



Making it possible together

Application and Guideline for the Formation
and Support to EU CAP Aligned Operational
Groups



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Sustainable Food
Systems Ireland
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+90 548 829 24 35

info@eunite-cyprus.eu

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Application and Guideline for the Formation
and Support to EU CAP Aligned Operational
Groups

October 2025

Nicosia



**Funded by
the European Union**

Implemented by



**Sustainable Food
Systems Ireland**
A partnership of Irish Government agencies

+90 548 829 24 35

info@eunite-cyprus.eu

The [eunite:AgriBusiness](#) Project invites individuals and organisations to propose joint ideas for developing innovative ways to improve the various value chains of agriculture or fisheries.

[eunite:AgriBusiness](#) supports collaborative efforts of multiple actors, who wish to make things possible which each one of them could not do alone. Furthermore, this initiative seeks to strengthen efforts that contribute to building bridges between the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities across Cyprus.

[eunite:AgriBusiness](#) offers the support of advisors who will assist in finding partners and converting ideas into projects. They facilitate collaboration between the partners and assist in connecting to expertise throughout the process of developing new innovative solutions. They will also support in communicating progress and results. This call also offers a limited budget for selected projects to implement their activities.



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About eunite:AgriBusiness Project

eunite:AgriBusiness is a strategic initiative funded by the European Union, aimed at fostering economic growth, innovation, and sustainable development within the agricultural, fishing and rural sectors of the Turkish Cypriot community. Recognizing the unique local challenges and opportunities, the project seeks to promote a more resilient, competitive, and innovative industry through the development and strengthening of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS).

At its core, **eunite:AgriBusiness** emphasizes the importance of collaboration, knowledge development and knowledge sharing to address key issues such as climate change, resource efficiency, improved trade, standards and technological advancement. By bringing together farmers, fishers, researchers, advisory services, academia and industry stakeholders, the project aims to facilitate the exchange of best practices and support the development of tailored solutions that fit the local context.

This initiative also aims to bridge economic, environmental and social gaps and align local practices with EU standards and policies, opening pathways for increased funding, trade, cooperation, and the integration of innovative approaches.

Ultimately, **eunite:AgriBusiness** aspires to empower the Turkish Cypriot agricultural, fisheries and rural communities to seize new opportunities, adopt sustainable practices, and contribute to the broader goals of rural development and economic resilience across the island.

For more information about the eunite program scan the QR code:



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1. The Power of Working Together

1.1 Operational Groups to Foster Innovation

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together”, says an ancient Chinese proverb. Developing something new often requires changes of various kinds simultaneously, and this requires contributions from different corners. An innovation that proves its value in practice can be a technique or a tool, but usually it is more than that: it also involves changes in the relationships in a value chain and adaptations in the rules for making it possible. It requires contributions from people in different positions in the system. Getting them working together is not easy!

eunite:AgriBusiness creates opportunities for people with innovative ideas to form partnerships of people and organisations who have the capacity to make things change, and who jointly develop new practices that work.

Such partnerships are called “Operational Groups (OG)”. In almost all EU Member States such OGs are active and funded through the European Innovation Partnership programme (EIP). Since the start of the EIP in 2014, some 3,300 OGs have received funding, and this number will increase to 10,000 by 2027, for a total amount of support of around € 300 million.

In the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the EU, OGs are considered as a crucial instrument for improving the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) in Member States. The capacity of people to innovate depends largely on the quality of the relationship between the key actors of the AKIS they are part of namely: farmers, fishers, suppliers, traders, advisors, researchers, policy makers, NGO’s, etc. OGs bring people together who complement each other and make things possible.

1.2 Operational Groups in the Turkish Cypriot community

The establishment of OGs in the Turkish Cypriot community (TCC) marks a milestone in the implementation of its Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) Strategy. OGs are a proven model under the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) and represent a bottom-up, needs-driven approach for fostering innovation and sustainable development in agriculture and rural areas.

eunite:AgriBusiness will implement the OG approach in the northern part of Cyprus throughout its duration (2025–2028). A team of advisors have been contracted and received specialised training and guidance for assisting people with good ideas in creating OGs and in facilitating the joint effort to develop new and effective solutions.

Participating in an OG offers a valuable opportunity for individuals and organisations involved in the agricultural, fisheries and rural development sectors to influence and shape the development of innovative initiatives.

AKIS network membership

If you are interested in becoming a partner in an OG, your first action is to become an AKIS Network member. You can do so through [this form](#).

This membership gives you access to actual updates and support and allows you to directly contribute to the planning and implementation of projects that promote sustainable development, knowledge sharing, and technological advancements.

Joining an OG is a practical way to stay at the forefront of innovations in agriculture, fisheries, rural development and community support, and to help achieve shared goals for a resilient and competitive sector. Benefits are numerous and include:

- *Accessing Knowledge and Resources:* Gain access to innovative ideas, best practices and opportunities that can enhance your operations.
- *Networking Opportunities:* Build valuable relationships with other stakeholders, including farmers, researchers, and policymakers, fostering collaboration and partnership.
- *Capacity Building:* Participate in training and workshops to acquire new skills and knowledge relevant to modern agriculture and innovation.
- *Contribution to Community Development:* Play an active role in promoting sustainable and innovative practices in agriculture and fishery across the island.
- *Influencing Policy and Practice:* Your insights and expertise can help shape policies and initiatives that address the real needs of the farming, fishing and rural communities.

1.3 How to Apply

In this document you will find detailed information about the application and selection process. What kind of initiatives fit well in the focus and the priorities of [eunite:AgriBusiness](#) and AKIS? Who can apply? What support can be given? What should appear in a project proposal? And what are the procedures for application, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation?

Templates for application are provided in the appendices, as well as lists of definitions, acronyms and useful websites.

2. Focus of the Programme

2.1 What Kind of Initiatives are Welcome?

[eunite:AgriBusiness](#) looks for initiatives which aim to develop new solutions which become within reach because various people work together and contribute with their own specific capacities and possibilities, their knowledge and access to their networks.

It is important that the primary network of initiators within the partnership shows enthusiasm and willingness to invest time and effort in the initiative. A good idea and a group of at least two persons is enough to contact [eunite:AgriBusiness](#). An advisor will assist this group in making an “Expression of Interest” for the first step in the selection process for support.

[eunite:AgriBusiness](#) will support activities in supply chains, notably in:

- a) Dairy
- b) Fisheries
- c) Sub-tropical and Stone Fruits
- d) Honey
- e) Tropical and Emerging Fruits
- f) Field Crop Production
- g) High-Potential Vegetables
- h) Other Niche Products and Processed Foods

In the selection process of proposals, a number of criteria will be used. The initiative should fit into the priorities of the AKIS Strategy developed by [eunite:AgriBusiness](#), and interventions must match with one or more focus areas, which are further elaborated in annex [c].

The proposal should lead to practical applications. It should create new possibilities for farmers or fishers. This means that initiatives which do not target such new practices will not be selected, such as pure research, literature studies, networks for sharing information, investments in property or machinery, etc. Some of these type of activities might be part of a project plan, but only if they serve the development process towards applicable new practices and solutions.

2.2 Who Can Apply?

Applicants can be individuals and organisations that are AKIS Network members. As eunite:AgriBusiness aims to stimulate activities in value chains from farmer or fisher to consumer, at least one farmer or fisher should be part of the initial network.

Other applicants might be farmers or fishers, or work for farmer or fisher organisations, education or research institutes, local bodies, civil society organisations, chambers, SME's, etc, in short: all people being part of the AKIS.

