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Annex F Sub-grant Funding Agreement Icon

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DRG4Food – Open Call #2

*[HORIZON-CL6-2022-GOVERNANCE-01-10] Project #: 101086523*

– For informational use only –

Please note: This document is intended solely for informational purposes and may be subject to revisions recommended by the European Commission or the legal department of INOSENS. As such, it should not be considered legally binding.

# Contracting parties

This Agreement (‘the Agreement’) is between the following parties:

On the one part,

TWINDS (TWINDS), established in AMERSTRAAT 143, AARSCHOT 3200, Belgium, VAT number BE0760306091, represented for the purposes of signing the Agreement by Mr Kai Hermsen, legal representative of TWINDS, Coordinator of the DRG4FOOD consortium;

**Hereinafter referred to as the “Coordinator”,**

INOSENS DOO NOVI SAD (INOSENS), established in Sonje Marinkovic 18 18/1/3, NOVI SAD 21000, Serbia, VAT number 108555520, represented for the purposes of signing the Agreement by Mr Branko Popovic, Managing Director of INOSENS, DRG4Food Open Call Manager and Treasurer;

**Hereinafter referred to as the “Treasurer”,**

*And, on the other part,*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [Organisation name] established in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [Full Official address], VAT number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, represented for the purposes of signing the Agreement by\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, [Name of legal representative], acting as Coordinator and Lead Beneficiary of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, [Project Acronoym] project, and signing the Agreement on behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, [Project Acronym] consortium, role which has been agreed in their Consortium Declaration of Honour;

**Hereinafter referred to as the “Beneficiaries”;**

**Hereinafter, all parties above are collectively referred to as the “Contracting Parties”**

The Contracting Parties HAVE AGREED to the following terms and conditions including those in the following Annexes, which form an integral part of this sub-grant agreement (hereinafter referred as the “Contract”).

# General Provisions

The European Commission (hereinafter referred as the “EC”) and the Coordinator, as partner and representative of the DRG4FOOD consortium, have signed the Grant Agreement (“GA”) no. 101086523 for the implementation of the DRG4FOOD project – “Empowering a fair and responsible European FoodRegister, fostering citizen sovereignty and creating a data-driven food system.” – within the framework of the European Union’s Horizon Europe research and innovation programme, HORIZON-CL6-2022-GOVERNANCE-01-10.

The DRG4FOOD project is implemented by the Coordinator, as coordinator of the DRG4FOOD project, in collaboration with the other DRG4FOOD partners. The DRG4FOOD consortium partners have entered into a written agreement detailing their respective rights and obligations towards each other for carrying out the DRG4FOOD project and exploiting the results thereof (“the Consortium Agreement” or “CA”).

DRG4FOOD will run a 1.9M€ pilot development programme funding 6-12 industry and research collaborations to develop pilots demonstrating the potential of data-driven innovations in the areas of food tracking, targeted nutrition, and consumers’ food choices, engaging citizens in their development. The pilots will demonstrate the potential of digital responsibility goals to contribute to the central mission of advancing digital transformation and data-driven innovation in the food system, with a particular emphasis on data rights and Digital Responsibility Goals. These pilot projects will involve various digital innovations in responsible technology for the food sector, guided by Digital Responsibility Goals.

The accelerator programme spans 6–12 months and combines on-site activities and online sessions. It is tailored to each sub-project, with lectures, workshops, personalised expert mentoring and group coaching. Each consortium is assigned an end-to-end mentor who guides them through the programme, sets goals and tracks progress. Additionally, the programme will offer access to an extensive network of industry experts and funding opportunities, providing the necessary resources and support to expedite the development of sustainable and impactful solutions.

The Beneficiaries have been selected for funding under the DRG4FOOD – Open Call #2 based on the positive evaluation of external evaluators.

This Contract aims at defining the framework of rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties with respect to the Beneficiaries participation in the DRG4FOOD – Open Call #2.

The funding to be received by the Beneficiary is property of the EC. The Open Call Manager and Treasurer (INOSENS) is the holder and managers of the funds.

# Article 1 - Entry into force and termination of the contract

## Entry into force

This contract shall enter into force on dd.mm.yyyy, subject to its signature by the last Contracting Party. The DRG4Food Project Coordinator and Treasurer will sign this contract only after all the following documents have been received from the Beneficiaries:

* The original signed Consortium Declaration of Honour (Annex D).
* The original signed Declarations of Honour (one for each consortium partner, as provided in Annex C).
* SMEs Declaration form (one for each partner’s SME, as provided in Annex E).
* Proof of VAT registration
* Bank Account Information form (as provided in Annex G).

