEN ACCESS**

EFSA is committed to the publication of grant outputs in the [Knowledge Junction](#) in order to improve transparency, reproducibility and evidence reuse. The Knowledge Junction runs on the EU-funded Zenodo research-sharing platform where uploaded items receive a unique Digital Object Identifier to make them citable. Any part of the output resulting from the action under this grant may be published (at EFSA's discretion) on the Knowledge Junction with attribution to the beneficiary.

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<sup>9</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC



#### **1.14 HUNGARIAN PUBLIC INTEREST TRUSTS ESTABLISHED UNDER HUNGARIAN ACT IX OF 2021**

Following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 16th December 2022, no legal commitments (including the grant agreement itself as well as subcontracts, purchase contracts, financial support to third parties etc.) can be signed with Hungarian public interest trusts established under Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain.

Affected entities may continue to apply to calls for proposals. However, in case the Council measures are not lifted, such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties).



## 2. SELECTING PROPOSALS

**The Evaluation Committee** established by EFSA specifically for this call will evaluate the submitted proposals in five steps:

1. Verification of submission requirements (2.1)
2. Eligibility criteria (2.2)
3. Exclusion criteria (2.3)
4. Selection criteria (2.4)
5. Award criteria (2.5)

If the proposal fails at any step it is automatically excluded from further evaluation. EFSA may contact the applicant during the evaluation process if there is a need to clarify certain aspects or for the correction of clerical mistakes.

### 2.1 VERIFICATION OF SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following will be verified:

- proposal was submitted within the deadline for submission of proposals;
- administrative data for grant application form is duly signed by the authorised representative of the applicant;
- proposal is complete and includes all the supporting documents.

### 2.2 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Criterion No. 2.2	Requirements and requested evidence
<b>1</b>	<b>Eligibility criteria</b>
	The following requirements will be verified:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the day of deadline for submission of proposals, the applicant and in case of consortium also its partner/s are on the list of competent organisations designated by the Member States in accordance with Art 36 of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and Commission Regulation (EC) 2230/2004;</li> <li>• Applicant and in case of consortium also its partner/s are involved in the execution of the project;</li> <li>• Subcontracting, if any, is justified in the proposal.</li> </ul>
	Requested evidence:
	<p><b>ADMINISTRATIVE DECLARATION</b></p> <p>Annex 2, available to download in the Funding and Tenders Portal under Part B Templates. The applicant and partner(s) (if applicable) must complete and sign the form. The applicant must upload the signed form in the relevant field under Part B and Annexes of the Funding and Tenders Portal.</p>



## 2.3 EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Criterion No. 2.3	Requirements and requested evidence
<b>2</b>	<b>Exclusion criteria</b>
	The following requirements will be verified:
	The applicant and partner/s must sign a declaration on their honour certifying they are not in one of the exclusion situations referred to in the Articles 136-140 of EU Financial Regulation.
	Requested evidence:
	<p><b>THE DECLARATION ON HONOUR ON EXCLUSION CRITERIA</b></p> <p>Annex 3, available to download in the Funding and Tenders Portal under Part B Templates. The applicant and the partner(s) (if applicable) must complete and sign separate forms. The applicant must upload the form in the relevant field under Part B and Annexes of the Funding and Tenders Portal. If applying in consortium, the consortium leader must convert all declarations on honour on exclusion for all partners into one single pdf and upload the single document in the relevant field under Part B and Annexes of the Funding and Tenders Portal.</p>

## 2.4 SELECTION CRITERIA

### **A) Financial capacity**

Criterion No. 2.4A	Requirements and requested evidence
<b>1</b>	<b>Financial capacity</b>
	The purpose of the selection criteria is to verify the financial capacity of the applicant and in case of consortium also of its partner/s.
	<p>The applicant and in case of consortium also its partner/s must have stable and sufficient financial resources to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintain their activity throughout the period during which the project is being carried out.</li> </ul> <p>If the Authority considers that financial capacity is weak, it may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– request further information;</li> <li>– decide not to give pre-financing;</li> <li>– decide to give pre-financing paid in instalments;</li> <li>– decide to give pre-financing covered by a bank guarantee;</li> <li>– where applicable, require the joint and several financial liability of all the co-beneficiaries.</li> </ul> <p>If the AO considers that the financial capacity is insufficient, the application may be rejected.</p>
	Requested evidence:





