

## Overview of the submeasure

The support for pilot projects and the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies is one of the sub-measures under the Article 35<sup>1</sup>(Cooperation).

**Estonia will open a call in December 2017, which will be dedicated to cross-border cooperation projects**, i.e., it will be open to applications which apply for support to activities carried out in cooperation with a partner from another country, such as an EIP Operational group (EIP OG) established in another country.

### AIM:

- The aim is to support individual projects which promote the co-operation and develop innovation in agriculture, food and forestry sector and solve the production-related challenges faced by the given producer(s) and processor(s).
- The projects must be targeted to finding solutions to the challenges defined by the applicant based on their practical needs. Stand-alone research is not supported.
- Cooperation with EIP OGs from other member states, and other cross-border cooperation aimed at development activities or development of innovation is also eligible.

### SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

- pilot projects (testing products or technologies in circumstances where they have previously not been implemented)
- development of new products, practices, processes and technologies
- dissemination of the results of these projects, including cross-border activities.

These activities must be carried out in cooperation between one or more agri-food or forestry enterprise/organisation and a research organisation (16.2). EIP OGs (16.1) are eligible, if complying with the requirements set for an EIP OG (Art 55-57).

### WHO CAN APPLY (Estonian BENEFICIARIES):

The Estonian applicant can be:

- A single entrepreneur (farmer, processing enterprise etc) alone
- Two or more entrepreneurs together
- An organisation of entrepreneurs (co-operatives, non-profit organisations)
- An EIP OG.

The Estonian applicant must comply with the requirements regarding the main field of activity, return on sales, debt coefficient, solvency, etc. Eligible applicants include enterprises operating in the

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

field of agricultural production, food processing, or forestry, including the co-operatives and non-profit organisations of such enterprises.

Research institutions must be involved as a partner institution, but they cannot submit an application as an applicant.

In case of cross-border cooperation projects, also an OG authorised to represent the EIP OG and complying with all the requirements set for an EIP OG as well as the applicant of this measure, is eligible.

#### **SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION:**

The applications for receiving support for cross-border projects must comply with the regular requirements of the submeasure, plus some additional conditions (primarily related to the EIP requirements).

When applying for the co-funding, the Estonian applicant(s) will submit a package of application documents, including the project plan describing the following elements:

- Description of the project activities and timeframe (work plan)
- Methodology
- Expected results and description of dissemination activities
- Partner information and division of tasks
- Estimated budget, incl. dissemination costs

In case of cross-border project and activities, an explanation on how the activities implemented in Estonia and these of the foreign partner(s) are linked, how the work will be divided between countries/partners, what is the added value attributed to cross-border cooperation, etc.

In case of cross-border cooperation projects, the following documents must be provided by all EIP OGs:

- An overview of how the activities, tasks and responsibilities, and budget are divided between the participating partners/countries;
- If the foreign partner has applied for support in its own country/region or is planning to do so, an evidence that the foreign partner has been granted the co-funding or is applying for funding must be presented (confirmation of the funding decision may be submitted later);
- If the Estonian applicant will participate in the project as a lead partner and applies for support to cover the cooperation costs of the cross-border project in addition to its own activities, a total budget must be presented, including the budget of foreign partner(s), together with the successful project application submitted or being submitted in the other country/region;
- Description of how the project will contribute to the objectives of EIP, to further productivity and an economic and sustainable use of resources;

- Confirmation that the project results will be disseminated spread as widely as possible to relevant sectors and EIP network;
- In case of a co-funder from another Member state, the partner applying for support as an EIP OG, must provide evidence of its participation in the EIP OG co-funded by another country/region. The Estonian applicant must submit the confirmation issued by the funder (Managing Authority or Paying Agency) of the other region that the applicant's activity forms an important part in the activities carried out in the given project.

#### **ELIGIBLE COSTS of Estonian applicants**

- Direct costs that are necessary for carrying out the activities described in the project plan and for disseminating the project results are eligible, such as personnel costs, travel costs, costs for expert services, non-productive investment costs, dissemination costs, etc.
- Indirect costs up to 15% out of the direct personnel costs of the applicant based on simplified cost principle provided that the beneficiary is not a recipient of state aid.

#### **FUNDING PROVIDED to Estonian applicants:**

- The maximum support rate is 350 000 € per project application.
- The support rate can be up to 90 % of eligible costs, depending on the state aid conditions.

#### **SELECTION:**

The funding decisions are based on the ranking list resulting on the evaluation based on the pre-determined evaluation criteria pertaining to economic and environmental impact, scope of cross-border cooperation, and dissemination activities.

A prerequisite for a positive funding decision is passing the threshold of 40%.

After the positive funding decision, the project implementation must start within 3 months.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Estonian applicants who plan to submit a project application for cross-border cooperation projects are highly encouraged to consult [www.pria.ee](http://www.pria.ee) (in Estonian) (E-Mail [info@pria.ee](mailto:info@pria.ee)) for more detailed practical information regarding the application, eligibility requirements, and implementation process, from the very early stages of planning the cross-border cooperation.

The interested potential partners from abroad can seek assistance for finding possible Estonian partners through the webpage [www.maainfo.ee](http://www.maainfo.ee) (E-Mail: [kostja@maainfo.ee](mailto:kostja@maainfo.ee)).

Using the partnering tool on [www.eip-agri.eu](http://www.eip-agri.eu) is highly encouraged.

For general questions, please contact Helena Pärenson, Research and Development Department, Ministry of Rural Affairs of the Republic of Estonia (E-Mail: [helena.parenson@agri.ee](mailto:helena.parenson@agri.ee))