



Call for the submission of proposals for Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in the Horticulture and Starting Materials sector 2017

Background

Businesses, research organisations and the government have been working together within the Top Sector Policy to realise the Implementation Agenda 2016-2019 for the Horticulture and Starting Materials Top Sector (TU), see www.TopsectorTU.nl. An important part of that Implementation Agenda is the targeted performance of joint research projects in order to strengthen our sector. The Top Sector H&SM is hereby calling on the business community, regional authorities and other partners to collaborate with recognised public research organisations and come up with new proposals for Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). This document covers the areas on which the content is to focus, the conditions that apply to the proposals and a description of the process.

Important dates:

Submission of project ideas: 1 May (mandatory)

Submission of complete project proposals: 17 July

To be submitted to: info@tkitu.nl

Implementation Agenda for Horticulture and Starting Materials

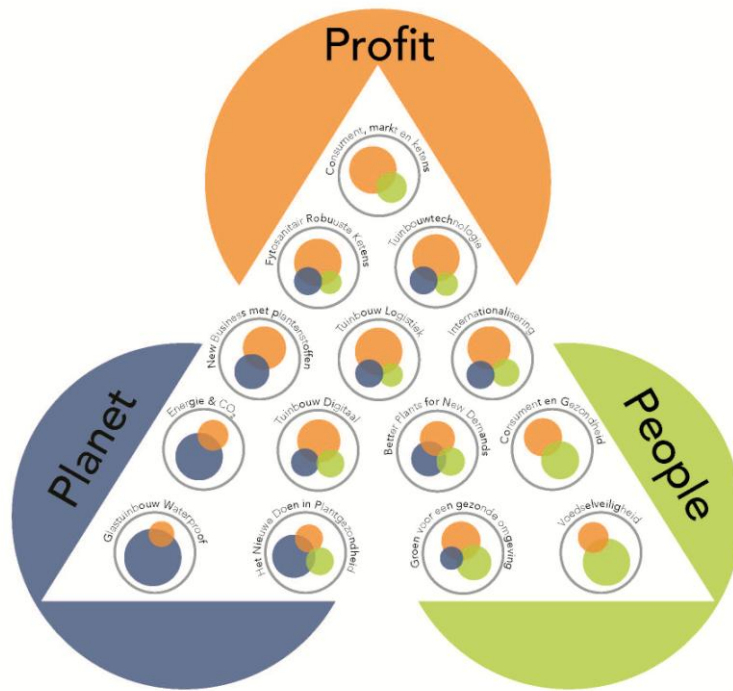
The substantive framework for programming is the Implementation Agenda Horticulture and Starting Materials 2016-2019. In this, our ambition is described as "sustainable development through green growth". That ambition is detailed via the following innovation topics:

- More and better with less;
- Collaborating value chains;
- Health and wellbeing;
- Food safety;
- Food security.

In the meantime, numerous public-private partnerships for innovation have been set up. These are bundled into (currently 14) umbrella PPPs which cover part of the innovation agenda and contribute towards social and economic challenges. An umbrella PPP will bring consistency between fundamental and applied research and the distribution of research results can be organised while benefitting from the knowledge acquired.

The umbrella PPPs fulfil an important role in the annual programming. The umbrella PPPs are asked to assess the suitability and added value of a PPP proposal that falls within their area of research. They will check it against their roadmap (see annex 2 to the Implementation Agenda 2016-2019, available via www.TopsectorTU.nl) and against their project portfolio.¹

The Umbrella PPPs are shown in the figure below. You will find a brief description of the umbrella PPPs as well as details of the relevant contacts in annex D to this document. For a more detailed description and a list of projects, you can also go to the website of the top sector TU by clicking on <http://topsectortu.nl/nl/innovatieprogrammas>.



1 An exception to this is the umbrella PPP Energy and CO₂. In the horticulture sector, a separate procedure and allocated budget have already been provided via the Greenhouses as a Source of Energy programme. For that reason, projects in this field are not included in this call for 2017.

Crossovers

The innovation topics described and umbrella PPPs are not clearly delineated, one of the reasons for that being, that particularly collaboration between two or more umbrella PPPs can lead to new knowledge and innovation. Such collaboration can also be sought with other Top Sectors such as e.g. Agri&Food, Water, High Tech Systems and Materials or Logistics. You are invited to look for crossovers that could create added value for developing knowledge within the top sector TU and to submit corresponding proposals. We wish to point out that every top sector has its own procedures for setting up research projects. If a project is a crossover with another top sector, you may request public co-funding for the part that falls within TU. The project plans and budget will then need to be separated into one part for TU and another part. For information on the procedures for other top sectors, please refer to the relevant websites.

Type of research

Knowledge development can be divided into Fundamental Research (FR), Applied or industrial Research (AR) and valorisation through Experimental Development (ED). A description of the various research categories can be found in annex A. This call covers all these types of research. The level of risk attached to fundamental research is higher than the level of risk attached to experimental development and for that reason, applications relating to this type of research may be submitted with a lower percentage of private funding. The minimum requirement for the private share of funding will depend on the category into which the research falls: 15% for fundamental research 50% for applied research 75% for experimental development. The minimum private contribution *in cash* is related to the required contribution of public funds. The private cash share must be at least half of the mandatory private contribution. The rest of the total project budget may consist of an in-kind contribution by the private parties.

