



VIDA

value-added innovation
in food chains

Guide for applicants

Demonstration Voucher

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Co-Funded by
the European Union

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1 Introduction

Climate change and the growth of the global population are both having a massive impact on food, fresh water and energy resources. Food production and processing use large amounts of water and energy and thus face many challenges regarding consumption, measurement, management, quality control and treatment within the different process steps.

Consequently, resource efficiency, i.e. the efficient use of raw materials, water and energy are part of the sustainability strategies of all companies in the agri-food value chains. Key enabling technologies (KET ¹, i.e. microtechnology, nanotechnology, industrial biotechnology, advanced materials, photonics, and advanced manufacturing technologies) provide diverse potentials to tackle the challenges of minimizing resource consumption.

VIDA – Value added Innovation in food chAins² aims to accelerate the implementation of new solutions in the food sector which improve the usage of water and energy with the ambition to reduce losses and consumption. VIDA has three different funding schemes to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) seeking new resource efficient solutions.

The **Demonstration Voucher** (DV) provides financial support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in the food, water, energy or KET-sector to fund the demonstration of innovative solutions towards resource efficient food processing. The following text guides through the process of applying for funding. Reference is made to the '[VIDA Terms and Conditions](#)'.

1.1 VIDA partners

| | |
|---|---|
|  <p>Centre of Expertise Water Technology www.cew.nl</p> |  <p>Food-Processing Initiative www.foodprocessing.de</p> |
|  <p>Water Alliance www.wateralliance.nl</p> |  <p>Lombardy Energy Cleantech Cluster www.energycluster.it</p> |
|  <p>Aragon Food Cluster www.aragonalimentacion.com</p> |  <p>Nanoprogres z.s.p.o. www.nanoprogress.eu</p> |
|  <p>ZINNAE www.zinnae.org</p> |  <p>Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação http://www.spi.pt</p> |
|  <p>BalticNet-PlasmaTec www.balticnet-plasmatec.org</p> |  <p>CLEAN (CLN) www.cleancluster.dk</p> |

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/policy/key-enabling-technologies_en

² VIDA project has received funding from the European Union's H2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement n° 777795. The consortium is organized by 10 cluster management organizations from 7 European countries.

1.2 Contact partner (Coordinator)

The details of the VIDA coordinator are:

CEW | James Baker | Oostergoweg 9, 8911 MA Leeuwarden, Netherlands

Email: info@vidaproject.eu | Phone: +31 58 210 09 19

For further information the VIDA partners can also be contacted (ref. annex 1).

2 Scope of the Demonstration Voucher

The Demonstration Vouchers (DV) are meant to address one common challenge of minimizing resource consumption in the food chain. DV provide financial support to SME from the food, water, energy and/or KET-sector to fund the demonstration of innovative solutions in practice. The aim of the DV is to assess diverse, new solutions provided by innovative SME for the common challenges within one related project in the food-chain. The DV offers consortia of minimum two SMEs an opportunity to demonstrate new solutions towards a resource efficient food production on site of a 'prospective user', i.e. a company from the food production and/or processing.

The challenges VIDA aims to address are described on the [VIDA website](#) and will be updated in the course of the VIDA project. Key enabling technologies (KET), i.e. microtechnology, nanotechnology, industrial biotechnology, advanced materials, photonics, and advanced manufacturing technologies provide diverse potentials to tackle the challenges of minimizing resource consumption. DV supports in particular demonstration projects that are based on such KET solutions.

3 Available Funding

The applicants can apply for a grant of max. €60.000 covering 100% of the eligible expenses (ref. 'VIDA Terms and Conditions'). The total budget reserved in VIDA for the Demonstration Vouchers is € 3.000.000.

- Budget for the first call: € 1.500.000
- Budget for the second call: € 1.500.000

Applicants are entitled to apply and benefit from more than one VIDA voucher scheme, reaching a total max. funding of € 60.000 per SME, provided that the VIDA projects are executed in line with the '[VIDA Terms and Conditions](#)' (information on other vouchers can be obtained on [VIDA website](#)).

4 Eligible Activities

This voucher is granting financial support to small and medium sized enterprises willing to demonstrate new solutions towards improving the resource efficiency in food production and processing. The aim of the DV is to implement diverse, new solutions provided by innovative SME for the common challenges within the operational environment in the food-chain.

For illustrative purposes only, examples of opportunity areas of the envisaged technologies are listed below:

- Fish farming (decontamination, closed loop, antibiotics, energy reduction)
- Sustainable farming (decontamination, irrigation, recycling, diffuse pollution)
- Soy/Milk processing (protein recovery, valorization, milk dewatering)
- Brewery/Wineries (water recycling, innovative water sourcing, energy reduction)
- Greenhouses (zero discharge, pesticide removal)
- Meat processing (water and energy efficiency, legionella control, recycling water)
- Etc.