For the first step in the application procedure, a core group of people who carry the idea writes an Expression of Interest. If this idea is selected, this group receives an invitation for developing a full application. The group needs to be extended with people and organisations who complement each other, to create a strong OG capable of developing the idea towards a new practice. When successful, such a new practice not only involves farmers or fishers who do something new, but it also influences other actors in the supply chain who change the way they work and behave. A strong composition of the OG gives access to these enabling actors.

Minimum eligibility requirements

The minimum requirements for the composition of the OG are as follows:

- a) Members are based in or actively operating in Cyprus.
- b) Members are registered in the AKIS Network.
- c) At least one farmer or a fisher is part of the OG.
- d) At least three different actors are part of the OG.
- e) At least one partner has relevant scientific knowledge.
- f) All partners have signed a Partnership Agreement.

- g) There is a lead partner, responsible for project implementation and reporting.

This lead partner can only be a lead partner in one OG.

3. Support

3.1 Advisory Support

The [eunite:AgriBusiness](#) advisors receive regular training and guidance for supporting interactive innovation processes. For every value chain in the list above there are at least two advisors available. They perform three main functions:

- [a] *Facilitating* the innovation process, to create space for development.
- [b] *Linking* the group members to other actors who appear to be important throughout the process.
- [c] *Guide* the partnership to develop their project ideas

The support activities of the [eunite:AgriBusiness](#) advisors are free of charge and thus are not factored in the OG project budget.

Support from idea to project

People with a good idea for an OG can approach a [eunite:AgriBusiness](#) advisor for assistance during the application process. This is a process in two steps:

[a] **Expression of Interest (EOI)**. A good idea and a core group of at least three members is enough. They formulate their idea, following the EOI template (annex [d]). The advisor can assist in filling the template.

[b] **Full application**. In this step, the core group looks for partners to form a strong OG. Together they develop the project plan and formulate the project proposal, following the OG template (annex [e]). The advisor can assist during this process.

Support to the OG

The project members are responsible for managing and administering the project, as well as for communicating about the progress. Their task division should be described in the project proposal.

The [eunite:AgriBusiness](#) advisors assist the OG throughout the process of generating ideas, planning and adjusting these plans when necessary, advising in setting up experiments, documenting and disseminating results. They can also assist in linking the group to other actors with relevant expertise and positions in the system. Although the advisors are knowledgeable in the field of the value chain and understand what the group members are talking about, it is not their task to take the lead and tell group members what to do.

Peer learning and cross-project learning

To build a culture of open exchange among OGs, regular opportunities will be created for:

- Cross-visits between OGs working on related themes.
- Joint field days, where various OGs present results together.
- Annual bi-communal forums, where experiences, challenges, and achievements are shared.
- Online peer-to-peer exchanges, facilitated through webinars or moderated discussion boards.

Through proactive communication and inclusive dissemination, the work of OGs will extend well beyond individual projects inspiring wider change, supporting replication, and amplifying the impact of grassroots innovation across the agricultural, fisheries and rural sectors.

3.2 Eligible Actions

An OG develops new solutions, which become possible through collaborative efforts of various actors. The OG project should lead to an innovation which will be tested and applied in practice.

An innovation is a practice which is not common for the people involved. It is the response to questions which call for new answers. The new practice will be the outcome of a development process, initiated and carried out by the OG. It might lead to something entirely new. It might also resemble a practice that has proven its value elsewhere. In reality, it will be a combination of both, because what appears to work for others usually needs to be adjusted to the circumstances of the group.

Actions are eligible under the OG project if their contribution to the development of practical solutions can be justified. The following list

provides examples of some possible actions as part of this process, but this is not exhaustive:

- *Innovation Development and Application:* Testing, piloting, or demonstrating new or improved practices, processes, or technologies that enhance productivity, sustainability, or competitiveness.
- *Knowledge Exchange:* Developing practical tools, training, pilot projects, or demonstrations to share innovative practices and increase stakeholder capacity.
- *Solutions to Specific Challenges:* Addressing issues such as climate change resilience, resource efficiency, biodiversity, digitalization, or market access, through collaborative solutions involving multiple stakeholders.
- *Capacity Building and Networking:* Facilitating partnerships, networking activities, or training that strengthen stakeholder collaboration and knowledge exchange across regions or sectors.
- *Market and Value Chain Improvements:* Enhancing the sustainability and competitiveness of agricultural and fisheries value chains through innovative practices and stakeholder cooperation.

3.3 Eligible Expenditures

Expenditures must have a direct relationship with the project. These expenditures might include:

- *Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach:* Costs of organizing workshops, seminars, training sessions, or participatory activities to facilitate stakeholder involvement such as demo events.
- *Expert Services and Consultants:* Fees for external expertise, technical assistance, or consultancy services required for project implementation.
- *Communication and Dissemination:* Costs related to producing publications, reports, videos, or other communication tools to disseminate project results.
- *Travel:* Expenses for travelling related to project activities within the island of Cyprus in case of bi-communal actions such as cross visits.

- *Materials and Equipment:* Purchase or rental of equipment, tools, or materials necessary for pilot activities, trials, demonstrations, or practical implementation.

This list is not exhaustive. Other costs might be included with proper justification.

Non-eligible costs

- *Interest and Financing Costs:* Bank charges, interest payments, or financial costs related to borrowing funds.
- *Real Estate Investments:* Purchase of land or buildings, or major infrastructure development.
- *Consumables for Routine Operations:* Regular office supplies or consumables not directly attributable to project activities.
- *Penalties and Fines:* Fines, penalties, or legal costs both related and unrelated to project execution.
- *Costs Already Funded:* Expenditure already covered by other funding sources or grants or actions already executed prior to the signing of the contract.
- *Value-Added Tax (VAT)* that is recoverable, unless specifically non-recoverable under the funding rules.
- Remuneration of OG members for their time or work related to the OG project.

Level of support and maximum funding amounts

The support for selected OGs will cover up to 100% of the eligible costs incurred during the project implementation phase. The support will be provided to ensure that all necessary activities can be carried out without financial barriers. Support will be granted up to a maximum of **10,000 Euros**, per OG. The requested budget needs to be clearly detailed, justified and relevant to the scope and actions proposed.

Budget management

Procurement of services and supplies as well as payments of approved project activities will be carried out directly by [eunite:AgriBusiness](#) in close coordination with the OG. Details will be explained further during contracting of the selected projects.

Cost contribution by OG members

Partners within the OG are encouraged to contribute to the success of their projects by proposing and implementing innovative cost-sharing solutions. This involves utilisation of existing partnership facilities, such as venues for workshops and meetings, or available infrastructure like farms, factories, and research centres.

Contributions in terms of manpower, including staff time, technical advice, and project management are also highly valued. The use of technology and machinery owned or managed by partners, such as digital platforms, testing equipment, or farm machinery, can significantly increase project scope, reduce costs and enhance project execution.

Possible types of partner support include, but are not limited to:

- **Facilities and venues** for meetings, training, or field demonstrations
- **Farms, vessels, factories, and testing sites** for practical experiments or pilot projects
- **Machinery and equipment** such as tractors, sprayers, harvesters, farm tools, digital devices, or sampling kits
- **Technology platforms** for data collection, remote monitoring, or digital dissemination
- **Manpower** including staff, experts, and field operators for project implementation and outreach
- **Fleets and transportation** for logistics related to project activities and stakeholder engagement

Partners are expected to propose such cost-sharing arrangements that align with the scope of their project proposal.