All Contracting parties must sign this document no later than 18.03.2024. Besides the hard copies that will arrive by mail, in order to ease the process, the Treasurer might opt to sign this Sub-grant agreement via Validated ID or similar online platform. The Beneficiary will send original documents to the Treasurer for the signature of the legal representative. Afterwards, the Treasurer will send these documents to the Coordinator for the signature of the legal representative.

The original documents will be archived at the Treasurer’s office.

The contact details of the Beneficiary for notices and communication under this contract are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of contact person |  |
| Address |  |
| E-mail |  |
| Telephone/ mobile phone |  |

The information included in the annexes of this contract is binding: Annex B, Annex C, Annex D, Annex E.

All documents shall be sent to the DRG4Food Consortium first via email to the following address: opencalls@drg4food.eu, while the Annexes C, D, E and this Contract will also be sent as originals, via regular mail, to the following address:

INOSENS DOO NOVI SAD

Sonje Marinkovic 18/1/3

21000 Novi Sad

Serbia

Attn: Maja Fisic (DRG4Food team)

The Beneficiary is solely responsible for the accuracy of all data provided.

## Contract termination

This Contract will automatically terminate at the end[[1]](#footnote-1) of the DRG4FOOD – Open Call #2, which will happen when the Beneficiaries have fulfilled all obligations in Article 2, except for those obligations that according to their content are intended to remain in effect, which keep their full force and effect (e.g., reporting on exploitation activities).

The DRG4FOOD project Coordinator shall be entitled to terminate this Contract by written notice with immediate effect if the Beneficiaries do not fulfil their obligations (see [Article 3 - Breach of contractual obligations](#_bookmark6)).

Irrespective of the automatic termination of this Contract under present Article 1.2 or any early termination under Article 4, all obligations that according to their content are intended to be in effect for longer shall remain in effect.

# Article 2 - Obligations and responsibilities of the Beneficiary

The obligations and responsibilities are defined in detail in Annex 1 - Guidelines for Applicants.

Additionally, the Beneficiaries shall take every necessary precaution to avoid any risk of conflict of interest relating with economic interests, political or national affinities, personal or any other interests liable to influence the impartial and objective performance of this project. In case any of Beneficiaries is involved in a conflict of interest or in a risk of conflict of interest, the Beneficiary must formally notify this situation to the Coordinator without delay and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

Furthermore, the Beneficiary must provide true and accurate documentation and declarations as defined in Article 1.1.

The Beneficiary must keep for a period of five (5) years after the termination of the DRG4FOOD project (foreseen for 30th of November 2025) records and other supporting documentation which proves the proper implementation of its tasks and obligations.

# Article 3 - Breach of contractual obligations

In the event of a breach of the contractual obligation’s representations or warranties by the Beneficiaries under this Contract, the Coordinator, in coordination with the DRG4FOOD Consortium, reserves the right to terminate the Contract by written notice with immediate effect, even if such non-fulfilment is due to Force Majeure.

In the event of the breach of the contractual obligations by the Beneficiary, the Coordinator reserves the right of not fulfilling the respective payments to the Beneficiaries.

The Coordinator also reserves the right to claim a refund of any already paid funds, both in case of breach of contract and/or in case the work/costs are not approved by the EC.

The Coordinator will give written notice requiring that such breach to be remedied within 30 days.

In case the Beneficiary has not brought remedies from the notice, the Coordinator may decide to terminate the contract unilaterally.

# Article 4 – Financial contribution and financial provisions

## Maximum financial contribution

The maximum financial contribution to be granted to the Beneficiaries of the project shall not exceed the amount of xxx.xxx,xx EUR. This financial contribution will be given in three instalments.

## Distribution of the financial contribution

The financial contribution to be granted to the project and respective Beneficiaries will be calculated and distributed in accordance with the provisions set in **Annex A - Guidelines for Applicants**.

