

# Cross-KIC Food System Mapping Call for Cross-KIC Sustainable Cities

This document covers applications for funding under SGA2020

**Call Announcement:** Wednesday 10 June 2020

**Call Opens:**

- Wednesday 10 June 2020

**Deadline:**

- 1700hrs CEST, Tuesday 30 June 2020

**Document includes:**

Call description and guidelines

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## Instructions and process description

### Background

This call aims at creating a Food System Mapping digital tool supporting the City of Leuven and its region to collect, consult and process, visualize information enabling decision-making to undertake tangible actions in the frameworks of the [Leuven 2030 strategy](#) and the [European Green Deal](#) (Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies).

In 2050, two third of the world population (estimated to reach up to 10 billion) might live in cities (UNDESA, 2018). As city populations grow, the demand for services but also pressure on resources will increase. This demand puts a strain on air quality, land use, energy, water, waste, mobility, and any other services that would be essential to the prosperity and sustainability of urban areas. Globally and in Europe, food production is exceeding environmental limits or is close to doing so. Land use change in third countries and soil degradation in the EU, and the dependence on limited resources contribute in a relevant way to GHG emissions.

Price volatility, market access restrictions, and the increasing vulnerability of food production systems to climate change and loss of biodiversity, might make food more inaccessible in the future. To preserve food resources, we have to shift from our current linear model (make, use, dispose) to a circular food system. This implies the reuse of resources, reduction and (re)-utilisation of side and waste streams to prevent food loss and waste and to allow nutrient recycling and reduction in GHG emissions as well as water and land use and finally soil degradation.

In addition to climate challenges also public health represents today in many EU Member States a real socio-economic challenge, diet-related diseases (cancer, diabetes, hypertension, immune system issues, osteoarthritis, vitamins deficiency) are wide-spread diet-related diseases and the promotion of healthy and sustainable diets is a strategic policy must.

In this context, it is crucial to empower European cities and local governments to set up a virtuous policy framework and to take action towards sustainable food systems. Many European cities have sustainable and healthy diet policies as strong arguments in their agendas, however they lack in most cases of a user friendly tool providing key information on how the relevant stakeholders of the food value chain interact together, as well as identification of barriers, bottlenecks, missing actors and winning tangible coordination strategies to make public and private stakeholders working together.

Therefore, EIT Climate-KIC and EIT Food, unite to support the Health, Clean Cities Deep Demonstration with the aim to provide the necessary tools to ensure systemic change around the food value chain in Leuven and its region. Leuven is one of the cities working with EIT Climate-KIC in the [Health, Clean Cities Deep Demonstration](#) in the context of the strategy [Transformation, in Time](#). EIT Climate-KIC and EIT Food open this call to their communities for the development of a Food System Mapping digital tool with the capacity to be scaled up to other realities in a later stage following the approach of "SuperLabs".

This tool should have a solid "big data" platform able to issue dynamic queries and boost the transition towards sustainable food systems with the preliminary overview of more sustainable potential scenarios. The platform will also need to demonstrate statistically that a potential model works/is feasible.

## 1. Who can apply

All existing partners of participating KIC's (EIT Food and EIT Climate KIC) are eligible to apply. This call looks for one consortium ideally with the following expertise:

- Food value chain science and legislation
- System Innovation
- Big data, statistical science, Geo-statistics, information technologies
- Multilevel and multi-stakeholder's governance

We foster consortia including EIT Climate-KIC and, EIT Food partners.

Subcontracting is possible, consortia should be constituted no later than 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

Please note that UK Partners and Linked Third Parties, and consortiums involving UK entities are advised to read the communications issued by EIT Climate-KIC regarding eligibility and the UK's exit from the EU detailed under the Brexit section on the website. This call is made available through the participating KICs websites and internal communication channels.

## 2. Aim and Content

Food system decision-making and action require an understanding of system actors and activities. In-depth understanding of the food system of the city of Leuven and its region is crucial, especially when considering that sustainable food systems stand as one of the cornerstones of Leuven's roadmap to become carbon neutral by 2050.

Food systems are highly complex and driven by many economic, cultural and environmental factors. Better understanding these drivers and how they interact could help to improve public policies. Some of the key pressures on, and relating to, the food system are:

- 1 Promoting healthy and sustainable diets
- 2 Bringing consumers and producers closer together
- 3 Giving space to sustainable food production
- 4 Investing in sustainable agriculture
- 5 Making sustainable food products accessible to all
- 6 Preventing food loss and re-use of surpluses
- 7 Stimulating innovation for sustainable agriculture and food

Food system mapping should not only assess analysis of agri-food value chains, but also food access, food availability, food utilization, and environmental outcomes.