4. The Application Procedure

4.1 The Expression of Interest

The application procedure has two steps, to make the threshold low for people with interesting initiatives to seek contact with [eunite:AgriBusiness](https://eunite-agribusiness.eu). Requirements for the first step are summarised as follows:

- **An idea** for developing a new solution, as an answer to a challenge or an opportunity.

- **A match** with one or more focus areas in one of the listed supply chains (annex [c]).
- **A core group** of at least three persons, of which at least one is a farmer or fisher.

Requirements for the first step: the Expression of Interest.

The Expression of Interest to be submitted follows a template with the following elements (annex [d]):

1. Short summary of the idea
2. Signatories of the EOI
 - Lead applicant
 - Other applicants
3. Which problem or opportunity does it address?
4. Who will be involved in the Operational Group?
5. Who are the ultimate beneficiaries?
6. Investment in time (first estimate)
7. Required budget (first estimate).

The EOI does not need to be elaborated in detail and must follow the template provided.

Question 4 asks for intentions: who will be approached in the second step for joining the group?

Question 5 is about the desired impact: initiatives that serve not only the interests of the initiators but also a wider community score higher in the application procedure.

Questions 6 and 7, investments in time and budget can only be roughly estimated at this stage.

Admission to the second step

The evaluation committee of [eunite:AgriBusiness](#) selects the **most promising EOI's** and invites the lead applicant to take the lead in developing a project proposal for submission in the second step of the application.

Other applicants will be informed of the reasons why their EOI was not selected.

4.2 The Project Proposal

Developing a full application

Upon the invitation, the core group starts developing the project proposal, with the assistance of a [eunite:AgriBusiness](#) advisor. The group approaches other partners for joining the OG in formation. The group sets targets and develops a proposal, following the template for OG project proposals (annex [e]).

It is important that all partners are involved in setting the goals and reach agreement about the task division. Before submission of the proposal, they all need to sign the Partnership Agreement (annex [f]), which forms part of the required documentation.

Setting goals for an interactive innovation process

The goals as formulated in the project document are an expression of the desired outcome of the innovation process. The exact result cannot be known beforehand, otherwise it would not be new. Therefore, setting targets in the form of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) requires special attention.

Assumably, all partners have their own reasons to engage in the OG, and they have their questions to be answered in the course of the development process. The project proposal should reflect the ambition which is shared by all partners, and the questions they agree to work on.

A strong proposal formulates indicators for measuring progress in the different components of the project.

Innovation processes are discovery journeys, and surprises can be expected. This means that the plan must leave space for adjustments and actions to respond on developments that were not foreseen at the start.

A strong project proposal formulates key assumptions on which the planning is based. When things work out different from what was expected, re-evaluating these assumptions is important for the learning process.

Essential elements of the project proposal

1. Title

How is the operation group called? What will the project be called? Choose a short and appealing name which summarises the core idea of the Operational Group and find a suitable acronym.

2. Editor

Who wrote the text of this proposal? A strong proposal is the result of thorough discussions and consensus between the partners.

3. Project coordinator

- a. Name
- b. Address, e-mail, telephone
- c. Type, affiliation

The project coordinator is the contact point with [eunite:AgriBusiness](#).

Type and affiliation refer to the organisation the project coordinator or partner is part of, if applicable. Type might be: entrepreneur in agriculture or fisheries, self-employed expert, advisory service, research or education bodies, Chambers, NGO, trader, etc.

4. Partners

Who are the OG members? What is each OG member active in? Does the OG have women, young farmers or fishers?

At least one farmer or fisher is a partner or a project coordinator. Explain what each OG member's role will be in the implementation of the project and to what degree will they be involved in the overall implementation of the project.

The group consists of at least three partners. There is no maximum for the number of partners. In larger groups it is wise to form a project team in which all different actor groups are represented. Their names will be mentioned here as partners.

A [eunite:AgriBusiness](#) advisor who assists the group cannot be the project coordinator or project partner.

In a strong project proposal, there is a variety of partners with access to the different elements of the value chain where the group wishes to address challenges.

5. Differences from Expression of Interest

Are there any substantial differences compared to the expression of interest? These should be explained and reasons provided for any deviations proposed.

6. Geographical location

Where will the project activities take place? And where will the effects be tangible?

7. Key words

Core activities summarised in single words.

8. Project period

Intended dates of start and termination.

9. Situation analysis and Challenges proposed

a. Challenges, opportunities

b. Enabling factors, threats

This section describes the issues which bring the partners together. For which challenges do they want to find new solutions? Which opportunities do they see, from which they can profit if they find new ways for working together?

Enabling factors are circumstances which make it attractive to do now what the group desires to undertake. Threats are circumstances which might cause difficulties when the group starts to bring about change.

A strong proposal shows a realistic vision on the current situation, and possible threats to cope with. The soundness of the justification is very important to understand the level of pertinence of the challenges proposed.

10. Objectives and ambition of the project

The objectives specify what the OG wants to achieve.

As mentioned before, interactive innovation projects are unpredictable discovery journeys, and if the result would be known in detail, nothing was learned, and nothing new would have been developed. Therefore, the objectives should reflect the destination of the journey, which the partners envision at the start of the OG project. They might end up at an even better place.

How are these objectives relevant to the AKIS Strategy Objectives? How coherent are they to the AKIS Focus Areas? What value chains are involved?

11. Expected outcomes

Outcomes are tangible results that contribute to the overall objective. In a strong proposal, these outcomes are formulated Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time bound (SMART), as far as possible.

In an interactive innovation process, partners seek answers to specific questions. Different partners might have different questions to be answered, related to their interests and views. The expected outcomes reflect the expectations they jointly agreed upon.

12. Innovation Potential

Are your ideas innovative and original? How easily can your solution be replicated in different contexts? Is the innovation scalable to larger stakeholder groups or sectors?

What makes your ideas unique? How will you ensure long-term sustainability?

13. Planned activities

This section formulates the strategy to be followed. Which steps and pathways will be followed to acquire the expected outcomes?

Refer to existing work, research, technologies that the project builds on. Include clear work packages, detailing activities, lead OG member, timelines and expected outputs.

A strong proposal is clear about basic assumptions on which the strategy is grounded. Such assumptions might be confirmed or falsified during the development process, and reflecting on it is essential for a fruitful learning process.

A strong proposal builds in a certain degree of flexibility. It is wise to include reflection moments for assessing progress and the possible need for adjustments of the plan.

In case of surprises which call for major adjustments, the OG must seek written prior permission of [eunite:AgriBusiness](#).

What deliverables are expected from each work package?

14. Governance

How will the project be managed, and what are the responsibilities and contributions from the partners?

In a strong project proposal, the major activities are divided in work packages, with one partner taking responsibility for each one of it. The work package leaders and the project coordinator form the management team.

A strong proposal also contains procedures for internal communication and decision making. It also could describe what to do when conflicts arise.

15. Monitoring and evaluation

What will be considered as progress in the different phases of development? And what has been achieved when the project is successful? In this section, the over-all objectives need to be specified, which measurable results are considered as a success? And what would be satisfactory?

The proposal includes activities for collecting baseline data, and data for measuring progress during the project. Responsibilities for these tasks should be well defined.

A strong proposal also includes an activity for collecting stories at distinct moments during the project. With what hopes did the partners start the journey? What challenges did they meet along the way? What did they learn, and which solutions did they find?

16. Risks and coping strategies

What are foreseeable risks for the project during its lifespan? What can be done to cope with these risks?

17. Communication

How will the OG communicate with the internal and external communities?

