



## D3.2 Evaluation process and committee (a)

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## Executive summary

The present deliverable illustrated evaluation methodology, results and committee of the first open call. In particular, it explains the remote evaluation, consensus meeting, jury day and final ranking list publication. It describes the project evaluation methodology as well as the evaluation committee selection and management. The report is foreseen in “WP3 – Open calls Format – FSTP”.

This document is organized as follows: Section 1 discusses the purpose of the document and the terms and acronyms. Section 2 discusses the Evaluators selection procedure, especially the Expert Open Call, criteria for experts' evaluation and final decision making. Section 3 discusses the Evaluation methodology, focusing on the remote evaluation, Consensus meeting, Jury Day and the final decision making. Section 4 gives the Conclusions of the 1<sup>st</sup> Evaluation process and final list of proposals proposed for funding.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose of the document

MUSAE is a project that will define an innovative model to integrate artistic collaboration in the (European) Digital Innovation Hubs (E-DIHs) through a Design Futures Art-driven (DFA) method to help companies to anticipate innovative products and services for the future of food to improve human and planetary well-being. MUSAE supports pilot projects by teams composed of artist(s) in the First Open Call, and artist(s) and SME(s), supplying technology in the Second Open Call. A total of 2 Open Calls is to be launched, and one in-house selection of 2 artists for the first art-tech residency at ETF Robotics<sup>1</sup>, to select 12 scenarios as a result of the First Art-Tech experiment and 11 concepts as a result of the Second Art-Tech experiment to be further turned in 11 prototypes.

The main purpose of the **MUSAE First Open Call for S+T+ARTS residences** is to run Art-tech experiment to develop future scenarios of technologies use in the Food as Medicine based on the DFA method and reflecting on the use of AI, robotics, wearables. Beneficiaries are 10 artists who will implement their activities in a residency programme hosted mainly by project partners. Activities per experiment: 1 training programme on each - the DFA method, topic of nutrition and well-being and technologies, 1 mentoring programme by MUSAE experts. Output: 10 future scenarios.

The first art-tech residency at ETF Robotics will follow the first Art-Tech experiment selecting other 2 artists. To synchronize with MUSAE timely, ETF will proceed with the in-house selection of artists as an alternative to time and effort-consuming open call methodology instead of announcing a wide-open call. Two artists (male and female) from the Belgrade Faculty of contemporary arts and Faculty of applied arts will be selected on the criteria developed by the MUSAE evaluation committee and work on developing envisioning scenarios for one of the three thematic tracks for in the ETF Robotics lab. Beneficiaries are 2 artists in 1 residency hosted by ETF and mentored by POLIMI, UB, GLUON, UCD and tech partner, developing as an output 2 future scenarios.

The main purpose of this document is to explain the whole procedure of the evaluation process of the 1st Open call of MUSAE, excluding ETF in-house selection: Evaluation committee selection, Eligibility check, Remote evaluation, Consensus meeting, Jury day.

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<sup>1</sup> As a result of the Hop On Facility, ETF Robotics from Belgrade, Serbia joined the MUSAE project later and will implement the First Art-Tech residency to test the DFA method by selecting 2 artists in-house

