



Call for Potential Partners to Join the Common European Agricultural Data Space (CEADS) Consortium

Call Document

<https://ceads.eu/call/>

Key Dates

Call opens:	4 th February 2026
Information webinar:	17 th February 2026, 12:00 Brussels local time ¹
Deadline for submission of FAQs:	20 th March 2026, 13:00 Brussels local time ¹
Deadline for receipt of Expression of Interest:	31 st March 2026, 13:00 Brussels local time ¹

¹Please check this time in comparison to your own time zone.

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Please note that definitions of terms used in this Call Document are available in Appendix 1.

For the purposes of this Call, the term “application” refers to the submission of an Expression of Interest (Eoi). A detailed proposal is not required at this stage.

1. Overview

The following is a brief overview of the call. Please read the entire document in order to understand the eligibility, funding rules etc. that apply to the call.

What is CEADS?

CEADS deploys the Common European Agricultural Data Space. Co-funded by the European Union, through the Digital Europe programme¹, we are establishing a secure, trusted, and interoperable environment to facilitate data sharing across the European agri-food sector, enhancing its economic, environmental, and societal performance while upholding high ethical standards. The consortium consists of 36 partners from 15 EU countries, jointly accelerating data-driven innovation in agriculture and the wider agri-food value chain. The project runs from April 2025 to March 2028. More information is available at www.ceads.eu/call

What is on offer?

Successful applicants will:

- join the CEADS consortium – an inclusive and supportive group of partners
- participate in a comprehensive integration programme including detailed guidelines, workshops and training sessions to ensure smooth integration
- participate in the Use Cases (UCs) being developed as part of the CEADS project (<https://ceads.eu/pilots/>) and/or start new UCs.
- take on tasks in the CEADS project (<https://ceads.eu/how-ceads-works/>), participate in the consortium General Assembly, contribute to project reporting etc.
- receive funding for eligible costs from the Digital Europe Programme (see Section 4 for more details)

Eligible organisations:

In order to engage stakeholders across all 27 EU Member States, we now invite Expressions of Interest to join the consortium, from potential partners from the following 12 Target Countries:

Bulgaria	Czechia	Hungary	Malta
Croatia	Denmark	Latvia	Slovakia
Cyprus	Estonia	Lithuania	Slovenia

CEADS specifically seeks organisations with a solid understanding of data space concepts, governance, and data sharing practices, and with the capacity to integrate rapidly into CEADS and actively contribute from the start to advancing its services, UCs (<https://ceads.eu/pilots/>), and ecosystem. Applicant organisations can apply as:

- a) a single organisation
- b) a small group of organisations (up to a maximum of three), where the organisations propose a clearly complementary and interdependent contribution to CEADS

Applicants may include, but are not limited to, organisations or small groups of organisations operating as data-sharing initiatives (DSIs), data holders, application or service providers, data intermediaries, infrastructure providers, or governance bodies, provided they meet the eligibility criteria set out in this Call.

Where a small group of organisations applies, at least one of the group must be from a Target Country. All applicant organisations in a group must meet all of the eligibility criteria (Section 6).

¹ Grant Agreement No: 101195295

2. Why should you join the Common European Agricultural Data Space?

Partners selected through this Call will become full partners of the CEADS consortium and will play a key role in shaping the future Common European Agricultural Data Space. Joining CEADS provides unique opportunities:

1) Business & Competitiveness Benefits

- **Faster time-to-market and easier European expansion:** Reduce integration, compliance, and onboarding costs by using interoperable data space building blocks (identity, trust, consent, data and service catalogues), enabling data-driven services to be deployed cross-border across Europe without country-by-country technical or legal redesign.
- **Turn data into business value and strengthen your competitive position:** Access CEADS-datasets ecosystem, both in a business-to-business (B2B), as government-to-business (G2B) and business-to-government (B2G) context, with clear usage conditions, enabling faster development of data-driven products, services, and AI solutions.
- **Cross-sector business collaboration:** Connect with stakeholders across Europe, from farming and food industries to ICT, data service providers, and public administrations, enabling new partnerships and commercial opportunities.

2) Innovation & Growth Opportunities

- **Deploy and validate real-world UCs:** Deploy your own UC and/or contribute to existing ones, allowing innovative solutions to be tested in operational environments and validated with concrete business impact.
- **Boost AI and digital innovation:** Leverage CEADS datasets and services to develop innovative AI-driven tools, applications, and services, with particular opportunities for SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups.
- **Accelerate your innovation roadmap:** Advance integration, experimentation, and UC development, reducing risk and accelerating market readiness, supported where appropriate by project funding (see Funding section).

