



NEW FRONTIERS IN FOOD FAST FORWARD

Grant Agreement number: 783388

COS-CLUSTERINT-2016-03-01

The voucher scheme in a nutshell

What is the NF4 internationalisation voucher?

The NF4 internationalisation voucher is a travel voucher that consists of a lump sum of EUR 2.000 (fixed amount, no more, no less) to help cover the costs incurred by the beneficiary SME by participating in a NF4 international mission. In particular, it is destined to help beneficiary SMEs to finance:

- Travel costs, including accommodation and subsistence;
- Registration costs, in order to participate to fairs or other events taking place at the target country during the international mission.

Overview of voucher process



Who can apply?

SMEs located in one of the NF4 countries, which are members or in a process of becoming members of one of the NF4 Clusters, and that are willing to strengthen their international capacity in the NF4 target country(ies) - Canada, USA, Brazil, China - and alongside the following value chains: the market of connected food, the market of functional food and healthy ingredients, the market of processed food products.

How to apply?

Application is made by completing and submitting the online application form available at: <https://goo.gl/forms/j1BdTD4ZKxGM33Fz1>, in English and within the established deadline.



When to apply?

Two waves of applications are foreseen:

- *1st wave*: apply from April 15 to June 29, 2018 (target countries: Canada)
- *2nd wave*: apply from December 15, 2018 to January 31, 2019 (target countries: Brazil, USA and China)

NF4 International voucher application: Terms & conditions

Submission conditions

- Applications can only be submitted via the NF4 website and using the provided templates.
- Applications must be submitted in English.
- Applications must be submitted within the established deadline.

Eligibility criteria

To be considered for selection, the applicant must comply with the following criteria:

- The applicant has SME status according to the SME definition of the European Union (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:124:0036:0041:en:PDF>)¹.
- The SME is located in one of the 5 NF4 countries listed in the table below.
- The SME is a member or is in the process of becoming a member of one of the 5 NF4 Clusters listed in table below.
- The SME has (or is developing) an internationalization strategy to make use of growth opportunities at the international level for products and/or services alongside at least one of the NF4 value chains: VC#1 Connected food; VC#2 Functional food and healthy ingredients; VC#3 processed food products and in one or more of the NF4 target countries: Brazil, Canada, China, USA.

List of NF4 countries and clusters

Countries	Cluster
Belgium	WAGRALIM
France	VITAGORA
France	VALORIAL
The Netherlands	FoodValley
Spain	CLUSAGA

Voucher selection criteria

Vouchers will be awarded on the basis of a competitive call, considering the overall budget available and the quality and quantity of the applications received. Selection of SMEs will be based on the internationalization potential of the SME.

¹ DG GROW SME self-assessment questionnaire: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/SME-Wizard/smeq.do;SME_SESSION_ID=gc0k5kPSoiaus4OpUYCiZwMpuRla7nVEDjZvB5Jn7HDxaWRsHT6!1028861268?execution=e1s1



It will take into consideration the following quality criteria (adding up to the initial eligibility criteria):

- the SME is working on at least one of the value chains (NF4 priority markets):
 - VC #1 the market of connected food;
 - VC #2 the market of functional food and healthy ingredients;
 - VC #3 the market of processed food products.
- the value chain represents a good market opportunity at the NF4 target countries, according to the following identified priorities:
 - Canada: VC#2
 - USA: VC#1
 - Brazil: VC#2
 - China: VC#3
- The previous participation of the SME to international missions
- The bizdev potential of the SME internationalization project
- The SME motivation to grow and to participate in the NF4 activities

Communication of selection results

Once selection is finalised (within a maximum of 30 days after the closing date for applications):

- Unsuccessful applicants will receive a formal communication, with a summary of the reasons for not being selected.
- Successful applicants will receive a formal communication by email and a contract (the sub-grant agreement) to be signed between the beneficiary SME and the NF4 Cluster of the country where the SME is located

Financial provisions

The total amount of the NF4 vouchers shall not exceed in any circumstances:

- EUR 2.000 per SME
- EUR 100.000 for the total duration of the NF4 project and counting the two application/selection waves

Main rights and obligations

The payment of the voucher is conditioned to the active participation of the SME in the corresponding international mission and the acceptance of the final report by the NF4 consortium.

A sub-grant agreement will be signed by each voucher beneficiary SME and the NF4 Cluster of the country where the SME is located. The sub-grant agreement will specify the rights and obligations of each party.