## 1.2. Terms and acronyms

Acronym	Definition
<b>Artwork</b>	Artwork is an artistic production created with a range of techniques having an aesthetic and/or conceptual value, and in the case of the MUSAE project is developed as a part of the scenario produced during the residency programme.
<b>Scenario</b>	Scenario is a hypothetical story created with sufficient details to explore visions or aspects of possible futures. A scenario does not predict what will happen in the future but rather by simulating possible futures it can reveal the choices available. It helps different stakeholders by providing a context for planning, lowering the level of uncertainty and increasing the level of knowledge about the consequences of actions that have been taken, or will be taken, in the present. Scenarios can be represented through various mediums such as written narrative, text; podcast; artefact; storyboard; evocative image; video; website; sketch.
<b>Design Future Art-driven (DFA)</b>	DFA is a new methodology defined by MUSEAE as a combination of Design Futures and Art Thinking approaches, to equip and enable artists to learn a new method to develop a strategic approach to innovation with companies.
<b>Residency Program</b>	Residency Program in MUSAE is the time-process where at the beginning ten artists will define scenarios to explore future challenges of food production and consumption by developing innovative solutions of products and services exploiting the application of AI, Robotics and Wearables technologies. Through a second competitive open call, ten teams composed by artists and SMEs, will do a new residency program to develop industrial prototypes.
<b>Legal Entity</b>	Legal entity means any natural or legal person created and recognised as such under national law, EU law or international law, which has legal personality, and which may, acting in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations, or an entity without legal personality (point (c) of Article 197 (2) of the EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046)
<b>SME</b>	Small Medium Enterprises as defined in EU recommendation 2003/361 ( <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32003H0361">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32003H0361</a> )
<b>European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs)</b>	European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) are one-stop shops supporting companies and public sector organisations to respond to digital challenges and become more competitive.
<b>Digital Transformation (DT)</b>	The use of new digital technologies (social media, mobile, analytics or embedded devices) to enable major business improvements (such as enhancing customer experience, streamlining operations or creating new business models).
<b>Artificial Intelligence</b>	The theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages
<b>Wearables</b>	Wearable devices are products controlled by electronic components and software that can be incorporated into clothing or worn on the body like accessories.
<b>Robotics</b>	Robotics is a branch of engineering that involves the conception, design, manufacture and operation of robots. The objective of the robotics field is to create intelligent machines that can assist humans in a variety of ways.

## 2. Evaluation Committee

### 2.1 Selection of evaluation committee

An Open call for experts to participate in the evaluation process was announced on the S+T+ARTS MUSAE Web page. Experts had to be experienced evaluators with expertise and knowledge in one of the core fields of the MUSAE focus: art, design and/or nutrition, or have knowledge in some of the relevant technologies involved in the MUSAE project, mainly AI, wearables and/or Robotics-based tools. We looked for independent Experts who reside in one of the European Member States, Associated States or United Kingdom. All experts carrying out the evaluations had to meet the criterion of independence, which means that they have not links with the participants to the two open calls. Thus, we ensured that there is no conflict of interest with the artists submitting the experiment proposals. For that, once the open call was closed and the expert applications were assessed and accepted, the evaluators had to sign a declaration of honour before starting the evaluation process. A detailed Guide for Expert Applicants was published on MUSAE website (Link: <https://musae.starts.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/05/Guide-for-Expert-Applicants-19.5.pdf>)

The evaluation work was performed entirely in English, hence the experts had to be able to effectively communicate and write in English. The selection process for experts ensured that the profile of those selected meets the minimum requirements established for evaluating the application experiments submitted in the MUSAE 1st Open Call.

For the selection of the experts, the following criteria were considered:

**Criterion 1:** Technical background experience. With 70% of weight over the final score. It assessed the experience in the main areas and technologies covered by the MUSAE project. This criterion shall be assessed on a scale from 0 to 3, being one of the following:

- 0 points: no experience at all.
- 1 point: less than 5 years of experience in the relevant fields of the MUSAE project.
- 2 points: more than 5 years of experience in the relevant fields of the MUSAE project.
- 3 points: more than 10 years of experience in the relevant fields of the MUSAE project.

**Criterion 2:** Previous experience as evaluators. With 30 % of weight over the final score. It assessed the number of years of experience of the evaluator in evaluation processes. This criterion shall be assessed on a scale of 0 to 3, being one of the following:

- 0 points: no experience at all.
- 1 point: less than 2 years of experience as evaluator both in a regional, national or EC programs.
- 2 points: between 2 - 5 years of experience as evaluator both in a regional, national or EC programs.
- 3 points: more than 5 years of experience as evaluator both in a regional, national or EC programs, and/or experience in open calls.

The scores obtained in both criteria were multiplied by 10 and weighted according to the 70-30% weight. Minimum score possible is 10 points and maximum 30 points.

To apply to become a MUSAE Expert Commission member, the experts completed an online application form and attaching their Curriculum Vitae (CV).

## 2.2 Evaluation Committee

Following the selection, based on criteria described in Section 3.1, and contractualization of evaluators 40 evaluators were selected (Table 3).

	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL	TOTAL
ART	10	10	20
TECHNOLOGY	11	9	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>40</b>

**Table 1 MUSAE Evaluation Committee composition**

All 40 experts from the final evaluation committee were asked to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), Agreement for the 1st Expert Call of MUSAE project for Art Proposals under the S+T+ARTS Program, and a Declaration of No Conflict of Interest (DCOI) as well as an assignment letter.

