



Open call A & B – Guide for Applicants

Financial Support for Third Parties (FSTP)

Annex 1

AGRO-WELL aims to leverage the potential of robotics, augmented reality (AR) and artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance working conditions and farm workers safety, enable faster and better-informed farm management decisions, and reduce the environmental impact of four different farming systems (orchards, greenhouses, open field and pig farming). Overall, AGRO-WELL aims to support the development and economically viable adoption of socially and environmentally digital and data-based farming technologies.

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INTRODUCTION

This document provides information on the AGRO-WELL Open Calls, including application and selection processes, the eligibility and evaluation criteria, and implementation timeline. The AGRO-WELL Open Calls are split into two strands: Topic A, targeting solutions providers and innovators and Topic B, targeting innovative commercial farms.

This guide for applicants will be updated for the launch of the Topic B, at M30 (April 2027).

1.1 About AGRO-WELL

The general objective of AGRO-WELL project is to develop five AR, robotics, digital and data-based solutions for improved working conditions in four significant farming sectors: greenhouses, open fields, orchards, and pig farming. These solutions will be co-designed with and based on farmers' needs following a multi-actor approach, and their potential towards socio-economic and environmental conditions will be assessed. Together with training materials and policy briefs, this assessment will support the upscaling and adoption of these smart farming technologies.

The five technologies, already at TRL4, are:

- A solution combining AI and IoT for reducing drudgery and avoiding failure when identifying pests' insects in fruits orchards, **Smart Traps**, will be demonstrated in citrus and olive orchards in Cyprus.
- An **Autonomous Mobile Robot** (AMR) will be equipped with improved hardware and AI features to reduce drudgery (i.e., plant lowering/pruning) and replace workforce in greenhouses for unhealthy tasks (i.e., spraying). It will be demonstrated in tomato greenhouses in Greece.
- An innovative ear tag for indoor pigs' health monitoring and reducing risks for pig farm workers thanks to AI, **Vitality Tracker**, will be demonstrated in pig breeding farms in the Netherland.
- An **AR App** will deliver AR/MR information and supply farmers with data for improved farm management. It will be paired with the Smart Traps, the AMR and the Vitality Tracker and demonstrated in the respective demonstration sites.
- A mixed AI and AR-based system for extended awareness and operations performance optimisation and safety, **AIReact**, will be demonstrated in spinach and beetroot open fields in Denmark.

1.2 AGRO-WELL Approach

AGRO-WELL harnesses robotics, augmented reality (AR), and artificial intelligence (AI) to improve farm workers' safety and working conditions, enable faster and data-driven decision-making, and minimize the environmental footprint of the agricultural sector.

The project promotes the adoption of socially responsible and environmentally sustainable digital farming technologies. To accelerate innovation, AGRO-WELL will launch one hackathon and two open calls between November 2025 and October 2027, offering grants to support promising solutions. The Hackathon and Open Calls will be promoted by the consortium and give visibility to the EU funding involved but will not present the grants as given by the European Commission or any other EU granting authorities.

AGRO-WELL OPEN CALLS

Agriculture faces severe Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) challenges, including high accident rates, chronic diseases, mental health pressures, and growing risks from climate change, which also undermines farmers' competitiveness and resilience. Smart farming technologies: robots, IoT, AI, and AR offer solutions to improve safety, reduce drudgery, and support adaptive, data-driven decision-making for sustainable productivity.

2.1 Approach and planned open call realisation

The AGRO-WELL Open Calls aim to further demonstrate and replicate digital and data-based farming technologies whose purpose is to improve working conditions, increase the attractiveness of the agricultural sector and/or answer labour shortages issues.

To do so the project has allocated **270 000€** for a smart FSTP framework that will support individual applicants and small consortia (up to 3 partners) by leveraging the potential of 8 promising digital and data-based innovative solutions through Financial Support for Third Parties (FSTP).

The AGRO-WELL Open Calls will encourage smaller projects (sub-projects) and farmers to develop activities within two topics:

Topic A: Demonstrate and assess relevant digital and data-based technologies in commercial farms.

- **4** sub-projects funded under Topic A (up to **37,500€**)
- The implementation period for Topic A sub-projects is **12** or **18** months, depending on the applicant's planned implementation.
- The implementation of Topic A sub-projects is expected to start in November 2026.

Topic B: Replicate the solutions developed in AGRO-WELL in commercial farms located in other socioeconomic contexts.

- **4** farms or sub-projects funded under Topic B (up to **30,000€**)
- The implementation period for Topic B sub-projects is **12** months
- The implementation of Topic B sub-projects is expected to start in April 2028.

The implementation for the sub-projects, regardless of their duration, will be divided into three (3) phases: **Design, Development and Validation**. Each selected applicant will receive the funding on a lump sum basis, in compliance with European Commission's Guidelines about lump sum in Horizon Europe¹ and according to the terms of the contract signed between it and AGRO-WELL. A payment calendar tied to milestones, such as reports and corresponding deliverables, will be agreed with the beneficiaries in advance.

The funding rate of the eligible costs is 100% and applies to all individual applicants or consortium partners.

The AGRO-WELL Open Calls will be carried out in compliance with the basic principles of the European Commission, which are: Excellence, Transparency, Fairness, Impartiality, Confidentiality, Efficiency and Speed.

¹ European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, *Lump sum grants in Horizon Europe : why do we need them and how do they work in practice?*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2022, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/913039>

2.2 Open call purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the AGRO-WELL Open Calls is to identify and promote cutting-edge technological ideas and solutions at various TRL stages and significantly increase their technology readiness and marketable development.

