



**VIDA**  
value-added innovation  
in food chains

# Final evaluation and award of Innovation Support Voucher

VIDA – D4.8. Version 1.0 / Mai 2020



This project has received funding from  
the European Union's Horizon 2020  
research and innovation programme  
under grant agreement No 777795

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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 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 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 could 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 was open from February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 09.00 hrs CET until January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 at 17:00 CET. This report summarizes the procedures of the call and the results for all proposal. Results of the first half of the call (proposals that were handed in before the 15<sup>th</sup> of July) were reported in D4.7 “Interim evaluation and award of innovation support voucher”. The available funding of VIDA ended at January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 at 17:00 CET.

## 2. Application

### 2.1. Who could apply?

The Innovation Support Voucher scheme addressed 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 needed to present a joint action with a knowledge provider. The knowledge provider could be identified by the applicants themselves or via the VIDA partners.

### 2.2. Main requirements for applicants.

1. Applicants had to declare their SME status in accordance with the SME definition of the European Union
2. Applicants needed 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 had to declare their financial stability.
4. Applicants had to be a member of a VIDA cluster or had to be headquartered in a VIDA territorial scope (see annex 1 of [VIDA Terms and Conditions Version 2.0](#)).

For further information on the conditions and submission, please see the [Guide for applicants Version 2.0](#) and [VIDA Terms and Conditions Version 2.0](#).

## 3. Available Fund and Timeline

The applicants could apply for a grant of max.€ 5.000 covering 100% of the eligible expenses (ref. [VIDA Terms and Conditions Version 2.0](#)). The total reserved budget for the Innovation Support Vouchers was € 105.000. Applicants were 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 was available from February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at 09:00 CET until January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 at 17:00 CET.

## 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 were evaluated throughout the whole open call period by the Application Review Panel consisting of neutral VIDA Partners.

After succeeding the main requirements, the proposals were 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 took max. 8 weeks starting from the application date. The applicant received an email about the outcome of the assessment. The successful applicant needed 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 Version 2.0.](#)

### 4.2. VIDA ISV – evaluation procedure on CLOU5

The evaluations procedure was managed on CLOU5. The procedure was 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

- A closed group was opened and the Application Review Panel was invited (Vida partners that are selected for evaluation).

#### 4.2.2. Step 2: Eligibility check

- Information on not eligible applications was sent to regional partners (sponsors) reasons for ineligibility was proved.
- Regional partners (sponsors) informed the main applicants & provided follow up support.

#### 4.2.3. Step 3: Access to applications

- The applications were uploaded in ISV evaluation group:
  - Each proposal got a file that included the ISV proposal and the evaluation template.
  - An overview of applications in an excel file was uploaded at VIDA group.

#### 4.2.4. Step 4: Select evaluators & start evaluation

- The evaluators for the applications were selected.
- Selected VIDA evaluators were informed on the applications to be evaluated an evaluation phase ending date was created in the calendar.
- Evaluators started the evaluation: they downloaded the evaluation template, evaluated the ISV (related to the evaluator) & uploaded 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

- The evaluations per application were analyzed a feedback to evaluators was given.
- 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
<b>Case A</b>	>75	max deviation 15 points	Passed and funded
<b>Case B</b>	60 – 74	reviewing needed	Evaluators discussion needed to certify quality (outcome: definition as Case A or Case D)
<b>Case C</b>	0 – 80	reviewing needed: one evaluator fails the proposal	Evaluators discussion needed for further explanation (outcome: definition as Case A or Case D)
<b>Case D</b>	<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 and info to regional sponsor were sent.
- For B projects: sponsors had to found a decision about funding.
  - 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: the applicant and the regional sponsor were informed about the rejection, advise for alternative programmes or improving was given.

#### 4.2.7. Step 7: Monitoring & follow-up

- List with funded projects was uploaded on CLOU 5 Vida group (updates on later stage).
- Support to funded applicants was provided (support to the beneficiaries like answering questions, remember the data of report, etc.).
- Support to not-funded applicants was provided (alternatives or re-shaping, etc.).

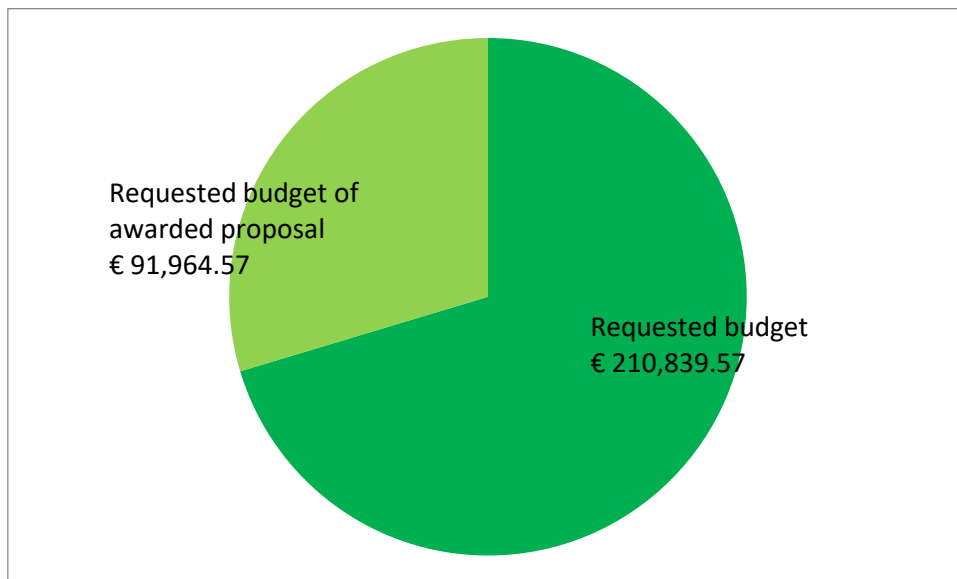
**Table 2** Scoring system for the Innovation Support Vouchers

Application Section Number	Description	Question	Weighting	Max.score	Max. Weighted score
<b>1. Technical excellence (SME and knowledge provider)</b>					
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
<b>2. Innovation</b>					
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

46 Innovation Support Voucher proposals with a total budget request of € 210,839.57 were handed in until January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. 19 projects with a total budget request of € 91,964.57\* 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



### 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
- Packages with nanofibrous sensors to increase resource efficiency in the food sector
- 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

\*The budget is reviewed as part of the contractual process, deviations between the requested and the approved budget may therefore occur.



- Energy recovery and agricultural waste disposal through rice husk gasification
- Aquaponic system without water consumption
- Olive mill wastewater treatment with advanced oxidation
- In-line sensor for monitoring sodium ions in greenhouse water system
- Advanced data exploitation using artificial intelligence (IA) techniques.
- Travel voucher to VIDA brokerage event in Milano
- Innovative fruit tray made of vegetal fibers
- Innovative solutions to reduce energy and water consumption in a meat processing plant
- Plant-proteins from regional crops for new food products
- Multifunctional turbine to produce electricity

## 6. Overview of the awarded vouchers

	ISV
NO. Funded Proposals	19
NO. Funded SME	19
NO. Cross-Border collaboration	1
NO. Involved Female of grated proposals	33
Requested budget of awarded proposals	€ 91,964.57

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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