The financial grant to be paid will always be subject to:

* Provision of a report (deliverable) and a favourable review by the evaluation team responsible for assessing the project in each of the stages (and related conditions).
  + ***Phase 1 - Setting up and Planning for a Trustworthy Data-driven Food System***
* Duration: 1 month
* Activities: Deliver a detailed workplan, including objectives, milestones, KPIs, timeline & distribution of resources.
* Deliverable: Report on the activity plan
* Support: Review proposed [Project Title] project workplan and alignment with the DRG4Food project to benefit from its technology enablers.
* Funding Released: Up to 30% of the [Project Title] project budget.
* Upon successful definition and submission of the workplan, including objectives, milestones, and KPIs.
* Conditions: If the KPIs are completed less than 25%, the [Project Title] project will be disqualified, and no further payment will be released.
  + **Phase 2 - Digital Responsibility-Driven Innovation, Research, and Piloting**
* Duration: 3-8 months
* Activities: Implement the workplan defined in Phase 1, including delivery of the proposed solution and its piloting.
* Deliverable: Report on the technical aspects of the solution developed and piloted.
* Support: Technical support on the integration of DRG4Food technology enablers; support in addressing technical issues.
* Funding Released: Up to 50% of the [Project Title] project budget. Upon completion of 100% of the KPIs defined in Phase 1.
* Conditions: Proportional payment for lower completion of KPIs. If KPIs are completed less than 25%, the [Project Title] project will be disqualified, and no further payment will be released.
  + **Phase 3 - Scaling up – Bring your digital solution to market**
* Duration: 1-3 month
* Activities: Present to external actors the results achieved and prepare a commercialization/business sustainability strategy. Participate in a boot camp located in Central Europe, which is easily accessible. It is required that at least one partner attends along with beneficiaries from Open Call #2 and #2.
* Deliverable: Report in the form of a business plan detailing the activities carried out and the strategy for business sustainability.
* Support: Business support in identifying activities (e.g., business modelling) and actors (e.g., investors) to support commercialization and the business strategy.
* Funding Released: Payment of final 20% of the [Project Title] project budget. Upon successful submission and acceptance of the business plan detailing activities for business sustainability.
* Conditions: If KPIs are completed less than 25%, the [Project Title] project will be disqualified, and no further payment will be released.
  + The prior notice to the Beneficiary of the date and amount to be transferred to its bank account (Annex G - Bank account information form), providing the relevant references.
  + Payments to the Beneficiaries will be made by the Treasurer. In particular:
  + The Treasurer reserves the right to withhold the payments in case the Beneficiaries does not fulfil its obligations and tasks as per Annex A - Guidelines for Applicants and considering the payment conditions for each stage.
  + Banking and transaction costs charged by any of the banks related to the handling of any financial resources made available to the Subgrantee by the Treasurer shall be covered by the holder of the bank account which originated the cost. This means that the Treasurer bears the cost of transfers charged by their bank and the Subgrantee bears the costs of transfers charged by the bank of the Subgrantee.
  + Payments will be released no later than ten (10) calendar days after the notification by the Coordinator to the Beneficiaries that the work and deliverable associated to a particular stage has been approved. Any specific limitation delaying payments will be made known to the Beneficiaries.
  + The Subgrantee is responsible for complying with any tax and legal obligations that might be attached to this financial contribution.
  + Payment from the DRG4Food project (Treasurer) to the [Project title] project will be facilitated through the [Project Title] project coordinator organization. It's important to note that the DRG4Food project is not responsible for verifying or monitoring the actual disbursement of funds to individual consortium participants. Instead, the [Project title] project coordinator bears the responsibility of distributing the funding to consortium members in accordance with the sub-grant terms that have been agreed upon (Annex B, C, D). This distribution should align with the funding allocation per deliverable and per party as specified in the sub-grant (Annex B, C, D).

The Beneficiaries are responsible for complying with any tax and legal obligations that might be attached to this Contract.

## Payments schedule

The payment schedule is directly linked to the relevant stages of the [Project Title] project according to Annex 1 - Guidelines for Applicants. The payment in each Phase will be disbursed once the work related to a specific Phase has received positive assessment and against the evaluation of KPIs, based on the report submitted to the DRG4FOOD team and respective review [(Table 1](#_bookmark11)).

The financial contribution will be made to the Lead Beneficiary, representing the Beneficiaries, by the Coordinator. During the contractual procedure, the Beneficiary will be asked to provide the respective bank account information to which the payments will be made (as provided in Annex G).

Table 1. Payment schedule for DRG4FOOD – Open Call #2 funding programme

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Phase** | **Schedule** | **Requirements** | **Payment** |
| *Phase 1* | Duration: 1 month | Report 1 – Pilot Specification and Design Report | Up to 30% |
| *Phase 2* | Duration: 3-6 months | Report 2 – Pilot Implementation and ValidationReport | Up to 50% |
| *Phase 3* | Duration: 1-3 month | Report 3 – Business Plan and Market Entry Strategy | Up to 20% |

The sub-granted project must submit to the DRG4FOOD consortium the required reports corresponding to each Phase/Stage by the date indicated in [Table 1](#_bookmark11) (Requirements). A review will be held with the sub- granted project beneficiaries by the last calendar day of the end month of the Phase. The objective of the review is to allow beneficiaries to present their work (as reported in the respective report) and provide answers to questions from the mentors and DRG4FOOD consortium.