Under the framework described above, the Open Calls have **3** main objectives:

- Attract talented individuals working on AR, robotics, and AI, motivating them to delve into the specificities of the agricultural sector, and develop high-impact solutions for improving the working conditions.
- Allow start-ups and other product and service developers to reach TRL7 by providing them the necessary support to demonstrate their solutions with commercial farms.
- Facilitate the consideration of other socio-economic system, replication and the wide dissemination of the AGRO-WELL solutions (targeting TRL8) through the involvement of new farms and countries.

Technological depth and innovativeness, human-centred innovation and field experience are central to AGRO-WELL. As such, the AGRO-WELL Open Calls will highlight thorough needs analysis, impact-oriented innovations and realistic market plans. Results from the funded projects will be highly variable and dependent on the topic but at minimum should include:

1. Topic A: Demonstration of relevant smart farming technologies (targeting TRL6/7)

Purpose: Demonstration on a commercial farm of an Augmented Reality / Artificial Intelligence /robotic or automation-based solution already at TRL5 and with a proven potential to enhance working conditions in different farming systems.

In the case of fruit and vegetable farming, at least one growing season should be covered. An assessment of the impacts of the demonstrated solutions is expected in all sub-projects.

2. Topic B: Replication of the AGRO-WELL solutions in new socio-economic contexts (targeting TRL8)

Purpose: Facilitate the consideration of other socio-economic systems, replication and the wide dissemination of the AGRO-WELL solutions (targeting TRL8) through the involvement of new farms and countries. All farms should commit to participate in a 12-months demonstration and to contribute to its assessment.

In the case of fruit and vegetable farming, at least one growing season should be covered.

2.3 Timeline – AGRO-WELL Open Calls

AGRO-WELL Open Calls will be launched in two waves, in 2025 for the TOPIC A and 2027 for the TOPIC B. The table below presents the indicative timeline during which each phase of the two Open Calls will take place. The date might change due to unforeseen events and situations. Therefore, these are an indication of what is initially expected; the dates are to be confirmed by the AGRO-WELL consortium along the process and are not restrictive.

The AGRO-WELL consortium reserves the right to cancel the Open Call at any point due to any unforeseen circumstances. The AGRO-WELL consortium also reserves the right to extend the call and/or launch an additional call, in case not enough applications of sufficient quality have been received via the Open Call.

TOPIC A			
Step	Start	End	Duration (months)
Open call launch – receiving proposals	M13 – November 5 th , 2025	M15 – February 4 th , 2026	3
Proposal Evaluation	M16 – February 2026	M18 - April 2026	3
Contracting and sub-grant agreement signing	M19 – May 2026	M21 – July 2026	3
Open call Sub-Project implementation	M24 – October 2026	M36/42 -October 2027/ March 2028	12-18
TOPIC B			
Open call launch – receiving proposals	M30 - April 2027	M33 – July 2027	3
Proposal Evaluation	M33 – July 2027	M36 – October 2027	3
Contracting and sub-grant agreement signing	M36 – October 2027	M39 – January 2028	3
Open call Sub-Project implementation	M42 – April 2028	M54 – April 2029	12

GENERAL INFORMATION

3.1 Submission procedure

Applications for the AGRO-WELL Open Calls (TOPIC A and TOPIC B) will be submitted through the online [registration form](#) and sent by email to agro-well.FSTP@euroquality.fr. All documents should be sent in PDF in a zip folder to avoid issues with file sizes.

Interested parties should visit the AGRO-WELL website ([Home | Agro - well](#)) and the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section for updates. Submissions received through any other channel will be automatically discarded.

In case multiple versions of the same application are submitted, only the last version will be evaluated. All previous versions will be discarded.

Throughout the submission process, the confidentiality of applicants' identities and the contents of the proposals will be rigorously upheld. Any details pertaining to the proposed solution will be handled with the utmost discretion.

By applying to AGRO-WELL Open Calls, applicants automatically accept the terms and conditions of the Open Call as described in the Open Call kit.

Documents required in subsequent phases will be submitted via dedicated channels (e.g. via email), which will be indicated by the AGRO-WELL project in the contracting phase.

3.2 Language

English is the official language of the AGRO-WELL Open Calls. Applications submitted in any other language will not be evaluated. English is also the only official language throughout the entire implementation of the AGRO-WELL project. This means all requested documents/deliverables and communications must be submitted in English.

Official documents may be submitted in the original language, however if it is deemed essential to facilitate the eligibility check, applicants may be requested to provide additional documentation (i.e., translation of an official document into English) in a timely manner.

Important:

Implementation of the TOPIC B may be carried out in the countries' language, however deliverables, other relevant materials and communication with the AGRO-WELL open call team must be in English.

3.3 Documentation format

All documents requested during the application process must be submitted electronically in PDF format without restrictions for printing. The structure of the provided proposal template must be followed when preparing the proposal and should not exceed the limit of **10** pages. This includes all relevant tables, figures and references. Excess pages will not be considered during the evaluation of the proposal.

The reference font for the body text of applications is **Times New Roman** and the minimum font size allowed is **11** points. Paragraph spacing of **6** pts and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. This applies to the body text, including text in tables. Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, foot/end notes, captions, formula's, may deviate, but must be legible. The page size is **A4**, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) must be at least **15** mm (not including any footers or headers).

The cover page and the Table of Contents are not included in the limit of the 10 pages. Removing explanatory text in the proposal template, located below the paragraph subtitles is allowed.

Applications that do not comply with these requirements will be automatically excluded from evaluation as non-eligible.

3.4 Origin of the funds

All sub-grantees will sign a Sub-grant Agreement with Euroquality (EQY), the Open Call manager/treasurer. The funds provided to the Sub-grant Agreement originate from the funds of the European Project AGRO-WELL which is funded by the European Commission under Grant Agreement Number 101182923, and remain therefore, property of the EU until the balance is paid, whose management rights have been transferred to the project partners of AGRO-WELL. This relation between the sub-grantees and the European Commission through the AGRO-WELL project carries a set of obligations to the sub-grantees with the European Commission (refer to 'Applicant's responsibility' section below). It is the responsibility of the sub-grantees to fulfil these, and of the AGRO-WELL project to inform them on these.

APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

4.1 Target applicants

AGRO-WELL Open Calls invite for AI, AR and robotics SMEs/Startups/Scaleups but also NGO, institutes, etc. working in the agricultural sector, with competence and experience in AGRO-WELL's area of expertise: improve safety, reduce drudgery, and support adaptive, data-driven decision-making for sustainable productivity. Applications are allowed from single entities OR small consortia up to 3 partners.

The solutions developed by the applicants may be applicable in the same agricultural sector of the AGRO-WELL project: pig production, open fields and greenhouse crop productions. The AGRO-WELL Open calls are also open for other agricultural systems, except for specific perennial crops: vineyards and olive groves. This type of crop production will be the focus of the [AgRIMATE](#) Open Call (sister project of AGRO-WELL).

4.2 Overall eligibility criteria

The Advisory Board will organise initial selection and rejection for non-eligible proposals based on the following criteria:

1. legal entity in eligible country (as defined in section 3.2.2)
2. uniqueness of the proposal (one proposal per consortium);
3. a party can participate only in one consortium;
4. proposal clearly falls within one of the 2 topics.
5. In a case of fruit and vegetables farming, at least one growing season should be covered.

On top of that, the following will be considered:

- Existing AGRO-WELL consortium members and their affiliates will not be eligible for the AGRO-WELL Open Calls.
- The proposal will be delivered before the defined deadline, applying the requested submission procedure.
- Proposals shall only ask for funding for that part of the work that is not yet accomplished and will be carried out once having been selected for funding.

Proposals that comply with these criteria are eligible to move on to the evaluation round.

4.3 Who can apply

AGRO-WELL will accept applications from individual applicants and small consortia consisting of up to **3** parties in countries eligible for the *HORIZON-C6-2024-GOVERNANCE-01-7* call, which include:

- European Union member states and Associated countries
- Legal entities establish in non-associated third countries
- International organisations with headquarters in a Member State or Associated country

The list of countries authorised to participate is detailed in the Annex of the Applicant Guide, along with the rules of participation for each country.

4.4 Eligible costs

The AGRO-WELL project follows the guidelines of the European Commission in terms of cost eligibility for financing within its open calls. Payments will follow the “General eligibility conditions for lump sum costs” according to the EU Grants: AGA — Annotated Model Grant Agreement: Version 1.0 01 May 2024 and specifically Article 5 and 6.

Each selected organization or consortium will receive the funding on a lump sum basis. To justify the lump sum, applicants need to provide a detailed explanation with cost estimations. The cost estimations are subject to the basic eligibility rules of Horizon Europe, that is the proposed budget may be adjusted to exclude costs that are deemed ineligible. If the evaluators find overestimated costs, this is recorded in the Evaluation Summary Report and will be reflected in a modified lump sum amount in the sub - grant agreement. If the sub-grantee does not agree with the amount of the grant offered, they are at liberty to withdraw their proposal.

The following cost categories are considered eligible:

1. **Personnel costs** – Costs of the personnel realising the work and preparing the deliverables/reports after each of the 3 phases. Calculate personnel costs according to the rules and regulations of your country and real labour market data regarding the relevant positions. For the proposal template, only the final amount allocated to personnel costs is necessary. Personnel costs are considered direct costs and can't be managed as indirect costs.
2. **Travel costs** – Travel costs necessary for the execution of the sub-project.
3. **Equipment costs** – Borrowing or loaning of the necessary equipment is not eligible, only depreciation costs for purchased equipment are eligible².
4. **Other goods & services** – Other goods and services include, for instance, (consumables, materials for artistic creations, services for meetings/events, services for communication/promotion/dissemination, website, fees (artistic, speakers, writing, case, rights, etc.), production costs and technical costs of prototyping, short term rental of surfaces, venues or studios (e.g., for production, rehearsal, events))
5. **Subcontracting** - Subcontracting should be clearly justified in the Annex 9 – Budget template. Costs must be reasonable and comply with the principle of sound financial management. Coordination tasks cannot be subcontracted. You should ensure that there are sufficient details for: the action tasks, the estimated budget, the procedure that will be followed to ensure best value-for-money. Any kind of organisation could be subcontracted, provided that they are not part of the AGRO-WELL consortium. The evaluators will assess the scope and value-for-money aspects of subcontracting, and their assessment will be reflected in the score of each proposal. Subcontracting is allowed for up to a maximum of **25%** of the proposed budget when properly justified. When submitting the proposal applicants should only write the total amount for subcontracting. Selected applicants should follow the standards for subcontracting set by the European Commission, ensuring best value for money and absence of conflict of interest, during the project implementation. Procurement should be done according to the national and European regulation that is applied to each applicant.

² You need to know: the period in months during which the equipment is used for the project, the depreciation period (useful life) of the equipment, the full equipment cost according to the invoice and finally the percentage of usage of the equipment for the project.

6. **Indirect costs** - Indirect costs (overheads) could be up to 25% of the direct cost. Subcontracting is not included in indirect cost calculation.

Applications should include the costs associated with each partner (in the case of consortia). The budget must be filled in for each proposal using the excel template available in the Open Call kit. Applicants will then save the Excel sheet as a PDF and include it in the documents to be sent by email in your application.

An adequate budget should be allocated for the replicability and reusability of the project outcomes. Applicants should explain and justify the budget (for each budget category separately).

If Applicants use subcontracting, they must justify it and specify the role of subcontractor.

