



VIDA

value-added innovation
in food chains

Interim evaluation and award of Validation Voucher

D4.5. of the Work Package 4 (Version 2.0 / August 2019)



The VIDA project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement n° 777795.

Disclaimer

The content of this document represents the view of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). The European Commission and the Agency do not accept responsibility for the use that may be made of the information it contains.

Work Package	WP4 Supporting innovation through collaboration
Deliverable	D4.5 Interim evaluation and award of Validation Voucher
Due Date	31 August 2019
Submission Date	30 August 2019
Deliverable Lead	FPI
Dissemination Level	Public
Document Nature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R-Report <input type="checkbox"/> O-Other
Authors	Norbert Reichl (FPI), Sabine Höfel (FPI)
Contributors	Matthijs Plienaar (SWA), Irene Cilla Simón (AFC), María Benito (ZNA), Katherina Ulrich (BNPT), Carmen Disanto (LE2C), Morten Kildahl Sorensen (CLN), Luboš Komarek (NP)
Reviewers	Francisca Medina Pappermann (CEW)
Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input type="checkbox"/> Working <input type="checkbox"/> Final <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved

Content

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Application	4
2.1. Who can apply?.....	4
2.2. Main requirements for applicants	4
3. Available Fund and Timeline	5
4. Assessment and Evaluation	5
4.1. Validation Voucher (VV) Evaluation	5
4.2. VIDA VV – evaluation procedure on CLOU5	6
5. Awarded Validation Projects until the 2 nd cut-off date	9
6. Overview of the awarded validation vouchers.....	11

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, 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 Validation Voucher is one of three different funding schemes to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) seeking new resource-efficient solutions.

The Validation Voucher (VV) scheme provides support to SME in the food, water, energy or KET- sector to get technology validated to strengthen their pitch and to convince the prospective users of the technology.

Fields of activities that can be funded with the Validation Vouchers:

- Testing functional specification of novel technology solutions
- Validation of quantitative performance levels of novel products
- Validation of water and energy usage
- Validation of qualitative performance levels like removal rates or conversion rates

The call for VV proposals is open one year from February 1st, 2019 09.00 CET until January 3rd, 2020 at 17:00 CET or until the budget is exhausted. This report summarizes the procedures of the call and the results for all proposals handed in before the 2nd cut-off date (31st May). Results of the second half of the call will be reported in D4.6 “Final evaluation and award of Validation projects”.

2. Application

2.1. Who can apply?

The Validation Voucher scheme addresses small and medium-sized enterprises in the food, water, energy and KET supply chain aiming to demonstrate the performance of their technology or product by external validation. The validation can be performed by (or on behalf of) VIDA partners, the SME and independent research organizations. As such, in this voucher scheme, the applicant will always cooperate with a service provider. VIDA partners will support the determination of the service providers. The technology or product to be tested needs to be in a TRL* between 5 – 8.

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

- TRL 1 basic principles observed
- TRL 2 technology concept formulated
- TRL 3 experimental proof of concept
- TRL 4 technology validated in lab
- TRL 5 technology validated in relevant environment (industrially when KET)
- 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)

2.2. Main requirements for applicants

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

The applicants can apply for a grant of € 10.000 to max. € 25.000 worth in services covering 100% of the eligible expenses (ref [VIDA Terms and Conditions](#)). The total reserved budget for the VIDA Validation Vouchers is € 250.000. 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'.

The Validation Voucher scheme will be available from February 1st, 2019 09.00 CET until January 3rd, 2020 at 17:00 CET, or until the budget is exhausted. This period might be extended, in case the budget is not exhausted within the call period above.

The cut-off dates for the assessment are the following:

- Cut-off date 1: March, 31st, 2019
- Cut-off date 2: May 31st, 2019
- Cut-off date 3: September 30th, 2019
- Cut-off date 4: January 3rd, 2020

4. Assessment and Evaluation

4.1. Validation Voucher (VV) Evaluation

The evaluation process starts with the assessment of the eligibility of the applicant, according to the criteria set out in main requirements. Validation Voucher proposals will be evaluated by the Application Review Panel consisting of neutral VIDA Partners. Within the open call, there are set four cut-off dates for the evaluation of the proposals which are going to be published on [VIDA website](#) and [Clou5](#).

After succeeding the main requirements, the application will be reviewed by three members of the Application Review Panel. The scoring system set for the VV voucher is shown in table 2. 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 applications will be assessed as soon as possible upon submission, in any case within 8 weeks from the cut-off date. The applicant will receive an email about the outcome of the assessment. The successful applicant will need to sign a formal contract with the VIDA coordinator (Grant Agreement). The validity of the voucher is 6 months starting from the contract date. Remuneration is further explained in the [VIDA Terms and Conditions](#).

