



Transparency solutions for transforming the food system



Call for Expression of Interest for external evaluators



TITAN is a project that has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No 101060739

About TITAN project

TITAN Project is a 4-year Horizon Europe R&I project with the ambition to build transparency in food supply chains via the implementation of innovative (mainly digital) technologies to boost health, sustainability, safety and authenticity of products, processes, and diets. The TITAN project will demonstrate the latest transparency-related solutions to help create a demand-driven European economy based on the production and consumption of healthy, sustainable, and affordable food. As such, the project will provide an extensive platform for developing a wide range of innovations that aid transparency and address key challenges identified in the European Green Deal (EGD).

TITAN Open Call

In order to contribute to creating a rich and vibrant ecosystem in the food supply chain domain, TITAN will organise an Open Call for innovative solutions to select and fund eight of the most innovative and ambitious pilots that will enhance the value of food supply chains through increased transparency. For applicants to be selected for funding via the TITAN Open Call, their solutions must be under the domain of activities of one of three TITAN pilot groups: Food Safety, Sustainability and Health.

The TITAN Open Call will cover all three mentioned domains, where at least two winners per category will be selected for funding.

Table 1 TITAN Open Call in a nutshell

Number of selected pilots	Funding granted per Pilot	Time for implementation
8	€156,330	18 months

In total, a budget of 1,250,640 € is allocated on financial support to third parties. Each sub-project accepted will last for 18 months and be divided into 3 cycles, corresponding with the cycles of the TITAN Business Support Programme (to which the selected external pilots will be given exclusive access): MUST-DO, COULD-DO and SHOULD-DO.

Open Call Hub platform

Open Call Hub (OCH) is a digital platform for application management for financial support to third parties and accelerator programs, developed and maintained by Foodscale Hub. The TITAN Open Call for Financial Support to Third Parties will be managed using the Open Call Hub.

Evaluators profile

We are looking for independent evaluators, who are able to assess the quality of applications received within the TITAN Open Call, shortly after it has been closed. Evaluators must be:

- European (EU nationals (Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their outermost regions, as well as Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to an EU Member) as well as nationals of Horizon Europe associated countries, full list [HERE](#)).

- Specialists – scientific (technical, social sciences, etc.) or business experts: university or industry researchers or engineers, staff of other relevant organizations e.g., clusters, accelerators, etc. motivated by innovation topics around transparency in the food value chain.
- Experienced experts in evaluating EC proposals, other grant applications or similar experience.

An evaluator must not work for an organisation that aims to apply to the TITAN Open Call, nor in an organisation that is a member of the TITAN consortium.

The evaluators will be in charge of providing a neutral yet technical/scientific and/or business review of received applications, mostly, but not limited to, on the following aspects:

- Experiment and Excellence,
- Technology and Alignment,
- Impact,
- Team.

More information on the evaluation criteria is given in the TITAN [Open Call Guidelines for Applicants](#). In addition, it will be part of the Manual for the evaluators as well. The evaluation process per application as well as specific reimbursement of evaluators' efforts will be further explained and reiterated in that document. It is important to note that the number of applications per evaluator depends on several factors: the time availability of the evaluators, the number of submitted applications, and the number of evaluators to be selected throughout every specific open call. The exact number of applications dedicated to an external evaluator will be specified in the contract between the evaluator and TITAN Project Treasurer (Foodscale Hub). In case of unforeseen circumstances, evaluators could be asked to assess additional applications.

Financial Benefits

In case of TITAN project and the Open Call within it, evaluators will receive a compensation per application assigned, where each application will be compensated with 75€ with projected capacity of 2 applications' evaluations per day.

Payment will be done in Euros by bank transfer on the personal account of the evaluators, up to 60 days after submission of the evaluations and reception of an invoice from the evaluator.

Evaluation procedure

All the activities will be performed individually on the Open Call Hub (OCH) platform; no physical meetings are planned. The evaluation process will start with a short briefing telco about the evaluation procedure with a special focus on the evaluation criteria. Then each application will be assigned to two evaluators (one business and one technical expert) and therefore two individual evaluation reports will be written for each application. The two individual reports will then be consolidated into one Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), which will be distributed to all of the eligible applicants who have advanced into the evaluation stage.