A strong project proposal has one work package dedicated to communication. For the internal community (the project partners) the plan contains activities for informing each other about progress, and for joint reflection. Think of an intranet and regular meetings.

For the external community, the plan could include contributions to the eunite:AgriBusiness website, visits and meetings at designated times during the project lifespan.

18. Budget plan

The budget plan includes a realistic estimation of all costs that are involved in the planned activities of the OG, following the guideline in paragraph 3.3: eligible costs.

eunite:AgriBusiness can cover 100% of eligible costs up to 10,000 Euro.

A strong proposal also specifies contributions from partners. These contributions can be specific investments, but also in kind, such as facilities for meetings and experiments, and working hours of project partners.

A strong budget plan keeps space for actions in response to unexpected developments during the lifespan of the project. A contingency of 10% of the total requested budget is permitted.

19. Partnership Agreement

For a full application, the project plan is accompanied by a Partnership Agreement, signed by all partners in the project (see 4.2 / 4. Partners; annex [f]).

4.3 Selection Criteria

An evaluation committee, composed of representatives from the eunite:AgriBusiness Project team (or external experts if appropriate), will be set up and tasked to review the proposals based on a scoring matrix. Each proposal is scored against the criteria, and a ranking is established to identify the most promising projects.

A final approval is made by the Evaluation Committee based on the evaluation scores, strategic fit, and available resources.

The list of Selection criteria is accessible as annex [g].

5. Project Implementation

5.1 Project Management and Reporting

Project Management Framework

Each OG will be responsible for managing its own project, under the leadership of a designated lead partner.

Key principles of implementation will include:

- Clear internal roles and responsibilities agreed upon at the outset
- Project work plans with defined milestones and deliverables

- Regular meetings and communication among OG members and [eunite:AgriBusiness](#)
- Activity tracking tools to follow up on progress and issues

The AKIS Coordination Unit (within [eunite:AgriBusiness](#)) will oversee general coordination, facilitate learning and troubleshooting, and ensure alignment with overall AKIS and innovation objectives.

Monitoring and Evaluation

OGs are obliged to effectively monitor and evaluate the progress and impact of supported projects, according to the activities as specified in the approved project document.

Reporting Obligations

- 6-Monthly Progress Reports: OGs are obliged to submit detailed progress reports every six months, providing updates on indicator achievements, project activities, challenges, and lessons learned.
- Sharing Updates with [eunite:AgriBusiness](#): When requested, OGs must share relevant data, progress updates, and any necessary documentation with [eunite:AgriBusiness](#) to enable ongoing oversight, monitoring, and evaluation.

Evaluation and Adjustment

Based on this periodical review adjust activities if indicators reveal gaps or unforeseen challenges, ensuring continuous improvement and achievement of project goals.

5.2 Dissemination and Capitalisation of Results

Communication and dissemination

Effective communication and dissemination are essential to ensure that the knowledge, experiences, and outcomes generated by OG reaches beyond the immediate project team and contribute to the broader innovation ecosystem across Cyprus.

Stakeholder Engagement and Visibility

From the outset, OGs will be encouraged to involve key stakeholders, including farmers, fishers, advisors, researchers, agri-businesses, NGOs and

policymakers, not only as project partners but also as audiences and contributors to the innovation process. Engagement activities may include:

- Kick-off events to introduce the project and its goals.
- Field days or demo sessions to share progress with peers and local communities
- Stakeholder roundtables or thematic dialogues for feedback and strategic discussion.
- Policy engagement workshops and the AKIS Assembly, where relevant, to link findings to strategic or development discussions.

Each OG will be required to prepare a communication plan as part of its proposal, detailing outreach activities, target groups, and dissemination tools.

Tools and Channels for Dissemination

To ensure broad visibility and knowledge sharing, a variety of formats and platforms can be used of which as example:

- Printed and digital summaries of each OG's objectives, activities, and results (e.g. info-sheets, factsheets)
- Project videos or photo stories documenting the innovation process and outcomes
- Short policy briefs or technical notes for dissemination via advisory channels
- Presentations at local events, fairs, campus events, or innovation days
- Contributions to the AKIS website and [eunite:AgriBusiness](#) communication channels

Peer Learning and Cross-Project Sharing

To build a culture of open exchange among OGs, regular opportunities will be created for:

- Cross-visits between OGs working on related themes.
- Joint field days, where multiple OGs present results together.
- Annual bi-communal forums, where experiences, challenges, and achievements are shared.

- Online peer exchanges, facilitated through webinars or moderated discussion boards.

Through proactive communication and inclusive dissemination, the work of OGs will extend well beyond individual projects inspiring wider change, supporting replication, and amplifying the impact of grassroots innovation across the agricultural, fisheries and rural sectors.



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+90 548 829 24 35

info@eunite-cyprus.eu

[a] Table of Abbreviations

AKIS	Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System
AS	Advisory Services
ASARD	Advisory System for Agriculture and Rural Development
CAP	Common Agriculture Policy
EU	European Union
EIP-AGRI	European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural productivity and Sustainability
FAS	Farm Advisory Services
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GLT	Green Line Trade
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MSs	Member States
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OG	Operational Group
PDO	Protected Designation of Origin
RD	Rural Development
RoC	Republic of Cyprus
TC	Turkish Cypriot
TCc	Turkish Cypriot community
VET	Vocational Education and Training

[b] Definitions

Actor	A person or a category of persons or institutions, taking a specific position in a system.
Advice	The provision of a technically skilled opinion and/or recommendation on a specific subject (on or off farm) to assist farmers, fishers or rural businesspersons in decision-making (on products, processes, performance). This advice can be a tailor-made service to provide specific solutions to farmers, fishers, small and medium scale enterprises, rural households or group services where advice covers issues of common needs or interest.
Advisor	A natural person that who is in possession of a recognised educational qualification and relevant experience on selected subject matters and that has been trained and certified to possess the necessary skills and competences to perform advisory services.
Advisory services	Services provided by advisors to farms, fishers, rural agri-businesses and non-agricultural enterprises that exercise their activities in rural and coastal areas. The scope of these services may cover any technical, financial, economic, environmental, legal and social aspects that a beneficiary of such service may need.
Advisory Services Framework	The framework which outlines the principles for the method of delivery of advice to rural stakeholders under eunite:AgriBusiness programme
Advisory System for Agriculture and Rural Development	The combination of the advisory structures, systems and services and respective delivery mechanisms that go to operationalise the processes and procedures for effective implementation as part of an AKIS.
Agricultural activity	The production, rearing or growing of agricultural products including harvesting, milking, breeding

	animals and keeping animals for farming purposes; or; maintaining the agricultural area in a state which makes it suitable for grazing or cultivation without any preparatory action going beyond usual agricultural methods and machinery.
Agricultural holding	All the units of land used for agricultural activities and managed by a farmer or land manager.
Agricultural Innovation	The process whereby individuals or organisations bring existing or new products, processes, and forms of organisation into social and economic use to increase effectiveness, competitiveness, resilience to shocks, or environmental sustainability, thereby contributing to food and nutritional security, economic development, and sustainable natural resource management
Agri-food value chain actor	Any individual, group, or organisation actively involved in the production, processing, distribution, marketing, or consumption of agricultural and food products.
AKIS (Agriculture Knowledge Innovation System)	The combined organisation and knowledge flows between persons, organisations and institutions, involved in generating and sharing knowledge for agriculture, forestry and interrelated fields. The quality of the relationships between all actors in this system determines the capacity of farmers, foresters and rural communities to meet current and future challenges.
Animal Welfare	The well-being of farm animals which requires that animals should enjoy the following freedoms: freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury and disease, freedom to express normal behaviour and freedom from fear and distress.
Cross-compliance	The minimum EU standards for food safety, animal health, plant health, the climate, the environment, the protection of water resources, animal welfare and the