Payments associated with each Stage will be disbursed pending the approval of the respective report, and successful achievement of milestones and KPIs defined in the sub-granted project work plan.

The payments will be made to the Leady Beneficiary subject to the receipt of an invoice or a filled out Financial Identification Form (FIF) and/ or Payment Request Form.[[2]](#footnote-2) If the Beneficiary chooses to send an invoice, the invoice must include the following information:

* DRG4FOOD – Grant Agreement no. 101086523
* DRG4FOOD – Open Call #2
* The Phase to which the payment is associated (e.g. Phase 1)
* Lead Beneficiary information (e.g., sub-project acronym and beneficiary name)

The invoice or the FIF is to be sent to: INOSENS. Payments will only be initiated once the work has been approved. Payments will be made no later than ten (10) calendar days after receipt of the invoice or FIF to the bank account of the Lead. All payments will be made in Euros.

NOTE: If at any of the payment stages the DRG4FOOD consortium considers that the quality of work demonstrated and/or reported does not correspond to what has been agreed (including and in addition to the KPIs), the DRG4FOOD Coordinator may agree to a resubmission of a deliverable and respective reassessment. If significant improvements are not delivered after the reassessment and the [Project Title] project is therefore considered to be in breach of their contractual obligations, the Coordinator, in coordination with the DRG4FOOD consortium, reserves the right to terminate the contract as outlined in *Article 3 – Breach of contractual obligations*.

# Article 5 - Liability

## Liability of the Beneficiary

The Beneficiaries shall fully and exclusively bear the risks in connection with the fulfilment of its tasks and obligations under this Contract. Except in case of force majeure (Article 8), the Beneficiaries must compensate the Coordinator and the EC for any damage they sustain because of the implementation of the obligations of the Beneficiaries under this Contract or because the tasks and obligations of the Beneficiaries were not implemented in full compliance with this Contract.

Accordingly, neither the DRG4FOOD Consortium nor the EC can be held liable for any damage caused to the Beneficiaries or to third parties because of implementing this Contract, including for gross negligence. At the same time, neither the DRG4FOOD consortium nor the EC can be held liable for any damage caused by the Beneficiaries or third parties, because of implementing this Contract.

The Beneficiaries shall bear sole responsibility for ensuring that its acts within the framework of this Contract do not infringe third parties’ rights. There is no joint liability between the Contracting Parties. For this purpose, the Beneficiaries shall indemnify and hold the Coordinator any DRG4FOOD consortium partner and the EC harmless from and against all repayments, loss, liability, costs, charges, claims or damages which the Coordinator, any DRG4FOOD consortium partner or the EC as a result thereof would incur or suffer or must pay to the EC or any third parties. In addition, should the EC have a right of recovery against DRG4FOOD consortium regarding any or all the financial support granted under this Contract, the Beneficiaries shall repay the sums in question in the terms and on the date specified by the Coordinator.

## Exclusions of liability

To the extent acceptable under applicable law, in no event shall the Coordinator or other DRG4FOOD consortium partners be liable to the Beneficiaries for loss or damage caused by the Coordinator or the DRG4FOOD consortium partners, their employees, agents and subcontractors in connection with this Contract for any of the following, however caused or arising, on any theory of liability, and even if the Coordinator and/or any other DRG4FOOD consortium partner were informed or aware of the possibility thereof:

* + - Loss of profits, revenue, income, interest, savings, shelf-space, production, and business.
* Opportunities; lost contracts, goodwill, and anticipated savings.
  + - Loss of or damage to reputation or to data.
    - Costs of recall of products.
    - Any type of indirect, incidental, punitive, special, or consequential loss or damage.

In respect of any information or materials from the DRG4FOOD consortium made available to the Beneficiaries under this Contract, no warranty or representation of any kind is made, given, or implied as to the sufficiency, error-free performance, or fitness for purpose, nor as to the absence of any infringement of any proprietary rights of third parties. Therefore, in particular, but without limiting the foregoing:

* + - The Beneficiaries shall in all cases be entirely and solely liable for the use to which it puts such information and materials, and the consequences of such use, and
    - Neither the Coordinator, the EC nor the other DRG4FOOD consortium partners shall be liable vis-à- vis the Beneficiaries in case of infringement of proprietary rights of a third party resulting from the Beneficiary’s use of the information and material.

