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Proposal Evaluation Form

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)

Evaluation Summary Report - Staff Exchanges

Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2021-SE-01
Type of action: HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-SE
Proposal number: 101086261
Proposal acronym: FEEDACTIV
Duration (months): 48
Proposal title: Development of functional fish feed based on bioactive compounds of marine and herbal origin.
Activity: ENG

N.	Proposer name	Country	Total Cost	%	Grant Requested	%
1	UNIVERSITATEA DE STIINTE AGRICOLE SI MEDICINA VETERINARA CLUJ NAPOCA	RO	0	-	276,000	19.11%
2	ETHNICON METSOVION POLYTECHNION	EL	0	-	193,200	13.38%
3	DIGNITY IDIOTIKI KEFALAIOUXIKI ETAIREIA	EL	0	-	147,200	10.19%
4	PANEPISTIMIO AIGAIOU	EL	0	-	193,200	13.38%
5	Zoonomi AS	EL	0	-	138,000	9.55%
6	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI MESSINA	IT	0	-	165,600	11.46%
7	SC Piscicola SA	RO	0	-	165,600	11.46%
8	PANITTICA ITALIA SOCIETA AGRICOLA SRL	IT	0	-	165,600	11.46%
	Total:		0		1,444,400	

Abstract:
FEEDACTIV focuses on the development of innovative aquaculture feed based on natural bioactive compounds that boost the immune system of farmed fish. Various species of marine microalgae as well as seaweed and land based herbal plants are going to be used as enrichment of the fish feed and hopefully as partial fishmeal substitution with low cost ingredients. The use of natural compounds, polyunsaturated fatty acids (ω-3, ω-6 and ω-7), phenols, carotenoids and protein from marine and land based flora, aims to improve the breeding and quality of farmed species while drastically reducing the annual cost of the aquaculture companies by focusing on the processes that boost the immune system of the fish. The production of these functional products will cover the consumers' demands for the consumption of foods with increased functionality and absence of any chemical additives giving them the following comparative advantage over the competition. The overarching objective of this project is to form an international and inter-sectoral network of organizations working on a joint research programme in the fields of aquaculture and feed formulation. Therefore, FEEDACTIV will bring together experts from industry and academia that specialize in interdisciplinary/inter-sectorial, yet highly complementally, research areas of Aquaculture, Animal Feed Production, Feed/Food safety, Process Analysis and Design of food products. It is a joint research and innovation project that will develop a strong partnership involving 8 partners from 3 European countries (Romania, Greece, and Italy) and with different technical backgrounds from the academic and non-academic sectors (SMEs). The execution of the project and the knowledge sharing will be based on secondments (exchanges) of research and innovation staff with an in-built return mechanism strengthening collaborative research among the different countries and sectors.

Evaluation Summary Report

Evaluation Result

Total score: 89.40% (Threshold: 70/100.00)

Criterion 1 - Excellence

Score: **4.40** (Threshold: 0/5.00 , Weight: 50.00%)

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:
• Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art).
• Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality and appropriateness of open science practices).
• Quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations in light of the research and innovation objectives.

The proposed secondments between participants in EU/AC in the same sector are considered to be interdisciplinary and are accepted, up to the maximum of 1/3 of the total months funded by EU.

Strengths:
- The main objectives of the research are clearly defined, the proposal is technologically sound, relevant, and of commercial importance.
- The methodology is sound, applicable and is built on consistent background experience which assures its credibility.
- The interdisciplinarity of the proposed approach is clear and adequate. The proposal includes topics from a wide range of disciplines, such as aquaculture, marine biology and process engineering.
- The gender dimension is well addressed in the research topic of food evaluation.
- Appropriate open science practices, sharing and management of research outputs are well presented.
- Data management plan will be published in line with the FAIR principles.
- The proposal presents a very well-balanced consortium. The role of each partner is clearly depicted.
- The proposal adopts synergetic interaction between the partners with complementary skills.
- Networking activities are clear, tangible and sufficiently depicted.

Weaknesses:
- The presentation of the scientific novelty of the proposed research is not presented in sufficient detail.
- The main research challenges for finding solutions to enhance the sustainable use of the aquaculture resources are identified but they are not clearly associated with the proposed solutions to overcome them.

Criterion 2 - Impact

Score: **4.50** (Threshold: 0/5.00 , Weight: 30.00%)

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:
• Developing new and lasting research collaborations, achieving transfer of knowledge between participating organisations and contribution to improving research and innovation potential at the European and global level.
• Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives of staff members and contribution to their skills development.
• Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.
• The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts.