Budget and capacity

Over the past few years, a project portfolio that has been allocated around 20 million euros of public funding has been built up within the Top Sector TU. That funding consists of the TKI allowance that may be used by any recognised research institutions and the DLO capacity which may only be used by DLO. Projects started in previous years and scheduled to continue until 2017 will be funded first of all from this budget annually available. The remaining budget is available for new project proposals. The total public budget available for new project proposals via this call is 5 million euros. Within this call, you may submit project proposals with a maximum term of 4 years.

Requirements relating to a PPP

The PPP proposal submitted is to meet the knowledge and innovation challenges from the implementation agenda and this aspect will also be taken into consideration in the final assessment. The requirements set by TKI TU relating to the private cash and in-kind contribution can be found in Annex B. The private contribution to the funding can be provided by individual businesses and private organisations and will always consist of a contribution in cash, possibly in conjunction with a contribution in kind. Public funding from funds other than the Top Sector may be included in the project funding but cannot replace private funding in any way.

Who can submit an application?

Every project will have a single lead applicant (natural person) who is linked to a private organisation or company from the top sector Horticulture & Starting Materials. The same applicant may submit several proposals. Communication between the applicant and the TKI office will be conducted via the lead applicant. By definition, proposals are a form of Public-Private Partnership which means that knowledge will be made publicly available. According to EU aid frameworks, that means at least one research organisation and at least one business which carry out a joint collaboration project while sharing the costs and risks involved. The subsidy will be granted to the research organisation that may possibly outsource to third parties which are not partners in the consortium.

Submission and selection process

The submission and selection process will consist of two phases:

1. Submitting a concise project idea (preregistration)
2. Submitting a complete project proposal for a public-private partnership.

Phase 1 is mandatory. The preregistration will enable TKI to choose suitable members for the assessment committees and to identify on request any links with other top sectors. The applicant may also be given (non-binding) advice. That advice may relate to suitability within the roadmap of umbrella PPPs, content and the consortium but may also provide suggestions relating to collaboration with other consortia working on the same topic.

The project idea is to be submitted using the available template provided via the website www.TopsectorTU.nl. The deadline for submitting this to TKI TU is Sunday 1 May 2016 (via info@tkitu.nl). Only project ideas which are submitted in good time and in the correct format will be taken into consideration. Applicants who submit project ideas will be notified regarding the number of applications submitted and if possible the budgets requested.

Complete project proposals (phase 2) may only be submitted after preregistration using the available template provided via the website www.TopsectorTU.nl. The deadline for submitting these to TKI TU is Sunday 17 July (via info@tkitu.nl). The project proposal must be no more than twelve pages long (excluding the information on the members of the consortium and budget).

Assessment of complete proposals

Complete proposals will be assessed based on three criteria: 1) compliance with the administrative requirements; 2) the added value of the project in comparison to projects already in progress or completed and 3) the quality of the proposal.

To 1) The TKI office will check for completeness and compliance with administrative criteria such as sufficient private funding (for the type of research indicated by the consortium, i.e. FR, AR or ED), clarity with regard to communication-related activities and whether the format is filled in completely and correctly. Checking as to whether or not the type of research chosen (FR, AR or ED) is correct is explicitly excluded. The consortium itself is responsible for doing this.

To 2) The umbrella PPP will check the added value that could be created by implementing the project proposal within the existing project portfolio of the umbrella PPP and the intended contribution to the innovation topics.

To 3) Finally, the complete project proposals will be qualitatively assessed by means of a review process based on the following criteria:

1. Is the proposal original/innovative;
2. Does the proposal have an impact on the objectives of the Implementation Agenda of TU in terms of the following:
 - a. economic perspective;
 - b. social relevance;
 - c. scientific excellence and contribution to knowledge infrastructure;
3. Quality of the proposal and consortium;

More detailed explanatory notes on the assessment criteria can be found in annex C.

That qualitative assessment will be carried out by review committees which have been set up independently. Because of the wide variety of topics and the substantive expertise required, the review will be carried out in a number of separate review committees. Those committees may possibly make use of the services of external experts if further advice is required. All review committees will have the same independent chairman in order to ensure that different committees take the same approach. The score awarded by the committee members for the criteria specified above will be used to obtain an average score for each criterion and an average total score.

The order that arises after combining the three assessments will constitute the ultimate proposed ranking of all projects under TU. This will then be used as the basis for a recommendation to be made to the TKI boards and the TU Board.

Follow-up procedure

The chosen proposals eligible for funding will be expected to start as soon as possible.

Schedule:

16 March	Publication of Call
1 May	Submission of A4 pages with project ideas (preregistration, mandatory)
17 July	Submission of complete proposals
18 October	Feedback sent to applicants
asap after 18/10	Parties connected with the chosen proposals will draw up a partnership agreement and as soon as this has been signed, submitted to TKI and approved, work can start
15 December	Formal subsidy letter from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and from TKI to the research organisations receiving the subsidy

Contact us: If you require more information, please contact TKI TU by sending an e-mail to the following address: info@tkitu.nl.

Annexes

[Annex A: Definitions of research categories](#)

[Annex B: Explanatory notes on private cash and in-kind contributions to PPPs](#)

[Annex C: Explanatory notes on assessment criteria](#)

[Annex D: Activities and contact persons for the umbrella PPPs](#)