



VIDA
value-added innovation
in food chains

Evaluation and award of Demonstration projects, *first call*

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1. Introduction

Climate change and the growth of the global population are both having a massive impact on food, freshwater 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 agrifood value chains. 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.

VIDA – **V**alue added **I**nnovation in **fooD** **chA**ins 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. The Demonstration Voucher is one of three different funding schemes to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) seeking new resource-efficient solutions.

The Demonstration Vouchers (DV) provides 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.

Common challenges determined in collaboration with the Advisory Board are:

- Sustainable aquaculture
- Sustainable livestock
- Sustainable breweries
- Sustainable wineries
- Efficient meat processing
- Sustainable agriculture and efficient greenhouse management
- Alternative food production
- Resource-efficient food processing
- Sustainable milk processing
- Resource-efficient beverages production (other non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages)

This report summarizes the procedures of the first call (Call 1) and the results for all proposals handed in for the first call that was closed on April 30th 2019. Results of the second call (Call2) will be reported in D4.4 “Evaluation and award of Demonstration projects, second call”.

2. Application

2.1. Who can apply?

The Demonstration Voucher (DV) scheme addresses small and medium-sized enterprises in the food, water, energy and KET supply chain. 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).

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.

*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 an operational environment
- TRL 8: System complete and qualified

2.2. Main requirements for applicants

The Vida Voucher Scheme is open to SME's meeting the following criteria:

1. Applicants must declare their SME status in accordance with the SME definition of the European Union.
2. Applicants need to be active in one of the following sectors:
 - a. food production chain,
 - b. water technology supply chain
 - c. energy technology supply chain
 - 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 (ref Annex 1, [VIDA Terms and Conditions](#)).

For further information on the conditions and submission, please see the [Guide for applicants](#) and [VIDA Terms and Conditions](#).

3. Available Fund 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 17:00CET
- Call 2: open August 1st, 2019 at 09:00 h CET closing October 31st, 2019 17:00 h CET

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. This budget was split half for the 2 calls.

- 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. Assessment and Evaluation

4.1. Demonstration Voucher (DV) evaluation

The evaluation process starts with the assessment of the eligibility of the applicant, according to the criteria set out in main requirements. Demonstration Voucher proposals can only be handed in during the two call periods published on the VIDA website. After each closing date, all applications that have been submitted for the Demonstration Voucher will be reviewed by the independent VIDA Advisory Board.

After succeeding the main requirements (eligibility check), the application will be reviewed by three members of the independent VIDA Advisory Board. The scoring system set for the DV is shown in table 1. These points will be based on the answers written in each submitted application form.

To be considered for funding, joint actions must pass a threshold of 60% of the maximum score. To ensure consistent minimum quality for all award criteria, each sub-criterion needs to score at least half of the points available for that criterion.

The assessment period lasts up to max. 10 weeks starting upon closure of the respective call. The successful applicants will receive an email about the outcome of the assessment. The successful applicant needs to sign a formal contract with the VIDA coordinator (the 'Grant Agreement'). The validity of the voucher is 12 months starting from the contract date. Remuneration is further explained in the [VIDA Terms and Conditions](#).

4.2. VIDA DV evaluation procedure on CLOU5

The evaluations procedure is managed on CLOU5. The following procedure of evaluation on CLOU5 is executed with respect to the following targets:

- ✓ Easy handling for applicants and evaluators
- ✓ One procedure fits all applications
- ✓ A manageable workload for “VIDA evaluation coordinator”
- ✓ A manageable number of “groups” on CLOU5.
- ✓ All relevant information per application in one place
- ✓ Transparent process, still keep single evaluation “private”

The evaluation procedure is following 9 steps:

Step 1: Eligibility check

- Check the main requirements >2 SME, SME status, signature, location/cluster.
- Check the TRL of the proposals which need to be 6-8.
- Check expertise needed (to match expertise of the proposal and the advisory board member)
- Create “Application overview” on Excel (information about the DVs, the eligibility, the evaluator, etc.)
- Information to Regional partners (sponsors) on not eligible applications providing reasons for ineligibility.
- Regional partners (sponsors) inform the main applicants & provide follow up support.

Step 2: Assignment of the advisory board members

- Three evaluators per proposal (2-5 per board member).
- The three evaluators have to be from different countries (not from the same country as the proposal).
- Minimum on matching expertise: 1
- Update “Application overview”.