3) Strategic Positioning & European Networking

- **Strategic positioning in a trusted and sovereign European data ecosystem**
Early participation in CEADS offers a first-mover advantage, strengthening credibility with customers, while positioning your organisation within a long-term Common European Agricultural Data Space that reduces fragmentation, ensures legal certainty, and enables scalable, cross-border data-driven business models. At the same time, it ensures that experiences from your country are considered in the development of the CEADS, strengthening cross-border cooperation and reinforcing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector in your country.
- **Contribute to European data policy implementation:** Contribute directly, through real deployments, to the implementation of the Data Governance Act, the Data Act, and related EU frameworks in agriculture.
- **European-wide, business-oriented networking:** Join a diverse public–private consortium of industry partners, service providers, applied R&D actors, and farmer organisations, building long-term relationships.

3. Quick Advice for Potential Applicants

If at any stage of the process, you encounter any difficulties that hinder the progression of your application, please contact ceads@teagasc.ie

1. Register your interest by sending an email to ceads@teagasc.ie and include SUBSCRIBE in the subject of the email. We will then include you in our emails with updates.
2. Follow CEADS on <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ceadseu/>
3. Sign up for the information webinar at <https://ceads.eu/call>
4. Check your eligibility in Section 6 of this document. If you have any doubts about your eligibility, please address them to ceads@teagasc.ie and include Eligibility in the subject line.
5. If you have any questions about the application process, please address them to ceads@teagasc.ie and include FAQ in the subject line. A Frequently Asked Questions document will be available on <https://ceads.eu/call> and updated frequently. Note the deadline for receipt of queries under the FAQ process, as listed on the front page of this document.
6. Read about CEADS at <https://ceads.eu/>. In particular, note the CEADS objectives², Work Packages³ and existing UCs⁴. Note also Section 5 of this document. This is a list of areas that the existing consortium have identified that will strengthen the CEADS consortium. Consider where you could fit into CEADS – what can you bring that is complementary to the existing consortium and what can you gain from joining CEADS?
7. Make a list of all of the application requirements, noting ones that may take some time. Develop a plan to ensure that your close to-final Expression of Interest is ready at least one week in advance of the deadline for receipt of Expression of Interest.
8. Keep an eye on the FAQ document at <https://ceads.eu/call>
9. Ask somebody else to read a close-to-final version of the Expression of Interest form. A fresh perspective will improve the application.
10. Plan to submit the Expression of Interest the day before the deadline for receipt of Expression of Interest (indicated at the start of this document).
11. Submit your Expression of Interest by email to ceads@teagasc.ie before the deadline for receipt of Expression of Interest indicated at the start of this document. Your email should include the CEADS Expression of Interest Form as an attachment in portable document format (PDF). Applications that arrive in the ceads@teagasc.ie inbox after the deadline will not be accepted. The time that it was sent from your computer is not relevant. If you submit the day before the deadline, you will avoid last minute computer malfunctions and allow time for delays between when you send it and when it arrives at our inbox.

4. Funding

Funding will be based on the following principles:

- Funding will be provided to reimburse eligible costs, according to the rules of the Digital Europe programme.
- For potential partners that are invited to enter negotiations on joining the CEADS consortium, we will work with you on a detailed plan of activities and corresponding budget.
- Total budget/partner will vary depending on the tasks undertaken by the new partner.

² https://ceads.eu/at_a_glance/#objectives

³ <https://ceads.eu/how-ceads-works/>

⁴ <https://ceads.eu/pilots/>

- No “double-funding”, i.e., funding received through CEADS must not be used for tasks that are already funded by other national or EU initiatives.
- Where a group of organisations apply together, including some organisations from outside the 12 Target Countries, at least 70% of the budget for the group will be allocated to organisation(s) from the 12 Target Countries.
- The reimbursement rate under the Digital Europe Programme will be 50%.

Funding limits

- Minimum budget of €100,000 per applicant/applicant group
- Maximum budget of €260,000 per applicant/applicant group
- Estimated average budget of €210,000 per applicant/applicant group

Example 1:

A group of 3 organisations apply, one from Denmark, one from Ireland, one from Belgium. The maximum budget that can be allocated to the group is €260,000. Of that, at least €182,000 (70% of €260,000) would have to be allocated to the organisation from Denmark. Alternatively, if the Danish partner only took on tasks with a total cost of €120,000, the total budget allocated to the whole group could not be greater than €171,429 (€120,000 represents 70% of this total figure).