	condition in which farmland is maintained. There are two components of these rules: statutory management requirements and good agricultural and environmental conditions.
Farmer	Any natural or legal person or a group of them regardless of the legal status these might have and who exercises agricultural activity.
Fisher	Any natural or legal person or a group of them regardless of the legal status these might have and who exercises the activity of catching or farming fish and other sea fruits.
Innovation	A practice which is new for targeted persons or groups and successfully implemented by them.
Interactive Innovation	In an interactive innovation process the outcome is the result of the efforts of a variety of actors who bring in relevant knowledge and experience.
Market-Oriented advisory services	Advice that enhances farm productivity and profitability through support in farm investment planning, adding value, access to markets, access to credit, marketing and branding.
Producer Organisation	A legally constituted group of farmers and growers. Producer organisations assist in the production, distribution and marketing of products.
Public Goods Advice	Information and practices benefiting society, such as environmental protection or climate resilience
Rural Area	A place or area having low density of population compared to urban areas and classified geographically as having predominantly agriculture activities or distinct rural characteristics.
Trainee	The individual participant in education and training activities organised by eunite:AgriBusiness to develop specific skills, knowledge, or competencies.

Training	The acquisition of competences to solve problems and improve skills through vocational education focused training activities.
Vocational Education and Training	Organized educational programs and training activities that focus on equipping individuals with the practical skills, technical knowledge, and competencies needed for specific occupations or industries.

[c] AKIS Strategic Priorities and Focus Areas

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS (SO1)
Focus Area (FA1)	Leverage natural and strategic advantages
FA 2	Expand and promote high-demand and niche products, enhancing processing, product quality and certification, diversification and value-added opportunities
FA 3	Support local and international market access, trade expansion and financial support
FA 4	Promote and support sustainable, climate-smart, cost and energy efficient agricultural practices, development and improvement of infrastructure and logistics
FA 5	Foster economies of scale and cooperative farming models, promote social and economic opportunities
FA 6	Build capacity, education, training, and knowledge transfer and sharing, encourage adoption of innovation and technology
FA 7	Attract, encourage and support new entrants
FA 8	Expand and promote high-demand and niche products, enhancing processing, product quality and certification, diversification and value-added opportunities
FA 9	Facilitate policy alignment and implementation

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	A FAIRER INCOME FOR FARMERS AND FISHERS (SO2)
Focus Area (FA1)	Support local and international market access, trade expansion and financial support
FA 2	Foster economies of scale and cooperative farming models, promote social and economic opportunities
FA 3	Promote and support sustainable, climate-smart, cost and energy efficient agricultural practices, development and improvement of infrastructure and logistics
FA 4	Build capacity, education, training, and knowledge transfer and sharing, encourage adoption of innovation and technology

FA 5	Facilitate policy alignment and implementation
FA 6	Risk management, mitigation and resilience

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	INTEGRATION OF FARMERS/FISHERS IN FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS (SO3)
Focus Area (FA1)	Support local and international market access, trade expansion and financial support
FA 2	Expand and promote high-demand and niche products, enhance processing, product quality and certification, diversification and value-added opportunities
FA 3	Build capacity, education, training, and knowledge transfer and sharing, encourage adoption of innovation and technology
FA 4	Facilitate policy alignment and implementation
FA 5	Promote and support sustainable, climate-smart, cost and energy efficient agricultural practices, development and improvement of infrastructure and logistics
FA 6	Reduce postharvest losses
FA 7	Risk management, mitigation and resilience

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIONS (SO4)
Focus Area (FA1)	Promote and support sustainable, climate-smart, cost and energy efficient agricultural practices, development and improvement of infrastructure and logistics
FA 2	Build capacity, education, training, and knowledge transfer and sharing, encourage adoption of innovation and technology
FA 3	Facilitate policy alignment and implementation
FA 4	Risk management, mitigation and resilience

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP (SO5)
Focus Area (FA1)	Promote and support sustainable, climate-smart, cost and energy efficient agricultural practices, development and improvement of infrastructure and logistics
FA 2	Build capacity, education, training, and knowledge transfer and sharing, encourage adoption of innovation and technology
FA 3	Biodiversity conservation and habitat protection
FA 4	Facilitate policy alignment and implementation
FA 5	Collaborative research and applied solutions
FA 6	Risk management, mitigation and resilience

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	PRESERVATION OF LANDSCAPE AND BIODIVERSITY (SO6)
Focus Area (FA1)	Promote and support sustainable, climate-smart, cost and energy efficient agricultural practices, development and improvement of infrastructure and logistics
FA 2	Biodiversity conservation and habitat protection
FA 3	Build capacity, education, training, and knowledge transfer and sharing, encourage adoption of innovation and technology
FA 4	Collaborative research and applied solutions
FA 5	Expand and promote high-demand and niche products, enhancing processing, product quality and certification, diversification and value-added opportunities
FA 6	Promote agricultural heritage, local products, agri-tourism and economic opportunities
FA 7	Facilitate policy alignment and implementation
FA 8	Foster economies of scale and cooperative farming models, promote social and economic opportunities
FA 9	Promote and support sustainable, climate-smart, cost and energy efficient agricultural practices, development and improvement of infrastructure and logistics
FA 10	Risk management, mitigation and resilience

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	GENERATIONAL RENEWAL (SO7)
Focus Area (FA1)	Attract, encourage and support new entrants
FA 2	Build capacity, education, training, and knowledge transfer and sharing, encourage adoption of innovation and technology
FA 3	Promote agricultural heritage, local products, agri-tourism and economic opportunities
FA 4	Expand and promote high-demand and niche products, enhancing processing, product quality and certification, diversification and value-added opportunities
FA 5	Promote and support sustainable, climate-smart, cost and energy efficient agricultural practices, development and improvement of infrastructure and logistics

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	VIBRANT RURAL AREAS AND COMMUNITIES (SO8)
Focus Area (FA1)	Promote and support sustainable, climate-smart, cost and energy efficient agricultural practices, development and improvement of infrastructure and logistics
FA 2	Facilitate policy alignment and implementation
FA 3	Promote agricultural heritage, local products, agri-tourism and economic opportunities
FA 4	Build capacity, education, training, and knowledge transfer and sharing, encourage adoption of innovation and technology
FA 5	Foster economies of scale and cooperative farming models, promote social and economic opportunities
FA 6	Risk management, mitigation and resilience

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	FOOD AND HEALTH QUALITY (SO9)
Focus Area (FA1)	Expand and promote high-demand and niche products, enhancing processing, product quality and certification, diversification and value-added opportunities
FA 2	Promote and support sustainable, climate-smart, cost and energy efficient agricultural practices, development and improvement of infrastructure and logistics
FA 3	Reduce postharvest losses
FA 4	Support local and international market access, trade expansion and financial support
FA 5	Build capacity, education, training, and knowledge transfer and sharing, encourage adoption of innovation and technology
FA 6	Hygiene, safety, and compliance

[d] Template for Expression of Interest

STAGE 1 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

SECTION 1 – OPERATIONAL GROUP DETAILS

1.1. Name of Group	Choose a name for the Group.
1.2. Project Title	How will the project be called? Choose a short and appealing name which summarises the core idea.
1.3. Targeted Value Chain	Indicate the targeted value chain. Should be at least one of the below value chains: a) Dairy b) Fisheries c) Sub-tropical and Stone Fruits d) Honey e) Tropical and Emerging Fruits f) Field Crop Production g) High-Potential Vegetables h) Other Niche Products and Processed Foods
1.4. Project Duration	Project end date should be no later than June 2028.
1.5. Project Location	Should be based in the Island of Cyprus
1.6. Required budget (first estimate)	Should not exceed 10,000 Euros
1.7. Lead Applicant	
1.8. Telephone	
1.9. Email Address	

Notes: The lead applicant can be an individual or an organisation – they will be the point of contact for all communications. Make the project title (name) easy to read/understand. Think carefully about the timeline in advance and the value chains to be tackled.

