



VIDA
value-added innovation
in food chains

Evaluation and award of Demonstration projects, *second call*

VIDA – D4.4. Version 1.0 / Mai 2020



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Content

1. Introduction	3
2. Application	4
2.1. Who could apply?	4
2.2. Main requirements for applicants	4
3. Available Fund and Timeline	5
4. Assessment and Evaluation	5
4.1. Demonstration Voucher (DV) evaluation	5
4.2. VIDA DV evaluation procedure on CLOU5	6
5. Results of the second call	11

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) finance 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 second call (Call 2) and the results for all proposals handed in for the second call that was closed on October 31st, 2019. Results of the first call (Call1) were reported in D4.3 “Evaluation and award of Demonstration projects, first call”. The available funding of VIDA ended at January 3rd, 2020 at 17:00 CET.

2. Application

2.1. Who could apply?

The Demonstration Voucher (DV) scheme addressed small and medium-sized enterprises in the food, water, energy and KET supply chain. DV offered 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 supports 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 needed to be in a technology readiness level (TRL*) between 6 and 8. The TRL level needs to be reached and proven before starting the project.

*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 was open to SME's meeting the following criteria:

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 (ref Annex 1, [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

For the Demonstration Voucher, 2 calls were foreseen during the course of the VIDA project:

- Call 1: was open February 1st, 2019 at 09.00 h CET, until the 30th April 2019, at 17:00 CET
- Call 2: was open August 1st, 2019 at 09:00 h CET until October 31st, 2019 17:00 h CET

The applicants could apply for a grant of max. € 60.000 covering 100% of the eligible expenses (ref.VIDA Terms and Conditions Version 2.0). The total budget reserved in VIDA for the Demonstration Vouchers was € 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 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 VIDA Terms and Conditions Version 2.0 (information on other vouchers can be obtained on [VIDA website](#).)

4. Assessment and Evaluation

4.1. Demonstration Voucher (DV) evaluation

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

After succeeding the main requirements (eligibility check), the applications were 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 had to pass a threshold of 60% of the maximum score. To ensure consistent minimum quality for all award criteria, each sub-criterion needed to score at least half of the points available for that criterion.

The assessment period lasted up to max. 10 weeks starting upon closure of the respective call. The successful applicants received an email about the outcome of the assessment. They needed 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 Version 2.0](#).

4.2. VIDA DV evaluation procedure on CLOU5

The evaluation procedure was managed on CLOU5. The following procedure of evaluation on CLOU5 was 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 followed 9 steps:

Step 1: Eligibility check

- The main requirements >2 SME, SME status, signature, location/cluster was checked
- The TRL of the proposals which need to be 6-8 was checked
- The expertise needed (to match expertise of the proposal and the advisory board member) was checked
- An “Application overview” on Excel (information about the DVs, the eligibility, the evaluator, etc.) was created

Step 2: Assignment of the advisory board members

- Three evaluators per proposal (2-5 per board member).
- The three evaluators were 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

- A new group per DV application was opened on CLOU5 (with ltd. widgets).
- The widget “Evaluation submit button” was added
- The widget was edited:
 - o Select a folder:
 - o Selected privacy level: Privat
 - o Select the owner of the folder: VIDA Application Coordinator
- The following documents were inserted:
 - o DV application as pdf (after deleting the personal data)
 - o Evaluation template

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

Step 4: Instruction of the evaluators

- An email to each evaluator was sent to inform about the procedure on CLOU5 and the deadline for evaluation, cc. to regional VIDA partner (sponsor) from evaluator's region (evaluators could address regional sponsor in case of questions).
 - o A description of evaluation procedure for evaluators was attached
- Each evaluator was invited to a VIDA webinar that instructed them on the procedures on CLOU5.

Step 5: Informing evaluators

- The three evaluators were invited for this application to the DV group.
- VIDA Application Coordinator checked on a regular basis if evaluators did log in on CLOU5.
- In case evaluator was not active and/or evaluation wasn't finished until the communicated deadline the regional partner (sponsor) contacted them via (mail/phone/ etc.), in order to remind them.

Step 6: Evaluation by evaluators

Responsible: Evaluators (selected advisory board experts)

- Evaluators opened the provided information in the group.
- Evaluators downloaded the personalized evaluation form.
- Evaluators evaluated and saved the form on their own server/device.
- The evaluation was 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 didn't see the results before making own evaluation, only the VIDA Application Coordinator had access to this information (see Step1).

Step 7: Evaluation result analyses

- Ranking of all DV applications in the Excel "Application overview":
 - o The final evaluation based on the three evaluations was calculated.
 - o The overall threshold was checked.
 - o Threshold per evaluation criteria was checked.

