



Guideline for Applicants (Full proposal)

“Establishing the link between food processing, human health, and sustainable food systems” - Policy Implementation Network



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General Information

Submission deadline: **11th of August 2026 (16.00 CET)**

Link to call text: [Knowledge Hub call page](#)

Link to submission system: [MyZonMw](#)

Contact Joint Call secretariat:

MASAF (Italy) – for questions regarding the content and scope of the call – Ancy

Kollamparambil (asmathew.kollamparambil.ext@masaf.gov.it)

ZonMw (Netherlands) – for technical questions related to the submission system –

Bernadette Conrads and Larissa van der Bent (HDHLprojects@zonmw.nl) or reach out to the Servicedesk of ZonMw (servicedesk@zonmw.nl)

Disclaimer

Funded by the European Union under grant agreement No 101188351. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the granting authority. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



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1. Background

Healthy Diet, Healthy Life (HDHL) aims to establish a network to provide recommendations for policy and practice on the link between food processing and sustainable food systems. This Knowledge Hub will bring together leading researchers from different disciplines – including food science, nutrition, public health, behavioural science, environmental science, and economics – to develop a shared knowledge base and provide guidance for policy, research, and innovation.

Healthy Diet, Healthy Life (HDHL) is a European Research and Innovation initiative and brings together national funding organisations committed to improving public health through better diets and nutrition, while promoting sustainable food systems. The Coordination and Support Action (CSA) HDHL Food4Health falls under the umbrella of HDHL and is funded by the European Union under Horizon Europe (Grant Agreement No. 101188351).

The Knowledge Hub will be implemented in a two-step procedure. Following the submission of the Expression of Interest (EoI) (step one) and the national eligibility check the suggested members of the network will be selected. The successful researchers and research groups will be invited to a networking and co-creation meeting. The aim of the meeting is to elect a project coordinator, start building the network, and start developing a proposal idea. After this meeting, the selected partners of the network will finalise the full proposal (step two).

Details on the second step of the procedure are listed below.

2. Full proposal procedure

One joint full proposal written in English must be submitted by the network coordinator. The project coordinator will represent the network and is the first contact point of the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS). Valid partners are only researchers and research groups that have the formal support of their respective research organisations and/or institutions.

The full proposal must be submitted no later than **August 11th 2026 16:00 CEST**, via the electronic submission system [My ZonMw](#). No other means of submission will be accepted.

Call deadlines are final and will be strictly enforced. The submission system will not allow submissions after the call deadline. Please take into account that the online data entry may be overloaded by the day of the deadline. It is therefore recommended to upload all the required materials in due time.

A proposal template will be made available on the Knowledge Hub [call page](#). Adhering to this template is required. Funding organisations will have access to the submitted proposal via a secured system.

The full proposal must include a:

- detailed work plan and objectives,
- network collaboration and structure,
- risk analysis,
- impact and dissemination strategy,
- stakeholder engagement plan.

IMPORTANT: Each project partner will be subject to the rules and regulations of its respective national funding agency. Details of the national eligibility criteria and guidelines from individual funding agencies (e.g. additional mandatory national submission) are provided in the Annex 1 of the [call text](#).

Collaborating parties

Researchers, organisations and non-academic enterprises who are not eligible for funding can participate in projects as *collaborators*. The following conditions should be taken into account:

- Clear added value for the network. This should be demonstrated in the application.
- Secure own funding for participation with clear evidence in the proposal that this is already in place.
- A letter of commitment is mandatory and should be added in MyZonMw for all collaborating organisations.

Collaboration agreement

Prepare a collaboration agreement which clearly states how the collaboration is envisioned for the duration of the project and how potential conflicts are handled. This agreement should be signed by all project partners, including collaborators. Please add this agreement to the full proposal document.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Currently, HDHL does not have specific restrictions on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in proposal preparation.

Please note that applicants remain fully responsible for the accuracy, originality, and integrity of the content submitted.

3. Full proposal preparation and submission

3.1 Instructions full proposal application form

A template for the full proposal including detailed instructions is available on the HDHL call page and in the MyZonMw portal. Please follow the guidance in the document and submit the document as an annex in the portal of MyZonMw.