Important:

In terms of financial monitoring of the sub-project's implementation, no financial justification is required by the project, however the Subgrantee shall keep the originals or, in exceptional cases, duly authenticated copies – including electronic copies – of all documents relating to the Contract for at least three years after final payment. These shall be made available to the EC when requested during any audit under the Grant Agreement.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

5.1 Open Call Publication

The AGRO-WELL Open Call has been published on the Fundings and Tenders portal as well as on the AGRO-WELL website ([Home | Agro - well](#)) with the following timeline:

- TOPIC A on **Wednesday 5th November 2025** and will remain open until 10:00 CET on **Wednesday 4th February 2026**.
- TOPIC B, in April 2027 and will remain open until end of June 2027.

The Open call is supported by the Open Call Kit, comprised of:

- **Model sub-grant agreement:** An indicative sub-grant agreement contract, as a reference for applicants. The final official document will be shared with successful applicants during the contracting phase.

Applicants should regularly check the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section on the AGRO-WELL website for updated answers to questions from other applicants.

5.2 Application process

Application registration

Interested applicants should register through the [registration form](#). Only registered individuals will be able to apply, either on their own (single applicants) or as the lead partner of a consortium.

The AGRO-WELL Open Calls will also be visible at the AGRO-WELL website (<https://www.agro-well.eu/open-call>), as well as the Fundings and Tenders Portal.

Application preparation and submission

Please follow the steps below:

1. Read the documents from the Open Call kit: All of the necessary information and documents are available in the [AGRO-WELL Open Call](#) dedicated page on the AGRO-WELL website
2. Application submission:
 - a. The consortium Lead Partner needs to register through the [registration form](#) before the submission of the proposal.
 - b. For the application preparation, the consortium Lead Partner is requested to provide all necessary information.

List of required documents for an eligible and complete application:

- Application Form (template - Annex 2)
- Declaration of Honour (template - Annex 7)
- Bank Account Form (template - Annex 8)
- Budget Template (Excel template - Annex 9)
- Consortium Declaration (template – Annex 6)

Applicants must send by email to agro-well.FSTP@euroquality.fr all requested documents in PDF (except the budget table in Excel format) in a zip folder to avoid issues with file sizes.

- c. Consortium Partners that do not accept the terms and conditions and do not all submit the completed Application form (.pdf format, Annex 2), Budget table (Annex 9), sign the Declaration of Honour (Annex 7) and the Bank account information (Annex 8) or any other document cited in the Guide for Applicants (Annex 1), will not be able to apply.
 - d. Later submission of these documents will not be accepted.
3. In case applicants have any technical difficulties, they should contact AGRO-WELL Open Calls team at agro-well.FSTP@euroquality.fr until February 3rd 2026 at 17:00 CET.

It is strongly recommended not to wait until the last minute to submit the application. Failure of the application to arrive in time for any reason, including network communications delays or working from multiple browsers or multiple browser windows, is not acceptable as an extenuating circumstance. The time of receipt of the application as recorded by the submission system will be definitive.

Technical issues may occur with large documents in different formats. The AGRO-WELL project does not bear responsibility for technical problems at any stage. Make sure to check and test upload on time.

Application reception

ONLY complete applications (including all requested documents) sent by email and for which the registration form is completed will be accepted. The application reception will close at 17:00 CEST (Brussels time) on **February 4th, 2026**. At this time, a full list of applicants will be generated and will include the basic information provided during registration. The full list will only be available to the Open Call Advisory Board in the context of the eligibility check, evaluation and contracting, and shared with the EC for transparency. Additional non-identifier information (e.g. country, type of applicant) will be collected for statistical purposes. Proposals and contact information will not

be shared within the consortium without consent. Applicants will be expected to read and accept the privacy policy and accept the terms of the open call during the application process.

EVALUATION PROCESS

6.1 Eligibility check

An eligibility check will be carried out to discard applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements. The application will proceed to the technical evaluation if all requirements are met from the list below.

Eligibility check list:

- The applicant is eligible for EC funding under the rules of Horizon Europe
- Each proposal is unique (only one proposal is submitted).
- Each party is allowed to participate in only one proposal per Open Call topic. If an applicant is found to be involved in multiple applications for the same Open Call category, all submitted proposals will be discarded.
- Applicants are not existing AGRO-WELL project consortium members of their affiliated entities.
- The application is submitted on time, it is complete, and in compliance with the described application process
- The proposal only asks for funding for that part of the work that is not yet accomplished and will be carried out once selected for funding. This does not exclude the usage of, e.g., results, IP, infrastructures, or approaches already held by the applicants.
- Applicants demonstrate competencies and address the specific needs of AGRO-WELL's key areas of expertise: innovative smart farming technologies to improve working conditions, enhance safety, and increase sustainability in agriculture.

The eligibility check will be carried out by the AGRO-WELL partner managing the Open Calls, Euroquality, in the following days of the closing of the Open Call submission.

AGRO-WELL partners will only forward the eligible applications to the evaluators.

Applicants will be informed when the eligibility check is complete and whether or not they proceed to the technical evaluation.

6.2 Technical Evaluation

Proposals that pass the eligibility check will proceed to the technical evaluation. Each proposal will be reviewed by two external evaluators who will evaluate them under the specific evaluation criteria below. These four criteria and how they will be used to evaluate the proposals will be different in the two Open Call Topics.

Open Call - Topic A evaluation criteria:

Criterion	Description
Criterion 1: Concept and feasibility	Evaluates the clarity, relevance, and practicality of the concept and its alignment with the AGRO-WELL project and Open Call's objective.

Criterion 2: Innovation potential and adequation with the sustainability needs of the agricultural sector

Evaluates also the coherence between the methodology, implementation described and the project's ambition.

Assesses the solution's ability to actively address challenges faced by the agricultural sector. Evaluate the proposal's novelty regarding 3 aspects: (1) technological innovation, (2) social innovation, (3) organisational innovation.

