



# Innovation and Capacity building

in Agricultural Environmental and Rural UAV Services



# ICAERUS

## CALL FOR EVALUATORS



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## About ICAERUS project



Drones are an efficient, flexible digital technology that can perform increasingly complex tasks without damaging the environment, however their widespread adoption across the agri-food sector has been limited by costs, knowledge gaps, regulatory and safety restrictions.

ICAERUS aims to tackle these challenges by **supporting and showcasing the effective, efficient, and safe deployment of drones in applicable settings** and to **identify risks and added values associated with their use**. The ICAERUS vision is to explore drone-based opportunities and provide a more complete and interconnected account of their potential and impacts as multi-purpose vehicles in EU agriculture, forestry and rural areas.

ICAERUS will utilize an **application-oriented approach** to explore multi-purpose drone use in 5 specific drone applications, representing the most important sectoral and societal drone usage purposes in Europe. ICAERUS also plans to use **research, technology optimization, demonstration, and drone education** to create an efficient, trusted, and safe environment for the **EU drone service market** to flourish contributing to the achievement of the EU's decarbonization, digitalization and resilience. ICAERUS will also produce several exploitable results that will offer extensive positive impact including the ICAERUS platform.

## ICAERUS Open Calls

ICAERUS will issue and promote two (2) types of Open Calls (PUSH/PULL) providing financial support to third parties, as a **mechanism to harvest ideas** and datasets from the ecosystem and **accelerate the formation of a European network** for the effective and efficient adoption of drone technologies in rural areas. The Open Calls will include:

- a) PUSH Open Calls for Innovation Development (ID) and
- b) PULL Open Calls for Farming, Forestry and Rural Challenges (FFRC)

Both types of the Open Calls will have two release dates. In total, a budget of **1,080,000 €** is allocated on financial support to third parties. The Open Calls will result in **8 PUSH Open Calls** (480,000 € for ID - up to 60,000 € for each third party) and **12 PULL Open Calls** (600,000 € for FFRC - up to 50,000 € for each third party). Each sub-project accepted will last for **12 months** and be divided into 3 phases: Design, Development and Market.

## 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. All 4 ICAERUS open calls for financial support to third parties (FSTP) will be published through Open Call Hub.

## We are looking for evaluators!

### Evaluators profile

We are looking for independent evaluators, who are able to assess the quality of applications received within the ICAERUS Open Calls, shortly after they have 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 the **use of drones in rural areas**.
- Experienced experts in evaluating EC proposals or similar experience.

An evaluator should not work for an organisation that aims to participate in the ICAERUS Open Call, neither in an organisation participating in the current ICAERUS consortium.

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

- Concept and feasibility,
- Technology readiness and innovation development,
- Impact and exploitation,
- Organizational capacity and allocation of resources.

The full evaluation criteria per every open call will be specified in respective open call kit documents, alongside with relevant focus areas for a specific open call. 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 listed for every open call that is upcoming. 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.

### Financial Benefits

In case of ICAERUS project and all 4 Open Calls within it, evaluators will receive a compensation per working day, where daily rate amounts to **450€** with projected capacity of **2 proposals' 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.

The minimum and maximum number of days per evaluator will depend on the number of applications received, and other factors such availability of the evaluator throughout the process etc.

### 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 proposal will be assigned to 2 evaluators and therefore for each proposal 2 individual evaluation reports will be written. Some specific cases might

require the organization of remote (online) consensus meetings between the evaluators in order to align evaluation reports (i.e., in case of large discrepancies between the marks given by the evaluators, or similar).

In case consensus is not reached after the remote evaluation by external experts, an interview of the applicant by the Advisory Board will be conducted. The following weighted criteria are to be evaluated: a) confirmation of proposed targets/technology (40%); b) viability of proposed business model (30%); c) reliability to reach exploitation milestones (30%).

## Evaluators selection process

Evaluators will be selected by the ICAERUS Advisory Board based on their competences and needs for each open call.

## 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 him or her. By applying to ICAERUS Call for Evaluators, applicant automatically accepts all the rules and conditions described below.

## Tentative timeline of activities for PUSH OC 1

ICAERUS PUSH Open Call 1 duration: April 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Eligibility check of the received applications: July 1<sup>st</sup> – July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Contracting with selected evaluators: July 1<sup>st</sup> – July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Evaluation: August 21<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## Evaluators' liability

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

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

- understands that submitting an application (registration) does not guarantee his/her selection as an evaluator for any of the open calls.
- understands that he/she will have to provide a signed Code of Conduct and Declaration of Honor (DoH) along with any other requested documents if he/she is selected to serve as an evaluator for a specific open call published on the OCH platform.
- confirms that team in charge for each Open Call will ask him/her on an open call basis about time availability to accomplish the evaluation within the specified time frame for the given 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 he/she will only evaluate the applications of applicants for whom she/he does 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 can be submitted at any time starting from February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, and for the first open call they should be submitted before the May 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 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 (with and the evaluators).

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 evaluation start.

### 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!**

**ICAERUS team**