The exclusions and limitations stated in this Article and any other clause of this Contract that has as its object or effect the exclusion or limitation of liability, shall not apply in respect of any: fraud; death, injury to natural persons or damage to real or immovable property caused by the negligence or wilful act, wilful misconduct, wilful breach; or otherwise in so far as mandatory applicable law overrides such exclusions and limitations.

# Article 6 - Confidentiality

## Principles

Regarding all information of whatever nature or form as is disclosed between the Contracting Parties in connection with the sub-granted project and identified in writing as confidential, the terms of this Article shall apply.

## Obligations

All information, in whatever form or mode of communication, which is disclosed by a Contracting Party (the “Disclosing Party”) to the other Contracting Party (the “Recipient”) in connection with the implementation of the DRG4FOOD – Open Call #2 and which has been explicitly marked as “confidential” at the time of disclosure, or, when disclosed orally, has been identified as confidential at the time of disclosure and has been confirmed and designated in writing within 15 calendar days from oral disclosure (at the latest) as confidential information by the Disclosing Party, is “Confidential Information”.

The Recipient hereby accepts, in addition and without prejudice to any commitment on nondisclosure towards the EC, for a period of 5 (five) years after the end of the DRG4FOOD project:

* + - Not to use Confidential Information other than for the purpose for which it was disclosed.
    - Not to disclose Confidential Information without the prior written consent by the Disclosing Party.
    - To ensure that internal distribution of Confidential Information by a Recipient shall take place on a strict need-to-know basis.
    - To return to the Disclosing Party, or destroy, on demand, all Confidential Information that has been disclosed to the Recipient, including all copies and to delete all information stored in a machine-readable form to the extent practically possible. The Recipient may keep a copy to the extent it is required to keep, archive, or store such Confidential Information because of compliance with applicable laws and regulations or for the proof of on-going obligations provided that the Recipient complies with the confidentiality obligations herein contained with respect to such copy for as long as the copy is retained.

The Recipient shall be responsible for the fulfilment of the above obligations on the part of their employees or third parties involved in the implementation of DRG4FOOD – Open Call #2 and shall ensure that they remain so obliged, as far as legally possible, during and after the end hereof and/or after the termination of the contractual relationship with the employee or third party. The Recipient shall apply the same degree of care regarding the Confidential Information disclosed within the scope of the project as with its own confidential and/or proprietary information, but in no case less than reasonable care. Each Contracting Party shall promptly advise the other Contracting Party in writing of any unauthorized disclosure, misappropriation, or misuse of Confidential Information after it becomes aware of such unauthorized disclosure, misappropriation, or misuse.

## Exceptions to the obligation of confidentiality

The information above (Article 6.2) shall not apply for disclosure or use of Confidential Information, if and in so far as the Recipient can show that:

* The Confidential Information has become or becomes publicly available by means other than a breach of the Recipient’s confidentiality obligations.
* The Disclosing Party subsequently subsequently informs the Recipient that the Confidential Information is no longer confidential.
* The Confidential Information is communicated to the Recipient without any obligation of confidentiality by a third party who is to the best knowledge of the Recipient in lawful possession thereof and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Disclosing Party.
* The disclosure or communication of the Confidential Information is foreseen by provisions of the GA.
* The Confidential Information, at any time, was developed by the Recipient completely independently of any such disclosure by the Disclosing Party.
* The Confidential Information was already known to the Recipient prior to disclosure.
* Disclosure of the Confidential Information follows mandatory applicable laws or regulations or with a court or administrative order.

## Authorised disclosure(s)

If any Party becomes aware that it will be required, or is likely to be required, to disclose Confidential Information to comply with applicable laws or regulations or with a court or administrative order, it will, to the extent it is lawfully able to do so under the laws and legislation applicable to said Party, prior to any such disclosure:

* Notify the Disclosing Party, and
* Comply with the Disclosing Party’s reasonable instructions to protect the confidentiality of the information.

The DRG4FOOD Coordinator’s disclosure of Confidential Information to the EC and/or the other DRG4FOOD consortium partners shall be governed exclusively by the terms of the GA and/or the CA.

Accordingly, nothing in this Contract shall prevent the DRG4FOOD Coordinator from complying with its obligations, including its reporting obligations, towards the EC and the other DRG4FOOD consortium partners, and any such disclosures shall be subject to the terms of the GA or CA.

