



**enact**

Enabling Social Innovation  
Entrepreneurship in Agrifood  
through Digital Transition

# CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE **ENACT MATCHATHON**



Co-funded by  
the European Union



## 1. INTRODUCTION

### Are you ready to shape the future of the social economy in the agrifood sector?

Join the **ENACT MATCHATHON** in **Barcelona (Spain) on 23 to 25 MARCH 2026** to expand your **transnational network**, generate or refine **business ideas**, and contribute to **shaping the digital and social transformation of the agrifood sector**. This event offers an exceptional opportunity to collaborate with key stakeholders from across Europe and respond to real-world business challenges through **partnerships and co-creation**.

The event will take place in the framework of [Alimentaria 2026](#), the **International Food, Drinks and Food Service Exhibition**.

This Open Call offers financial support in the form of travel grants to social economy stakeholders wishing to participate in the **ENACT MATCHATHON**.

### TIMELINE of the CALL

Applications will be reviewed on a **rolling basis as they are received**.

The key dates associated with the Call and the **ENACT MATCHATHON** are:

TIMELINE of the ENACT Matchathon		
EVENT	DATE	DESCRIPTION
CALL OPENING	4 <sup>th</sup> of February 2026	The date the online application page is accessible at the <a href="#">ENACT</a> webpage: <a href="#">APPLY HERE</a>
CALL CLOSING	6 <sup>th</sup> of March 2026 at 23:59h CET	Final date for submitting your application. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Notification of the results	7 days from the date of application	Participants will be notified of their selection within 7 days from the date of application.
ENACT MATCHATHON	23-25 March 2026, Barcelona	Matchmaking innovation event

## 2. WHY SHOULD YOU APPLY?

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The ENACT project is a transformative initiative aimed at promoting digital innovation and social entrepreneurship within the agri-food sector. Through collaboration and knowledge-sharing, ENACT seeks to empower social economy actors to address societal challenges while driving sustainable development across Europe.

The project offers training programmes and educational resources to equip businesses and social initiatives with the tools needed to address challenges such as sustainable production, waste reduction, energy efficiency, and resource optimization. It also facilitates collaboration across European countries, building a support network and mutual learning platform to drive sustainable innovation and strengthen the agri-food sector and the broader social economy. ENACT is supported by the European Union Single Market Programme (SMP) [101167981].

To stay tuned, follow us: [www.projectenact.eu](http://www.projectenact.eu) & [LinkedIn](#)



## The ENACT MATCHATHON at ALIMENTARIA 2026

The **ENACT MATCHATHON** is another high-impact innovation event organised under the framework of the ENACT project-driven innovation processes, which aim is supporting digital social innovation (DSI) that contribute to tackle challenges in the agri-food sector across Europe. Taking place within the renowned [Alimentaria 2026 Exhibition](#) in Barcelona, this three-day event will bring together key stakeholders and innovators from across Europe to co-develop practical solutions for real-world challenges.

Throughout the event, **10 to 12 Catalan businesses**, each with a specific challenge related to sustainable development, social inclusion, or digital transition in the agri-food sector, will participate.

As part of the **ENACT MATCHATHON**, each participant will have the opportunity to **request up to 3 individual meetings** (what we call, the “**Match encounters**”) with the Catalan businesses to offer concrete solutions and/or explore collaboration opportunities in response to the identified challenges. These “**Match encounters**” will be key to fostering strategic partnerships and ensuring that the solutions developed are aligned with real-world business needs.

In addition, participants will have the opportunity to **showcase their innovative products and services** at the ENACT **exhibition space** and/or **pitch their solutions to a broader audience** during the “**Innovation Showcase and Pitching session**”. This session offers a platform to present participants’ work to potential collaborators, and stakeholders, facilitating meaningful connections and collaborations within the agri-food sector. Whether through an exhibition or a pitch, this session is designed to amplify the impact of participants’ innovations and increase the visibility for your ideas.