Step 3: Open up a group per DV application on CLOU5

- Open a new group on CLOU5 per DV application (with ltd. widgets).
- Add the widget “Evaluation submit button”
- Edit the widget:
 - o Select a folder:
 - o Selected privacy level: Privat
 - o Select the owner of the folder: VIDA Application Coordinator
- Insert the following documents:
 - o DV application as pdf (after deleting the personal data)
 - o Evaluation template

- Add the selected three evaluators for this application to the group. All evaluators will be registered on CLOU5 (FPI) before. Information needed: name, surname, e-mail address, company, country, cluster affiliation.

Step 4: Instruction of the evaluators

- Send email to each evaluator to inform about the procedure on CLOU5 and the deadline for evaluation, cc. to regional VIDA Regional partner (sponsors) from evaluator's region (in case there are questions; regional can be addressed for questions).
 - o Attach a description of evaluation procedure for evaluators
- Invite each evaluator to a VIDA webinar to instruct them on the procedures on CLOU5.

Step 5: Informing evaluators

- Invite the three evaluators for this application to the DV group.
- VIDA Application Coordinator checks on a regular basis if evaluators did log in CLOU5.
- In case evaluator is not active and/or evaluation is not coming until the communicated deadline, follow up activity is needed (mail/phone/ etc.), via regional partner (sponsor).

Step 6: Evaluation by evaluators

Responsible: Evaluators (selected advisory board experts)

- Evaluators open the provided information in the group.
- Evaluators download the personalized evaluation form.
- Evaluators will evaluate and save the form on their own server/device.
- The evaluation will be submitted on CLOU5 in the respective DV group with "Evaluation submit button" and stored directly in the folder: Submitted evaluation. To assure that other evaluators cannot see the results before making own evaluation, only the VIDA Application Coordinator has access to this information (see Step1).

Step 7: Evaluation result analyses

- Ranking of all DV applications in the Excel "Application overview":
 - o Calculating the final evaluation based on the three evaluations.
 - o Checking the overall threshold.
 - o Checking threshold per evaluation criteria.
- Final *excellence check*:
 - o Full compliance with the scope of VIDA, and alignment with the contractual obligations in the Grant Agreement on the *added value and innovation in the food chain*.
 - o Specific topics: new value chain creation, impact on resource efficiency, consistency of evaluation scores, budget/hours reality check, KET integration.

- Cross-check by VIDA Application Coordinator in close consultation with the EASME Project Officer.

Step 8: Informing the applicants

- Informing all VIDA partners about results.
- Informing lead partners of projects selected for funding; including next steps among others: SME check, financial liability check, presence at Copenhagen award-winning ceremony.
- Informing lead partners of the no-awarded projects; including possible follow up activities and recommendations for support.

Step 9: Monitoring & follow-up

- List with funded projects on CLOU5 VIDA group (updated in the course of the project).
- Providing support to funded applicants (support to the beneficiaries like answering questions, remember the requirements of monitoring and reporting, etc.).
- Providing support to not-funded applicants (alternatives, re-shaping, etc.).