Likewise, the Beneficiaries agree and acknowledge that the EC shall be entitled to disclose Confidential Information to its staff, other EU institutions and bodies or third parties, if:

* This is necessary to implement the GA or safeguard the EU’s financial interests.
* The recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

# Article 7 - Intellectual property rights

1. **DRG4FOOD Enablers:** The results and IPR remain the property of the beneficiaries. Beneficiaries are however committed to and responsible for Open Source publishing of the developed DRG4FOOD enablers and/or solution to a publicly accessible repository (preferably GitHub) accompanied by appropriate and relevant documentation, and including additional assets that further support and promote the application or integration of the developed DRG4FOOD enablers into future projects and solutions - such as but not limited to;

* Solution architecture
* Developer documentation (API documentation, Release notes, README, System documentation)
* Integration and Deployment documentation
* Testing plan
* Standalone (Automated) Testing Set-up and/or accompanying documentation (to support replication by future developers)
* (DRG) Security Audit/s and actions to address any identified (DRG) security issues
* Licensing

1. **DRG4FOOD DataSet Enablers:** Furthermore for sub-granted projects that are specifically enhancing existing or developing new Open Source dataset enablers these need to be made fully accessible and open access, with appropriate documentation and information to support access, while also respecting FAIR principles.
2. **DRG4FOOD Toolbox:** All beneficiaries are required to cooperate closely with the DRG4FOOD project to ensure that the output of the sub-granted project is further presented in the DRG4FOOD toolbox as a self-explanatory ‘featured DRG-enabler’. Requirements will be defined in the enabler template and include summary text, images, URLs, contact details and other supporting information that will be developed during the course of the [Project Title] project with a goal of adequately promotes the enabler/s further development and use.

All sub-granted projects from #Call 1 are required to join a webinar/workshop and present a summary of their project, and the DRG4FOOD enablers they are developing - as part of the Open Call #2 process. Furthermore, during the course of the [Project Title] project beneficiaries are also expected to contribute to the communication and dissemination activities of the DRG4FOOD project.

The Beneficiaries acknowledge that all technologies, infrastructure and similar of the DRG4FOOD consortium partners are proprietary and owned by the respective partner or applicable third party.

Nothing in this Contract shall transfer to the Beneficiaries (or other partners it represents) any license or other rights for the use of the tools, modules and similar that are property of an DRG4FOOD partner, unless a specific agreement is established.

# Article 8 - Force Majeure

“Force Majeure” means any unforeseeable exceptional situation or event beyond the Contracting Parties control, which prevents either of them from fulfilling any of their obligations under the Contract, which was not attributable to error or negligence on their part, and which proves to be inevitable despite the exercising of all due diligence.

Any default of a service, defect in equipment or material or delays in making them available, unless they stem directly from a relevant case of force majeure, as well as labour disputes, strikes or financial difficulties cannot be invoked as Force Majeure.

The Contracting Parties shall take the necessary measures to limit any damage due to Force Majeure. They shall do their best to resume the implementation of the action as soon as possible.

No Contracting Party shall be in breach of its obligations and tasks if such a breach is caused by Force Majeure. A Contracting Party will notify the other Contracting Party of any Force Majeure as soon as possible. In case the Beneficiaries are not able to overcome the consequences of Force Majeure within thirty calendar (30) days after such notification, the DRG4FOOD Coordinator will decide accordingly, including the termination of the Contract.

# Article 9 - Information and communication

## Information and communication towards the EC

The Beneficiaries shall, throughout the duration of the sub-granted project, take appropriate measures to engage with the public about the sub-granted project and to highlight the financial support of the EC and the DRG4FOOD project.

Unless the EC requests otherwise, any publicity, including at a conference or seminar or any type of information or promotional material (brochure, leaflet, poster, presentation etc.), and any infrastructure, equipment, and major results must:

* + - Specify that the sub-granted project has received research funding from the EC through the DRG4FOOD project.
    - Display the European emblem along with the DRG4FOOD Project logo. When displayed in association with a logo, the European emblem should be given appropriate prominence. This obligation to use the European emblem in respect of projects to which the EC contributes implies no right of exclusive use. It is subject to general third-party use restrictions which do not permit the appropriation of the emblem, or of any similar trademark or logo, whether by registration or by any other means. Under these conditions, the Beneficiaries are exempt from the obligation to obtain prior permission from the EC to use the emblem.
    - Specify that it reflects only the author’s views and that the EC and the DRG4FOOD consortium is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein. The following text should be used:

“*The* [Project title] *project has indirectly received funding from the European Union’s Horizon Europe research and innovation action programme, via the DRG4FOOD – Open Call #2 issued and executed under the DRG4FOOD project (Grant Agreement no. 101086523)*.”