Furthermore, the **ENACT MATCHATHON** will offer multiple additional opportunities for networking, collaboration and learning. Participants will be invited to a joint cocktail and networking event with the **TASTE<sup>1</sup> Collaborative Projects**, an EU-funded initiative supporting transnational collaborations between tourism SMEs and stakeholders in the food tourism and agri-food sectors to develop innovative, sustainable and market-oriented solutions. This shared networking moment will allow participants to exchange experiences, explore synergies and connect with projects already implementing collaborative innovation across Europe.

In addition, participants will benefit from ENACT dedicated **ENACT workshops** designed to strengthen their capacity to turn connections into concrete partnerships, foster transnational collaboration among participants, and support the continuation of innovation processes beyond the event.

In [ANNEX 01](#) and [02](#) of the present call, you will find the main details (**agenda** and **grant details**) of the **Matchathon**, as well as the **lump sum grant amounts** allocated for participants. The **Matchathon** has been designed around a three (3) - day programme, including two (2) nights of accommodation and, if necessary, adding two (2) extra days of travelling <sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to [Taste Project](#) for more details.

<sup>2</sup> Depending on the country of origin, some participants will have to extend their accommodation to 3 nights. Please carefully revise [ANNEX 02](#) on this matter.



## Why should you join the **Matchathon** as participant?

- > **Collaborate Across Borders:** Work with European professionals from diverse backgrounds and expand your international network.
- > **Solve Real-World Challenges:** Engage through the “**Match Encounters**” with 10 to 12 Catalan businesses and co-develop innovative solutions for key agri-food challenges.
- > **Showcase & Pitch Your Innovations:** Participate in the “**Innovation Showcase & Pitching Session**”, where you can exhibit your products or services and pitch your innovative solutions to potential partners and stakeholders.
- > **Make an Impact:** Contribute to the digital and social transformation of the agri-food sector, shaping its future.

Participants will be selected based on a set of relevant criteria and sectorial expertise defined in [section 4](#).

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

The **ENACT MATCHATHON** will be followed by another ENACT event:

### The ENACT Final Showcase

- > **When?** 2027
- > **Where?** Vienna (Austria)

The Showcase will be the final event of the ENACT project. Its objective is to consolidate a collaborative platform of social economy stakeholders, and to share and highlight innovative best practices identified through ENACT collaborative efforts. **More details will be shared very soon.**

## 3. WHO CAN TAKE PART

If you want to apply to participate in the **Matchathon**, you must fulfil the following eligibility requirements, namely:

- > **Represent an entity that qualifies as a Social Economy SME: a small and medium enterprise related to the social economy sector.** <sup>3,4</sup>
- > **Be active in the agri-food sector or other interconnected ecosystems** (food and beverages, tourism, etc.) and or **instrumental to its digital transformation** (digitalization and technology related entities).
- > **Be registered in one of the eligible countries:** European Economic Area (EU member states, Iceland, Norway, Lichtenstein) or Switzerland.
- > Be able to effectively communicate in **English**, both in written and oral form.
- > Confirm your interest in engaging in ENACT project activities.

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<sup>3</sup> SMEs must follow [EU definition](#) in line with the [EU recommendation 2003/361](#). In general terms, this means that they employ less than 250 people with an annual turnover of up to EUR 50 million, or a balance sheet total of no more than EUR 43 million, as per the. SMEs self-assessment: [SME Questionnaire \(europa.eu\)](#).

<sup>4</sup> Please note that while the call refers to 'entity' throughout the document, **in addition to legal entities, natural persons, acting as self-employed individuals**, are also eligible to apply as participants, mentors and jury, and are encouraged to do so.



## 4. HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates attending the **Matchathon** are invited to apply for the programme filling in the **Expression of Interest (EoI)** - [Online Form](#) - before the deadline - **6<sup>th</sup> of March 2026 at 23:59h CET**.



[APPLY HERE](#)

Applications must be drafted in English.

## 5. SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants must submit the **EoI**, through the online form made available above, including administrative information, which will be the basis to conduct the eligibility check, and other technical details. Once submitted, the applications will go through the following evaluation steps:

### ADMISSION

The application is compliant with the time and form of submission, which means it has been submitted within the deadline, and through the online form in English, with all compulsory fields filled in.

### SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

Participants will contribute their expertise, innovative solutions, products or services to respond to concrete challenges identified by the companies, and will take part in structured "Match encounters", the "Innovation Showcase & Pitching Session", and other networking activities. In this regard, participants will be selected through this Open Call on a rolling basis, according to the pre-defined eligibility and selection criteria outlined below.

#### Selection criteria for participants

The application will be evaluated against the selection criteria listed here below:

#	CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT	SCORING
1	RELEVANCE TO SOCIAL ECONOMY VALUES	Commitment to social impact, sustainability, inclusion and society-focused practices.	25%	From 0 to 5
2	ACTIVE IN THE AGRIFOOD SECTOR	Operating in farming, food production, distribution, retail, circular economy, or related agrifood supply chains.	25%	From 0 to 5
3	INTEREST IN DIGITAL INNOVATION	Interest and/or track record in digital innovation & digitalisation in the social economy and agri-food sectors	25%	From 0 to 5
4	PROBLEM AWARENESS & READINESS	Experience with challenges in the social economy ecosystem (i.e. digital exclusion, food waste, or access to markets) and a desire to address them.	15%	From 0 to 5
5	COMMITMENT TO COLLABORATE	Interest in engaging in other workshops, events, sharing experiences and other ENACT follow-up activities.	10%	From 0 to 5

At the end of the evaluation process, all applications will be ranked based on the score resulting from the application of the selection criteria. Remaining applicants (not selected) will be part of the reserve list. Selected **participants** will receive financial support in a form as a lump sum, as per the amounts outlined in [ANNEX 02](#).



## PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR SELECTED APPLICANTS

All applicants will be informed via email about the evaluation results. Selected applicants will be invited to join the Matchathon. The selected applicants will be published on ENACT project official communication channels.

After the selection process, the applicants will be informed about the most important information regarding the event, including instructions in connection with obtaining their entrance to take part in the Alimentaria Exhibition together with other detailed information regarding the travel arrangements for the Matchathon.

Each applicant, individually, is expected to book and organise their own transportation and accommodation (see [ANNEX 02](#)). ENACT will provide an overall coordination and practical suggestions for the travel arrangements to ensure a smooth process for the applicants.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND MANAGEMENT

All applicants are expected to advance the payments for their travels.

The LUMP SUM (fixed travel grant amount) allocated per participant is **calculated to cover travel, accommodation, meals, and other required costs during the trip to participate in the Matchathon** hosted in Barcelona. The calculation assumes:

- After the participation in the Matchathon, ENACT will proceed with the payment of the full amount of the established LUMP SUM for the destination country as outlined in [ANNEX 02](#). **Full participation in the programme for the costs' reimbursement is required.**

Only one person per entity can receive the financial support. If extra people from the same entity would like to join (without financial support), please contact the local contact. Each case will be evaluated and addressed according to the circumstances.

## CONTACT

For any further queries please contact us through [info@projectenact.eu](mailto:info@projectenact.eu) or the **contact point** near you:

ID	COUNTRY	NATIONAL CONTACT POINT	CONTACT EMAIL
01	PORTUGAL	Make it Better	portugal@projectenact.eu
02	LITHUANIA	AgriFood Lithuania	lietuva@projectenact.eu
03	SPAIN	Barcelona Chamber of Commerce	espana@projectenact.eu
04	AUSTRIA	Austria Wirtschaftsservice	osterreich@projectenact.eu
05	OTHER COUNTRIES	For countries that do not have a national contact point listed, please contact us at the following e-mail directly and you will be assigned a contact point.	info@projectenact.eu



## COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Applicants wishing to raise a complaint regarding the application process or the evaluation of their application may submit a written complaint to [info@projectenact.eu](mailto:info@projectenact.eu) within five working days of receiving the notification of the outcome.