Criterion 3: Impact and exploitation

Measures the anticipated impact of the activities on crop production, the potential adoption of the solution by farmers and the strategies for exploiting the project results.

Evaluates the TRL scale-up and the demonstration of real-world applicability.

Criterion 4: Organizational capacity and sufficiency in the team's background

Evaluates the coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, appropriate distribution of resources with sufficient background of the applicant
Comprehensive budget definition including the amount of funding requested and how it will be spent, the implementation steps and consequently the value/benefit.

Each criterion will be scored from **1 to 5**, with a threshold of **3**. The global threshold will be at least **12** points. For each criterion under examination, score values will indicate the following assessments:

Evaluation mark	Description
0- Fail	The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information
1- Poor	The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2- Average	The proposal broadly addresses the issue, but there are significant weaknesses.
3- Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
4- Very good	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5- Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion.

Each evaluator will record their individual opinion of each application on an Individual Evaluation Report which will be sent to the partner managing the Open Call, Euroquality, who will inform the applicants of the outcome of their applications, via the Evaluation Summary Report.

Each evaluation criteria will be given the following weightings factors:

Criterion	Weighting factor	Scoring
Concept and feasibility	20%	0-5
Innovation potential	30%	0-5
Exploitation and impact	30%	0-5
Team	20%	0-5



In case the difference in the total scores between evaluators is significant (>3) a consensus meeting between the two evaluators and moderated by the AGRO-WELL partner managing the Open Call (Euroquality) will be held to seek adjustments. **The Consensus meetings will not be held in case the application in question has scored below the Selection threshold on a criterion where this discrepancy is not present**, even if it is present in another criterion. The external evaluators will be in the position to change the mark they have given **only for the criterion that triggered the Consensus meeting**.

In case the consensus meeting is unsuccessful, the issue will be raised by the Open Call Advisory board and the evaluators involved.

After the Consensus meetings have been completed (if applicable), the Individual Evaluation Reports will be gathered for all applications that entered the AGRO-WELL Open Call and an Evaluation Summary Report will be created for each one, containing the marks given to the Evaluation criteria, as well as the Evaluator's comments for each criterion and the application as a whole. These Evaluation Summary Reports will be promptly distributed to all Open Call applicants.

6.3 Redress procedure

Within **5** working days of the reception of the ESR, applicants may submit a request for redress if they believe there was a shortcoming in the way their proposal was evaluated, which may have affected the final decision on whether they were selected as beneficiary or not, or if they believe the results of the eligibility checks are incorrect. The Advisory board will examine the requests for redress and will ensure a coherent interpretation of such requests and an equal treatment of all applicants. Requests for redress must be:

- Related to the evaluation process or eligibility checks.
- Clearly describe the complaint and reasons for potential consideration.
- Received within the time limit (**5** working days) from the ESR information letter delivered.
- Sent by the same applicant's legal representative that submitted the proposal.

The Advisory Board will review the complaint and will recommend an appropriate course of action. If there is clear evidence that a shortcoming(s) could have affected the eventual funding decision, all or part of the proposal may be re-evaluated by newly appointed evaluators.

The redress process is concerned with the evaluation and/or eligibility checking process:

- The advisory board will not call into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts.
- Any redress request that calls into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts will be automatically rejected.
- A re-evaluation will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that could have affected the final decision on whether to fund it or not. This means, for example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if a proposal has failed anyway to meet other criteria.
- The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. This score could be lower than the original score. Only one request for redress per proposal will be considered by the advisory board.

All requests for redress will be treated in confidence.

6.4 Contracting

Based on the evaluator comments in each ESR, Euroquality, assisted by the coordinator, Technical University of Munich, will start negotiations for the contract preparation with the representatives of the selected (winning) proposals (if shortcomings were identified and changes are needed in the proposals). If the negotiations do not finish successfully, the proposal will be rejected, and the next highest-ranked proposal will be selected. Contract preparation will go via an administrative and financial check. On a case-by-case approach, a phone call or teleconference may be needed for clarification.

The objective of the contract preparation is to fulfill the legal requirements between the AGRO-WELL consortium and every beneficiary of the call.

The items covered will be:

- To validate the status information of the consortium, the following documents will be required from all parties:
 - **Legal existence:** Company Register, Official Gazette or other official document per country showing the name of the organisation, the legal address and registration number and a copy of a document proving VAT registration (in case the VAT number does not show on the registration extract or its equivalent. However, in case having VAT number is not mandatory according to the national legislation of the applicant's country, a registration number from the respective national authority (National business registry, Commercial court or similar) must be provided).
 - **Legal proof** that the applicant's organisation is not under liquidation or has filed for bankruptcy.
- **Bank Account Information:** The account where the funds will be transferred will be indicated via a form signed by the legal representative and the bank representative. The account should be a business bank account of each beneficiary. The financial information should not be older than three months.

The Subgrantee assumes full responsibility on the bank account info they provide through Annex 8 – Bank account information. For instance, if they provide a wrong IBAN, and the Treasurer proceeds with the transfer to that account, they will assume responsibility for any costs related to the transfer (expenses with the return of the amount from the wrong bank account and/or expenses with the new transfer will be deducted from their grant transfer). Ultimately, in a worst-case scenario, if the Treasurer does not manage to recover the amount transferred to the wrong bank account, the beneficiary who provided a wrong IBAN will not be able to claim that payment.