SECTION 2 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

2. Short Summary of the Idea (Min 500 Max 1,000 words)
<p>Please summarise your project here briefly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of the project • Word count limits for Section 2 should be strictly observed. • Try to summarize what, where and why in a clear and effective manner. <p>Please enter here a summary of your project idea.</p>

- What is/are the challenge(s)/issues that is/are being addressed?
- What are the objectives of the proposal? (Focus on the pertinence of the challenge, links to AKIS strategic objectives and focus areas)
- What is the proposed approach?

Outlining the need for the project and how this will be met.

- Think “local solutions for local challenges”.
- Consider presenting an overall objective and then breaking it down into specific SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound) sub-objectives.

What activities can help you achieve these objectives over the next 1-2 years? Try to break down the process and define main actions required (include communication and management activities).

Consider keywords associated with the topic and the planned work.

3. Signatories of this EoI

3.1. Lead applicant

Name Surname	
Address	
Legal status / organisation / short background (max 100 words)	
Address, e-mail, telephone	

3.2. Other applicants

Name Surname	Legal status / organisation / short background (max 100 words)	Address, e-mail, telephone

Note: An OG includes the engagement of a broad range of actors such as farmers, fishers, work for farmer or fisher organisations, research institutes, local bodies, civil society organisations, chambers, SME's, farm advisors, agri-businesses, etc. in short: all people being part of the AKIS. At least one farmer or one fisher is obligatory. A minimum of three actors are required

but there is no maximum limit to the actors involved.

4. Problem(s) or Opportunity (Max 500 words)

Here, it is expected from the OG to clearly explain which problem or opportunity does it intend to tackle?

5. Who will be involved in the Operational Group?

Who will be approached in the second step for joining the group? Information regarding who can join the OG during the project detailing phase, excluding the OG members detailed in Sections 3.1 and 3.2, should be shared in this section. This section should provide information in terms of experience, skills, and responsibilities rather than names.

6. Ultimate Beneficiaries

Please outline the envisaged benefits which could arise from the project and who are the ultimate beneficiaries?

- Think about the objectives and the expected outcomes you described, what might the impact of each be? And who can benefit from it?
- Are there additional social, environmental and economic benefits?

7. Investment in time (first estimate)

Please provide an indicative outline of the project timelines in this section.

8. Required Budget (first estimate)

Please provide an indicative budget that includes roughly estimated actions at this stage.

Note: that reclaimable VAT, interest and financing costs, real estate investments, consumables for routine operations, penalties and fines, and costs already funded cannot be included through the project. Maximum 10,000 € per project.

SECTION 3 – DECLARATIONS AND SIGNATURES

1. We confirm that the information contained in this proposal is true, correct, complete and accurate and that none of the project activities have started before the project was submitted.		
2. We authorize the processing and use of all personal data and information for the purpose of the application, evaluation, award and subsequent management, communication, reporting and monitoring purposes.		
3. We acknowledge that the lead applicant is authorized to submit, coordinate and communicate with eunite about all matters concerning the application		
4. We acknowledge, understand and accept the terms and conditions associated with the funding, including financial management arrangements and associated obligations.		
5. We declare that there are no conflicts of interest affecting the application.		
6. We have read, understood and accept the conditions set out in this call		
7. Signature: This application must be signed by the lead applicant		
Name of the Lead Person		
Signature		
Date		
Location		

SUBMISSION

Please complete this form and return a signed PDF version as well as a Microsoft Word version to the email address below.

Completed applications must be sent by email by not later than 17:00pm of the 26 December 2025 at the following: operational.groups@eunite-cyprus.eu

Further information can be obtained by contacting us at:



**Funded by
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**Sustainable Food
Systems Ireland**
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+90 548 829 24 35

info@eunite-cyprus.eu

[e] Template for Operational Group Project Proposal

PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

STAGE 2 – FULL PROJECT PROPOSAL

SECTION 1 – OPERATIONAL GROUP DETAILS

1.1. Name of Operational Group	The name of the Group may be updated from that submitted at EoI stage
1.2. Project Title	How will the project be called? Choose a short and appealing name which summarises the core idea of the Operational Group. The project title may be revised from that submitted with the EoI
1.3 Project Acronym	Propose an Acronym for your project title
1.4. Project Abstract	Should provide a clear understanding of the objectives of the proposal, how they will be achieved, their relevance to AKIS strategic objectives, focus areas and value chains.
1.5. Project Duration	Project end date should be no later than June 2028.
1.6. Project Location	Should be based in Cyprus
1.7. Total Budget Requested	Should be no more than 10,000 Euros
1.8. Name of Lead Applicant	The Lead applicant must be the Project Coordinator

Note: This template is to be completed by those OGs whose EOI has been approved.

SECTION 2 – PROJECT PREPARATION DETAILS

2. Editor

Who wrote the text of this proposal? A strong proposal is the result of thorough discussions and consensus between the partners.

3. Project Coordinator

Name and surname	
ID Card No.	
Postal Address	
e-mail address	
Mobile phone number	
Name of Organisation	If applicable

Position within organization	If applicable
-------------------------------------	---------------

The project coordinator will act as the main contact point with eunite:AgriBusiness.

4. Partners (and type of actors) in the Operational Group

4.1 Who is involved?

Name and surname	Gender	Young farmer/fisher (40yrs or less)	Address	e-mail	phone	Organization	Profession /Activity

Note:

- At least one farmer or fisher must be a partner or a project coordinator.
- Indicate if the farmer/s and/or fisher/s are 40yrs of age or less.
- In the case of individual OG members indicate gender (M/F)
- A group consists of at least **three partners**. There is no maximum number of partners. In larger groups it is wise to form a project team in which all different actor groups are represented. Their names will be mentioned here as partners.
- A eunite:AgriBusiness advisor who assists the group cannot be the project coordinator or project partner.
- In a strong project proposal, there is a variety of partners with access to the different elements of the value chain where the group wishes to address challenges. Ensure you provide details of the activities and/or services each actor is involved with.

4.2 Role of partners in project implementation

Name of Partner	Role	Tick where applicable	Degree of involvement
	Project Management		

	Communication, dissemination and engagement		
	Provision of research		
	Technology developer/provider		
	Education and training		
	<i>Other please specify</i>		

Note: When quantifying the degree of involvement this must be calculated as a % of the level of involvement of each actor in the implementation of the overall project activities.

SECTION 3 – PROJECT PROPOSAL

5. Differences from EoI

Please describe any substantial differences compared to the EoI and indicate reasons for these changes (Partnership, Budget, Methods and Approach, etc)

6. Geographical Location

Where will the project activities take place? And where will the effects be tangible?

7. Key Words

Core activities summarized in single words.

8. Project Period

Intended dates of start and termination.
Include a timetable illustrating all activities, work packages, etc.