	<p><b>Documents to be provided by the applicant:</b></p> <p><b>DECLARATION ON HONOUR ON SELECTION CRITERIA</b> Annex 4, available to download in the Funding and Tenders Portal. Only the applicant (or consortium leader if applicable) is required to complete and sign the form. The applicant must upload the form in the relevant field under Part B and Annexes of the Funding and Tenders Portal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SIMPLIFIED FINANCIAL STATEMENT</b> available <a href="#">here</a> only required for private bodies if the grant requested from EFSA is &gt;60.000 €. The template published with the Call should be completed for at least the last two closed financial years.</li> <li>• <b>AUDIT REPORT</b> Not applicable to the present call for proposal. Only required for private bodies if the grant requested from EFSA is &gt;750.000 €. In the event of an application grouping several applicants (consortium), the threshold applies to each applicant. If the audit report is not available AND a statutory report is not required by law, a self-declaration signed by the applicant's authorised representative certifying the validity of its accounts for the last 2 years available must be provided.  The audit report should be produced by an approved external auditor certifying the accounts for the last two years available, where such an audit report is available or whenever a statutory report is required by law.  The authorising officer responsible may, depending on a risk assessment, waive the obligation of providing an audit report for education and training establishments, and in the case of agreements with several beneficiaries, for applicants who do not bear any financial responsibility or who have accepted joint and several liabilities.</li> <li>• <b>LETTER OF COMMITMENT:</b> applicable only when another public body financially contributes to the project (body other than EFSA, applicant or in case of consortium, its partners); to be signed by the contributing public body; it serves to confirm its commitment to financially contribute to the project; no template is provided by EFSA.</li> </ul> <p>The applicant must convert the <b>Declaration on honour on selection criteria, the Simplified Financial statement (if applicable) and the letter of commitment</b> (if applicable) into one single pdf and upload the single document in the relevant field under Part B and Annexes of the Funding and Tenders Portal.</p>
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**B) Professional and operational capacity**

Criterion No. <b>2.4.B</b>	Requirements and requested evidence
<b>1</b>	<b>Professional and operational capacity:</b>
	Requirements:
	The applicant or in case of a consortium, the consortium as a whole, must have the professional resources, competencies and qualifications necessary to complete the proposed project.  <b>1. Requirements for the organisation:</b>