Table 1 Scoring system for the Demonstration Vouchers

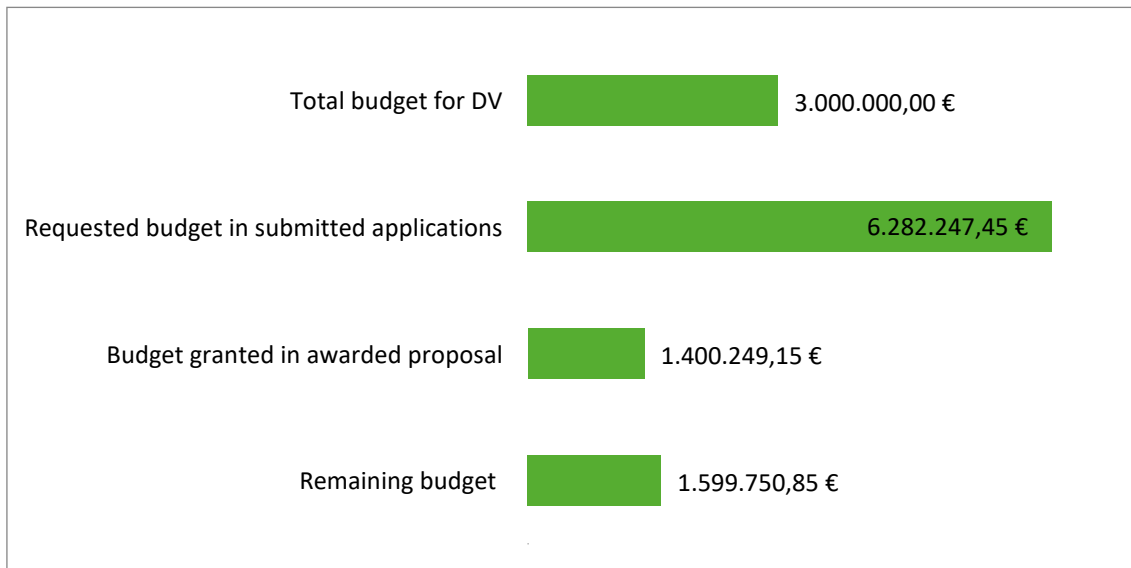
Application Section Number	Description	Question	Weighting	Max.score	Max. Weighted score
1. Technical excellence, feasibility and viability					
1.1 TRL Level	The technology for which you are requesting support must be at a TRL level of 6 or higher	To what extent does the technology meet the TRL level?	1	5	5
1.2 Test Scope	Please submit a test scope, which sets out clear objectives and timescales.	To what extent has the applicant written the aims, requirements and outcomes of the proposal clear?	1	5	5
1.3 Test Outline	Please provide a summary of your test in the selected challenge, pointing out the main key performance indicators and success criteria.	To what extent does the applicant have a clear understanding of the data they currently hold and the testing requirements to advance the technology within TRL 6 – 8?	2	5	10
1.4 Prospective Users	Please specify the benefits, beneficiaries, the end-user(s) and end use(s) being created by your innovation.	To what extent does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of the market and how the technology addresses the need?	1	5	5
1.5 Health and Safety Concerns	What are the specific H&S concerns and considerations?	To what extent does the applicant provide adequate documentation to demonstrate health and safety compliance?	1	5	5
1.6 Risk	Please describe key risks associated with this test and how these risks will be managed and mitigated.	To what extent has the applicant identified risks and mitigations for risk within the assessments?	2	5	10
2. Innovation					
2.1 Innovativeness of the envisaged solution in the target sector (VIDA scope)	Please provide details on the innovative elements of your project in relation to the selected challenge.	To what extent does the applicant demonstrate that the technology is innovative and relevant in the frame of the VIDA scope (Food, water, energy, KET)?	3	5	15

2.2 Innovativeness from a value chain perspective	Please specify what makes this technology different from the BAT and what benefit could provide to the food value chain.	To what extent does the applicant demonstrate that the technology would be a milestone for the food-value chain?	3	5	15
3. Impacts					
3.1 Economic Impact	Specify the expected impact in terms of competitiveness and growth of the business partners in the consortium, measured in terms of turnover and job creation.	To what extent does the applicant’s technology demonstrate a potential financial benefit benchmarked against other relevant technologies?	2	5	10
3.2 Social Impact	Please describe the social benefits of your project.	To what extent does the applicant’s technology demonstrate a potential social benefit benchmarked against the relevant alternative?	2	5	10
3.3 Environmental Impact	Please describe the Environmental benefits of your project.	To what extent does the applicant’s technology demonstrate a potential benefit for the environment or have a less adverse effect on the environment compared to the relevant alternative?	2	5	10

5. Results of the First Call

45 Demonstration Voucher proposals, with a total budget request of € 6.282.247,45 were handed in until the 30th of April 2019. Eight projects with a budget amount of € 1.400.249,15 were granted after an intensive and successful evaluation process carried out with the support of the members of the independent Advisory Board.

Total budget overview of Demonstration projects



Awarded Projects

144 project partners from different sectors and regions of the VIDA partners were represented in the 45 handed in applications.

After the evaluation procedure, eight proposals were awarded for funding. Five of the granted projects are cross-border. All *awarded projects* used the opportunity to present their innovative solutions to invited public, including VIDA partners, awarded applicants and Project Officer, during the “Award Winning Ceremony” in Copenhagen.

Topics and scopes of the eight awarded proposals:

- Zero-emission of water and nutrients for greenhouse food production
- Nanofiltration applied to rejected water recovery in the brewery industry
- Cloud irrigation platform based on remote wireless data acquisition
- Pulsed electric field: an innovative solution for sustainable red winemaking
- Saving water by removal of off-flavour in farmed fish
- BioPod – hydroponic greenhouse solution
- Recycling Nutrients for future food
- Water reuse in the food sector: demonstrating cloth filtration as a viable and economic pretreatment process



Representatives of awarded projects together with Francisca Medina (CEW) and Milena Stoyanova-Colas (EASME).

6. Overview of the awarded Demonstration Vouchers

Demonstration Vouchers	
NO. Funded Proposals	8
NO. Funded SME	33
NO. Cross-Border collaboration	5
NO. Involved Female of grated proposals	20
Budget granted in the awarded proposal	€ 1.400.249,15



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