The complaint should clearly outline the grounds and any relevant details. All complaints will be acknowledged within two working days and reviewed by the project steering committee, which is committed to maintaining the highest level of impartiality. A response will be provided within seven working days of receipt of the complaint. Please note that the decision made by the complaints committee is final.

## 6. DATA PROTECTION

The personal data of applicants will be processed by ENACT for the sole purpose of administering the Call.

The processing will be governed by this clause and by the legislation governing data processing. Specifically, ENACT will process the personal data supplied by the applicants to administer their applications to take part in the Call, as well as (with their consent) to inform them and send them communications about the activities and new developments in the ENACT project, which may be of interest to them, via electronic and other similar channels.

The legal basis for processing their data is to administer their application to take part in the Call and the Programme process, or in the case of sending them communications, it is the consent given by the applicants. The data will be processed under all circumstances in accordance with a level of protection that corresponds to the applicable data.

Following the selection process, ENACT will keep the data supplied by the applicants so that the candidates can be taken into consideration in future project events or programs, if they consent to this.

Applicants may revoke their consent to receiving commercial communications at any time by sending an e-mail to [info@projectenact.eu](mailto:info@projectenact.eu).

If personal data is supplied, users warrant that they have informed those parties of the content of this clause before supplying them, and they are personally liable against ENACT for any losses that may arise in the event of a breach. They may, at any time, exercise their rights to view, correct, or delete their data, to request restrictions on processing, to object to processing, or to request the portability of their data, in accordance with the provisions of current legislation, by sending an e-mail to [info@projectenact.eu](mailto:info@projectenact.eu) clearly stating the right they wish to exercise and attaching their national ID number or other similar ID documents in proof of their identity.



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## ANNEX 01

### MATCHATHON AGENDA

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
23 MARCH (Monday)	<b>DAY 1:</b>	
	<b>Venue: Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, Av. Diagonal, 452 (08006 Barcelona)</b>	
	17h45	Arrival of the participants
	18h00	Welcome to the participants Introduction of the ENACT Project Briefing of the ENACT Matchathon
	19h00	Closing!
24 MARCH (Tuesday)	<b>DAY 2: MATCHATHON DAY!</b>	
	<b>Venue: ALIMENTARIA Fair, Av. Joan Carles I, 64 (08908 Barcelona)</b>	
	9h00	Welcome at ALIMENTARIA ENACT Matchathon begins with:
	9h00	<b>Match Encounters</b> <b>Innovation Showcase and Pitch Session</b>
	15h00	ENACT Matchathon ends!
	<b>Venue: Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, Av. Diagonal, 452 (08006 Barcelona)</b>	
	16h00	<b>ENACT Workshop I</b>
18h00	Joint cocktail and networking event with TASTE collaborative projects	
19h30	Closing!	
25 MARCH (Wednesday)	<b>DAY 3</b>	
	<b>Venue: Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, Av. Diagonal, 452 (08006 Barcelona)</b>	
	8h00	Arrival of the participants
	8h00	<b>EU Speaker keynote on digitalisation &amp; sustainability / Access to funding</b> <i>(topic coordination with TASTE Project Advisor – Hervé B.)</i>
	8h45	<b>ENACT Workshop II</b>
10h00	Coffee Break	
10h30	Farewell of ENACT Participants	



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## ANNEX 02

### LUMP SUMS

The **LUMP SUM (fixed amount travel grant) allocated per participant is calculated to cover travel, accommodation, meals, and other required costs** during the trip to participate in the Matchathon hosted in Barcelona, Spain. All travel costs depend on the country of origin.

The calculation assumes, **at least**, 2 days of traveling and 2 nights of accommodation. Depending on the country of origin, the calculation also assumes that some participants will have to extend their accommodation to 3 nights. Please carefully revise the travel options according to your country of origin beforehand.

Further details about recommended accommodation and covered meals will be sent to selected applicants.