Example 2:

As a result of their application to this call and subsequent negotiations, a new partner organisation is allocated a budget of €150,000. They underspend and submit eligible costs of €145,000. In normal circumstances, they will be reimbursed with €72,500 (50% of eligible costs).

5. Priority Areas to Strengthen CEADS

The CEADS consortium has identified a number of priority areas where additional partners could strengthen the overall CEADS ecosystem. Applications are particularly welcome that contribute to one or more of these areas.

At the same time, applications are also welcome outside of the areas listed below, provided they align with the CEADS objectives and demonstrate clear added value to the data space.

Applicants may propose to:

- contribute to existing CEADS UCs, and/or
- help initiate and shape new UCs, building on CEADS services, governance frameworks, and interoperability principles.

The areas and examples below are therefore intended to guide and inspire applicants, not to prescribe or limit the scope of potential contributions.

1. **Datasets with strong potential for value creation through sharing**

CEADS welcomes datasets of many different types — including biophysical, technical, operational, environmental, and economic data — where value can be unlocked through trusted, interoperable data sharing across organisations, sectors, or borders.

Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Animal husbandry and machine data
- Soil data
- Food market data
- Agrotourism accommodation data
- Meteorological data

2. **Connection to other data spaces**

Contributions that strengthen interoperability and alignment between CEADS and other European data spaces are particularly welcome, including connections to:

- Green Deal data space
- Energy Data Space
- Mobility Data Space

3. **Stakeholders**

Applications are welcome from organisations working with, or enabling participation by, a broad range of stakeholders across the agri-food value chain, including:

- Start-ups, scale-ups and SME's
- Food processors
- Manufacturers
- Retailers
- Farmer or contractor cooperatives
- Agrotourism operators
- Certification bodies
- Application and services providers
- Users of harmonised data, e.g., IoT providers, AI trainers

4. **Potential new UCs**

Applicants may contribute to **existing CEADS UCs** and/or propose **new UCs**. The examples below are **illustrative only** and are provided to stimulate ideas. **UCs outside this list are strongly encouraged**, where they align with CEADS objectives and rely on interoperable and trusted data sharing.

Illustrative examples include:

- **Soil, Input, and Resource Intelligence** (incl. AI-based simulation and modelling): Integrated services combining soil data, input usage, environmental parameters, and AI-driven prediction or simulation models to optimise fertilisation, soil health, and resource use.
- **Water-Use Efficiency and Irrigation Management**: Solutions leveraging soil moisture data, weather forecasts, and crop models to support efficient irrigation planning, particularly in water-stressed regions.
- **Supply-Chain Transparency and Sustainability Footprinting**: Interoperable systems linking farm data, logistics, product information, and input passports to support traceability, sustainability claims, and emission or footprint assessments across value chains, including support for corporate sustainability reporting (CSRD) and science-based targets
- **Disease and Pest Early-Warning Systems for Farm Management Systems**: UCs combining public monitoring data, modelling approaches, and on-farm observations to deliver actionable alerts for integrated pest and disease management enabling integration into farm management platforms and service provider solutions.

- End-to-end Agri-Food Value Chain Optimisation: Data-driven UCs spanning production, processing, logistics, and markets to improve operational efficiency, sustainability performance, and business decision-making across the agri-food value chain.
- AI Training and Model Development Pipelines: A dedicated, mature UC enabling secure, transparent, and compliant access to multi-source datasets for training, validating, and benchmarking AI models in agriculture.
- Organic and Agroecological Farming Support: Data-sharing UCs supporting organic certification, conversion pathways, compliance monitoring, and remuneration mechanisms for environmental and ecosystem services.
- Additional AI-enabled agri-food business UCs: Other UCs that leverage CEADS to accelerate the deployment and scaling of AI-driven tools, services, and decision-support systems in the agri-food sector, provided they rely on interoperable and trusted data sharing.

6. Eligibility Criteria

1. Completed Expression of Interest applications must be submitted using the template available at <https://ceads.eu/call> and by the deadline outlined at the start of this document. Unless indicated otherwise, all fields must be completed. Note that the time it arrives at the CEADS inbox will determine if it has arrived on time.
2. The application must be submitted as a pdf file.
3. All applicants must be eligible under the conditions of the Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL), Call for Proposals, DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-DATA-AI-06 (See Section 6, of this document: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/digital/wp-call/2024/call-fiche_digital-2024-cloud-data-ai-06_en.pdf)
4. If a single organisation, they must be from one of the 12 Target Countries.
5. If a group of organisations applies, at least one must be from one of the 12 Target Countries.
6. For clarity, existing CEADS consortium members are not eligible to be part of applications to this call.