- Front page
- List of participating organisations and the main representative per organisation
- Total budget overview per partner organisation including the distribution per country
- 1. Abstract
- 2. Overview of the network
 - 2.1 Clearly describe the problem definition and objective(s), the relevance, and the feasibility.
 - 2.2 Describe the methodology and data management.
 - 2.3 Explain the impact of the expected results
 - 2.4 Provide a short strategy for communication, dissemination and implementation actions.
 - 2.5 Provide a stakeholder engagement strategy that show how and when relevant stakeholder will be included.
 - 2.6 Ethical issues only needs be filled in if applicable for this network.
- 3. Workplan
 - 3.1 Describe the overall structure and activities to reach the objectives
 - 3.2 Timeline
 - 3.3 Workpackage structure
 - 3.4 Risk management
- 4. Capacity of participants and consortium as a whole
 - 4.1 Describe the expertise and strengths of the network to achieve the planned activities
 - 4.2 Explain the added value of the transnational collaboration
 - 4.3 Provide an overview of all partners involved in the network. Include the contact person per organisation and the involved researchers, describe shortly the role in the project, and the requested budget per organisation including a justification of the costs. For in-kind contributions, clearly describe the role and the level of involvement in the project.
- Add a reference list to support the objectives and the methodology
- Annex I: Collaboration agreement.

3.2 Instructions submission MyZonMw

Please note: In MyZonMw, references to “ZonMw” are part of the standard system wording and should be interpreted as “HDHL” for this call.

The proposal must be submitted by the network coordinator.

The following information needs to be submitted in the portal of [MyZonMw](#):

1. General information.
 - 1.1 General information;
 - 1.2 General project details;
 - 1.3 Required project members: details of main applicant (coordinator) + details of administrative representative (only of coordinator’s organisation);
 - 1.4 Additional project members: select yes or no.
2. Additional project group members.
 - 2.1 Additional project members: please add all individual project members who receive funding, including those who are part of research groups within a single organisation. Collaborators participating through an in-kind contribution should be included under section 4.2;
 - 2.2 Check: check if all project members have been saved correctly.
3. Summary.
 - 3.1 Public summary in English;
 - 3.2 Keywords.
4. Financial data.
 - 4.1 Summary of the budget.

We ask you to enter a summary of your budget by clicking on the link 'Add summary of the budget' below. You will be directed to a page with several tabs, where you can enter all the project costs. You can save each tab. Do you want to save in between? You can do so using the 'Close and temporarily save' button in the 'Overview' tab. When you are finished and have filled in all the project costs on the various tabs, you must submit the summary definitively. You do this by clicking on the button 'Submit final budget' on the 'Overview' tab. The summary of your project budget can then no longer be changed. You only have to enter the following parts of the project costs:

 - 1.1 Personnel
 - 1.2 Material costs
 - 1.3 Equipment costs
 - 1.4 Implementation costs
 - 1.5 Other costs
 - 2.1 Co-financing: **please skip this section, duplication with section 2.2 below**
 - 2.2 Grant recipient’s contribution: please fill in the total in-kind and/or in-cash contributions from all participating partners and collaborators);

- 4.2 Collaborations with other parties: please select 'yes' if there are "collaborators" participating in the network;
- 4.3 Parties that receive money: please add all parties that act as "collaborators" and do not receive funding. Select 'no' under 'Entitled to part of the grant'.
- 5. Annexes (please upload the annexes below).
 - 5.1 Full proposal application form (see 3.2 for instructions);
 - 5.2 Letter of commitment: only applicable for partners with an in-kind contribution. The letter must clearly state the organisation, signature of the legal representative of the organisation, name of representative involved in the project, the security of funding (amount and cost-category);
 - 5.3 Declaration of approval for submitting a grant application. [The Declaration of approval for submitting a grant application](#) must be signed by the administrative representative and the main applicant. The signed statement can be added in MyZonMw immediately or sent by e-mail to hdhlprojects@zonmw.nl no later than one week after submission.
- 6. Declarations and signature of applicant.
 - 6.1 Permits, if applicable;
 - 6.2 Declarations.

4. National regulations

The national regulations and the details of the contact points can be found in Annex I of this document. Please check again the national regulations you need to comply with.

Annex I - Contact points and national regulations

Funding organisations

Germany

Country	Germany
Funding organisation	Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung on behalf of Bundesministerium für Landwirtschaft, Ernährung und Heimat
National contact person + contact details	Stefanie Schumacher - stefanie.schumacher@ble.de - tel. +49 228 6845-3232 Maximilian Grimm - maximilian.grimm@ble.de - tel. +49 228 6845-2425 Johannes Bender - johannes.bender@ble.de - tel. +49 6845-3610
Funding	€108,000.00 to be distributed among 3 organisations
Eligibility of partners	Universities, Universities of applied science, Research institutes
Eligibility of costs	Personnel, travel, other costs related to the networking activities
Networking meeting	Participation is strongly recommended
Further guidance	Selected applicants will be contacted by the funding organisation (BLE) with further details on the procedure.

