



VIDA

value-added innovation
in food chains

Extraordinary call: Terms and Conditions

VIDA – Extraordinary call for Innovation Support
Voucher Booster

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1 About VIDA

The VIDA project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement n° 777795. VIDA – Value added Innovation in food chains – aims to accelerate the implementation of new solutions (preferably key enabling technologies) in the food sector which improve the usage of water and energy with the ambition to reduce losses and consumption. VIDA has three different types of funding vouchers to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) seeking new resource-efficient solutions.

VIDA as INNOSUP project was conceived with two calls which would attract food and food-related SMEs to apply for funding so that their innovative ideas could be taken further than would otherwise have been possible. Through the system of vouchers, applicant SMEs could apply for Innovation Support, Validation and Demonstration Vouchers, which could request maximum amounts of €5.000, €25.000 and €250.000. The available funding was awarded to 99 successful SME applicants who passed a stringent evaluation process, and who then could use the budget to finance monitored and controlled projects where their innovations were developed to a higher level.

VIDA is entering its final year and as we now make up the balance of the completed and ongoing projects, it is seen that not all of the available EU INNOSUP funding dedicated to direct financial support to SMEs has been used. To support as many innovative SMEs as possible, it was decided to launch one final call for Innovation Support Voucher Booster. Further information on submission of application, deadlines and available funds, are explained in this document.

1.1 VIDA partners

 <p>Centre of Expertise Water Technology www.cew.nl</p>	 <p>Food-Processing Initiative www.foodprocessing.de</p>
 <p>Water Alliance www.wateralliance.nl</p>	 <p>Lombardy Energy Cleantech Cluster www.energycluster.it</p>
 <p>Aragon Food Cluster www.aragonalimentacion.com</p>	 <p>Nanoprogress z.s.p.o. www.nanoprogress.eu</p>
 <p>ZINNAE www.zinnae.org</p>	 <p>Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação http://www.spi.pt</p>
 <p>BalticNet-PlasmaTec www.balticnet-plasmatec.org</p>	 <p>CLEAN (CLN) www.cleancluster.dk</p>

1.2 Project Facts

Project Acronym:	VIDA
Project Title:	Value-added Innovation in the food ChAin
Project Reference:	H2020-INNOSUP-1-2017, Grant agreement no: 777795
Project Type:	Cluster facilitated projects for new value chains
Project Duration:	36 months from 01.04.2018 to 31.03.2021
Budget:	€ 4.988.766,25 (EC Funding)
Web:	http://www.vidaproject.eu/

1.3 Contact (Coordinator)

James Baker | CEW | Oostergoweg 9, 8911 MA Leeuwarden, The Netherlands

Phone: +31 58 - 210 09 19 | Email: info@vidaproject.eu

For further information, the VIDA partners can also be contacted ([see annex1](#))

2 Main requirements for applicants

The VIDA Voucher Scheme is open to SME's meeting the following criteria:

- The applicants must have the SME status in accordance with the SME definition of the European Union¹.
- Applicants need to be active in one of the following sectors:
 1. Food production and processing chain
 2. Water
 3. Energy
 4. KET supply chain
- Applicants must declare their financial stability
- Applicants must be a member of a VIDA cluster **or** be headquartered in a VIDA territorial scope (see [annex 1](#)).
- Applicants need to submit their application via the VIDA platform called 'Clou5' using the templates provided in the respective group: Innovation Support Voucher Booster². Clou5 is accessible via the [VIDA website](#) or directly via [Clou5](#).

3 Application Conditions

Innovation Support Voucher Booster are meant to support SME's in the various aspects of generating innovations. Specific conditions for the voucher scheme are specified below.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en

² <https://www.clou5.net/groups/profile/36623/vida-innovation-support-voucher-booster>

3.1 General application conditions for VIDA vouchers

To be eligible for VIDA vouchers, any proposed project or action should meet the following application conditions:

- The proposed project or action:
 - aims to new products, processes or technical services (preferably Key Enabling Technologies) in the food/energy/water nexus
 - which – with their functions, parameters or characteristics - exceed the existing products, processes or technical services for the prospective users, and
 - are based on the international state-of-the-art of science and technology.
- Applications must be written in English (applications partially written in another language are not eligible).
- The proposed project or action increases the (technological) performance level of the applying company or its innovation competence.
- The proposed project or action strengthens the competitiveness of the applying companies on a demanding level of innovation and thus accelerates and improves the product development capabilities, leads to more sustainable business, opens new market opportunities and/or creates/secures jobs for the applicant.
- The proposed project or action should not impose risks to the daily business of the applicant, the prospective users nor other organisations involved.
- Applicants can apply for more than one VIDA voucher scheme, however, a total max. funding of € 60.000 per applicant applies. VIDA may reject multiple applications in the same voucher scheme. Submission of a maximum of two applications per SME for VIDA vouchers is possible.