7. Application

A set of FAQs will be developed after the launch of the call, as questions are submitted to the CEADS Integration Manager. These will be updated regularly while the call is open and will be available from the CEADS website <https://ceads.eu/call>

The Expression of Interest form must be submitted by the applicant via email with a single PDF file as attachment to ceads@teagasc.ie (include EoI in the subject line) by the deadline for receipt of expression of interest indicated at the start of this document. Please use the template provided (see <https://ceads.eu/call>). After completion in MS Word, please convert to a single PDF file. It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify that the submitted PDF document is readable. Page limits do not apply to this section, but please note word limits apply to certain questions.

Note that a budget description is not needed as part of the Expression of Interest. See Section 4 “Funding” and Section 8.6 “Negotiations on joining the consortium” for more details.

8. Process

8.1 Roles:

- Applicant: the applicant organisation or group of organisations
- Integration Manager: Teagasc
- Integration Board (IB): ILVO, Josephinum Research, Teagasc, Wageningen Research and Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering (IESE)

8.2 Submission:

The applicant submits an Expression of Interest (EoI) form to ceads@teagasc.ie using the MS Word form available at <https://ceads.eu/call> by the deadline for receipt of Expression of Interest indicated at the start of this document.

8.3 Eligibility check

The eligibility criteria for each proposal will be checked by the Integration Manager before the evaluation begins. If an issue regarding eligibility is unclear, the Integration Manager may, at its discretion, request clarification from the applicant/applicant group. Proposals that do not fulfil the eligibility criteria will not be included in the evaluation. Applicants of ineligible proposals will be informed by email, giving details of the reasons why.

8.4 Evaluation

Stage 1 Individual Evaluation: Each eligible application will be evaluated by each member of the IB. The IB members will review the proposals remotely and will mark proposals according to the evaluation criteria and scoring system described below.

Stage 2 Consensus Meeting: The IB will meet in a consensus meeting, to be chaired by the CEADS Coordinator. IB members will receive all of the individual evaluation assessments in advance of the meeting. IB members will discuss the individual evaluation assessments and the overall merit of applications. They will reach a consensus on a score for each evaluation criterion. The IB will prepare a short evaluation summary report (ESR) for each proposal. This ESR will include a final agreed evaluation of the proposals with scores for each of the evaluation criteria and summary evaluation comments. The IB will also prepare a list of proposals, organised by target country. For each country, the report will show all proposals that score above threshold, ranked by their overall score. In the event of equal scores, the IB will decide on a priority order for proposals, taking into account a balance across the overall portfolio of applications selected to enter negotiations on joining the consortium.

8.5 Result

Applicants will receive a response, which will be one of the following:

1. Above threshold, proceed to enter negotiations on joining the consortium
2. Above threshold, but not selected to enter negotiations at this point (may be contacted at a later stage)
3. Below threshold. Do not proceed further.

All applicants will receive a short Evaluation Summary Report as outlined in section 8.4.

We aim to have responses to applicants before end of April 2026. Successful applicants will have a maximum of 1 week to confirm that they will proceed to negotiations on joining the consortium.

8.6 Negotiations on joining the consortium

For applicants that are invited to proceed to enter negotiations on joining the consortium, we will work with you to develop a plan for your integration into the project, including the tasks you will undertake alongside the partners in the CEADS consortium, a budget and timeline for those tasks. Note that this is a commitment to enter negotiations. A decision on amending the Grant Agreement to add new partners will only be made if a fully costed plan is agreed between the consortium and the new partner.

An invitation to enter negotiations does not constitute a guarantee of joining the CEADS consortium. A lack of cooperation in negotiations, a failure to make reasonable progress towards defining an agreed work plan, budget, and timeline, or an inability to reach agreement on the terms of participation will lead to the cessation of negotiations.

If negotiations are successful, an amendment to the CEADS grant agreement will be proposed to the European Commission (EC) and, subject to approval by the EC, the new partner will join the consortium, signing the Grant Agreement with the EC, and acceding to the CEADS consortium agreement.

9. Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate proposals.

1. Contribution of datasets with strong potential for value creation through sharing

Ability to contribute datasets for the agri-food sector, originating from public and/or private sources, where value can be created through trusted and interoperable data sharing, and to make such datasets available within CEADS UCs under clear and appropriate access and usage conditions.