The aim of this call is to develop a participatory digital tool involving all relevant stakeholders (being statistical representative) capable of creating food knowledge base for subsequent in-depth studies, which will eventually identify bottlenecks, missing actors in the food value chain (facilities, processing plants, platforms, structures and any other potential value chain opportunity) and leverage points that interventions or policies should address to make a food system more sustainable.

The system mapping methodology should include different subsystems, such as operational, political, information and services, and natural resources. Special attention to post-COVID context should be paid, as factor to redesign the current food system.

The system mapping exercise should have a participatory nature, enhancing coordination between pre-existent projects of research and practice with the aim of increasing the relevance and applicability of the mapping results and related activities. Likewise, the types of food systems for investigation are to be identified together with interested stakeholders and possible project partners.

The food system mapping should include the geographical study of the areas, meetings with food system actors, visits of key locations and a workshop with stakeholders. Results should include the visualization of the food system maps and the creation of power/interest matrices of food actors.

Sustainability of the food system mapping beyond the scope of the innovation activity is required. Therefore, the information in each map should be updated regularly to offer a near-real-time overview of existing and emerging information that the city administration may use and expand while adopting regulations or measures.

As anticipated in the background of this call, the scope of this tool is to create a user friendly “big data” platform able to issue dynamic queries and boost the transition towards sustainable food systems with the preliminary overview of more sustainable potential scenarios.

### 3. Output and deliverables

The winning applicant should develop an innovative dynamic tool showcasing the food system for Leuven city and its region. As a function of time, it will also serve to track improvements and eventual barriers of the food system, with the aim to enable decision makers to roadmap actions.

Deliverables:

- Visualization of Leuven food system interactive maps including different sub-systems. The visualization system would need to include data storage with described data model, including provenance and quality of the data and visualization using common visualization tools with specific view on the following items:
  - Food production and processing facilities
  - Food waste processing facilities
  - Croplands typologies and ecosystems services concerned
    - Biodiversity overview
  - Retail and HoReCa/hospitality
  - Consumer behaviour / impacts
  - Food flows in/out
  - Transport impacts and opportunities for the short food supply chain
- The system mapping shall be delivered as an interactive dynamic tool, capable of performing ongoing modifications and updates. Geographic Information System (GIS) implementation will be positively considered.

- Assessment/estimation of the actual Food System needs of the City of Leuven (if possible, with trends along the last 5 years and expected potential trends) divided per category:
  - Household consumption-production
  - HoReCa operators
  - Food industries
  - Public canteens
  - Retailers
  - Farmers
- Assessment/estimation of the actual production capacity of the territory (if possible, with trends along the last 5 years and expected potential trends)
- Assessment/estimation of the food waste production (if possible, with trends along the last 5 years and expected potential trends)
- Creation of power/interest matrix of food actors explaining roles and capacities.
- Identification of a set of strategic action points leading to systemic change through a:
  - Short term roadmap – up to the 2021
  - Long term roadmap - 2022-2030.
- Development and refinement of a 'Business Plan', with explicit milestones for operational and financial sustainability, funding diversification, and early-stage and commercial-scale market activities.
  - Possible co-funding to continue or implement the project in the future

## 4. Funding specification

Funding will be provided to cover the costs of activities necessary to generate the deliverables.

The winning applicant will follow the administrative rules of its partnering KIC; however, considering there are a number of partners participating in both EIT Food and EIT Climate KIC, the winning applicant participating in both KICs should choose the one doing the administrative follow up of the project.

The technical follow up will be carried out by the Cross-KIC group on Sustainable Cities through a kick-off meeting (possibly online due to COVID19) and monthly online meetings to ensure the correct development according to the Cross-KIC group requirements.

