OPEN CALL

Title of the call topic:

"SmartAgriHubs Hackathons and Challenges - RESPOND to the COVID-19 Crisis"

Title and Acronym of the project:

Hacking sustainable, safe and environmentally friendly food production and supply in SEE as a fight against pandemic scenarios

"FARM2FORK HACK"

FARM to FORK

19.08.2020, Version 1.0

Content

1 Name and acronym of the open call

Name: **"Hacking sustainable, safe and environmentally friendly food production and supply in SEE as a fight against pandemic scenarios"**

Acronym: **FARM2FORK HACK**

2 Open call provider

ITC Murska Sobota, Lendavska ulica 5 a, 9000 Murska Sobota, based on the conditions defined below, invites all interested parties to submit application and present their innovative and implementable products and services, as follows.

FARM2FORK HACK is financed by the European project SmartAgriHubs (https://www.smartagrihubs.eu/).

3 Background of the FARM2FORK HACK

ITC Murska Sobota is a founder and main administration office of one of the first Digital Innovation Hubs in Europe, covering the sector of agriculture and food production, called **DIH AGRIFOOD**.

DIH AGRIFOOD represents a One-Stop-Shop providing services to target groups (farmers, food producers, farmer associations, food supply chains) through a multi-actor cooperation. DIH is open, free membership based, non-formal network, with a defined set of services and structures, implemented through a network of facilitating organizations and dedicated facilitators, trained to support DIH members. DIH AGRIFOOD services are following:

- Awareness creation
- Innovation scouting and Technology Transfer
- Cooperation with other DIHs
- Financing/Funding
- Developing strategies and business models
- Mentoring and training
- Living lab

In order to implement services more efficiently, DIH AGRIFOOD has developed **AGRIFOOD COOPERATION PLATFORM**, which is hosting more than 800 organizations with 5800 members, 80 support organizations, 25 projects, 2 Thematic Networks, 150 Products and Services, 20 Living Labs and 50 DIHs. The AGRIFOOD COOPERATION PLATFORM is supported by 20 facilitators from 7 countries and constitutes a unique and growing eco-system for solution providers and other actors in agrifood sector.

4 FARM2FORK HACK scope

FARM2FORK HACK invites European solution providers, innovators and enthusiasts, to propose their **innovative and implementable** products and services, which will have the following impact:

(i)   **minimizing negative effects of COVID pandemic in agrifood sector** or

(ii)   **increase resilience of the food production and food supply systems in pandemic situations**

The FARM2FORK HACK is targeting end users such as **farmers, cooperatives, food producers, short food supply chains or any other actor in agrifood sector**.

The main Hackathon objective is to identify products and services applicable in the agrifood domain, which are responding to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis. Products and services can be presented as Minimum Viable Products (MVP) or fully developed products and services that can be deployable, promotable and marketable.

Examples for products and services may be very broad, covering following areas (this list is not exhaustive):

- Deployment of any kind of digital technologies in agriculture, food production/processing and food supply (robotics, AI, IoT, EO, Big data, blockchain, …);
- Agrifood workforce (management, personal distancing, training, optimization, …);
- Education in the agrifood sector;
- Connecting regional supply and demand (short food supply chains, transport, forecasting, …);
- Decreasing food loss and managing food waste (donating, new business models, re-routing, circular business models);
- Food safety, storage, packaging;
- Preservation of nature and resources;

5 General requirements of the Open call

The products and services submitted for the FARM2FORK HACK should meet the following general requirements:

- Applicants shall propose products and services relevant to the FARM2FORK HACK scope presented in chapter 4.
- The products and services proposed shall be original and owned by the applicant.

- An applicant shall be a legally constituted entity established in the Member States (MS) countries of the European Union (EU), including their overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to the Member States[1] and Associated Countries (AC)[2].
- The applicant must not present incompatibilities of any kind in applying, or a conflict of interest in the area they work in. Nor may they be in a situation of financial, fiscal, or labour irregularity of any kind.

The Open call provider reserves the right to exclude participation in the FARM2FORK HACK and to refrain from awarding the prize in the event that participant is not proven to have complied with the above requirements.

6 Applicants and applications

The Hackathon participation is open for **any solution provider, innovator, and enthusiast active and applying through following types of organizations:**

- Startups and SMEs
- Large enterprises
- Sectoral agencies
- Industry associations
- Infrastructure and (public) service providers
- Higher education and researches
- Research and Technology organizations
- Education/Training centre and schools
- Business support organization
- Other

The applicant may apply to the open call with only one application. If several applications of the same applicant arise, only the first arrived application is considered, while the others are discarded.

Submitted forms shall be completed in English language.