## 3. Open call Evaluation methodology

This paragraph describes the evaluation methodology providing overall view of the process.

To test and validate the MUSAE Factory Model, MUSAE launched a **S+T+ARTS Residency Program** (<https://starts.eu/what-we-do/residences/>) to explore future challenges of food production and consumption by developing innovative solutions of products and services exploiting the application of AI, Robotics and Wearables technologies. The project aims to select **23 artists and 11 SMEs** in total (20 artists and 10 SMEs, selected in the main MUSAE process and 3 artists and 1 SME to join additionally through ETF Robotics in Belgrade) and implement two pilot art-tech experiments based on the DFA method, followed by the prototyping phase, where the teams of SMEs and artists will develop industrial prototypes.

The first Open Call (launched in April 2023) selected 10 artists that will produce scenarios to envision the future potential and challenges of Food as Medicine topic. Alongside, the artists will produce artworks as representations of scenarios, as part of the output of the first Open Call. In addition, they will follow and mentor the teams of SMEs and artists during the second art-tech experiment (e.g., through webinars, one to one meeting) who will take their scenarios as a starting point to develop concepts and prototypes.

### Key details of the MUSAE Open calls

- ☐ MUSAE 1st Open Call has been launched in April 2023 and was opened until the 5th of June 2023 and extended until 9<sup>th</sup> of June.
- ☐ The overall evaluation and selection process took eight weeks, from 10th of June 2023 to 31st of July 2023, including the eligibility check process during the first week.
- ☐ The contracting process of artists from the first call will take one month, from 1st to 30th September 2023.
- ☐ Ten proposals were selected and 2 are on the reserve list, hence 10 proposals are expected to be funded under the 1st Open Call.
- ☐ Each proposal will receive a contribution of 40,000 EUR in the 1st Call and up to 80,000



EUR in the 2nd Call.

- ☐ The topic of the proposals covers one of the thematic tracks and is based on at least one of the technologies: AI, Wearables and Robotics.
- ☐ Proposals were submitted in English.
- ☐ Applicants are Artists, namely any natural person or SME created and recognized as such under national law, EU law or international law, which has legal personality, and which may, acting in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations. Such legal person must act under NACE code '9003 Artistic Creation'<sup>15</sup> who undertakes artistic activities as a professional occupation.
- ☐ An applicant can be a self-employed individual (freelancer) that undertakes artistic activities as a profession/job occupation, such as creative technologists, media artists, creative coders, artistic front & back-end designers & hackers, digital artists, etc.
- ☐ The applicant is legally established in one of the Countries eligible for Horizon Europe funding.
- ☐ Applicants shall not have any potential conflict of interest with the selection process and during the implementation of the project. Applicants were requested to self-declare the absence of any conflict of interest at the application stage.
- ☐ In the case of multiple submission, only the latest submitted application was assessed.
- ☐ Applicants must not fall under the categories of the Exclusion Criteria [Sect. 10, Guide to Applicants].
- ☐ The ethical check was completed.
- ☐ MUSAE consortium partners have scheduled three online webinars to clear doubts and provide live responses to questions regarding the first open call. All webinar sessions were recorded and subsequently were available online (<https://musae.starts.eu/calls>). First Webinar: 08th May 2023 (Monday) at 11 am CET. Second Webinar: 15th May 2023 (Monday) at 11 am CET. Third Webinar: 22nd May 2023 (Monday) at 11 am CET.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Open call proposals evaluation process run in four phases: a) Eligibility Check and Scope list, b) Remote Evaluation, c) Consensus Meeting and d) Jury Day. The following table illustrates the different stages and the corresponding selection committees and their tasks.