Considering this, the LUMP SUM per participant based on the country of origin is:

GROUP	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	LUMP SUM AMOUNT
G1	CATALONIA (not Barcelona Province) <i>(min. 20 km from event venue in Barcelona)</i>	€ 350,00
G2	Other than CATALONIA (SPAIN)	€ 450,00
G3	POLAND, CROATIA, SLOVENIA, SLOVAKIA, BULGARIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, ROMANIA	€ 750,00
G4	PORTUGAL, GREECE, ITALY, MALTA, CYPRUS, LIECHTENSTEIN	€ 800,00
G5	ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA	€ 850,00
G6	NORWAY, SWITZERLAND, LUXEMBOURG, FINLAND, SWEDEN, DENMARK, IRELAND	€ 900,00
G7	BELGIUM, FRANCE, GERMANY, NETHERLANDS, AUSTRIA	€ 900,00





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## ANNEX 03

### Profile of Catalan Businesses


#### Coca de Folgueroles

Coca de Folgueroles is an artisanal bakery specializing in “**coca de cristal**”, highly valued in fine dining. It preserves traditional craftsmanship while incorporating innovative improvements in production, quality, and distribution. The brand elevates local heritage and supports gastronomic innovation for the HORECA sector.

 **Website:** <https://lacocadefolgueroles.com/>

#### Coop Cadí

Cadí is a historic dairy cooperative founded in 1915 and a key player in the Pyrenean economy, producing high-quality milk, butter, and cheeses with Protected Designations of Origin (PDO). It plays a crucial social role by supporting local farmers and the rural environment, while integrating modern quality, digital, and internationalization processes in its operations.

 **Website:** <https://cadi.es/>

#### Fundació Triptolemos

The Triptolemos Foundation is a key international institution promoting sustainable global food systems. It works across four strategic axes—economy, policies, availability, and culture—to foster innovation, digital transformation, and scientific knowledge transfer. Triptolemos plays a fundamental role in shaping balanced, sustainable, and trustworthy food systems.

 **Website:** <https://www.triptolemos.org/>

#### Institut dels Aliments de Barcelona

The Institut dels Aliments is a public vocational training centre located in Mercabarna, specialized in the food industry. It contributes to workforce development, digital skills training, and technological modernization of the agri-food sector. The centre strengthens industry competitiveness by aligning its educational programs with current and future sector needs.

 **Website:** <https://agora.xtec.cat/iabarcelona/>



## Laumont

Laumont is a global leader in truffles and wild mushrooms, with over 40 years of expertise. The company stands out for its commitment to innovation, product excellence, and the optimization of industrial processes. Its new facilities reinforce its dedication to technological advancement, digital transformation, and high-quality gastronomic experiences.

 **Website:** <https://www.laumont.es/>

## Mallart Artesans Xarcuters

Mallart Artesans Xarcuters is a century-old artisan charcuterie and Catalonia's first social charcuterie, integrated within the Mas Albornà Foundation. It blends tradition, craftsmanship, and product excellence with strong social impact through labour inclusion. Mallart represents a model where food heritage, territory, and social innovation coexist in a modernized production environment.

 **Website:** <https://embotitsmallart.com/>

## Pots

Pots is a Catalan startup leading the reusable packaging model in Spain, using circular-economy principles and digital traceability systems. Its washing and return processes significantly reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and waste generation, especially in the wine and HORECA sectors. Pots is a strong example of innovation and environmental sustainability within the agri-food value chain.

 **Website:** <https://www.pots.eco/>

## Three Based Treaty (Heura Foods)

Heura Foods is a pioneering Catalan food-tech company focused on plant-based protein. It leads innovation through extensive R&D, digitalization, and biotechnological development to improve the nutritional quality and sustainability of food systems. Supported by major European investment, Heura develops next-generation alternatives to meat and dairy, positioning itself as a benchmark in sustainable agri-innovation.

 **Website:** <https://heurafoods.com/>

## Unionuts (UTE – Temporary Business Union)

Unionuts refers to Temporary Business Unions (UTES)—collaborative structures allowing companies to join efforts on shared projects without losing their legal independence. In the agri-food and social-economy sectors, UTES enable shared innovation, digital transformation, and the scaling of projects that require combined expertise and resources.

 **Reference:** <https://www.legalitas.com/actualidad/union-temporal-empresas>