3.2 Innovation Support Voucher Booster conditions

Innovation Support Voucher Booster (ISV Booster) applications must represent a joint action between one beneficiary SME from the food, water, energy or KET-sector and a knowledge provider. The ISV Booster provides financial support to SME to get access to external knowledge and expertise towards a resource-efficient food production, up to € 5.000. Activities that can be funded with the ISV Booster includes, among others:

- Intellectual Property (IP) support
- Innovation management
- Advanced manufacturing
- ICT consultancy
- Eco-innovation consultancy for resources, water and energy efficiency
- New business models
- Market studies and regulatory studies
- Small technological support or feasibility studies

3.3 Role of knowledge provider

Knowledge providers can be companies, research institutes, universities, consultants etc. related to the scope of the Innovation Support Voucher Booster. Knowledge providers must be able to demonstrate:

- capabilities and expertise of carrying out the service
- related experiences.

3.4 Evaluation criteria

In addition to the above-mentioned main requirements the following award criteria are rated:

1. Technical excellence of the proposal itself, including the competence of the proposed knowledge provider,
2. Innovativeness of the envisaged solution in the target sector, for which the support is requested.

To be considered for funding, joint actions must pass a threshold of 60% of the maximum score. To ensure a consistent minimum quality for all award criteria, each sub-criterion needs to score at least half of the points available for that criterion ([see annex 2](#)).

3.5 Gender Equality

VIDA seeks a gender balance. Therefore, applicants are invited to take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in the implementation of the action. They must aim for a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action, including supervisory and managerial levels, to the extent possible.

3.6 How to apply?

Submission

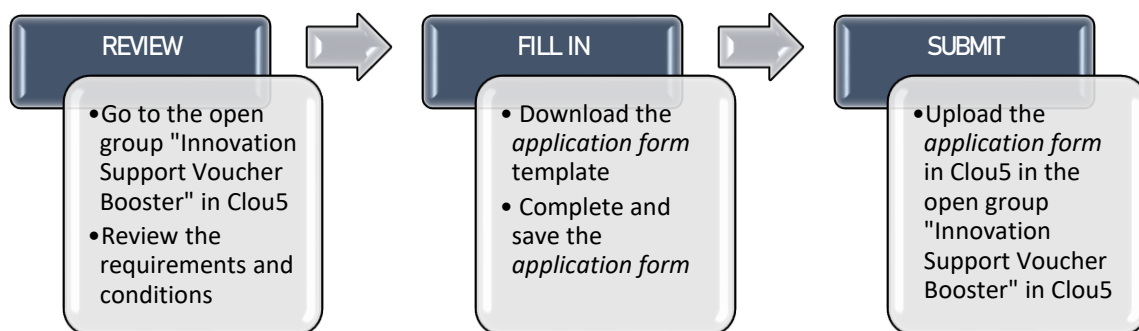


Figure 1 Application scheme

For the review of the procedure and submission of applications for the ISV Booster, the applicants can access the open group called "Innovation Support Voucher Booster" via different online sources (i.e. VIDA website <https://vidaproject.eu>, [Clou5](#), VIDA-partner websites, etc). The desired information can then be selected and reviewed (terms and conditions, application form).

To upload the application form (pdf file), the applicants have to use [this link](#) to submit the application form. The uploaded pdf document will be stored on a safe server (compliant to German law), to which only the relevant VIDA Partners will have access.

Overview of Innovation Support Voucher Booster:

Number of projects:	until budget exhausted
Call:	from June 8 th , 2020 09.00 hrs CET until August 10 th , 2020 17.00 hrs CET
Grant per Voucher	€ 1.000 to € 5.000
VIDA budget:	€ 40.000
Period per project:	up to 4 months
Participants (SME's):	1
Grant allocation:	SME / Knowledge provider

4 Financial Provisions

The following (financial) provisions apply for VIDA ISV Booster:

4.1. The VIDA voucher covers 100% of the eligible expenses to a maximum amount (indicated below).

4.2. For Innovation Support Voucher Booster projects:

4.2.1. The successful applicant SME from food, water, energy or KET-sector as beneficiary receives services from a knowledge- or service provider respectively, preferably an SME as well.

4.2.2. The costs incurred and invoiced by the service provider are eligible for direct funding via VIDA vouchers.*

*Subcontracting: 100% of the voucher shall be subcontracted.

Note on VAT (Value Added Tax):

- deductible VAT is not considered as an eligible cost.