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[1] Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Greenland, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles (Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten), New Caledonia and Dependencies, Pitcairn, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Helena, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Wallis and Futuna Islands.
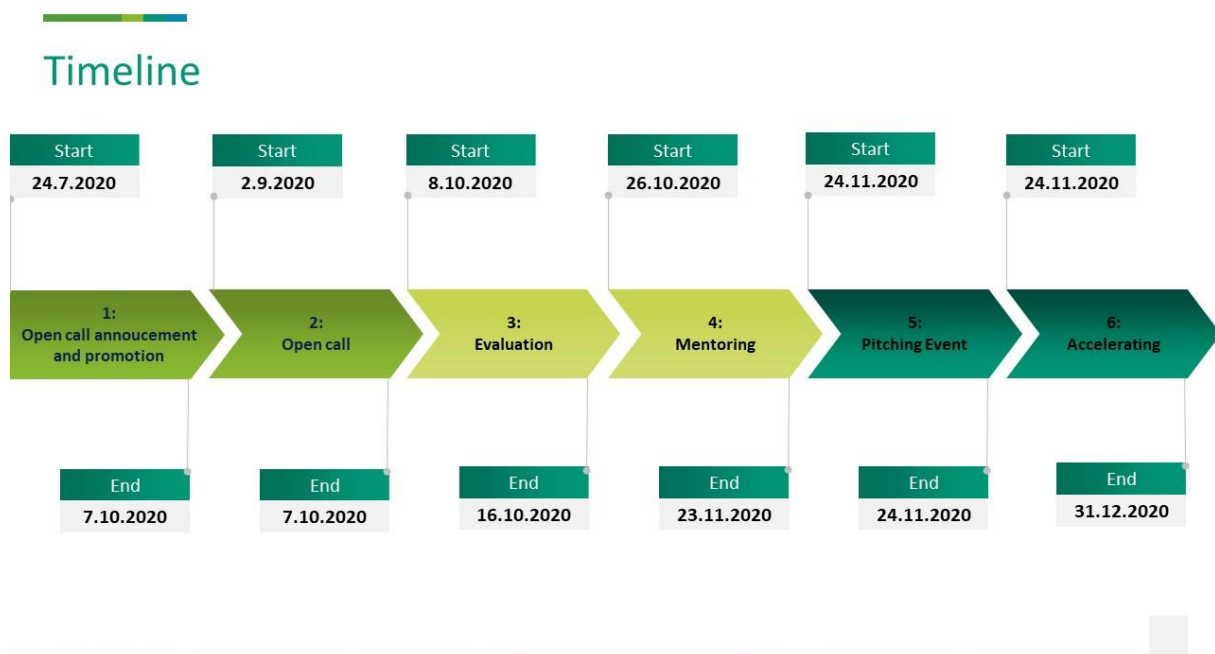
[2] Iceland, Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Israel, Moldova, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Ukraine, Tunisia, Georgia and Armenia.

7 FARM2FORK HACK stages

1. **OPEN CALL STAGE:** The first stage calls invite participants to submit their proposal in the form of presentation of their innovative and implementable products and services.

2. **EVALUATION STAGE:** In the evaluation stage, all proposals will be evaluated, resulting with 15 best proposals selected to enter the next stages.

3. **MENTORING STAGE:** 15 proposals will be mentored and supported by three international mentors. The mentoring programme in the extent of 6-8 hours will be conducted remotely, through following training sessions:
   a. **General session:** the session will focus on explaining the FARM2FORK HACK process and acceleration programme provided by DIH AGRIFOOD
   b. **Commercialization and Networking session:** presenting commercialization and community building opportunities for the applicants/solution providers and possibilities to expand their businesses
   c. **Pitching preparation session:** explaining best practices, methods and skills for preparing and delivering excellent pitch as well as to support applicants in preparing for the Hackathon event

4. **EVENT STAGE:** The Hackathon event/Pitching session will be organized on 24.11.2020 in Ljubljana, as a part of the Agrobiznis conference on ''New technologies in agrifood''. The event will be organized on-site and remotely, so every applicant will be able to have remote pitch in the form of short presentation or pre-recorded video presentation. The event will be live-streamed and recorded. All presentations will be evaluated by 3 experts, who will announce three winners.

5. **ACCELERATION STAGE:** After the event, a set of voluntary and free-of-charge activities/services are provided for the benefit of applicants:
   a. **Each applicant** and its product/solution will be registered in the DIH AGRIFOOD COOPERATION PLATFORM (https://mapping.dih-agrifood.com/) with assigned facilitator, who will be able to assist the applicant on long-term. DIH AGRIFOOD membership is free and provides the applicant with the possibility to cooperate on long term in the areas such as participating in EU funding projects, free promotion, connecting with customers/end-users, commercialization, etc.
   b. **Each applicant** will have the opportunity to register at the SmartAgriHubs Innovation portal (https://www.smartagrihubs.eu/docs/welcome)
   c. **15 applicants entering stages 3-5** will receive special promotion and presentation through a dedicated Article and publishable catalogue of products and services published and promoted through:
      i. AGROBIZNIS regional network

