

EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and  
Technology  
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*Call for Evaluators*

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## About agROBOfood



**agROBOfood** (<https://agrobofood.eu/>) aims at boosting the adoption of robotic technologies in the European agrifood sector. There are many excellent organisations working in agri-food robotics across Europe, and many of them are gathered into this agROBOfood consortium. Some have roots in agriculture or food and are moving into robotics, others are experts in robots and want to apply these robots in agri-food. The agROBOfood project will establish a network of robotics Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) in the agri-food domain, each bringing their own ecosystem of Competence Centres (CCs). By connecting these actors with their different strengths, each will contribute to an overall service offer providing a more joined-up set of options for producers and wider markets for technology providers in robotic applications.

The project takes on the challenge of **bridging the gap** between the need to **increase food production** to satisfy global needs and the **availability of farmland and human labour** by using **robotic technologies**.

### agROBOfood Open Calls

The agROBOfood consortium builds upon an existing network and ecosystem and aims to use the mechanism of Open Calls providing financial support to third parties as a mechanism that will accelerate network expansion, driven by the robotics community and the European agrifood sector.

To achieve these objectives, two types of Open Calls are foreseen – two Open Calls for Innovation Experiments and one Open Call for Industrial Challenges. In order to ensure that Open Call beneficiaries are those applicants whose proposals best fit the given criteria, all Open Calls will be assessed by 3 external reviewers with expertise in business, agrifood and robotics.

The first Open Call for Innovation Experiments starts on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 and ends on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

### We are looking for evaluators

We are looking for independent evaluators, who are able to assess the quality of the proposals, shortly after the closing of the call (May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020). This means that the evaluation will be executed during May and early June.

The evaluators should have the following competencies:

- recognized expert in the fields of science, industry and innovation;
- experience in one or more of the following fields: agri-food, robotics and business development;
- experience in evaluating EC proposals or similar experience.

An evaluator should not work for an organisation that aims to participate in the agROBOfood Open Call, neither in an organisation participating in the current agROBOfood consortium. The evaluators should be available for evaluating throughout June and July 2020. Each evaluator will be asked to evaluate at least ten proposals, of 15-20 pages per proposal. The group of evaluators will be a mix of robotic, agri-food, and business expertise.

### Evaluation procedure

Activities will be performed first individually and then by teleconferences; no physical meetings are planned. The procedure will start with a short briefing telco about the evaluation procedure with a special focus on the evaluation criteria. Then each proposal will be assigned to 3 evaluators and therefore for each proposal 3 individual evaluation reports will be written. For all proposals a teleconference will be organised for the 3 evaluators to agree in consensus on the scores and a consolidated justification of those. These teleconferences will be moderated by technical chair coming from agROBOfood core team. It is planned that evaluators will work in groups, aiming to optimize logistics related to consensus meeting, so that many proposals are discussed during the same

teleconference. Once agreed, one of the 3 evaluators will act as rapporteur to write a short Evaluation Summary Report with the agreed consensus: comments, remarks and final scores. Templates for the reports will be provided.

The shortlisted proposals (at least double the number that may be funded) will be invited to online-interview with evaluators that will last for approximately 30 minutes. Evaluators for this round will be contacted from the pool selected through this Call based on their availability and expertise.

### **What will be the payment?**

Each evaluator will evaluate at least ten proposals of 15-20 pages each, take part in consensus meetings and reporting. This will be compensated with a payment of 45 EUR NET per evaluator, per proposal. Evaluators who take part in online interviews with shortlisted candidates will receive additional payment of 45 EUR NET per interview.

### **Selection process of evaluators**

Evaluators will be selected based on their competences listed in the Call. The selection process of the evaluators will be conducted by the core agROBOfood partners. Special emphasis will be put on achieving a balance of competences in the three sectors – robotics, agri-food and business.

### **Our request**

If you are interested in being an evaluator, **please send your CV to [evaluators@agrobofood.eu](mailto:evaluators@agrobofood.eu)**. If you know someone else who might be qualified for this task and might be interested, please forward this email to him or her. By applying to agROBOfood Call for Evaluators, applicant automatically accepts all the rules and conditions described above.

**Deadline to apply is 28/02/2020. Selected applicants will be contacted by 30.04.2020.**

If you have any questions you can contact Stasa Stojkov ([stasa.stojkov@biosense.rs](mailto:stasa.stojkov@biosense.rs)) or Masa Mimica ([masa.mimica@gmail.com](mailto:masa.mimica@gmail.com)).