- 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* was checked.
 - o Specific topics: new value chain creation, impact on resource efficiency, consistency of evaluation scores, budget/hours reality check, KET integration were checked
 - o Cross-check by VIDA Application Coordinator in close consultation with the EASME Project Officer was done

Step 8: Informing the applicants

- All VIDA partners were informed about the results.
- The lead partners of projects selected for funding were informed. The mail included the information about the next steps among others: SME check, financial liability check and the invitation to the award-winning ceremony in Prague.
- The lead partners of the no-awarded projects were informed; including possible follow up activities and recommendations for support.
- After sending out the awarding letters two awarded projects had to withdraw. The VIDA Application Coordinator decided to follow the ranking list. After a final excellence check the next two projects got awarded. This decision was made in close consultation with the EASME Project Officer.

Step 9: Monitoring & follow-up

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

Table 1 Scoring system for the Demonstration Vouchers

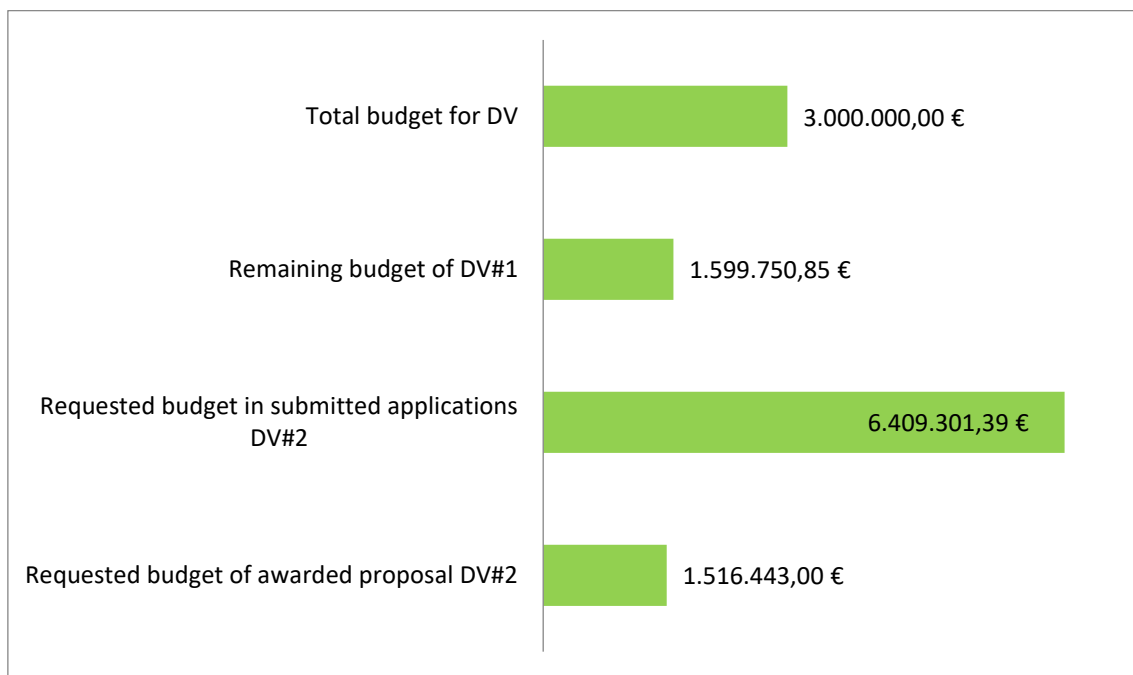
Application Section Number	Description	Question	Weighting	Max.score	Max. Weighted score
1. Technical excellence, feasibility and viability					
1.1 TRL Level	The technology for which you are requesting support must be at a TRL level of 6 or higher	To what extent does the technology meet the TRL level?	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 second call

45 Demonstration Voucher proposals, with a total budget request of 6,409,301.39 € were handed in until October the 31st, 2019 17:00 CET. 11 projects with a requested budget amount of € 1,516,443.00* 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 second call



Awarded Projects

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

After the evaluation procedure, 11 proposals were awarded for funding. Three of the granted projects are cross-border. All awarded projects used the opportunity to present their innovative solutions to invited public, including VIDA partners and awarded applicants during the “Award Winning Ceremony” in Prague.

Topics and scopes of the eight awarded proposals:

- Unique sustainable milk processing solution for farmers worldwide
- Enhanced disinfection in a commercial greenhouse
- SPRHOUT - Solar Powered Horticultural Off-grid UniT
- OVERGREEN
- Farm-Tech: IoT and AI for Swine farming

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

VIDA: Demonstration Voucher evaluation and awarding – second call

- LIQUAM® Healthier and energy-efficient processing technique in the honey industry
- Environmentally friendly and lean purification of water streams in the horticulture sector
- High quality specialty powders from secondary plant origin
- IOT solution for energy and water efficiency in food processing
- Waste to Value
- Drop2Drink Unit: purified rainwater for the food processing industry



VIDA Beneficiaries of the Second Call for the VIDA Demonstration Vouchers

Overview of the awarded Demonstration Vouchers

	DV
NO. Funded Proposals	11
NO. Funded SME	32
NO. Cross-Border collaboration	3
NO. Involved Female of granted proposals	24
Requested budget of awarded proposals	€ 1,516,443.00



clúster aragonés de
alimentación



wateralliance