The objective of the eligible activity must be related to the overall challenge of resource efficiency in the food sector with the target to reduce the consumption of the resources water and energy or tackle diverse issues related to the food-value chain, i.e. soil/water pollution, water scarcity, waste valorization, among others. All activities related to the demonstration and implementation of new solutions in practice can be considered eligible.

As key enabling technologies provide diverse potentials to tackle the challenges of minimizing resource consumption, DV will support in particular demonstration projects that are based on such KET solutions. The technology to be tested and implemented in an application for a Demonstration Voucher needs to be in a technology readiness level (TRL*) between 6 and 8. The TRL level needs to be reached and proven before starting the project.

**Note: where the text refers to a TRL (technology readiness level), unless otherwise specified the following definitions apply:*

TRL 6 *technology demonstrated in (industrially when KET) relevant environment*

TRL 7 *system prototype demonstration in operational environment*

TRL 8 *system complete and qualified*

TRL 9 *actual system proven in operational environment (KET: competitive manufacturing)*

4.1 Who can apply?

The Demonstration Voucher scheme addresses **small and medium-sized enterprises in the food, water, energy and KET supply chain** willing to address one common challenge of reducing resource consumption in the food chain.

The DV offers consortia of minimum two SMEs an opportunity to demonstrate new solutions towards a resource efficient food production on site of a 'prospective user', i.e. a company from the food production and processing. Other entities (researchers, knowledge providers, associations, foundations, etc.) can assist the SME partners in the implementation of the action (e.g. acting as subcontractors).

4.2 Main requirements for applicants

1. Applicants must declare their SME status in accordance with the SME definition of the European Union³
2. Applicants need to be active in one of the following sectors:
 - a. Food production and processing chain
 - b. Water
 - c. Energy
 - d. KET supply chain
3. Applicants must declare their financial stability.
4. Applicants must be a member of a VIDA cluster **or** be headquartered in a VIDA territorial scope (see [annex 1](#)).

4.3 Evaluation criteria

The evaluation of applications for Demonstration Voucher is based on a set of criteria in addition to the above-mentioned main requirements. After the positive evaluation of these main requirements the following criteria will be applied to evaluate the applications:

1. Technical excellence, feasibility and viability (proposal and service supplier)
 - 1.1. TRL Level: well proven TRL levels receive higher awards
 - 1.2. Test Scope: well defined test scopes receive higher awards
 - 1.3. Test Outline: a clear approach to move the technology to higher TRL levels receive higher awards
 - 1.4. Health and Safety Concerns: adequate and complete documentation to comply with health and safety regulation receive higher awards
 - 1.5. Risk: the methodology for addressing risks identified in the action
2. Innovation
 - 2.1. Innovativeness of the envisaged solution in the target sector: the applicant shall provide evidence to show the technology is an advancement compared to the best available technology.
 - 2.2. Innovativeness from a value chain perspective: the applicant shall provide compelling evidence that the technology has potential as disruptor in the food chain.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en

3. Impacts

- 3.1. Economic Impact: the extent to which the applicant has provided evidence that demonstrates the technology has the potential to provide a step change in costs benchmarked against the relevant alternatives
- 3.2. Social Impact: the extent to which the applicant has provided evidence that demonstrates the technology has the potential to provide a step change in social benefits benchmarked against the relevant alternatives
- 3.3. Environmental Impact: the extent to which the applicant has provided evidence that demonstrates the technology has the potential to provide a step change in environmental added value/impact benchmarked against the relevant alternatives

Based on these criteria the applicant must provide relevant information and descriptions in the application form. To be considered for funding, joint actions must pass a threshold of 60% of the maximum score. To ensure a consistent minimum quality for all award criteria, each sub-criterion needs to score at least half of the points available for that criterion. Reference is made to the '[VIDA Terms and Conditions](#)', in which the applied evaluation criteria are detailed.

4.4 Gender Equality

VIDA seeks a gender balance. Therefore, applicants are invited to take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in the implementation of the action. They must aim for a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action, including supervisory and managerial levels, to the extent possible.

4.5 How to apply?

4.5.1 Submission

Applicants need to submit their application via the VIDA platform called 'Clou5' (upon registration in the platform⁴) using the application templates provided for Demonstration Vouchers. Clou5 is accessible via the [VIDA website](#) or directly via www.clou5.net.