	<p>The applicant should provide evidence of expertise in the field of welfare of livestock during transport.</p> <p><b>2. Requirements for the team of experts:</b></p> <p>Experts involved in the tasks should include:</p> <p>a. At least one senior researcher with at least 5 years of experience with the responsibility of overseeing the whole project, ensuring high scientific quality of the data collection and timely delivery of project outputs</p> <p>b. At least one expert in each of the fields of: animal welfare during transport, agricultural engineering/physics and meteorology.</p> <p><b>3. Requirement of English language for the team of experts:</b></p> <p>The Team coordinator and the Work Package Leaders should have a very good level of spoken and written English. For non-native speakers, this should be demonstrated by an official certificate proofing at least level B.2 of the Common European Framework of References for Languages; or at least 2 years of work/study in an English speaking environment where English is used for meetings, communications and producing written reports and scientific publications OR at least 3 years of experience working in international projects where English is the working language.</p> <p><b>4. Environmental management (the answers to this section are for information purposes and will not be considered under any criteria, neither selection nor award criteria):</b></p> <p>Environmental protection is an integral part of EFSA's governance. EFSA has established, implemented and maintains a certified environmental management system in accordance with the international standard ISO 14001 and the European EMAS regulation. Environmental impacts of EFSA's activities are identified, managed and monitored in order to improve environmental performance. This commitment to environmental sustainability requires us to consider a life-cycle perspective when purchasing our services.</p> <p>For this reason, we are asking you some information on the environmental management of your activities, to be provided filling in <b>Annex 5 (Selection criteria - Information on environmental management)</b>.</p>
	<p>Requested evidence:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>EVIDENCE REQUESTED FOR REQUIREMENT 1:</b></li> </ul> <p>List of 5 peer reviewed publications and/or of new or ongoing research project relevant to the topics of this grant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>EVIDENCE REQUESTED FOR REQUIREMENT 2:</b></li> </ul> <p>LIST OF PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS NAMES, PROPOSED ROLES &amp; CURRICULUM VITAE – the applicant should summarise on one page, the names of the individual project team members and the expected role of the team member in the project. The CVs should include education/qualifications, a history of employment and a list of relevant publications.</p> <p>If individual team members are not yet assigned for the proposed project, applicants should provide details of the staff profiles necessary for the project.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>EVIDENCE REQUESTED FOR REQUIREMENT 3:</b>                      Proposed experts should specify when they are native English speakers.                       Non-native speakers, should be submit an official certificate demonstrating at least a B.2 level of the Common European Framework of References for Languages; or demonstrate at least 2 years of work/study in an English speaking environment where English is used for meetings, communications and producing written reports and scientific publications OR demonstrate at least 3 years of experience working in international projects where English is the working language.                 </li> <li> <b>EVIDENCE REQUESTED FOR REQUIREMENT 4:</b>                      Annex 5 – Selection criteria, Information on environmental management   <b>For requirements 1 to 4 a template (Annex 5) is available to download in the Funding and Tenders Portal. The applicant must upload the completed template (a single pdf document of all requirements including CVs), in the relevant field under Part B and Annexes of the Funding and Tenders Portal.</b> </li> <li> <b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>                      Template available <a href="#">here</a>. EFSA may request Individuals DoIs for members of the project team having influence and/or control over scientific outputs, prior to and as a condition of grant agreement signature. The requirement to submit Individual DoIs will be specified in the award letter and will have to be provided and assessed by the EFSA Authorising Officer before and as a condition of grant agreement signature. <b><u>DoIs do not need to be provided with your proposal at this stage.</u></b>                      In case of subcontracting and/or consortium partners, such declarations will need to be completed separately and submitted for each identified subcontractor and for each individual member of the project team coming from consortium partners or subcontractors. Please refer to <a href="#">EFSA’s policy on independence</a> and the <a href="#">Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management</a> for more detailed information.                 </li> </ul>
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## 2.5 AWARD CRITERIA

Criterion No. 2.5	<p><b>For the award criteria a template (Annex 6) is available to download in the Funding and Tenders Portal. The applicant must upload the completed template (a single pdf document of all criteria) in the relevant field under Part B and Annexes of the Funding and Tenders Portal.</b></p> <p>The award criteria serve to assess the quality of the proposals in relation to the objectives of the Call. The following award criteria are applicable in this call.</p> <p>The applicant is requested to provide a document with the proposed workplan (max 20 pages) explaining in detail how each task will be addressed. The plan (including scientific approach, logistics and estimated timelines) should cover all Tasks. The plan should be realistic, scientifically sound and provide an overview of the timelines and logistics for proposed implementation of work.</p> <p>The proposal will be assessed in relation to the following award criteria:</p>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Workplan quality (MAX 50 POINTS)</b>                      Overall quality of the workplan to undertake tasks 1 and 2 (max 20 pages excluding annexes). The workplan should be scientifically sound, clear, feasible and include sufficient detail. It should include timelines and logistic details for project implementation</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Sample size and data collection for task 2 (MAX 50 POINTS)</b></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of ability to gather data from the transport of weaned cattle featuring a broad range of environmental temperatures <b>(MAX 20 POINTS)</b></li> <li>• The quality and type of the data to be collected for: Task 2 (validation of the algorithm during livestock transport) <b>(MAX 10 POINTS)</b></li> <li>• Estimated number of consignments and animals to be studied under task 2 and number of representative scenario's <b>(MAX 20 POINTS)</b></li> </ul>
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**To be considered for a reserve list, the proposal must score a minimum of 70 points out of maximum possible 100 points.**

Proposals which have satisfied these quality thresholds will be ranked in a reserve list. The reserve list will be valid for six months from the signature of the feedback letter.