* Participate in a bootcamp located in Central Europe, which is easily accessible. It is required that at least one partner attends along with beneficiaries from Open Call #2 and #2.

The Coordinator, the DRG4FOOD consortium, and/or the EC shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:

* + - The name of the Beneficiaries.
    - Contact address of the Beneficiaries.
    - The general purpose of the sub-granted project (publishable summary, etc.)
    - The amount of the financial contribution of the EC foreseen for the sub-granted project. After the final payment, the amount and rate of the financial contribution of the EC accepted by the EC.
    - The estimated amount and rate of the financial contribution of the EC foreseen for the Beneficiaries in the table of the estimated breakdown of budget.
    - The geographic location(s) of the activities carried out.
    - The list of dissemination activities and/or of patent (applications) relating to foreground.
    - The publishable reports submitted (technical reports are excluded, since they are confidential).
    - Any picture or any audio-visual or web material provided to the EC in the framework of the sub- granted project.

The Beneficiaries shall ensure that all necessary authorisations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the DRG4FOOD Coordinator, the DRG4FOOD consortium partners, or EC does not infringe any rights of third parties.

Upon a duly supported request by the Coordinator on behalf of the Beneficiaries, the EC may agree to forego such publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the beneficiary’s security, academic or commercial interests.

## 9.2 Information and communication among the Contracting Parties

Any notice to be given under this Contract shall be in writing to the addresses and recipients listed above. Any change of persons or contact details shall be notified immediately to the DRG4FOOD Coordinator. The address list shall be made accessible to all parties concerned.

# Article 10 – Checks and reviews

The EC may, at any time during the implementation of the [Project Title] project and up to five years after the end of the [Project Title] project, arrange for a check and review to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves, including the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF). The procedure shall be deemed to be initiated on the date of receipt of the relevant letter sent by the EC.

There will be no financial checks, reviews, or audits to check costs, since beneficiaries have no obligation to document the costs incurred for the action. Checks, reviews, and audits will focus on the technical implementation of the action.

The Beneficiaries shall make available directly to the EC all information and data that may be requested by the EC or any representative authorised by it, in view of verifying that the GA is properly managed and performed in accordance with its provisions. The Beneficiaries shall keep the originals or, in exceptional cases, duly authenticated copies (including electronic copies) of all documents related to the Contract for up to five years from the end of the sub-granted project. These shall be made available to the EC when requested during any check under the Contract.

To carry out these checks, the Beneficiaries shall ensure that the EC’s services and any external body(ies) authorised by it have on-the-spot access at all reasonable times, notably to the Beneficiaries’ offices, to its computer data, and to all the information needed to carry out those checks. They shall ensure that the information is readily available on the spot during an audit and, if so requested, that data be handed over in an appropriate form.

Based on the findings made during the check, a provisional report shall be drawn up. It shall be sent by the EC or its authorised representative to the Beneficiary concerned, which may make observations thereon within one month of receiving it. The EC may decide not to take into account observations conveyed or documents sent after that deadline. The final report shall be sent to the Beneficiary concerned within two months of expiry of the aforesaid deadline.

Based on the conclusions of the check, the EC shall take all appropriate measures which it considers necessary, including the issuing of recovery orders regarding all or part of the payments made by it and the application of any applicable sanction.

The European Court of Auditors shall have the same rights as the EC, notably right of access, for the purpose of checks and audits, without prejudice to its own rules.

In addition, the EC may carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the EC to protect the European Communities’ financial interests against fraud and other irregularities.

# Article 11 – Data protection

The Contracting Parties have the obligation to abide by the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons regarding the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data.

The processing of personal data shall be carried out lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner, collected for specific purposes and adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which it is processed. The Beneficiaries acknowledge that the DRG4FOOD Coordinator and any other DRG4FOOD consortium partners, if appointed as data processors, are not responsible for compliance with any data protection or privacy law applicable to the Beneficiary and not directly, explicitly, and specifically applicable to data processors.

# Article 12 - Obligations imposed by the Grant Agreement to the Beneficiary

The sub-granted project and respective Beneficiaries receive funding from the European Commission for carrying out the sub-granted project. Under the GA or the CA, some of the obligations must be imposed on the Beneficiaries. Those obligations are reflected in this Contract. The specific obligations that the Beneficiaries must ensure are described in the Annotated Model Grant Agreement (AGA) for Horizon Europe[[3]](#footnote-3). Some of these articles are included in this Contract and are fully applicable to the Beneficiary.