Some specific cases might require the organization of remote (online) consensus meetings between the evaluators (such as large discrepancies between the marks given by the evaluators).

Up to 16 applications with the highest scores will advance to the next stage of the process – Online interviews, which will be carried out by the TITAN consortium members.

Evaluators selection process

Evaluators will be selected by the TITAN Open Call Manager (Foodscale Hub) based on their expertise and competences, with respect to the number of applications received.

Expression of interest

If you are interested in being an evaluator, create an evaluator profile on the Open Call Hub, fill in all necessary fields and upload your CV (as .pdf) - the application shouldn't take you more than 5 minutes!

APPLY HERE: [LINK](#)

If you know someone else who might be qualified for this task and might be interested, please forward this to them. By applying to TITAN Call for Evaluators, applicant automatically accepts all the rules and conditions described below.

Tentative timeline of activities for TITAN Open Call evaluation

TITAN Open Call duration: October 2nd – December 1st, 2023.

Eligibility check of the received applications: December 1st – December 4th, 2023.

Contracting the selected evaluators: December 1st – December 4th, 2023.

Evaluation of the eligible applications assigned: December 4th – December 22nd, 2023.

Evaluators' liability

All evaluators will be required to sign a declaration of no conflict of interest and non-disclosure agreement with the TITAN consortium prior to the start of the evaluations.

By applying to the TITAN Call for evaluators and registration to the Open Call Hub platform, the expert:

- - understands that applying (registration) does not guarantee their selection as an evaluator for the TITAN Open Call.
- - understands that they will have sign a Code of Conduct and Declaration of Honor (DoH) along with any other requested documents if they are selected to serve as an evaluator for the TITAN Open Call.
- - confirms that team in charge of the Open Call will ask them about time availability to accomplish the evaluation within the specified time frame for the Open Call, to attend a briefing session (if required) and a debriefing session after the selection (if required). Timing will be provided for every open call.
- - confirms the interest to be informed about the future opportunities to act as an evaluator on ongoing and upcoming open calls that will be conducted on OCH.

- - assures that they will only evaluate the applications of applicants where they do not have a Conflict of Interest (CoI).

Admissibility

- The applicant must be a European (EU nationals (Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their outermost regions, as well as Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to EU Member) as well as nationals of Horizon Europe associated countries, full list [HERE](#)) (Note: if you are not a citizen of these countries, but a resident/taxpayer in one of these countries, you are still eligible to become an evaluator)
- Applications are welcome at any time starting from October 16th, 2023, and should be submitted before the November 15th, 2023.
- Applications must be submitted electronically via Open Call Hub electronic submission system as indicated in this call, using the form provided inside OCH, and a CV, as .pdf, must be attached as part of the application. Paper or email submissions are NOT possible.
- Applications must be complete for all parts, and CV should be readable, accessible, and printable.

If the admissibility criteria are respected, then the evaluation of the expert will be performed by the Manager of the Open Call in question (or Advisory Board or expert team of each project whose Open Call is conducted via OCH platform). To formalize the collaboration, if not specified differently, a service contract will be signed between Foodscale Hub and the selected evaluator.

All selected evaluators will be required to sign a declaration of no conflict of interest and non-disclosure agreement with the representative of each project (coordinator, treasurer, etc.) prior to the start of the evaluation of applications assigned to them.

Conflict of interest

Evaluators must not have a conflict of interest at the time of their appointment and must sign a contract with a declaration that no such conflict exists. They also must inform the consortium should such a conflict arise in any of the applications they have been assigned. When a potential conflict of interest is reported by the evaluator or brought to the attention of the consortium by any means, the project consortium will analyze the circumstances and any objective elements of information available. If the consortium concludes that there is conflict of interest, the evaluator will be excluded from the evaluation of that application. All potential conflicts of interest will be assessed carefully. Please see more info [HERE](#).

Confidentiality

Evaluators are bound by confidentiality, as all information relating to the assessment process is strictly confidential. They are not allowed to disclose any information about the applications submitted and results of the assessment and selection to anyone. They are also not allowed to use the ideas of the application for own purposes.

Good luck and thank you for your interest.

We are looking forward to collaborating with you!

TITAN team