2. Contribution to CEADS as a whole and technical progress

Potential to integrate into and accelerate existing CEADS UCs, or to lead or substantially contribute to a new UC aligned with CEADS priorities, while actively contributing to the technical maturity, interoperability, and operational deployment of CEADS services, and demonstrating the ability to deliver tangible business and/or societal impact. For applications submitted by a group of organisations, particular attention will be paid to the complementarity of roles and the extent to which each organisation is essential to the proposed contribution.

3. Cross-sectoral and/or transnational collaboration as part of CEADS:

Potential and ambition to engage in cross-sectoral and/or transnational collaboration as part of CEADS. This may include collaboration with other DSIs, organisations, or UCs already participating in CEADS, as well as with relevant initiatives or data spaces outside the current CEADS consortium.

4. Alignment with CEADS objectives and complementarity with the existing CEADS consortium

Extent to which the applicant can contribute to the achievement of the CEADS objectives⁵.

It is not expected that applicants will contribute to every CEADS objective; a clear and credible contribution to a limited number of objectives is acceptable.

This criterion focuses on complementarity between the current CEADS consortium and the applicant(s) including how the applicant will strengthen the identified priority areas; contribute to CEADS governance, operational frameworks, and business sustainability while avoiding duplication. The delivery and implementation of UCs are not assessed under this criterion and are evaluated under Criterion 2.

⁵ https://ceads.eu/at_a_glance/#objectives

Not all applicants are required to contribute to AI-related activities; however, the overall portfolio of selected applicants will include at least four applicants contributing to the development, training, validation, or deployment of AI-enabled tools, services, or models that directly capitalise on datasets made available through CEADS, or that demonstrably rely on interoperable data sharing within the CEADS ecosystem. The use of AI solely for internal management, administration, or generic productivity purposes is not considered an AI-related contribution for the purposes of this criterion.

5. Added value and business impact of CEADS participation for the applicant

Clarity and credibility of the expected added value for the applicant from joining CEADS. This can include the potential impacts outlined in the section “Why should you join the Common European Agricultural Data Space?” as well as others.

Each criterion will be scored out of 5. Evaluators can use steps of 0.5. The scores indicate the following with respect to the criterion under examination:

0. Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1. Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2. Fair. Proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3. Good. Proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
4. Very Good. Proposal addresses criterion very well, a small number of shortcomings present.
5. Excellent. Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The minimum threshold is 3/5 for each criterion and an overall minimum score of 18/25 must be achieved to be considered for invitation to enter negotiations on joining the consortium.

10. Data Protection

Teagasc will act as the data controller for the purposes of this Call for Expressions of Interest.

All personal data provided by applicants in the context of this Call (including, but not limited to, contact details, organisational information, and information contained in submitted Expressions of Interest) will be collected, stored, and processed by Teagasc in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and applicable Irish data protection legislation.

Personal data will be processed solely for the purposes of:

- managing and administering this Call for Expressions of Interest;
- evaluating Expressions of Interest;
- communicating with applicants;
- supporting the selection and negotiation process for new partners joining the CEADS consortium; and
- meeting audit, reporting, and accountability requirements associated with the Digital Europe Programme.

The legal basis for this processing is that it is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest, in accordance with Article 6(1)(e) GDPR, namely the management of a publicly funded European project under the Digital Europe Programme.

Access to personal data will be restricted to authorised personnel involved in the management and evaluation of the Call, including members of the CEADS Integration Board. Where required, relevant

information may be shared with the European Commission or other authorised bodies for the purposes of audit, oversight, or contractual obligations.

Personal data will be retained only for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes outlined above and in accordance with Teagasc's data retention obligations.

Further information on how Teagasc processes personal data, including details of data subject rights and contact details for the Data Protection Officer, is available in the Teagasc Data Privacy Notice, available at: <https://teagasc.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Teagasc-Data-Privacy-Notice-Summary.pdf>

Appendix 1: Definitions

Data sharing initiative (DSI): a structured, collective initiative that enables data sharing within a defined community. It has its own governance model, membership rules, and shared services (e.g. catalogues, vocabularies, access management). DSIs may be founded by one or more organizations.

Target Countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia

Use Case (UC): A CEADS UC describes a concrete, real-world scenario in which one or more participants exchange and use data through the CEADS federation to achieve a specific objective or added value. It is driven by a business, policy, or operational need and may involve multiple data providers, data consumers, and services, potentially across different Data Sharing Initiatives (DSIs). A UC shows how CEADS governance, interoperability rules, and services are applied in practice and serves as a way to test, validate, and refine CEADS rules, services, and building blocks.