



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS

## Stream A

EIPs aimed at supporting greater Gender Balance in farming in Ireland.

## Third Competitive Call for Proposals under the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027

April 2024

## GUIDELINES FOR FIRST PHASE APPLICANTS



## Introduction

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is inviting applications for funding in a competitive call for proposals under the European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) programme under the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027. The theme for this call for EIP proposals is:

- Innovative approaches to support greater gender balance in farming in Ireland.

The Department is seeking proposals for innovative approaches which address this issue on Irish farms. This guidance note sets out:

- The background to EIPs,
- What is required in submitting a Phase 1 proposal for EIP,
- Information in relation to the funding available and the duration and number of possible projects,
- An outline of the selection process in moving from this call for initial proposals, through to the funding of successful projects for full implementation and roll out.

The European Innovation Partnerships Initiative (EIP) under the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 (CSP) comes under the remit of Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Specifically, Article 77 (1a) of that regulation sets out that EIPs are funded as ‘co-operation measures.’ A fundamental rule of this measure is that a supported project shall promote forms of co-operation involving at least two entities, who come together to form an ‘Operational Group’.

EIPs involve the establishment of such Operational Groups to develop ideas or take existing ideas/research and put them into practice. The ultimate aim of these innovation partnerships is to road-test new ideas and practices which can then be used more widely by farmers and others. Operational Groups that receive CSP funding are **not research projects** – all EIPs must incorporate a practical element where ideas are tested on the ground. Within this context, this call for EIP proposals is specifically targeted at proposals related to **support greater gender balance in farming in Ireland**.

## EIP-Agri Capacity Building webinar

To further assist the preparation of an EIP proposal, the CAP Network will run a webinar to inform applicants of the requirements under the EIP program, which will include available supports and advice on the writing of an EIP proposal etc.

The intended date of this webinar is **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 2.30pm**

To attend this webinar you must pre-register at the following link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_tPBxJDkFSrS4p9lSnBi5-Q](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tPBxJDkFSrS4p9lSnBi5-Q)



## Overview

This is an open call for proposals structured around a competitive fund. The funding available is for proposals which support greater gender balance on Irish farms. These priorities are linked to EU specific objective 8.N6 which promotes employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming in Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 as set out in ANNEX I of EU Regulation 2021/2115 of the European parliament and of the Council. All proposals must be consistent with these priority objectives and with Ireland's CSP. This call for proposals is co-funded by the European Union under the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

To succeed, the Operational Groups will rely on fostering communication through stakeholder networking, developing partnerships and dissemination of knowledge and ideas across a wide range of stakeholders. They will support innovative concepts and ideas from among farmers, advisors, researchers, NGOs and Agri-businesses. Innovation is a key element of EIPs, and all proposals must clearly demonstrate the innovative element around which the proposal is built, as well as explaining how it will be tested on the ground.

An innovative idea can be a brand-new approach, or it can draw on an approach trialled elsewhere and seek to adapt it to Irish circumstances. An EIP must have a clear link to such **innovation** and the initial application must show this.

Please note that the bringing together of actors in an Operational Group to address an issue is not in itself sufficient to qualify a proposal as being innovative.

It is expected that the proposals received would cover a range of possible approaches to addressing challenges in this area. A key element of EIPs is that it is the Operational Group itself which will identify the specific challenge that they wish to address within the targeted proposals listed in this call. The Group will then build its proposal around the specific innovative way in which they propose to address this challenge.

The structure of this call for proposals has thus deliberately been limited to facilitate specific areas as defined in the CSP. Again, **innovation and partnership are the key** here, trying something new on the ground and involving a range of actors in the process.

## Operational Groups

The **Operational Group** is the collection of people who are in the best position to help realise the project goals. All EIPs must be delivered by an Operational Group, and there must be more than one member of the Operational Group. The application should set out clearly all the actors who will be members of the Operational Group. It must also set out what the role and contribution of each Operational Group member will be in relation to achieving the goals of the project including which member(s) will be lead partner. Proposals which successfully move to phase 2 of the selection will be required at that stage to finalise the membership and roles of all actors in the Operational Group.

Operational Groups are expected to be hands on in terms of working towards the implementation of their proposal. Operational Groups shall be set up by interested actors such as farmers, researchers,



advisors, NGOs, foresters and businesses involved in the agriculture and food sector etc. who are relevant for achieving the objectives of the EIP project.

An Operational Group can also bring together any advisors/multipliers who have the expertise and knowledge needed by the project at various times, or who can disseminate/promote aspects of the project, but who do not need to be a permanent part of the Operational Group. Successfully selected Operational Groups must establish internal procedures that ensure that their operation and decision making is transparent and that situations of conflict of interest are avoided. Please note, only Operational Groups based in Ireland will be eligible for this funding.