- non-deductible and non-identifiable VAT is considered as an eligible cost.

Table 1 Financial overview for the VIDA ISV Booster

Voucher Type	Value per voucher per SME (€)	Purpose of voucher
Innovation Support Voucher Booster	€ 1.000to € 5.000	An individual service regarding a specific challenge in its value chain that could be improved.
<p>The overall maximum funding available for any SME is € 60.000 (the sum of all VIDA vouchers awarded to this beneficiary). Any funding received by an SME in the form of VIDA vouchers will be reduced from the overall amount of funding available for this SME within VIDA.</p>		
<p>SME's participating as knowledge/service providers are not restricted to the overall maximum funding (€ 60.000), thus can participate in multiple consultancy or innovation projects.</p>		

4.1 Payment terms

4.1.1 General terms

- All payments will be made in Euro's.
- Expenditures incurred before the Grant Agreement signature date, or after the project duration period are ineligible for remuneration.
- Costs incurred for the implementation of the project must be used for the sole purpose of achieving the objectives of the project and its expected results, in a transparent manner consistent with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- Beneficiaries have to set up internal contracts regulating their cooperation. VIDA will not be responsible for paying any costs applied for and incurred by the beneficiaries in case of non-compliance with the terms and conditions of the VIDA funding scheme.
- Submission of an application does not constitute an entitlement for funding.
- Submission of a maximum of two applications per SME for VIDA ISV Booster is possible.
- Submission of applications with the same name are going to be considered duplicates, and the latest version will be assessed.
- The recipients of the (financial) support from VIDA must ensure that the European Commission, the European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF) and the Court of Auditors (ECA) can exercise their powers of control, on documents, information, even stored on electronic media, or on the final recipient's premises as detailed in Article 22 and 23 of the Annotated Model Grant Agreement of the H2020 Programme³.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf

4.1.2 Payment terms for ISV Booster scheme:

The amount granted will not exceed € 5.000 and will be disbursed to the beneficiary in two terms:

1. 50% once the project or action is approved for starting, within 30 days upon signature of the Grant Agreement (prepayment).
2. 50% (final payment) within 30 days upon approval of the **Activity Report** (technical, financial and questionnaire).

In case the Activity report is not submitted and approved on time, the prepayment must be reimbursed to the VIDA coordinator.

5 Time frame for Innovation Support Voucher Booster and assessment (extraordinary call)

Submitted applications will be assessed by the Evaluation Review Panel consisting of three neutral VIDA Partners. The evaluation process starts with the assessment of the eligibility of the applicant, according to the criteria set out in [Annex 2](#) of this document.

The Innovation Support Voucher Booster scheme will be available **June 8th, 2020 09.00 hrs CET until August 10th, 2020 17.00 hrs CET.**

The assessment period takes max. 6 weeks starting from the deadline date (**August 10th, 2020 17.00 hrs CET**). The applicant will receive an email about the outcome of the assessment. The applicant will need to sign a formal contract with the VIDA coordinator (Grant Agreement) within 45 days after the award. In the event that the awarded applicants does not comply with the deadlines, VIDA is entitled to withdraw the voucher. The validity of the voucher is up to 4 months starting from the contract date.

6 Reporting

Reports will be generated using the respective VIDA templates and are uploaded to the [VIDA Clou5 platform](#). All reports must be written in English. The beneficiaries of the VIDA vouchers must hand in the following reports:

Innovation Support Voucher Booster:

- Within 20 days upon project end: an online **Activity Report** (technical and financial) using templates provided on the Clou5 platform.
- Templates and submission of the reports are accessible through the following site: <https://www.clou5.net/groups/profile/58711/vida-innovation-support-voucher-reporting>
- Respond to a final questionnaire evaluating the performance of VIDA and indicating the communication efforts made by the voucher project and the amount of SME's that have been involved.
- The beneficiary shall comply with the VIDA [dissemination and communication](#) plan.

7 Confidentiality

By applying, the applicant agrees on the storage and use of its personal data for the execution of the VIDA objectives and work plan. The VIDA consortium commits to handling personal data confidentially except for the call results, which will contain the following information:

- Information about successful VIDA Vouchers applications that will be made publicly available **before** the end of the project containing: project title, names of project partners and short project description (as provided by the applicant in the application template).
- Information about successful VIDA Vouchers that will be made publicly available **after** the end of the project: project title, names of project partners, awarded funding and updated short project description (as provided by the project partners in the Final Report).

The personal data collected will be processed and data privacy handled in accordance with the terms of use of Clou5. Applications selection and evaluation will be performed under the appropriate ethical conduct and will respect the confidentiality of the information received.