**2.6 PROCESS FOLLOWING THE ASSESSMENT AGAINST AWARD CRITERIA**

The applicant(s) will be notified, once the evaluation has been finalized, whether they are placed on the reserve list or not.

EFSA reserves the right to invite the 1<sup>st</sup> ranked applicant on the reserve list, to adapt its proposal based on the evaluators' comments in accordance with article 200(5) EU FR.

Following the successful conclusion of the adaptation phase, the award decision will be taken by EFSA. Subsequently, the grant agreement will be prepared.

If the 1<sup>st</sup> ranked applicant fails to adapt its proposal, EFSA reserves the right to reject the proposal. The budget made available in this way may be used for a project of the next ranked applicant on the reserve list.



### 3. SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

#### 3.1 SUBMISSION MODALITIES

You must submit your proposal electronically via the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#) before the time limit for receipt of proposals (indicated on page 2 of this call). A webinar showing step-by-step the use of the EU funding and Tender Portal for Grant submission on a pilot EFSA call is available at [this link](#) (from minute 15:39 to minute 45:55).

#### **Registration in the Participant Register**

Applicants submitting a proposal must be registered in the Participant Register - an online register of organisations and natural persons participating in European Commission's calls for tenders or proposals.

On registering, each participant obtains a Participant Identification Code (PIC, 9 - digit number) which acts as its unique identifier in the Participant Register. A participant needs to register only once – the information provided can be further updated or re-used by the participant in other European Commission's calls for tenders or calls for proposals.

At any moment during the grant procedure the Research Executive Agency Validation Services (hereafter the EU Validation Services) may contact the participant and ask for supporting documents on legal existence and status.

The requests will be made through the register's messaging system to the e-mail address of the participant's contact person indicated in the register. It is the responsibility of the participant to provide a valid e-mail address and to check it regularly.

The documents that may be requested by the EU Validation Services are listed in the [EU Grants and Tenders Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR appointment and Financial Capacity assessment](#). Please note that a request for supporting documents by the EU Validation Services in no way implies that the grant application has been successful.

#### **Submitting your proposal**

The EU Funding & Tenders Portal allows applicants to respond to calls for proposals by preparing applications electronically in a structured and secured way and submitting proposals electronically.

To find more information on submitting your proposal, please read carefully the information on the page [Submit a proposal – electronic submission system](#). On the same page useful links to the [User guide of the submission system](#) and an [FAQ on proposal submission](#) are provided.

Make sure you submit your application on time: you are advised to start completing your application early. To avoid any complications with regard to late receipt/non-receipt of applications within the deadline, please ensure that you submit your application several hours before the deadline. It is not possible to submit an application after the deadline.



### **3.2 LANGUAGE OF THE PROPOSAL AND THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Proposals may be submitted in any official language of the European Union. However, as EFSA`s working language is English, the submission of proposals in English would speed up the evaluation process.

Please note that some supporting documents (e.g. CVs) are required. These supporting documents are an integral part of the proposal. If these supporting documents are in a language other than English, in order to facilitate and speed up the evaluation, it would be appreciated if a reliable translation of the relevant parts of the documents into English is provided with the proposal.

### **3.3 EXPECTED DURATION OF PROCEDURE**

In accordance with Article 194(2) of the Financial Regulation, the maximum time-limits for the procedure are as follows:

- All applicants will be informed of the decision regarding their application within 6 months of the deadline for submission of proposals.
- Signature of the grant agreement will take place within 3 months from the date the successful applicant/s has/have been informed of the decision on their application.