



VIDA

value-added innovation
in food chains

Interim evaluation and award of Innovation Support Voucher

D4.7. of the Work Package 4 (Version 2.0 / August 2019)



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

The Innovation Support Voucher (ISV) scheme provides support to SME in the food, water, energy or KET-sector to get access to external knowledge and expertise towards a resource efficient food production.

Fields of activities that can be funded with the Innovation Support Vouchers:

- Improving the resource efficiency in food production and processing by applying novel technology solutions
- Improving knowledge and data collection with regard to resource consumption in food production and processing
- Enhancing management and control of water and energy usage
- Promoting collaboration between SME from agro-food and KET sectors

The call for ISV proposals is open from February 1st, 2019 09.00 hrs 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 15th of July. Results of the second half of the call will be reported in D4.8 “Evaluation and award of innovation support voucher”.

2. Application

2.1. Who can apply?

The Innovation Support Voucher scheme addresses small and medium-sized enterprises in the food, water, energy and KET supply chain willing to improve their skills and competencies by accessing innovation support services within the food-value chain. The applicants need to present a joint action with a knowledge provider. The knowledge provider can be identified by the applicants themselves or via the VIDA partners.

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 (see annex 1 of [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 max.€ 5.000 covering 100% of the eligible expenses (ref. [VIDA Terms and Conditions](#)). The total reserved budget for the Innovation Support Vouchers is € 105.000. 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 Terms and Conditions.

The Innovation Support Voucher scheme will be available from February 1st, 2019 at 09:00 CET until January 3rd, 2020 at 17:00 CET, or until the budget is exhausted. This period might also be extended, in case the budget is not exhausted within the call period above.

4. Assessment and Evaluation

4.1. Innovation Support Voucher (ISV) evaluation

The evaluation process started with the assessment of the eligibility of the applicant, according to the criteria set out in main requirements. Innovation Support Voucher applications will be evaluated throughout the whole open call period by the Application Review Panel consisting of neutral VIDA Partners.

After succeeding the main requirements, the proposals are reviewed by three members of the Application Review Panel. The scoring system set for the ISV is shown in table 2. These points are assessed, based on the answers written in each submitted application form.

The assessment period takes max. 8 weeks starting from the application 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 [VIDA Terms and Conditions](#).

4.2. VIDA ISV – evaluation procedure on CLOU5

The evaluations procedure is managed on CLOU5. The procedure is proposed with respect to 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 “ISV evaluation” on CLOU5

- Open closed group and invite Application Review Panel (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 ISV evaluation group:
 - o Each proposal gets a file that includes the ISV proposal and the evaluation template.
 - o 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 ISV (related to the evaluator) & upload the filled in evaluation template on Clou5. Name of the file = ISV 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 “ISV 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.



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- discussed and funded = see A projects
- discussed, no funding = see C projects
- For C projects: same procedure as for B projects.
- For D projects: info to the applicant and the regional sponsor, advise for improving and alternative programmes.

4.2.7. Step 7: Monitoring & follow-up

- List with funded projects on CLOU 5 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, reshaping, etc.)

Table 2 Scoring system for the Innovation Support Vouchers

Application Section Number	Description	Question	Weighting	Max.score	Max. Weighted score
1. Technical excellence (SME and knowledge provider)					
1.1 Description of the joint action	Please submit a test scope, brief description of the joint action which sets clear objectives, the outcome and impact, and timescales.	To what extent has the applicant written the aims, expected planning and outcomes of the requested action? Does the applicant mention if the proposed action would help the development of the company?	4	5	20
1.2 Knowledge provider	Please describe the competences of the knowledge provider, mentioning their expertise in the specific subject and the action which is going to take place.	To what extent does the applicant demonstrate evidence of the expertise and experience of the chosen knowledge provider? Does the applicant give further motivation for choosing that specific provider?	4	5	20
2. Innovation					
2.1 Innovativeness of the envisaged solution in the target sector (VIDA scope)	Please provide details on the Innovativeness of the envisaged solutions and how these are related to the improvement of the use of water, energy and Key Enabling Technologies in the food sector.	To what extent does the applicant demonstrate that the technology/service/action is innovative and relevant for the purpose of the VIDA scope (Food, water, energy, KET)?	12	5	60

5. Awarded Innovation Support Projects until 15th of July

In total, 22 Innovation Support Voucher proposals with a budget request of € 103.695,57 were handed in until 15th July. 13 projects with a total budget of € 51.295,57 were granted after an intensive and successful evaluation process carried out with the support of all Application Review Panel members.