The arrangement of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) is optional. It is the responsibility of each participant of the respective innovation or consultancy project to protect sensitive information.

Applications selection and evaluation will be performed under the appropriate ethical conduct and will respect the confidentiality of the information received.

8 Intellectual Property Rights and Dissemination

The applicants are advised to arrange for internal contracts regarding Intellectual Property Rights, the use and dissemination of the results generated by the project teams through the funding obtained via VIDA vouchers.

For details on rights and obligations related to results, the project teams can refer to Chapter 4 (Section 3) of the Annotated Model Grant Agreement of the H2020 Programme⁴.

For dissemination and use of results generated through the financial support from VIDA, the recipients must credit the VIDA project through proper citation and appearance of the VIDA logo and EU Logo, including the proper citation "*This project has received funding from VIDA, an Innosup project of the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 777795*".

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf

9 Disclaimer

The VIDA Consortium is not responsible for any mistakes or misinterpretations that this text may cause. In the case of inconsistencies, the VIDA Executive Board will determine the steps to be taken, in cooperation with the applicant concerned.

Modification of Terms and Conditions: The VIDA partners, represented by the coordinator are entitled to modify these Terms and Conditions (including re-opening/closing dates of the calls, in case of non-granting of funds and/or early depletion of the available funds, or as they see fit) at any time without notice. The current Terms and Conditions will be provided on the website: <https://vidaproject.eu/vida-voucher-scheme/vida-terms-and-conditions/>, always mentioning the version number.

Consequential Damages: In no event shall either party be liable to the other or any of its affiliates for any consequential, incidental, indirect, special, punitive or exemplary damages (including, without limitation, lost profits, business or goodwill) suffered or incurred by such other party or its affiliates in connection with this agreement, even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

Annex 1: VIDA clusters and regions

To be eligible for VIDA vouchers the applicant must be:

- member of a VIDA cluster
- or**
- be headquartered in a VIDA territorial scope

For cluster membership information, please contact your preferred VIDA cluster.

VIDA clusters

- Clúster para el uso eficiente del agua (www.zinnae.org)
- Clúster Aragonés de Alimentación (www.aragonalimentacion.com)
- BalticNet-PlasmaTec e.V. (www.balticnet-plasmatec.org)
- Food Processing Initiative (www.foodprocessing.de)
- Watercampus Leeuwarden (CEW or Wateralliance: www.cew.nl / www.wateralliance.nl)
- Clean cluster (www.cleancluster.dk)
- Lombardy Energy Cleantech Cluster (www.energycluster.it)
- Nanoprogress cluster (www.nanoprogress.eu)

VIDA Territorial scope

- Spain (Aragón region)
- Germany (all regions)
- Denmark (all regions)
- Portugal (all regions)
- Czech Republic (all regions)
- Italy (Lombardy region)
- The Netherlands (all regions)

Annex 2: Evaluation process

For each voucher (ISV Booster, VV and DV) the applicants first need to fulfil the [main requirements](#). After succeeding those criteria, the application will be reviewed by three members of the Evaluation Review Panel (ISV Booster and VV) or Advisory board (DV). The following tables (see table 1, 2 and 3) describe the scoring system set for the three VIDA vouchers. These points will be assessed based on the answers written in each submitted application form. To be considered for funding, the application must pass a threshold of 60 points out of a maximum score of 100 points. To ensure a consistent minimum quality for all award criteria, each sub-criterion needs to score at least half of the points available for that criterium. For more details refer to 'VIDA Evaluation process'.

Table 2 Scoring system for the Innovation Support Voucher Boosters

Application Section Number	Description	Question	Weighting	Max.score	Max. Weighted score
1. Technical excellence (SME and knowledge provider)					
1.1 Description of the joint action	Please submit a test scope, brief description of the joint action which sets clear objectives, the outcome and impact, and timescales.	To what extent has the applicant written the aims, expected planning and outcomes of the requested action? Does the applicant mention if the proposed action would help the development of the company?	4	5	20
1.2 Knowledge provider	Please describe the competences of the knowledge provider, mentioning their expertise in the specific subject and the action which is going to take place.	To what extent does the applicant demonstrate evidence of the expertise and experience of the chosen knowledge provider? Does the applicant give further motivation for choosing that specific provider?	4	5	20
2. Innovation					
2.1 Innovativeness of the envisaged solution in the target sector (VIDA scope)	Please provide details on the Innovativeness of the envisaged solutions and how these are related to the improvement of the use of water, energy and Key Enabling Technologies in the food sector.	To what extent does the applicant demonstrate that the technology/service/action is innovative and relevant for the purpose of the VIDA scope (Food, water, energy, KET)?	12	5	60



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