4.5.2 Assessment and timeline

For the Demonstration Voucher, 2 calls are foreseen during the course of the VIDA project:

- Call 1: open February 1st, 2019 at 09.00 h CET
Extended to 30th April 2019, at 17:00 CET
- Call 2: open August 1st, 2019 at 09:00 h CET
closing October 31st, 2019 17:00 h CET

⁴ Registration: Please identify *your VIDA cluster for sponsorship* and send an e-mail containing your name, surname, country, company, email address and preferred VIDA cluster to pw@balticnet-plasmatec.org.

Applications can only be handed in during these two call periods. After each closing date, all applications that have been submitted for the Demonstration Voucher will be reviewed by the independent VIDA Advisory Board.

Funding will be based on quality, rationale and feasibility of each project. The assessment period lasts up to max. 10 weeks starting upon closure of the respective call. The successful applicant needs to sign a formal contract with the VIDA coordinator (the 'Grant Agreement') within 60 days. The voucher is valid for 12 months upon signature of the Grant Agreement.

If an application in the first call has not been evaluated positively, the VIDA consortium will provide feedback and re-application is possible when the second call is opened.

5 Monitoring activities

The project plan for demonstration vouchers shall contain three clearly defined milestones, which are realistically reflecting the progress of the project. Monitoring will be based on these milestones:

Interim Report 1

When milestone one (M1) is achieved, an Interim Report 1 has to be provided by the consortium to the VIDA lead partner.

Interim Report 2

When milestone two (M2) is achieved, an Interim Report 2 has to be provided by the consortium to the VIDA lead partner.

Final Report

After the project is finished a Final Report has to be delivered summarizing all activities and the final results of the project.

The forms and templates for these reports will be available on *Clou5* for download and submission. Payment of grants will be made in three terms, based on the accomplishment of these milestones and approval of the reports (see also 'VIDA Terms and Conditions'). Moreover, the funded SMEs will be asked to participate in an evaluation of the VIDA project. Participation in this evaluation is mandatory.

Note: The applicant must inform the [VIDA coordinator](#) immediately about occurring problems, which may compromise the success of the project.

6 Disclaimer

Purpose: This guide is explaining the VIDA Demonstration Voucher (DV) for information purposes only. No rights can be claimed on the basis of this document. This document does not reflect the views of the European Commission.

Mistakes or inconsistencies: The VIDA Consortium is not responsible for any mistakes or misinterpretations that this text may cause. In the case of inconsistencies, the VIDA Executive Board will determine the steps to be taken, in cooperation with the applicant concerned.

Modification of the DV Guide for Applicants: The VIDA partners, represented by the coordinator are entitled to modify this Guide for Applicants (including re-opening/closing dates of the calls, in case of non-granting of funds and/or early depletion of the available funds, or as they see fit) at any time without notice. The current version of DV Guide for Applicants will be provided on the website: www.vidaproject.eu, always mentioning the version number.

Terms and Conditions: The most recent 'VIDA Terms and Conditions' of the VIDA voucher scheme apply and prevails. These Terms and Conditions can be found on the VIDA website: www.vidaproject.eu or on Clou5: <https://goo.gl/6qrD75>.

Consequential Damages: In no event shall either party be liable to the other or any of its affiliates for any consequential, incidental, indirect, special, punitive or exemplary damages (including, without limitation, lost profits, business or goodwill) suffered or incurred by such other party or its affiliates in connection with this voucher scheme, even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

Annex 1: VIDA clusters and regions

To be eligible for VIDA vouchers the applicant must be:

- member of a VIDA cluster
- or**
- be headquartered in a VIDA territorial scope

For cluster membership information please contact your preferred VIDA cluster.

VIDA clusters

- Clúster para el uso eficiente del agua (www.zinnae.org)
- Clúster Aragonés de Alimentación (www.aragonalimentacion.com)
- BalticNet-PlasmaTec e.V. (www.balticnet-plasmatec.org)
- Food-Processing Initiative e.V. (www.foodprocessing.de)
- Watercampus Leeuwarden (CEW or Wateralliance: www.cew.nl / www.wateralliance.nl)
- Clean cluster (www.cleancluster.dk)
- Lombardy Energy Cleantech Cluster (www.energycluster.it)
- Nanoprogess cluster (www.nanoprogess.eu)

VIDA Territorial scope

- Spain (Aragón region)
- Germany (all regions)
- Denmark (all regions)
- Portugal (all regions)
- Czech Republic (all regions)
- Italy (Lombardy region)
- The Netherlands (all regions)



clúster aragonés de
alimentación



FOOD-PROCESSING
INITIATIVE