Ireland

Country	Ireland
Funding organisation	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
National contact person + contact details	Manuel Lopez Vernaza - Manuel.LopezVernaza@agriculture.gov.ie - Tel. +353 (0)1 607 2617
Funding	€150,000.00 to be distributed among 2 organisations
Eligibility of partners	Only RPOs eligible for grant-aid under DAFM's Competitive Research Funding Programme can make applications and submit funding requests, either as partners or coordinators, under the Call. RPOs eligible for grant-aid from DAFM are those institutions which fall within the meaning of Section One of the HEA Act, 1971 (Universities and Institutes of Technologies, etc.), plus Teagasc, the Marine Institute, Irish Cattle Breeding Federation, the National Botanic Gardens, Birdwatch Ireland and Indigo Rock Marine Research Station. Public RPOs based in Northern Ireland are not eligible for national funding. Research Institutions must be an approved RPO at the time of the launch of the Call. A project partner should be either a permanent member of staff at an eligible RPO or an experienced researcher with a PhD qualification contracted to work with an eligible RPO over the full duration of the project.
Eligibility of costs	Personnel, travel, other costs related to the networking activities.
Networking meeting	Participation is strongly recommended.
Further guidance	Research - Open Calls

Netherlands

Country	Netherlands
Funding organisation	ZonMw
National contact person + contact details	Bernadette Conrads - HDHLprojects@zonmw.nl - tel. +31 (0)704126262 Larissa van der Bent - HDHLprojects@zonmw.nl - tel. +31 (0)70 349 53 91
Funding	€10.000 to be distributed among 4 organisations
Eligibility of partners	Eligible applicants are research organisations, such as universities (or other higher education institutions), academic hospitals, and non-university public research institutes. It is required that the research group or researcher is involved in a Dutch project that is currently running or ended in 2025 and receives funding from a Dutch funding organisation. Applications need to fall within the scope of the call and contribute to the aim and objectives of the call.
Eligibility of costs	Eligible cost are project supporting costs, such as: • Travel costs • Dissemination and knowledge exchange costs • Networking, event or workshop cost Non eligible cost: - Personnel cost - Direct cost Funding will be provided according to eligible costs and ZonMw Grant Terms and Conditions.
Networking meeting	Participation of a representative of each selected research group in the network meeting is mandatory.
Further guidance	ZonMw Conditions and obligations

Romania

Country	Romania
Funding organisation	ANC
National contact person + contact details	Viorel Vulturescu - viorel.vulturescu@research.gov.ro - tel +4021 319.23.26 Alice Grigore - alice.grigore@research.gov.ro - tel +4021 319.23.26
Funding	€250,000 to be distributed among 2 organisations
Eligibility of partners	Legal entities established in Romania are eligible to get funding, i.e. public and private accredited universities, national R&D institutes, other research organizations, SMEs, large industrial enterprises with R&D activity within their domains. For universities, public institutions, R&D national institutions funding is 100%, and for SMEs and Large companies, financing is under the permit OMCID no. 21.324/02.11.2023 approving the scheme of State aid for Program 5.8: European and international cooperation. The head of the research team from each participating institution has a PhD degree. This condition does not apply if the institution is an enterprise within the meaning of the State Aid legislation. A person in charge of the research team will participate in a single proposal from the trans-national call in this capacity.
Eligibility of costs	Staff costs; Travel expenses; Other costs related to the networking activities.. The current guidelines for grants on an expenditure-cost basis and for allocations for administrative agreements apply.
Networking meeting	Participation is strongly recommended.
Further guidance	

Institutes with in-kind contributions

Belgium

Country	Belgium
Funding organisation	Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO)
National contact person + contact details	Nikki De Clercq – nikki.declercq@ilvo.vlaanderen.be – tel: +32 9 272 30 62
Funding	In kind
Eligibility of partners	Eligible applicants are researchers from ILVO.
Eligibility of costs	Personnel, travel, other costs related to the networking activities.
Networking meeting	Participation is strongly recommended.
Further guidance	/

Lithuania

Country	Lithuania
Funding organisation	Kaunas University of Technology (KTU)
National contact person + contact details	Alvija Šalaševičienė - alvija.salaseviciene@ktu.lt - tel. +37067271219
Funding	In-kind
Eligibility of partners	Eligible applicants are researchers from KTU.
Eligibility of costs	Personnel, travel, other costs related to the networking activities.
Networking meeting	Participation is strongly recommended.
Further guidance	/