9. Situation Analysis and Challenges proposed

- a) Challenges, opportunities
- b) Enabling factors, threats

This section describes the issues which bring the partners together. For which challenges do they want to find new solutions? Which opportunities do they see, from which they can profit if they find new ways for working together?

Enabling factors are circumstances which make it attractive to do now what the group desires to undertake. Threats are circumstances which might cause difficulties when the group starts to bring about change.

A strong proposal shows a realistic vision on the current situation, and possible threats to cope with. The soundness of the justification is very important to understand the pertinence of the challenge/s proposed.

10. Objectives and ambition of the Project

The objectives specify what the OG wants to achieve. How are these relevant to the AKIS Strategic Objectives and Focus areas? What value chains will be involved?

As mentioned before, interactive innovation projects are unpredictable discovery journeys, and if the result would be known in detail, nothing was learned, and nothing new would have been developed. Therefore, the objectives should reflect the destination of the journey, which the partners envision at the start of the OG project.

They might end up at an even better place. Ensure you describe how you will measure your objectives? Are they verifiable and realistically achievable?

11. Expected Outcomes

Outcomes are tangible results that contribute to the overall objective.

In a strong proposal, these outcomes are formulated Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time bound (SMART), as far as possible.

In an interactive innovation process, partners seek answers to specific questions. Different partners might have different questions to be answered, related to their interests and views. The expected outcomes reflect the expectations they jointly agreed upon.

12. Innovation Potential

Are your ideas innovative and original?

How easily can your solution be replicated in different contexts?

Is your project scalable to larger audiences or markets?

Can your approach be transferred to other industries or fields?

What makes your idea unique compared to existing solutions?

Have you considered potential challenges in implementing and scaling your innovation?

How does your project demonstrate long-term sustainability and impact?

13. Planned Activities

This section formulates the strategy to be followed. Which steps and pathways will be followed to acquire the expected outcomes?

A strong proposal is clear about basic assumptions on which the strategy is grounded. Such assumptions might be confirmed or falsified during the development process, and reflecting on it is essential for a fruitful learning process.

A strong proposal builds in a certain degree of flexibility. It is wise to include reflection moments for assessing progress and the possible need for adjustments of the plan.

In case of surprises which call for major adjustments, the OG must seek written prior permission of [eunite:AgriBusiness](#).

Make sure that in this section there is a clear description and explanation of the overall methodology, including concepts, models and assumptions that will underpin the proposed work. Explain how this will enable the OG to deliver the project objectives. Refer to any important challenges the OG may have identified in the chosen methodology and how they intend to overcome them.

It is important that in this section the OG explains how expertise and methods from different disciplines will be brought together and integrated in pursuit of the objectives.

Refer to existing work, research, technologies that the project builds on.

Include in this section clear work packages, lead actor/organization and duration.

Deliverables

Ref No:	Deliverable Name	Short description	Work Package Reference	Lead OG member	Dissemination type	Delivery period

14. Governance

How will the project be managed, and what are the responsibilities and contributions from the partners?

In a strong project proposal, the major activities are divided in work packages, with one partner taking responsibility for each one of it. The work package leaders and the project coordinator form the management team.

A strong proposal also contains procedures for internal communication and decision making. It also could describe what to do when conflicts arise.

15. Monitoring and Evaluation

What will be considered as progress in the different phases of development? And what has been achieved when the project is successful? In this section, the over-all objectives need to be specified, which measurable results are considered as a success? And what would be satisfactory?

The proposal includes activities for collecting baseline data, and data for measuring progress during the project. Responsibilities for these tasks should be well defined.

A strong proposal also includes an activity for collecting stories at distinct moments during the project. With what hopes did the partners start the journey? What challenges did they meet along the way? What did they learn, and which solutions did they find?

16. Risks and Coping Strategies

What are foreseeable risks for the project during its lifespan? What can be done to cope with these risks?

17. Communication

How will the OG communicate with the internal and external communities?

A strong project proposal has one work package dedicated to communication. For the internal community (the project partners) the plan contains activities for informing each other about progress, and for joint reflection. Think of an intranet and regular meetings.

For the external community, the plan could include contributions to the [eunite:AgriBusiness](#) website, visits and meetings at designated times during the project lifespan.

Think also about possible feedback for policy measures that will be generated by the project.

18. Total Budget Requested

18.1 Budget Breakdown

Description	Units (if applicable)	Proposed Budget
Organisation of meetings, seminars, demo events		€
Expert Services and Consultants		€
Communication and Dissemination		€
Travel		€
Materials and Equipment		€
Other		€
TOTAL		€

18.2 In-Kind Contributions

Description	OG Contributor	Explanations
<i>Eg. Personnel costs</i>		
<i>Use of farm machinery</i>		
<i>Use of training facilities</i>		
<i>Laboratory use</i>		
<i>Materials and Equipment</i>		
<i>Other</i>		

Note: The above categories (18.1 and 18.2) are included as examples.

18.1 – This refers to the contribution from [eunite:AgriBusiness](#).

18.2 – Financial contributions from other sources might be added to the project as well. These can include contributions in kind from the OG members.

The budget plan includes a realistic estimation of all costs that are involved in the planned activities of the OG, following the guideline in paragraph 3.3: eligible costs.

eunite:AgriBusiness can cover 100% of eligible costs.

A strong proposal also specifies contributions from partners. These contributions can be specific investments, but also in kind, such as facilities for meetings and experiments, and working hours of project partners.

A strong budget plan keeps space for actions in response to unexpected developments during the lifespan of the project. A contingency of 10% of the total requested budget is permitted.

19. Partnership Agreement

The project plan must be accompanied by a Partnership Agreement, signed by all partners in the project (see 4.2 / 4. Partners; annex [f]).

SECTION 3 – DECLARATIONS AND SIGNATURES

1. We declare to have the explicit consent of all OG members on their participation and on the content of this proposal	
2. We confirm that the information contained in this proposal is true, correct, complete and accurate and that none of the project activities have started before the project was submitted.	
3. We declare: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be fully compliant with the eligibility criteria set out in this call • Not to be subject to any grounds for exclusion • To have the operational capacity to carry out the proposed project • To adhere to the rules, criteria of the call and to follow all instructions provided by eunite 	
4. We authorize the processing and use of all personal data and information for the purpose of the application, evaluation, award and subsequent management, communication, reporting and monitoring purposes.	

5. We acknowledge that the lead applicant is authorized on behalf of the OG to submit, coordinate and communicate with eunite about all matters concerning the application and project.		
6. We acknowledge, understand and accept the terms and conditions associated with the funding, including financial management arrangements and associated obligations.		
7. We acknowledge and commit to safeguarding confidential information and respecting intellectual property rights.		
8. We declare that there are no conflicts of interest affecting the application.		
9. We have read, understood and accept the conditions set out in this call		
10. Signature: This application must be signed by the lead applicant of the Operational Group, and a MoU of the OG should be submitted.		
Name of the Lead Person		
Signature		
Date		
Location		

SUBMISSION

Please complete this form and return a signed PDF version as well as a Microsoft Word version to the email address below.

Completed applications must be sent by email by not later than 17:00pm of the (date to be announced later) at the following: operational.groups@eunite-cyprus.eu

Further information can be obtained by contacting us at:



[f] Partnership Agreement

1. General Info

The OG **does not need to be a legally constituted entity**. It can operate as an **informal partnership** of stakeholders working collaboratively toward common objectives.

The group can be formalized through an **internal partnership agreement**. This document should define the roles, responsibilities, and operational procedures of members, ensuring clarity and accountability without the obligation for legal registration.