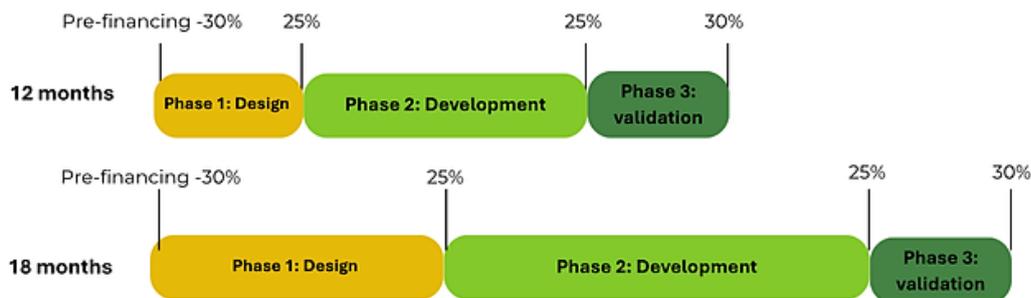
The request, by the AGRO-WELL consortium, of the above documentation will be done within designated deadlines. The sub-project contract for the Open Call Topic A negotiations will be carried out from May to July 2026, the negotiations for Topic B might occur end of 2026. In case negotiations have not been concluded within the above period, the application is automatically rejected and the next application in the reserve list is invited.

After successful negotiations, the legal representative of the open call winner will be invited to sign a contract, which will then be signed by the Open Call Manager / Treasurer (EQY). The final list of accepted proposals will then be published.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPEN CALL

Selection sub-projects of the AGRO-WELL Open Call **Topic A** will begin in March 2026. The implementation period will last 12 or 18 -months, depending on the applicant choice and will be divided in 3 phases:

- Phase 1 – Design [Deliverable: Activity plan]
- Phase 2 – Development [Deliverable: Demonstration of activity]
- Phase 3 – Validation [Deliverable: Report on the activities]



In all selected sub-projects, payments are deliverable based, meaning that the sub-grantees have to deliver a specific report after the end of each phase in order to receive the payment.

The financial support schedule is planned in a 4-step process based on the defined phases of the sub-project implementation:

- Pre-financing: once the sub-grant agreement is finalized and signed, the sub-grantees will receive a pre-financing to launch the first stages of the project. This payment corresponds to **30%** of the total grant.
- Design phase & Development phases – **2 separate payments**: the selected Subgrantees will submit relevant deliverables, planned in the sub-grant agreement, to the AGRO-WELL consortium and receive the respective payment instalment.
 - o **25%** for the Design Phase
 - o **25%** for the Development phaseUpon positive review of the corresponding deliverables.
- Final payment/validation (**30% of the total fund at M12 or M18**): will be conducted upon reception and positive evaluation of final deliverables submitted by the subgrantees.

APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITY

The selected Sub-grantees are indirect beneficiaries of European Commission (EC) funding. As such, they are responsible for the proper use of the funding and ensure that they comply with the obligations set out in HE specific requirements as described in the “Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal” (HORIZON-CL6-2024-GOVERNANCE-01) call. The obligations that apply to the beneficiaries include (but are not limited to) those described below.

8.1 Conflict of interest

The Subgrantee representative must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the subproject is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests'). At the same time, applicants cannot be affiliated with AGRO-WELL consortium partners, nor can they be employees of the AGRO-WELL consortium partners. All potential conflicts of interest will be assessed carefully. Please see more info [HERE](#).

They must formally notify to the AGRO-WELL consortium without delay any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation. The AGRO-WELL consortium may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

If the Subgrantee representative breaches any of its obligations, the Subgrantee agreement may be automatically terminated. Moreover, if the Subgrantee agreement is terminated due to a breach made by the Subgrantee, the AGRO-WELL consortium reserves the right to claim the refunds of payments made to the Subgrantee and suspend all further payments of the subgrant.

8.2 Ethics, Data protection and confidentiality

During the implementation of the subproject and for five years after the end of the subproject, the parties must keep confidential any data, documents, or other material (in any form) that is identified as confidential at subcontract signing time ('confidential information').

If a Subgrantee representative requests, the Commission and the AGRO-WELL consortium may agree to keep such information confidential for an additional period beyond the initial five years. This will be explicitly stated in the Subgrantee Agreement. If information has been identified as confidential during the sub-project execution or only orally, it will be considered confidential only if this is accepted by the AGRO-WELL Coordinator and confirmed in writing within 15 days of the oral disclosure. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use confidential information only to implement the Agreement.

The Subgrantee representative(s) may disclose confidential information to the AGRO-WELL consortium and to the selected reviewers, who will be bounded by a specific Non-Disclosure Agreement.

Applicants must confirm that all proposed services, including the means of their delivery and upkeep, have been reviewed to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation on data protection, privacy, and fundamental rights.

The responsibility for meeting ethics and data protection requirements rests solely with the applicants in their applications and eventual implementation of their projects (if selected). The selected Pilots could be subject to additional ethical check-ups, performed by the AGRO-WELL external ethical advisor, during application, evaluation and/ or implementation stage.

The importance of involving women, youth, and vulnerable groups must be considered by all participants. The inclusion of women, youth, and vulnerable groups brings a wealth of knowledge, expertise, and unique perspectives to the project. Their participation promotes a holistic understanding of societal challenges and facilitates the development of effective solutions tailored to their specific needs. Furthermore, it aligns with AGRO-WELL ethical responsibility to

promote equal opportunities and ensure that marginalised groups are not further excluded by the project.

Personal data from individuals (such as: name, last name, address, country of residence, phone number, email address) will also be gathered via the Open Call during the process of potential applicants' and evaluators' registration and application (to post a question or apply to a specific open call or enter the pool of external evaluators). The majority of the information (if not all of them) that will be required, for SMEs, startups, research organisations, NGOs as potential applicants, are already publicly available in business registries across Europe (i.e. owners' name, company address and email). No sensitive personal data will be collected (e.g. health status, race, sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, political opinions, religious or philosophical conviction, receipt of social support, victims of violence, criminal records and sexual life).

According to the AGRO-WELL Grant Agreement, data will be kept for at least 5 years after the completion of the project (or 3 years for data related to Open Call grants of not more than EUR 60 000). However, the data will always be stored anonymously and will not be accessible by external third parties.