    ii. DIH AGRIFOOD communication channels

    iii. SmartAgriHubs communication channels and SmartAgriHubs Platform

    iv. DIH Slovenia communication channels

    v. FARM2FORK mentor's network

    vi. F6S: https://www.f6s.com/

    vii. European Cluster Collaboration platform: https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/

    viii. Enterprise Europe Network: https://een.ec.europa.eu/

    ix. FundingBox: https://fundingbox.com/

    x. DIHNET Community

    xi. EU S3 thematic Area: High Tech Farming (https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/high-tech-farming)

    xii. AIOTI DIH Network (https://aioti.eu/)

    xiii. European Projects' channels: DEMETER (https://h2020-demeter.eu/), IoF2020 (https://www.iof2020.eu/), STARTUP3 (https://startup3.eu/), AGROBOFOOD (https://agrobofood.eu/) and others

d. **15 applicants entering stages 3-15** will have the opportunity to get in contact with interested end-users (farmers, industry) and investors for information exchange and collaboration opportunities.

e. **3 winning applicants** will be announced at the main hackathon/conference event, receive awards (see chapter 9) and will be interviewed, with their interviews published in the DIH AGRIFOOD and other communication channels.

The timeline of FARM2FORK HACK stages is following:

Timeline

Start 24.7.2020	Start 2.9.2020	Start 8.10.2020	Start 26.10.2020	Start 24.11.2020	Start 24.11.2020
1: Open call annoucement and promotion	2: Open call	3: Evaluation	4: Mentoring	5: Pitching Event	6: Accelerating
End 7.10.2020	End 7.10.2020	End 16.10.2020	End 23.11.2020	End 24.11.2020	End 31.12.2020

8 Application process

The proposals should be submitted in the English language, via the **F6S Platform** by **Wednesday 7th of October 2020 (17:00pm CET)**: https://www.f6s.com/farm2forkhack/apply

9 Prize

On top of benefits described in Chapter 7 (MENTORING STAGE and ACCELERATING STAGE) the organizer has guaranteed prize/award fund of 6.000 EUR for three hackathon winners.

 3 winning solution will receive:

1st prize

- A prize of 3.000 EUR
- FARM2FORK HACK Gold award

2nd prize

- A prize of 2.000 EUR
- FARM2FORK HACK Silver award

3rd prize

- A prize of 1.000 EUR
- FARM2FORK HACK Bronze award

10 Evaluation: procedure, communications, and assessment criteria

After the application deadline, all received proposals will be verified against compliance and eligibility and evaluated according to evaluation criteria.

15 top tier applications will be chosen to enter stages 3-5. After the decision is taken, all applicant will be contacted through the contact e-mail provided in the application.

The decision will be made public latest on 19 October 2020. The decision taken shall be final and the applicants undertake to accept it without any possibility of withdrawal.

All applications will be evaluated accordingly, using the following evaluation criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
Relevance: This criterion rates the relevance of the proposal with the FARM2FORK HACK scope as identified in Chapter 4.	0-5
Innovation: This criterion rates on the innovativeness of the proposed product or solution with respect to currently deployed technologies, solutions,	0-5

standards, business models as well as established social and other patterns.	
Feasibility: This criterion rates on how realistic it is that the proposed product or solution will be implemented and used by the target group, its potential for wider-use and commercialization as well as financial justifiability, sustainability, replicability and reusability.	0-5
Impact: This criterion rates on proposal's potential to (i) minimize negative effects of COVID pandemic in agrifood sector or (ii) increase resilience of the food production and food supply systems in pandemic situations.	0-5
SUM:	**0-20**

11 Privacy and personal data protection

Both ITC Murska Sobota and FARM2FORK HACK participants agree to keep any information exchanged in strict confidence and not to disclose to any third party (other than those involved in the evaluation process) all or any part of the information and documentation received from the other Party. This obligation is not valid for the data provided in the submitted proposal, which may be disclosed by the Open call provider for the purpose of granting applicants free support and promotion described in Acceleration stage (Chapter 7). Each applicant shall accept the Declaration clause provided in the Application form (section ''DECLARATION''), which allows the Open call provider and DIH AGRIFOOD to execute DIH related long-term support. The confidentiality obligation shall remain in force even when the FARM2FORK HACK is over.

12 Publicity and dissemination

ITC Murska Sobota and DIH AGRIFOOD will carry out communication and dissemination actions regarding the FARM2FORK HACK. Applicants therefore agree that details of their proposals will be used to publicise the results. Thus, participants authorise ITC Murska Sobota to disseminate and publish basic data through its own communication channels and in specialised and/or general media.

13 Contact and Important Dates

More questions? Please contact:	aleksandra.kocet@itc-cluster.com
Deadline for submission of proposals:	*Wednesday 7 October 2020, 17:00 CET*
Invitation of selected finalists:	*Monday 19 October 2020*
Online Hackathon event:	Tuesday *24 November 2020*