Total budget overview of Innovations Support Projects until July the 15th

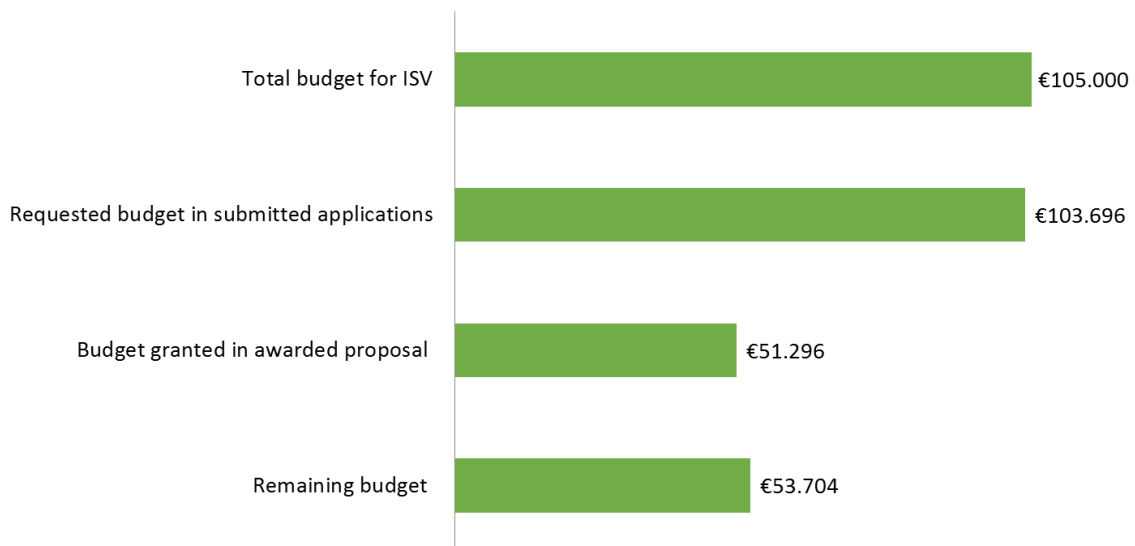
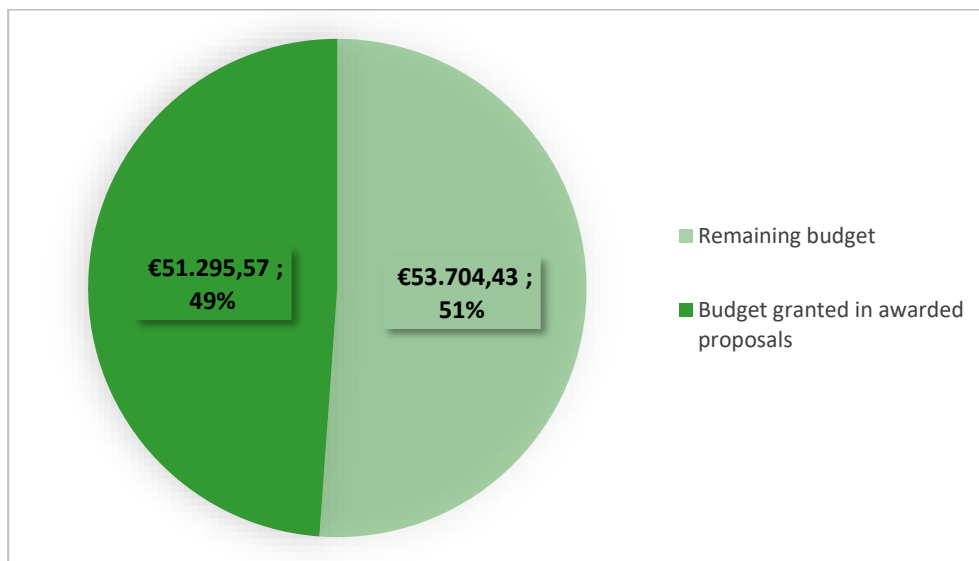


Figure 1 Total budget overview for ISV

Topics and scope of the granted proposals:

- Cloud-based maintenance APP (smart-water TPM)
- Control of invasive species in an irrigation community
- Automatically identify and count larvae of bivalve mollusks in water samples
- Water reduction elaborating candied fruit and comfitures
- Implementing remote water monitoring
- Separating of micro and nano particles in the drying process
- Recyclable nanofibrous system for organic substances sorption in food processing plants
- Filters with integrated nanofibers
- Energy recovery and agricultural waste disposal through rice husk gasification
- Aquaponic system without water consumption
- Olive mill wastewater treatment with advanced oxidation

Involved countries of awarded projects

The 13 awarded projects came from 5 countries, namely Czech Republic (4), Denmark (1), Italy (2), Netherlands (2) and Spain (4), following the location of lead partners.

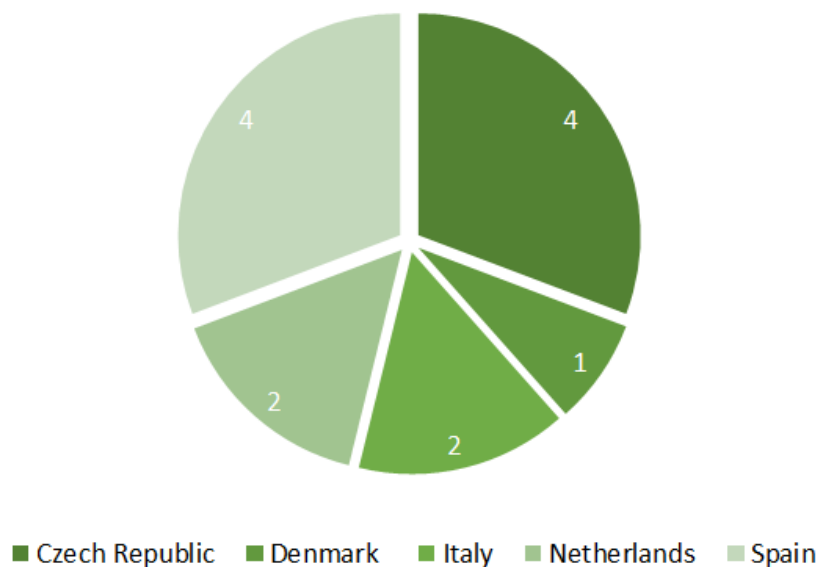


Figure 2 Involved countries among the awarded ISV projects

6. Overview of the awarded vouchers

	ISV
NO. Funded Proposals	13
NO. Funded SME	13
NO. Cross-Border collaboration	1
NO. Involved Female of grated proposals	22
Total budget granted	€ 51.295,57

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



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