Strengths:
- It is anticipated that long-term collaboration between academia and industry will be developed as part of the joint activities and researcher mobility, and it is sufficiently stated.
- The knowledge generated by the project and the transfer of knowledge between the participating organisations are credibly presented.
- The proposed research will offer great opportunities to the ESRs, ERs and SMEs personnel to acquire new knowledge and skills. This will greatly enhance their careers in the academy and in the related industries.
- The strategy for disseminating the results to the scientific community is clear and the measurable indicators for achievement of the impact goals are credible.
- The strategy for managing IPR is based on credible measures and on a signed consortium agreement.
- Economic impacts are well explained and quantified in terms of new products and services, market forecasts, and decrease in production costs.
- Expected social impacts are well described in three dimensions: new jobs in aquaculture industries, the food safety and consumers' health increase, and resource savings in the environment.
- The communication plan is comprehensive including actions, objectives, measures, target audiences and the respective contingency plans.
- The proposed research in the field of development of functional fish feed will stimulate the future scientific activities via efficient academic and industrial networking.

Weaknesses:
- The contribution of the proposed research to European and global innovation potential is not explained in a sufficiently specific way.
- The proposal does not sufficiently explain how the results will be used for exploitation.

Criterion 3 - Quality and efficiency of the implementation

Score: **4.60** (Threshold: 0/5.00 , Weight: 20.00%)

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:
• Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages.
• Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

Strengths:
- The work plan is coherent and consistent with the specific objectives of the proposal.
- The human resources assigned are realistic, appropriate, and aligned with the various tasks.
- The proposed secondments are necessary to carry out the activities, well planned and their duration is adequate to achieve the objectives.
- The role of each project participant is clear and their infrastructure and capacity are appropriate for the implementation of the proposed research.
- Tasks are well distributed within the consortium according to the expertise of each participant.
- The complementarity and compatibility among the participating organisations are fully demonstrated.

Weaknesses:
- The research and technical risks and their mitigation plans are insufficiently described.

Scope of the application

Status: **Yes**

Comments (in case the proposal is out of scope)

Not provided

Exceptional funding

A third country participant/international organisation not listed in the General Annex to the Main Work Programme may exceptionally receive funding if their participation is essential for carrying out the project (for instance due to outstanding expertise, access to unique know-how, access to research infrastructure, access to particular geographical environments, possibility to involve key partners in emerging markets, access to data, etc.). (For more information, see the HE programme guide)

Please list the concerned applicants and requested grant amount and explain the reasons why.

Based on the information provided, the following participants should receive exceptional funding:

Not provided

Based on the information provided, the following participants should NOT receive exceptional funding:

Not provided

Use of human embryonic stem cells (hESC)

Status: **No**

If YES, please state whether the use of hESC is, or is not, in your opinion, necessary to achieve the scientific objectives of the proposal and the reasons why. Alternatively, please state if it cannot be assessed whether the use of hESC is necessary or not, because of a lack of information.

Not provided

Use of human embryos

Status: **No**

If YES, please explain how the human embryos will be used in the project.

Not provided

Activities excluded from funding

Status: **No**

If YES, please explain.

Not provided

Do no significant harm principle

Status: **Not applicable**

If Partially/No/Cannot be assessed please explain

Not provided

Exclusive focus on civil applications

Status: **Yes**

If NO, please explain.

Not provided

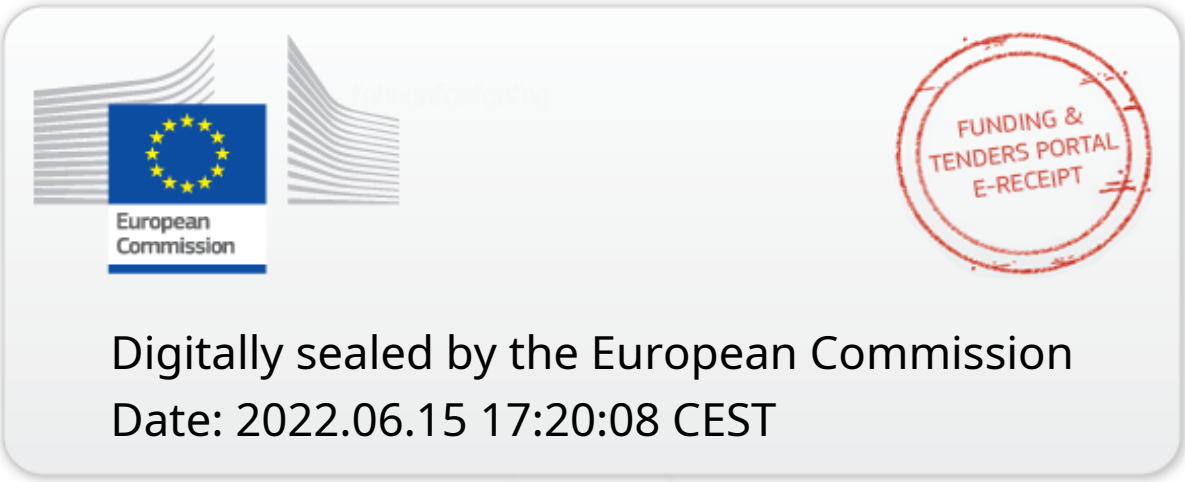
Artificial Intelligence

Status: **No**

If YES, the technical robustness of the proposed system must be evaluated under the appropriate criterion.

Overall comments

Not provided



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