# Article 13 - Miscellaneous

Should any provision of this Contract be or become invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Contract. In such a case, the Contracting Parties shall be entitled to request that a valid, legal, enforceable, and practicable replacement provision be negotiated which fulfils the purpose of the original provision.

The Beneficiaries shall not be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of the Coordinator or any other DRG4FOOD consortium partner, and nothing in this Contract shall be deemed to constitute a joint venture, agency, partnership, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Contracting Parties or between the Beneficiaries and any DRG4FOOD consortium partner.

No rights or obligations of the Beneficiaries arising from this Contract may be assigned or transferred, in whole or in part, and no obligations of the Beneficiaries may be sub-contracted, without the Coordinator’s prior formal written approval; and such approval shall not exempt the Beneficiaries from any of its obligations hereunder.

Although (with exception to the Coordinator) the DRG4FOOD consortium partners and their affiliated entities are not Contracting Parties to this Contract, they are intended by the Contracting Parties to be third party beneficiaries under this Contract and accordingly shall be entitled to enforce the terms of this Contract against the Beneficiaries and (without limitation) shall be entitled to the benefit of, and to enforce any exclusion of limitation of liability of the DRG4FOOD consortium partners contained in this Contract and any indemnity in favour of the DRG4FOOD consortium partners contained in this Contract.

Amendments and modifications to the text of this Contract require a separate written agreement to be signed between all Parties. Although this Contract refers to the provisions of the CA and GA, the Beneficiary is not a party to the CA or GA but only bound towards the Coordinator by the CA and GA provisions as referred or reproduced in this Contract.

This Contract is drawn up in English language which shall govern all documents, notices, meetings, and processes relative thereto.

# Article 14 - Applicable Law

This Contract shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of Belgium.

# Article 15 - Settlement of disputes

If the Contracting Parties are unable to resolve a dispute amicably, such dispute will be finally settled under the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce by three (3) arbitrators in Brussels.

Each of the Contracting Parties to the dispute shall appoint one (1) arbitrator and the two (2) arbitrators so appointed shall elect the presiding arbitrator. Should a Party to the dispute which should appoint an arbitrator fails to do so within fourteen (14) days of the delivery of the written notice to do so from the other Party to the dispute or should the appointed arbitrators fail to reach agreement on the presiding arbitrator within fourteen (14) days after their appointment, such arbitrator shall be appointed in accordance with the Rules upon request of any of the Parties to the dispute. The seat of arbitration shall be Brussels.

The Contracting Parties agree that the language of the arbitration, including oral hearings, written evidence, and correspondence shall be English.

A duly rendered arbitration award shall be final and binding on the Contracting Parties to the dispute. Each Contracting Party to the arbitration conducted in accordance with this section hereof shall bear its own expenses incurred in connection with such arbitration, including fees of its legal counsels. All other costs and expenses shall be apportioned between the Contracting Parties to the arbitration in accordance with the decision of the arbitrators.

Nothing in this Contract shall limit the Contracting Parties right to seek injunctive relief or to enforce an arbitration award in any applicable competent court of law.

# Article 16 – No double funding

By signing this Contract, the Beneficiaries declare to be aware of the fundamental principle underpinning the rules for public expenditure in the EU that no costs for the same activity be funded twice from the EU budget, as defined in the Article 111 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No. 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation, and confirms that all the work performed under the DRG4FOOD project (Grant Agreement no. 101086523) will be done exclusively in the scope of this programme, not being supported or funded by any other European Commission programme.

AS WITNESS:

The Contracting Parties have caused this Contract to be duly signed by the undersigned authorized representatives in three (3) copies the day and year first above written:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| For TWINDS  (DRG4FOOD Coordinator)  Mr. Kai Hermsen  Co-founder, Boardmember and Secretary  Signature  Done at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on: |  | **For INOSENS**  (DRG4FOOD Open Call Manager and Treasurer) Mr. Branko Popovic  Managing Director  Signature  Done at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on: |
| For \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [Project title] project Lead Beneficiary)  Mr/ Mrs \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [Name/ Surname]  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [Position]  Signature  Done at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on: |  |  |

# ANNEXES

* Annex B: Technical Proposal Temlate
* Annex C: Declaration of Honour
* Annex D: Consortium Declaration of Honour
* Annex E: SME Declaration
* Annex G: Bank Account Information Form

1. April 2025 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/about\_the\_european\_commission/eu\_budget/fich\_sign\_ba\_gb\_en\_0.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga\_en.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)