4.2. VIDA VV – evaluation procedure on CLOU5

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

- Easy handling for evaluators
- One procedure fits all applications
- Manageable workload for “VIDA evaluation coordinator”
- Manageable number of “groups” on CLOU5.
- All relevant information per application in one place
- Transparent process, still keeping the privacy for a single evaluation

4.2.1. Step 1: Open up a group “VV evaluation” on CLOU5 per VV application

- Open group and invite Application Review Panel (members of VIDA partners that are selected for evaluation).

4.2.2. Step 2: Eligibility check

- Information to Regional partners (sponsors) on not eligible applications providing reasons for ineligibility.
- Regional partners (sponsors) inform the main applicants & provide follow up support.

4.2.3. Step 3: Access to applications

- upload in VV evaluation group:
 - Each proposal gets a file that includes the VV proposal and the evaluation template.
 - Overview of applications in an excel file at VIDA group.

4.2.4. Step 4: Select evaluators & start evaluation

- Selection of evaluators for the applications.
- Informing selected VIDA evaluators on the applications to be evaluated (create an evaluation phase ending date in the calendar, link to the overview of applications at VIDA Group).
- Evaluators start evaluation: download the evaluation template, evaluate the VV (related to the evaluator) & upload the filled in evaluation template on Clou5. Name of the file = VV number and name of evaluator (e.g. ISV001_Partner1).

4.2.5. Step 5: Analysis of evaluation & ranking

Analysis of the evaluations per application and feedback to evaluators

- ranking on CLOU5 in the excel file “VV application overview”, see table 1.

Table 1 Analysis of the scoring of the reviewed proposals for the final outcome

Type of application	Avg. Score	Conditions and actions	Outcome
Case A	>75	max deviation 15 points	Passed and funded
Case B	60 - 74	reviewing needed	Evaluators discussion needed to certify quality (outcome: definition as Case A or Case D)
Case C	0 - 80	reviewing needed: one evaluator fails the proposal	Evaluators discussion needed for further explanation (outcome: definition as Case A or Case D)
Case D	<60	failing (review and comment)	Evaluators comments and feedback for applicant (template attached)

4.2.6. Step 6: Decision & action

- For A projects: info and contract to the applicant; info to regional sponsor.
- For B projects: find decision about funding in a monthly telco with all ISV evaluators.
 - o discussed and funded = see A projects
 - o discussed, no funding = see C projects
- For C projects: same procedure as for B projects.
- For D projects: info to the applicant and zhe regional sponsor, advise for improving and alternative programmes.

4.2.7. Step 7: Monitoring & follow-up

- List with funded projects on CLOU5 VIDA group (updates on later stage)
- Providing support to funded applicants (support to the beneficiaries like answering questions, remember the data of report, etc.)
- Providing support to not-funded applicants (alternatives, re-shaping, etc.)

Table 2 Scoring system for the Validation Vouchers

Application Section Number	Description	Question	Weighting	Max.score	Max. Weighted score
1. Technical excellence, feasibility and viability (SME and service supplier)					
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?	2	5	10
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?	2	5	10
1.3 Test Outline	Please provide a summary of your test in the selected research organization, 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 Health and Safety Concerns	What are the specific H&S concerns and considerations?	To what extent does the applicant provide adequate documentation to demonstrate H&S compliance?	2	5	10
1.5 Risk	Please describe key risks associated with this test and how they 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.	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)?	5	5	25
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?	5	5	25

5. Awarded Validation Projects until the 2nd cut-off date

15 Validation Voucher proposals, with a total budget request of € 339.680 was handed in until the 2nd cut-off date (31st May). 7 projects with a budget amount of € 162.930 was granted after an intensive and successful evaluation process carried out with the support of the all VIDA consortium members.

Total budget overview of Validation Projects until July the 2nd cut-off date:

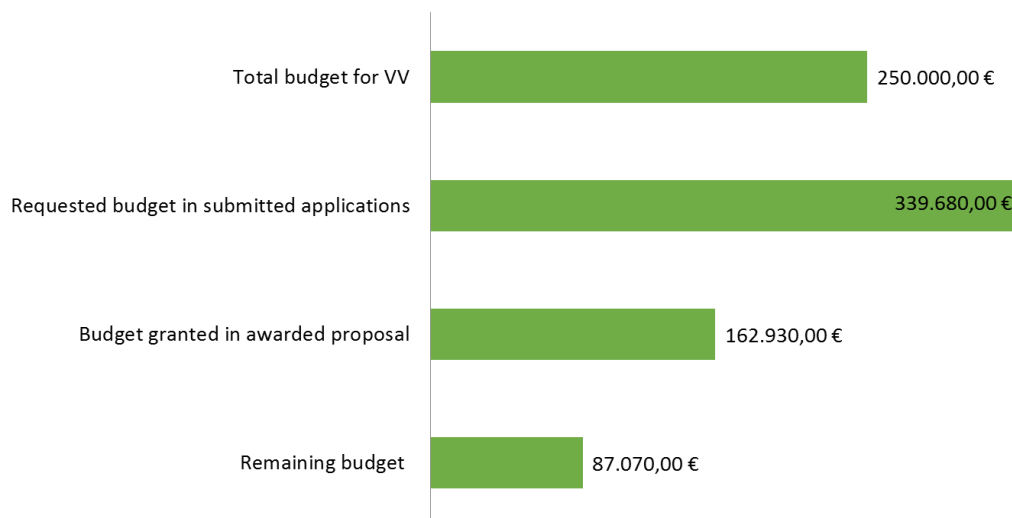
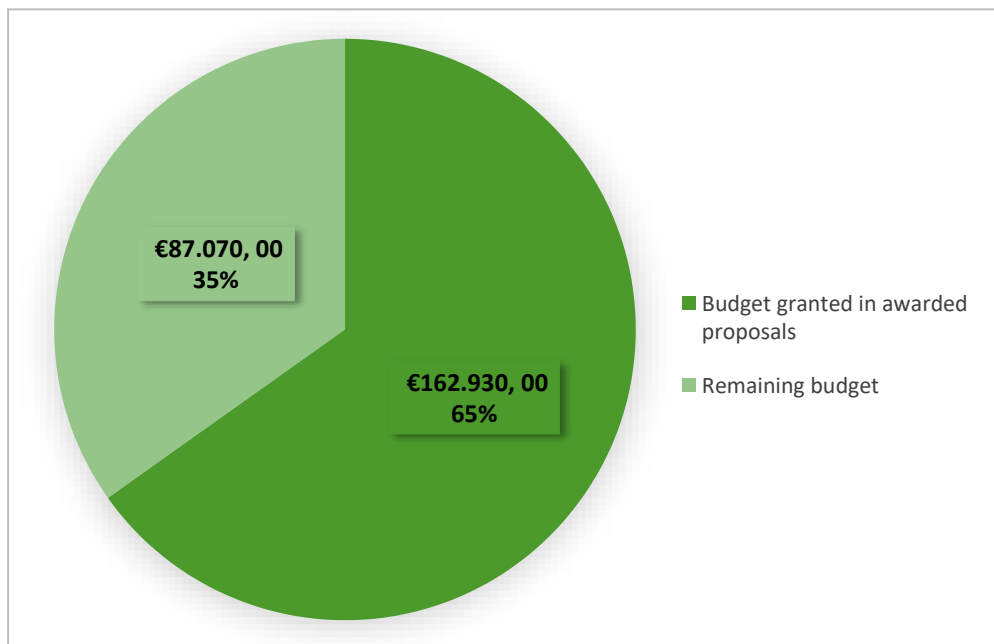


Figure 1 Total budget overview for the Validation Voucher projects

Topics and scopes of the granted proposals:

- The next-generation plant-based meat analogues
- Efficient Drying System as an innovation enabler of high-value biorefineries
- Optimisation of water treatment systems using IoT
- Microbiological treatment for fish farming effluents and hydroponic horticulture
- Wrapping films used in the food industry
- Protein source from fungal biomass
- From waste to high-quality fertilizers

Involved countries of awarded projects

The SMEs from the 7 awarded projects are located in the Czech Republic (1), Denmark (2), Italy (1), the Netherlands (3) following the location of lead partners.

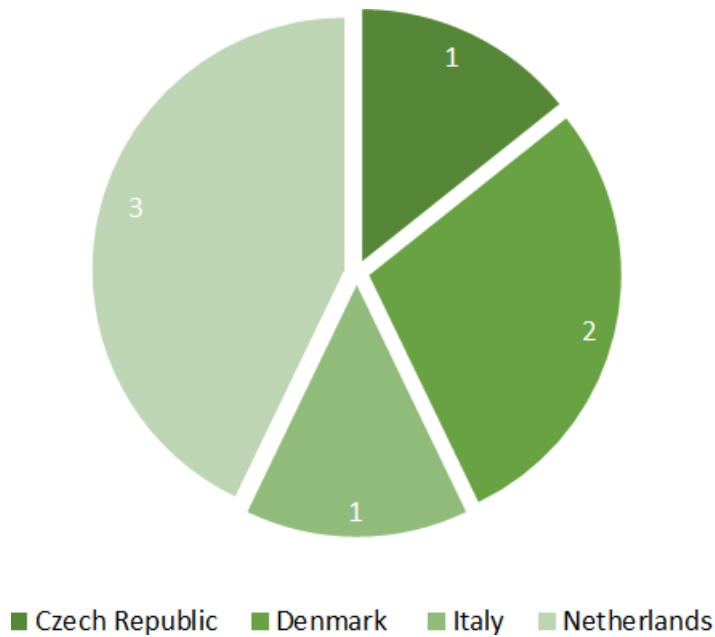


Figure 2 Involved countries in VV awarded projects

6. Overview of the awarded validation vouchers

	VV
NO. Funded Proposals	7
NO. Funded SME	7
NO. Cross-Border collaboration	1
NO. Involved Female of grated proposals	9
Total budget granted	€ 162.930,00

One granted project is cross-border with the lead partner and the service provider coming from 2 different countries, namely Denmark and the United Kingdom.



clúster aragonés de
alimentación