Note that, unlike for the 'standard' KAVA projects:

- There is no requirement to contribute KCAs (KIC Complementary Activities).
- Cross-KIC Group intends to take an active role for the technical follow up of the project; details to be agreed with the winning applicant.
- The applicant must provide a list of:
  - projects/activities related to the topic carried out during the last 5 years. For each project/activity, the list must include: title, name of coordinating institution and coordinator, duration, short description (300-500 words), funding institution.
  - Experts and scientific/technical experts involved in the project
- The following cost categories do not apply:

- Cost of large research infrastructure
- Equipment and infrastructure depreciation
- Prizes
- Scholarships
- Sub-granting ('Task Partners'), while sub-contracting is possible
- Unit costs EIT labelled Master programmes (AVSA)
- Unit costs EIT labelled PhD programmes (AVSA)

The maximum EIT contribution will be € 120,000,00 with a maximum reimbursement rate of 70%, equivalent to a minimum co-funding rate of 30%, of total eligible costs. (Therefore, for projects requesting €120,000 of EIT contribution, co-funding of a minimum €51,429 – total costs €171,429. See below for more information on reimbursement rates.

### EIT Reimbursement Rate

The Maximum EIT Reimbursement Rate is applied at the project level and each project is subject to the Maximum EIT Reimbursement Rate as stated in the Eligibility section of this document. Individual Partners may seek EIT reimbursement of up to 100% within a consortium providing the maximum EIT Reimbursement Rate for the programme is not exceeded by the project overall.

An example where the Maximum EIT Reimbursement Rate of the programme is 70% is set out as follows:

The EIT Reimbursement Rate is viewed at partner level – where the project reimbursement must not exceed 70%, individual Partners can seek up to 100% EIT reimbursement (but others would need to seek lower amounts) i.e.:

- Partner A: 62.82% EIT Reimbursement + 37.18% co-funding
- Partner B: 100% EIT Reimbursement + 0% co-funding
- Partner C: 75% EIT Reimbursement + 25% co-funding

Partner	EIT Funding Request (€)	Co-funding (€)	EIT Reimbursement Rate	Co-funding
Partner A	70,000	41,429	62.82%	37.18%
Partner B	20,000	0	100%	0%
Partner C	30,000	10,000	75%	25.00%
TOTAL	120,000	51,429	70%	30%

## 5. Other conditions and information

- Pre-financing is subject to the rules, timeline and availability of funds of the corresponding KIC.
- All the funds awarded in this call must be fully expended by 31 December 2020.
- All activities supported in this call must be fully completed by 31 December 2020.
- The proposal selected in this Cross-KIC Call needs to follow the regular Business Plan reporting cycle and rules.

- Each proposal must have visualization of Leuven system interactive maps through a digital tool, including estimations on needs, production and waste 5 years-prior and potential trends, matrix of food actors, identification of strategic action points, and “Business Plan”.
- The proposal must include a kick-off meeting (potentially online) with Cross KIC Group and follow-up meetings every month.

## 6. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

### Eligibility criteria

- Proponent(s) are existing partners of participating KIC(s)
- A maximum reimbursement rate of 70% (therefore minimum co-funding of 30%)
- A maximum EIT Contribution of €120,000

Proposals that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be informed that they will not progress to the next stage of assessment. Please note: the Cross-KIC Group retains the right to follow-up with prospective proponents should questions arise regarding the eligibility of the submission.

MAX. DURATION	MAX. EIT REQUEST Per annum	MAX. EIT REIMBURSE MENT RATE	MIN. CO- FUNDING (total project costs)	OTHER
Completed by end of 2020	€120,000	70%	30%	Partner of one of the participating KICs and EIT Partner

**Please note that all else being equal, proposals with a lower EIT Reimbursement Rate will be favoured.**

### Selection criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by the Cross-KIC Group using the criteria listed below. Based on the evaluations and the overall available funding, the Cross-KIC Group will rank the proposals and select the winning proposal. The total maximum score for a project is 15 (3 criteria, each with a maximum score of 5).

In addition to the eligibility criteria, the following criteria will apply:

Maximum score	Description of criteria
5	1. Strategic importance for the Cross KIC initiative in Sustainable Cities including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall rationale for the project’s strategic importance</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution to the Cross-KIC portfolio that is in line with its strategic objectives</li> </ul>
5	<p>2. Experience, expertise and budget allocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Details of how your organization can perform the project</li> <li>Profile of the team members</li> <li>Related past projects that demonstrate the level of experience</li> <li>Details of how the funds are to be used: clear budget plan and timeline with justification; value for money</li> <li>Clear and detailed definition and description of outputs and deliverables</li> <li>Clear communication, dissemination and outreach plan (stakeholders and citizens)</li> </ul>
5	<p>3. Quality and impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Definition of aims, objectives and deliverables and their relevance to the Cross-KIC Sustainable Cities.</li> <li>Clear and detailed description of the project structure including WPs and Management strategy (including Kick off, regular online meetings and final meeting)</li> <li>Demonstration of the project's added value: realistic assessment of the expected contribution that the project will make to the impact of the KICs in relation to the requested budget</li> <li>Project short- and long-term strategy effectiveness</li> <li>Contribution to the KIC's KPIs (if any; this is not mandatory)</li> <li>Possibility to scale up easily the methodology to other cities</li> <li>Contribution to the EIT core KPI's (only) (<a href="#">link to EIT Climate-KIC KPIs</a> for reference – see KPIs with prefix: EITN0#)</li> <li>Product and/or service market potential;</li> <li>Commercialization plan and KIC financial participation potential (for more information regarding financial participation of participating KICs, please reach out to the relevant KIC)</li> </ul>

Evaluation scale: In relation to each of the criteria above, the score ranges from 0 to 5 according to the following scale:

0	Non-existent: no relevant information provided in the application file or cannot be judged because out of range/scope
1	Very poor: The criterion is addressed in a very incomplete and unsatisfactory manner
2	Poor: There are serious inherent weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question
3	Fair: The criterion is somewhat addressed, but there are significant weaknesses
4	Good: The proposal addresses the criterion well, although some improvements are possible

5	Excellent: The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor only.
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Coordinator of the project selected for funding will be informed by the Cross-KIC Group after approval.

## 7. Proposal submission and evaluation

Proposals should be submitted by email by attaching the proposal documents to: [businessdesk@climate-kic.org](mailto:businessdesk@climate-kic.org). It is mandatory to include in the subject of the email “Cross KIC Sustainable Cities Leuven”. Proposals that are not properly identified in the title field of the email risk not being tracked and included.

Successful project proposals will be required to adhere to the participating KIC’s grant specification and reporting requirements – this may require further elaboration on the project particulars such as work plans, budgets, cost descriptions, outputs and deliverables, KPIs (EIT and KIC-specific) etc. Please note: successful projects will need to be uploaded to the respective KIC’s grant management system. Project details will need to be fully scoped and completed, as per the system requirements. For example, additional workplan and budget details may be required.

For additional information, please contact Angelantonio D’Amario ([angelantonio.damarico@eitfood.eu](mailto:angelantonio.damarico@eitfood.eu)) or Natalia Vera ([natalia.vera@climate-kic.org](mailto:natalia.vera@climate-kic.org)).

Opening call:	Wednesday 10 June 2020
Closing call:	1700hrs CEST, 30 June 2020
Evaluation:	July 2020
Decision Notification:	28 July 2020
Start project:	latest 1 September 2020
Finalise project:	31 December 2020 (latest)

## 8. Your data and Confidentiality

Access to the project proposals will be given to all the KICs participating in this Cross-KIC action. The title and scope of the project will be shared within the KICs communities and will be made publicly available (e.g., on the KICs web site, in presentations at conferences etc.).

### Your Data

All applicants will have to accept EIT Climate-KIC’s [General Terms and Conditions](#) which also includes, in particular, related [Privacy policies](#) and [Acceptable Use policies](#) and warrant and represent that they have the authority to agree and accept these on behalf of the named organisation. Personal data provided may be processed, including sharing with other organisations, by EIT Climate-KIC and certain sensitive data elements will be visible to other partners or potential partners of EIT Climate-KIC. The



named partner organisation or potential partner of EIT Climate-KIC warrants and represents that in providing personal data in connection with the proposal, the data subjects have consented to the provision of this personal data and the processing of it by EIT Climate-KIC in the manner indicated in accordance with Privacy policies, and that the partner organisation or potential partner of EIT Climate-KIC provides the personal data in accordance with applicable law.

### **Confidentiality**

EIT Climate-KIC will treat your proposal confidentially, as well as any related information, data and documents received in accordance with our Privacy Policy or as otherwise indicated throughout the proposal form (i.e. public summary). Independent expert reviewers or evaluators are also bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

Please pay attention not to attempt to discuss your proposal with persons you believe may act as an independent expert for KICs participating in this Cross-KIC action.



## References

UNDESA, P. D. (2018). *Revision of World Urbanization Prospects*. Retrieved from <https://population.un.org/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2018-Report.pdf>