2. Main Decision-Making Body

A primary decision-making body of the OG should be set up as follows:

Composition:

- It is composed of **one representative** from each of the main partner organizations or stakeholders involved in the group.
- Each member is chosen by their organization or partner group based on their expertise, role, or stake in the project.

Administrative Support Member

The OG is supported by a **member** who provides **administrative and secretariat support**. This individual handles logistics, documentation, communication, and overall coordination. The administrative member could be an appointed member from one of the partner organizations.

Appointment of a Lead Person

The OG should appoint a **Lead Person** who serves as the **main contact** for all operational group activities. The Lead Person should be a designated member of the decision-making body or a trusted key stakeholder, with clear authority and responsibilities.

Responsibilities of the Lead Person include:

- Acting as the primary liaison with project stakeholders, including the European Union, eunite:AgriBusiness Project, partners, and beneficiaries.
- Coordinating project implementation and ensuring smooth communication across all members.
- Representing the OG at meetings with external bodies.

- Overseeing day-to-day operations and ensuring the group's tasks progress efficiently.

3. Overview of Roles and Responsibilities

- The **decision-making body** provides strategic oversight, approves work plans and key decisions concerning the OG's activities.
- The **administrative member (secretariat)** manages operational logistics, organizes meetings, maintains records, and facilitates communication among members.
- Members are responsible for contributing their expertise, participating actively in meetings, and executing assigned tasks.

4. The Partnership Agreement

The group shall draft and agree upon an **internal Partnership Agreement**.

- The PA should specify:
 - The **objectives and scope** of the OG
 - The **roles and responsibilities** of each member
 - The **decision-making procedures**
 - The **meeting frequency** and **quorum requirements**
 - The **conflict resolution mechanisms**
 - The **data sharing and confidentiality** provisions
 - The **duration and renewal conditions** (if applicable)

[g] Selection Criteria

Criteria	Description of criteria and sub-criteria		Score
Completeness and quality of the Partnership (OG) relative to the challenge to be tackled and the project to be implemented. (Max 20 points)	Type of actors involved	Actors directly involved in production (<i>farmers, farmer organisations, cooperatives, fishers, food business operators, etc</i>)	5
		Knowledge initiators and innovation (research entities, academia, education, etc)	3
		Actors involved in the provision of technology, inputs, services	2
		Any actors from the above from the Greek Cypriot community	5
	Degree of involvement of farmers, farming businesses, fishers, food businesses in the implementation of project activities	Actors directly involved in at least 50% of the activities or more	5
Degree of representativeness of the agriculture, fishing and/or food industry in the partnership (Max 15 points)	Number of unique individuals and/or entities being farmers, fishers in the partnership	At least 3	3
	Presence. of associations, unions, cooperatives, producer organisations	At least 2	3
	No. of food processors involved in primary transformation	At least 2	3
	Presence of young farmers/fishers under the age of 40 years	At least 2	3
	Presence of women organisations/cooperatives	At least 1	3
Relevance of the proposal (Max 20 points)	Quality and clarity of the overall proposal	Soundness of the justification why the challenge/s proposed are pertinent and relevant	10
		Completeness of the proposal with easy-to-follow and clear content	5

		Clear budget plan with reasonable and realistic distribution in relation to the actions proposed	5
Innovation potential of the proposal (Max 8 points)	Replicability and scalability of the innovation	Proposal contains characteristics of innovation of which results are applicable only in the initial production stages of the supply chain	2
		Proposal contains characteristics of innovation of which results are applicable, transferable and replicable across various steps and stages of the supply chain	4
		Proposal contains characteristics of innovation of which results are applicable, transferable and replicable across other supply chains	8
Technical and scientific validity of the project (Max 25 points)	Coherence between project objectives and AKIS Strategy Priorities	If it contributes to more than 1 AKIS priority	4
	Coherence between the project aims and AKIS Strategy Focus Areas	If it contributes to more than 3 AKIS focus areas	5
	The project has a cross-cutting dimension	If the challenge/s that the project proposes to tackle involves more than 1 value chain	4
	Inclusion of relevant indicators (economic, social and environmental) to measure the degree by which the innovation manages to resolve the challenge/s tackled	Not adequate	0
		Adequate	2
		Excellent	4
	Potential for the innovation to produce sustainable results that can last and that are transferable	Not adequate	0
		Adequate	2
		Excellent	4

	Quality of the Work Plan including clarity of the interventions, the pathways proposed, their relevance to tackle the challenges, adequacy of resources and timelines proposed	Not adequate	0
		Adequate	2
		Excellent	4
Quality of the dissemination & capitalisation plan (Max 12 points)	Communication channels used	Website content to be shared for dissemination via the AKIS Knowledge bank and other portals	1
		Local media	2
		Publications	1
		Demo days on farm, field, fleet	3
		Bi-communal/island wide dissemination activities	5
Maximum score			100

[h] Template for Periodic Reports

Six-Monthly Project Progress Report (not more than 20 pages in EN language)

1. Executive Summary

2. Introduction

- Objectives and scope of the project
- Reporting period covered
- Implementation Progress

3. Summary of activities conducted in the past 6 months

- Status of key deliverables and milestones
- Comparison with original timeline and scope
- Highlights of innovative approaches adopted
- Achievements and Innovations

4. Notable innovations introduced during implementation

- Successful pilot tests, or new processes
- Collaborations or partnerships established
- Case studies or early evidence of impact

5. Challenges and Risks

- Technical, operational, or logistical challenges faced
- Risks identified and mitigation strategies employed
- Lessons learned to date

6. Financial and Resource Management

- Overview of budget utilization
- Variations and explanations

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Key performance indicators (KPIs) tracked
- Results and feedback gathered
- Adjustments made based on findings

8. Next Steps and Action Plan

- Planned activities for the upcoming 6 months
- Key milestones anticipated
- Risk management adjustments
- Additional support or resources needed

9. Conclusion and Recommendations

10. Appendices

- Supporting data, charts, or documentation, details of meetings or pilot results, other relevant information

[i] Template for Final Report

1. Executive Summary

- Overview of project objectives, scope, and innovations
- Summary of key achievements, impacts, and lessons learned
- Final assessment of project success and sustainability

2. Introduction

- Background and context of the project
- Original objectives and scope
- Purpose of the final report
- Overview of the reporting period

3. Implementation and Results

- Summary of activities conducted
- Key milestones achieved
- Description of innovations introduced and their integration
- Outcomes and outputs
- Evidence of impact or benefits realized
- Achievements and Lessons Learned

4. Challenges faced and how they were addressed

5. Financial Summary

- Total expenditure vs. budget
- Cost savings, efficiency gains
- Financial challenges or gaps, if any

6. Evaluation of Impact

- Key performance indicators and metrics
- Stakeholder feedback and engagement results
- Overall assessment of project achievements against initial goals

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

- Suggestions for further development or scaling
- Strategic advice for stakeholders or policymakers
- Recommendations for future projects or research
- Conclusion
- Sustainability considerations and potential continuation

8. Annexes

- Technical reports, publications, presentations, other relevant materials

[j] Useful Websites

<https://eunite-cyprus.eu/en/eunite/>

<https://akisconnect.eu/>

<https://welcome.eufarmbook.eu/>

<https://attractiss.eu/>

<https://db.i2connect-h2020.eu/>

https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/focus-groups-innovation-knowledge-exchange-and-eip-agri_en

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/node.html>

https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/research-innovation-knowledge-exchange_en

