

Open Call for establishing a Living Labs Network

Open Call text



**Funded by
the European Union**

1. Introduction

This document provides guidance information regarding the ECO-READY Open Call, describing the eligibility and evaluation criteria. The document in its entirety and all associated documents of the Open Call kit must be read carefully for the submission of an application.

1.1 About ECO-READY

The ECO-READY project will develop a real-time surveillance system, an Observatory offered as an e-platform and as a mobile application. This will function as the necessary singular source of information, provide real-time assessments for the food system, and update forecasts frequently and consistently. The Observatory will be available to society, policymakers, the scientific community, and the agri-food industry, and integrated with a network of at least 10 Living Labs (LLs), which will be established through the mechanism of third parties funding. This network of LLs will facilitate knowledge sharing and data collection related to food security, climate change and biodiversity.

The underlying principle behind the ECO-READY approach is, resilient dynamism, or tackling immediate problems and long-term challenges at the same time. The Living Labs network that will be developed through the Open Call, will facilitate 'concept to action' through the co-creation of scenarios addressing regional needs, the development of policy recommendations, contingency plans, and resilience strategies, and embed them on the Observatory. Furthermore, ECO-READY will develop an early warning system and decision support tools using innovative Artificial Intelligence based on holistic prediction models and Life Cycle Assessment results.

ECO-READY will ensure that European farmers and society's interests be reflected in future policy-making and monitoring, through early-stage active engagement incorporating bottom-up recommendations, facilitated by the increased usership of the digital tools developed, and resulting in increased awareness for climate-adaptive and mitigating agri-food products. Furthermore, the Observatory smart application will include tools that will empower the citizens to actively engage in policy making, and interact directly with the scientific community, farmers, and industry and policy makers, thus driving change in consumption habits.

1.2 ECO-READY Open Call

The ECO-READY Open Call aims to

- Provide short- and long-term local case studies for resilience building strategies across a broad geographical distribution;
- Connect different types of LLs (geographical, climatic, thematic) to share knowledge and tackle interdisciplinary problems related to food security and resilience;
- Form a lasting partnership between the network of Living Labs and the observatory for easier data collection and exchange.

2. Open Call for establishing a Living Labs Network

2.1 General Information

The ECO-READY Open Call for establishing a Living Labs Network aims to attract scientific, community and commercial agri-food stakeholders including **EU ministries and agencies for education, agriculture, environment, farmers, farm advisor organizations, industry, retail and consumer representatives, research and innovation collaboration networks, academia and civil society organizations.**

The LLs must be composed of 2-5 partners, at least 1 scientific or technical or commercial, and at least 1 community of users.

Partners in the LLs should be specialized in one or more of the following sectors:

- food security,
- biodiversity,
- climate change.

The Living Labs will:

- Investigate product types (food products & crops) and create model-based scenarios.
- Test the scenarios relevant to climate-related challenges, such as: exposure to climate shocks, management of water and land resources etc.
- Contribute to the development of contingency plans for selected food products for ensuring food supply & security.
- Provide input to data-driven policy recommendations.
- Co design/ deploy awareness raising plans.
- Form a lasting partnership with the Observatory for easier data collection and exchange.

The sub-projects performed by the selected Living Labs will last for 24 months and will be divided into 3 phases:

- Design- Deliver an activity plan (May 2024-October 2024)
- Development- Implement the activities/ Demonstrate the results and outcomes (November 2024-September 2025)
- Impact- Finalize activities and draft a sustainability plan (October 2025-April 2026).

The Open Call for establishing a Living Labs Network will be published on **May 31st, 2023** and proposal submissions will be accepted till **September 30th 2023**. It is planned to finance at least 10 Living Labs projects. The total sum for the Open Call is 4.000.000,00 €, and each Living Lab may ask for up to 400.000,00 €. Each partner will have a budget between 60.000 -200.000 euro.

Application and selection	Activity	Date
	Launch of the Open Call	May 31 st 2023
	Deadline for submitting the proposals	September 30 th 2023
	Eligibility check	October 1 st - October 30 th 2023
	Evaluation and selection	November 1 st - January 31 st 2023
	Evaluation results and contracting	February 1 st - April 30 th 2024

Table 1 Open Call – application and selection timeline

2.2. Topics

LLs need to demonstrate in their application, innovative contributions to the goal of food security and resilience. LLs need to focus on one bioclimatic region and to investigate 5 model based scenarios choosing 3 products of importance for all clusters and 2 products of regional importance. More details on the choice of products can be found in the ECO-READY Open Call Applicant's Guide. It is essential to note that applicants will have to provide a clear understanding of the importance of the selected foods/ crops in regards with the food systems in the involved regions.

2.3 Eligibility criteria

Eligible stakeholders to participate in the call for third party funding and establish Living Labs include EU ministries and agencies for education, agriculture, and environment, farmers and farm advisor organizations, industry, retail and consumer representatives, research and innovation collaboration networks, academia and civil society organizations.

Detailed eligibility criteria are described in ECO-READY Open Call Applicants' Guide, Section 3.2 Eligibility criteria. Overall eligibility criteria for the ECO-READY Open Call are:

- Open Call for LL's will be open to all legal applicants eligible for Horizon Europe funding.
- LL's must establish a consortium of 2-5 partners as described in the Consortium Declaration.
- The consortium must be composed of at least 2 partners (1 scientific/technical/commercial and 1 community of users).
- All applicants must have a valid VAT number and must be active and operational.
- Partners cannot participate in more than one consortium applying for the call by means of exclusion. If an applicant participates in more than one proposal, then all proposals will be considered as ineligible.

- Existing consortium members of ECO-READY project as well as their and their affiliated entities are not eligible for the Open Call of ECO-READY.
- The proposal must be delivered before the defined deadline, applying the requested submission procedure.
- Proposals shall only ask for funding for that part of the work that is not yet accomplished and will be carried out after having been selected for funding. Of course, this does not exclude the usage of e.g., results, IP, infrastructures or approaches already held by the applicants.
- Proposals need to align with the ECO-READY Open Call requirements concerning the choice of bio-climatic regions and products scope.

2.4 Submission procedure

The entry point for submitting all proposals for ECO-READY Open Call is <https://opencallhub.eu/>.

Submissions received through any other channel will be automatically discarded.

Documents required in subsequent phases will be submitted via dedicated channels, which will be indicated by the ECO-READY consortium in the contracting phase.

In case multiple versions of the same application are submitted, only the last version will be evaluated.

2.5 Origin of funds

The funds provided through the Open Call come directly from the funds of the Horizon Europe Project ECO-READY, which is funded by the European Commission under Grant Agreement Number 101084201.

In order to receive funding, any selected proposal will sign a dedicated Sub-Grant Agreement with the ECO-READY consortium.

More details on responsibilities of beneficiaries can be found in Chapter 5 of the Open Call Applicants' Guide.

3. Points of contact

For all the information related to ECO-READY Open Call please state your question on the FAQ section on the <https://opencallhub.eu/> or contact us at eco-ready@opencallhub.eu.