



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

# Evaluation and award of ISV Booster vouchers

VIDA – D4.9. Version 1.0 / April 2021



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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 – Value added Innovation in food chAins 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.

As VIDA entered its final year and the balance of the completed and ongoing projects was made, it was seen that not all of the available EU INNOSUP funding dedicated to direct financial support to SMEs has been used. To support as many innovative SMEs as possible, it was decided to launch one final call for Innovation Support Voucher Booster.

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

- 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 Innovation Support Voucher Booster scheme had a single deadline and was open from June 8th, 2020 until August 10th, 2020 17.00 hrs CET. This report summarizes the procedures of the call and the results for ISV Booster proposals. Further information the results of this call are explained in this document.

## 2. Application

### 2.1. Who could apply?

The Innovation Support Voucher Booster 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 extraordinary call](#)).

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

## 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 extraordinary call](#)). The total reserved budget for the Innovation Support Vouchers Booster was € 40,000. 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 Booster scheme had a single deadline and was open from June 8th, 2020 until August 10th, 2020 17.00 hrs CET.

## 3. Assessment and Evaluation

### 3.1. Innovation Support Voucher Booster (ISV Booster) evaluation

The evaluation process started with the assessment of the eligibility of the applicant, according to the criteria set out in Annex 2 of [VIDA Terms and Conditions extraordinary call](#). 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. 6 weeks starting from the deadline date (August 10th, 2020 17.00 hrs CET). 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) within 45 days after the award. The validity of the voucher is 4 months starting from the contract date. Remuneration is further explained in [VIDA Terms and Conditions extraordinary call](#).

### 3.2. VIDA ISV Booster – 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

#### 3.2.1. Step 1: “ISV evaluation Booster” on CLOU5

- An Evaluation ISV Booster file was added to the closed group that was opened to evaluate the Innovation support voucher. The exiting Application Review Panel was informed (Vida partners that are selected for evaluation).

#### 3.2.2. 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.

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

- The applications were upload in the file Evaluation ISV Booster in the closed ISV evaluation group:
  - Each proposal got a file that included the ISV proposal and the evaluation template.

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- An overview of applications in an excel file was uploaded in the file Evaluation ISV Booster at VIDA ISV project group.

### 3.2.4. 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. ISV101\_Partner1).

### 3.2.5. Step 5: Analysis of evaluation & ranking

- The evaluations per application were analyzed a feedback to evaluators was given.
- Ranking was upladed on CLOU5 excel file "ISV Booster overview evaluation scores"
- Ranking on CLOU5 in the excel file "ISV Booster overview evaluation scores", 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)

### 3.2.6.

#### Step 6: Decision & action

- For A projects: info and contract to the applicant and the regional sponsor were sent top down until budget exhausted.
- Projects >60 applicants and sponsor were informed about their reserve list status.
- For D projects: the applicant and the regional sponsor were informed about the rejection, advise for alternative programmes or improving was given.

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

- List "ISV Booster overview evaluation scores agreed" was uploaded in the file Evaluation ISV Booster at VIDA ISV project group.



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- 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

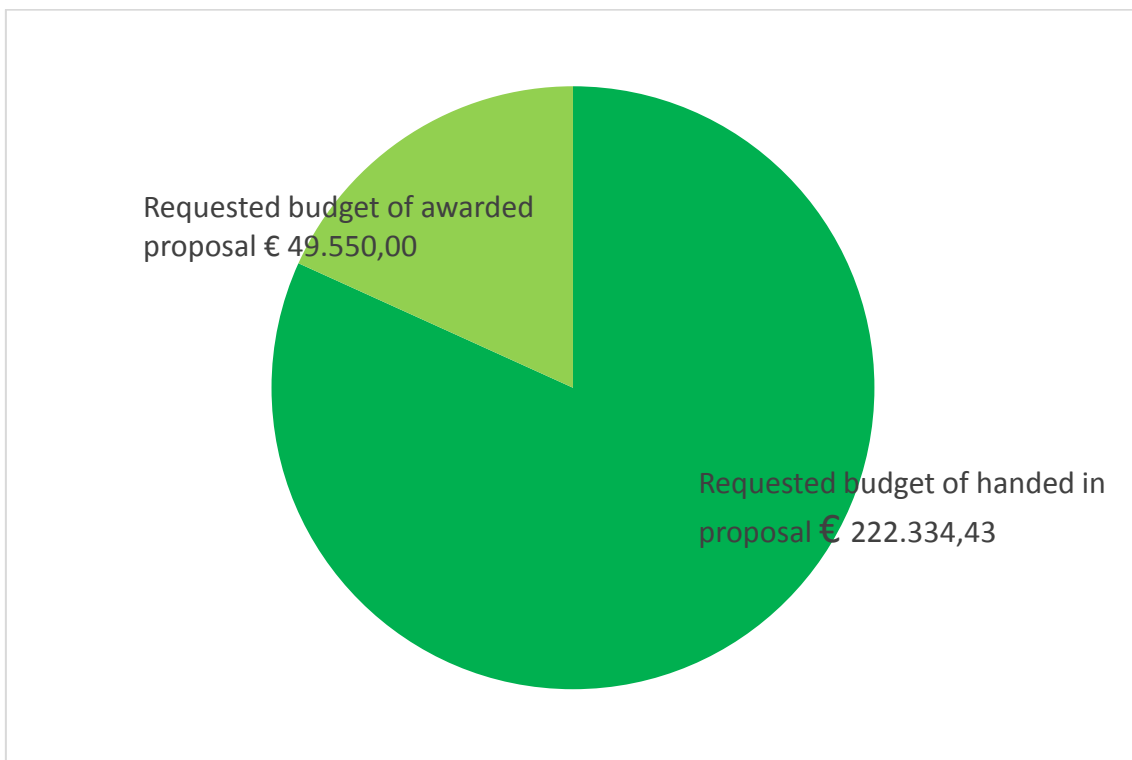
Application Section Number	Description	Question	Weighting	Max.score	Max. Weighted score
<b>1. Technical excellence (SME and knowledge provider)</b>					
1.1 Description of the joint action	Please submit a test scope, brief description of the joint action which sets clear objectives, the outcome and impact, 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



## 4. Awarded ISV Booster Projects

A total of 47 Innovation Support Voucher Booster proposals with a total budget request of € 222,334.42 were handed in until August 10th, 2020 17.00 hrs CET. In the course of the evaluation, it turned out that more money was available than expected. Therefore we could fund 10 projects with a total budget request of € 49,550.00\* were granted after an intensive and successful evaluation process carried out with the support of all Application Review Panel members.

### Total budget overview of ISV Booster Projects



\*The budget is reviewed as part of the contractual process a deviation between the granted and the approved budget may therefore vary.

**Topics and scope of the granted proposals:**

- Plasma activated water for food agriculture
- Detection of pharmaceuticals in reused water for agricultural irrigation using HyToxGen
- Re-design of Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Development of business model and IP for JAAtrock grain drying system
- Market Study to Determine the Potential for Water fountain to Increase Food Production on Lanzarote Island Spain
- Intelligent flow meter for efficiency control in thermal installations
- SmarTomato
- Technological support for the development of a near self-sufficient vertical aeroponic farm
- Development of sensor for monitoring sodium and potassium ions in the greenhouse water system
- Resource Use Optimisation in Circular Business Model

## 5. Overview of the awarded vouchers

	ISV
NO. Funded Proposals	10
NO. Funded SME	10
NO. Cross-Border collaboration	1
NO. Involved Female of grated proposals	11
Requested budget of awarded proposal	€ 49,550.00

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



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