## Process for Open Call EIPs for supporting Greater Gender Balance in farming in Ireland.

Competitive calls for proposals are to be structured around the following phases, as outlined in the CSP:

- **Phase 1** – An initial call for the submission of proposals, which are then evaluated by an evaluation committee.
- **Phase 2** – Successful Phase 1 applicants will then be invited to develop their initial proposals and submit a fully detailed Project proposal, setting out the detail of the administrative arrangements, Operational Group membership, objectives, timelines and costs. The costs involved in developing these detailed project proposals may be covered under this intervention. These projects will be evaluated by an expert evaluation committee.
- **Phase 3** -Successful Phase 2 applicants will move forward to full implementation of their project. Implementation costs for these projects will be covered under this intervention.

It is expected that one project will be selected from each theme to progress to full implementation under Phase 3. However, this may be subject to change depending on the number and quality of proposals received. Successful projects should be based on **an implementation period of between 3 and 5 years.**

### Phase 1 – Expressions of Interest

The initial call for the submission of proposals has been advertised and is open for applications.

- The CAP Network will run a webinar on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 2.30pm** to assist applicants in making their Phase 1 application.
- Proposals are to be returned electronically to email address provided by **5pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024.**
- An Evaluation Committee will examine all proposals submitted with reference to the screening criteria in Table 1 below and prepare a shortlist of applicants if required to go forward to Phase 2.
- The screening of these expressions of interest will be based on the standard and range of applications received. The decision of the Evaluation Committee will have regard to the objectives of the CSP as outlined in Table 1. There is no limit on the number of projects that may be selected to progress to Phase 2.



- All applicants must meet a minimum score of 60% across each of the criteria to be considered for selection to Phase 2.
- It is envisaged that all applicants will be informed of results within 5 weeks of the submission of applications.

**Table 1: Proposed Selection Criteria for Phase 1**

Proposed Selection Criteria for the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Operational Groups		
Criterion	Components	Marks
Quality of the Proposal	Technical, managerial, and scientific aspects as well as value for money.	350
Relevance and Impact	Clear relevance to the identified CSP priorities, clear presence of innovation, and benefits and wider applicability in addressing challenges of Gender Balance in farming in Ireland.	350
Quality of the Operational Group	Relevant qualifications and experience, contribution proposed, and representative nature.	300

## Phase 2 - Overview

- Successful first phase applicants will be invited to compile and submit a complete and detailed project plan at Phase 2. The costs for preparing detailed project plans may be eligible for funding by the Department under the CSP up to a maximum of **€10,000 (ten thousand euro)**.
- In advance of Phase 2, the CAP Network will provide support to those projects which have been selected at Phase 1. This will include information in relation to what is required at Phase 2 of the process – content of project plans, level of detail required, how to access funding etc.
- The Evaluation committee will examine all the project plans submitted and assessment will be based on relevant evaluation criteria.
- The Phase 2 evaluation will incorporate a greater focus on the detail of the project proposals, feasibility, innovation and applicability going forward. A separate application form, guidelines and other associated documents for the Phase 2 evaluation will be provided to successful applicants.
- Further details will be provided when projects are invited to submit under Phase 2. In addition more information on EIPs can be found at [EIP-AGRI Project Database | European CAP Network \(europa.eu\)](#)

## Phase 3 – Full Implementation



Projects that are successful at Phase 2 will be invited to move to full implementation.

Funding of up to **€650,000**. is available for the implementation of each successful project proposals. It is the intention that two project on Gender Balance will be selected at Phase 2 to progress to full implementation. However, this may be subject to change depending on the number and quality of proposals received. Successful projects will have an implementation period of between 3 and 5 years.

The CAP Network will provide support to the successful teams moving to full implementation to clarify what is required at this stage of the process – reporting requirements, payment mechanisms etc. The Department will liaise on an ongoing basis with successful projects as they progress through the implementation phase.

As with all CSP Schemes, each project will be subject to a control regime based on inspection and administrative checks to be implemented by the Department. Reporting requirements will be necessary and the format of such will be outlined by the Department in accordance with the CSP.

All expressions of interest must be made in electronic format on the Expression of Interest Form provided and emailed to [genderbalanceEIP@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:genderbalanceEIP@agriculture.gov.ie) by the closing date.

**Deadline for completed Phase 1 applications:**

**5 PM on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**

**to [genderbalanceEIP@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:genderbalanceEIP@agriculture.gov.ie)**

**Applications will be treated in confidence and no information contained therein will be communicated to any third party without the written permission of the applicant except in so far as is specifically required for the evaluation of the proposal.**