8.3 Promoting the action and giving visibility to the EU fundings

The Subgrantees must promote the sub-projects, the AGRO-WELL project and its results, by providing the description of their project upon request from the AGRO-WELL Consortium and highlighting the financial support of the EC.

Unless the European Commission or the AGRO-WELL coordinator requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.), any publicity, including at a conference or seminar or any type of information or promotional material (brochure, leaflet, poster, presentation etc.), and any infrastructure, equipment and major results funded by the grant must:

- (a) display the EU emblem;
- (b) display the AGRO-WELL logo and
- (c) include the following text:

For communication activities: "This project has indirectly received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under project AGRO-WELL (grant agreement No 101182923)".

For infrastructure, equipment and major results: "This [infrastructure] [equipment] [insert type of result] is part of a sub-project that has indirectly received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under project AGRO-WELL (grant agreement No 101182923)".

When displayed in association with a logo, the European emblem should be given appropriate prominence. This obligation to use the European emblem in respect of projects to which the EC contributes implies no right of exclusive use. It is subject to general third-party use restrictions which do not permit the appropriation of the emblem, or of any similar trademark or logo, whether by registration or by any other means. Under these conditions, the Subgrantee is exempted from the obligation to obtain prior permission from the EC to use the emblem. Further detailed information on the EU emblem can be found on the Europa web page.

Any publicity made by the Subgrantee in respect of the project, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, must specify that it reflects only the author's views and that the EC or AGRO-

WELL Consortium are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

The EC and the AGRO-WELL Consortium shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:

- the name of the Subgrantee SME;
- contact address of the Subgrantee SME;
- the general purpose of the subproject;
- the amount of the financial contribution foreseen for the subproject; after the final payment, and the amount of the financial contribution actually received;
- the geographic location of the activities carried out;
- the list of dissemination activities and/or of patent (applications) relating to foreground;
- the details/references and the abstracts of scientific publications relating to foreground and, if funded within the sub-project, the published version or the final manuscript accepted for publication;
- the publishable reports submitted to AGRO-WELL;
- any picture or any audio-visual or web material provided to the EC and AGRO-WELL in the framework of the subproject.

The Subgrantee representative shall ensure that all necessary authorisations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the EC and AGRO-WELL does not infringe any rights of third parties.

Upon a duly substantiated request by the Subgrantee representative, the AGRO-WELL consortium, if such permission is provided by the EC, may agree to forego such publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the beneficiary's security, academic or commercial interests.

8.4 Financial audits and controls

The European Commission (EC) will monitor that AGRO-WELL partners and the Subgrantees comply with the conditions for FSTP set out in Annex 1 of the AGRO-WELL grant agreement and may take any action foreseen by the grant agreement in case of noncompliance vis à vis the beneficiary concerned.

Moreover, the EC may at any time during the implementation of the AGRO-WELL project and up to 2 (two) years after final payments, arrange for financial audits to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves including the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF). Such audits will be formally notified to the beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

Audits may cover financial, systemic and other aspects (such as accounting and management principles) relating to the proper execution of the grant agreement. They shall be carried out on a confidential basis.

The Subgrantee shall make available directly to the EC all detailed information and data that may be requested by the EC or any representative authorised by it, with a view to verifying that the grant agreement is properly managed and performed in accordance with its provisions and that costs have been charged in compliance with it. This information and data must be precise, complete and effective.

The Subgrantee shall keep all sub-project deliverables and the originals or, in exceptional cases, duly authenticated copies – including electronic copies – of all documents relating to the sub-project contract for up to five years from the end of the project (or 3 for grants of not more than €60,000.00). These shall be made available to the EC when requested during any audit under the grant agreement.

In order to carry out these audits, the Subgrantee shall ensure that the EC's services and any external body(ies) authorised by it have on-the-spot access at all reasonable times, notably to the sub-project applicant offices, to its computer data, to its accounting data and to all the information needed to carry out those audits, including information on individual salaries of persons involved in the sub-project. For on-the-spot visits, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including for the external audit firm) and must ensure that information requested is readily available. Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the audit findings a draft audit report will be drawn up and it will be formally sent to the Subgrantee concerned, which may make observations thereon within 30 days of receiving the notification to make observations. The Commission may decide not to consider observations conveyed or documents sent after that deadline. The final audit report shall be sent to the beneficiary concerned within two months of expiry of the aforesaid deadline.

Based on the conclusions of the audit, the EC shall take all appropriate measures which it considers necessary, including the issuing of recovery orders regarding all or part of the payments made by it and the application of any applicable sanction.

The European Court of Auditors shall have the same rights as the EC, notably right of access, for the purpose of checks and audits, without prejudice to its own rules.

In addition, the EC may carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities.

Audits (including audit reports) will be in the language of the Sub-grant agreement.

8.5 Subproject Communication of important changes

The Subgrantee representative should:

- Provide any notice be in writing to the AGRO-WELL consortium;
- Notify the AGRO-WELL partner managing Open Calls, Euroquality, about the dissemination activities that the Open Call recipient will organise.

Notify immediately any change of persons or contact details to the AGRO-WELL Open Call manager and the Coordinator. The address list shall be accessible to all concerned.

8.6 Originality of the sub-granted projects

It is required that applications submitted are based on original works by the applicants and that their foreseen developments are free from third party rights. AGRO-WELL consortium is not obliged to verify the authenticity of the ownership of the foreseen products/ services. Any issues delivered from third party claims that arise a result of the sub-granted projects are on the sole responsibility of the applicant.

8.7 IPR Ownership of the sub-granted projects

Each Subgrantee that generates results owns the attached Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) generated during the development process and will own results that are not IPRs. Each subgrantee is responsible for the management and protection of its IPRs and bears the costs associated with this.

The Subgrantees funded within AGRO-WELL project will be the unique owners of the technologies created within the framework of their sub-granted projects. Parts of their works will be requested to be public for AGRO-WELL dissemination purposes.

8.8 Liability

AGRO-WELL consortium and the European Commission cannot be held liable for any acts or omission of the applicant in relation to the selected sub-granted project implemented by the Subgrantee. The AGRO-WELL Consortium shall not be liable for any defaults of any products, processes or services created in the sub-granted project. Including, for instance, anomalies in the functioning or performance thereof.

In case any damage is caused to a third party by the Subgrantee, the Subgrantee will assume full responsibility for the damage caused. In no way will the AGRO-WELL Consortium be responsible for any damages caused by the Subgrantee.

Subgrantees shall bear sole responsibility for ensuring that their acts within the framework of their sub-granted projects do not infringe third party rights.

8.9 Do Not Significant Harm (DNSH)

Subgrantees must always respect the 'Do Not Significant Harm Principle'. The Commission Communication on the European Green Deal introduced the green oath to 'do no harm'. The 'Do not Significant Harm' (DNSH) principle has been further specified in the EU Regulation on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investments (**Regulation (EU) 2019/2088**), commonly defined as the 'EU Taxonomy Regulation'. Six environmental objectives are listed in Article 23 of the EU Taxonomy and Article 17 specifies what can constitute a 'significant harm' for these objectives. Thus, the regulation provides that no measure should lead to significant harm to any of the six environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of the Taxonomy Regulation.

POINT OF CONTACT

All questions concerning the Call must be in writing and sent by e-mail to agro-well.FSTP@euroquality.fr. The deadline for asking clarification questions or requesting additional information is 48 hours before the deadline of the present Call. The answers shall be given by email no later than 24 hours before the deadline of the present Call. We strongly recommend Applicants to regularly visit the FAQ section to get valuable feedback for the preparation of their proposal.

ANNEX

Countries participation for the AGRO-WELL Open Call:

The Open Call adheres to the Council Implementing Decision 2022/2506 that stipulates that legal commitments must not be entered into with any public interest trusts established on the basis of the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity maintained by such a public interest trust, concerning inter alia financial support to third parties. Consequently, the concerned Hungarian entities are excluded from receiving FSTP (financial support to third parties) from these AGRO-WELL Open Calls. For further information please follow this [link](#). It is important to mention that entities established in Hungary that are not affected with this decision are fully eligible to apply.

Legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine. Given the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the involvement of Belarus, there is currently no appropriate context allowing the implementation of the actions foreseen in this programme with legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine. Therefore, even where such entities are not subject to EU restrictive measures, such legal entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity³. This includes participation as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any). Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for justified reasons.

According to the EU Grants: List of Participating Countries (HE): V3.4 – 10.04.2025⁴, besides the EU Member States (including their outermost regions, as well as Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to EU Member), the following Horizon Europe associated countries are eligible to receive funding through the AGRO-WELL Open Calls (listed in alphabetical order): Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada (associated to Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness', including for the institutionalised European partnerships, and for award procedures implementing Union budget for the year 2024 and onwards), Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo⁵, Moldova, Montenegro, New Zealand (associated to Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' as from the Work Programmes 2023 onwards, including for the institutionalised European partnerships), North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Türkiye, and Ukraine, United Kingdom (associated to the entire Programme, with the only exception of the EIC fund, for award procedures implementing Union budget for the year 2024 and onwards⁶).

Until association agreements start producing legal effects either through provisional application or their entry into force, transitional arrangements may apply if provided for in the particular Horizon Europe Work Programme. The transitional arrangements apply with regard to the following countries and legal entities established in these countries, with which association

³ EU restrictive measures in view of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=legisum:25_2

⁴ 2EU Grants: List of participating countries (HE): V3.3 – 20.12.2024 : https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-auratom_en.pdf

⁵ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

⁶ The transitional arrangements continue to apply to grant award procedures implementing Union budgets 2021 to 2023. However, no Horizon Europe grants will be signed with entities established in the UK for the budgetary appropriations for years 2023 or earlier (even if the grant agreement is signed in 2024 or later), save for exceptional circumstances clearly defined by the work programmes and rules of the Programme (e.g. based on being essential for implementing the action)

negotiations are being processed or where association is imminent (listed in the alphabetical order):

- Egypt (applicable to the entire Programme for award procedures implementing Union budget for the year 2025 and onwards)
- Morocco (applicable for the entire Programme)
- Republic of Korea (applicable to Pillar II ‘Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness’, including for the institutionalised European partnerships, for award procedures implementing Union budget for the year 2025 and onwards)
- Switzerland (applicable to calls under the ERC Work Programme 2024 with opening date after 18 March 2024 and applicable to the entire Programme for award procedures implementing Union budget for the year 2025 and onwards)
- Liechtenstein does not intend to associate with Horizon Europe

Participants (other third countries) from the following low- to middle-income countries are automatically eligible for funding⁷ according to the List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe, as of December 20, 2024:

- Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi
- Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic), Congo (Republic), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba
- Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic
- Ecuador, Egypt (Arab Republic), El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana
- Haiti, Honduras
- Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic), Iraq
- Jamaica, Jordan
- Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea (Democratic People's Republic), Kyrgyz Republic
- Lao (People's Democratic Republic), Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya
- Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar
- Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria
- Pakistan, Palestine⁸, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines
- Rwanda – Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic
- Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, , Turkmenistan, Tuvalu
- Uganda, Uzbekistan

⁷ Subject to the respect of EU restrictive measures: Please note that entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and entities covered by Commission Guidelines No 2013/C 205/05 are NOT eligible to participate in any capacity (including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties, if any).

⁸ This designation is not to be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

- Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic), Vietnam
- Yemen Republic
- Zambia, Zimbabwe.