Figure 1 1st MUSAE Open Call: evaluation methodology

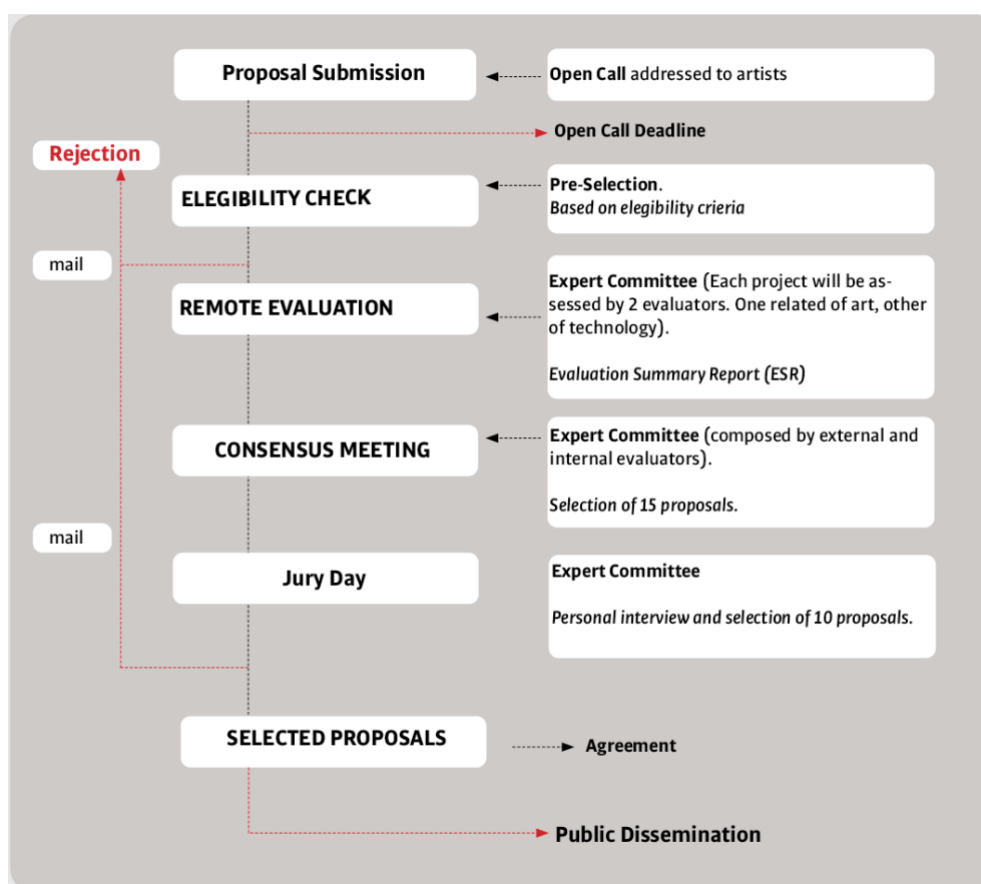


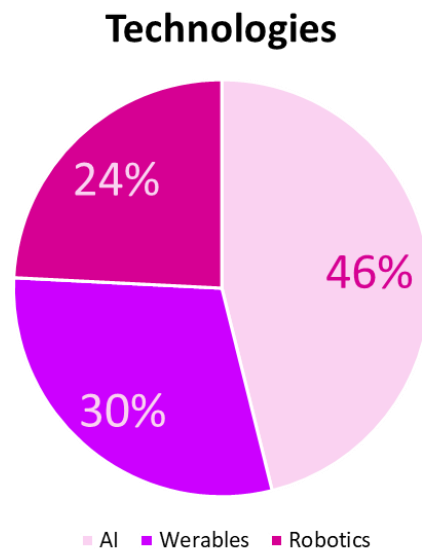
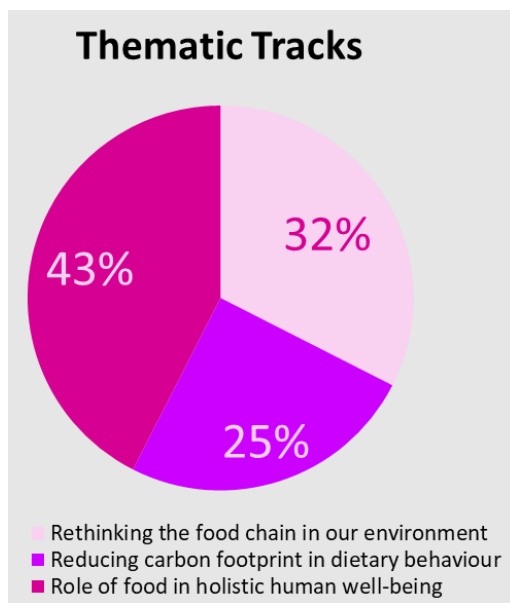
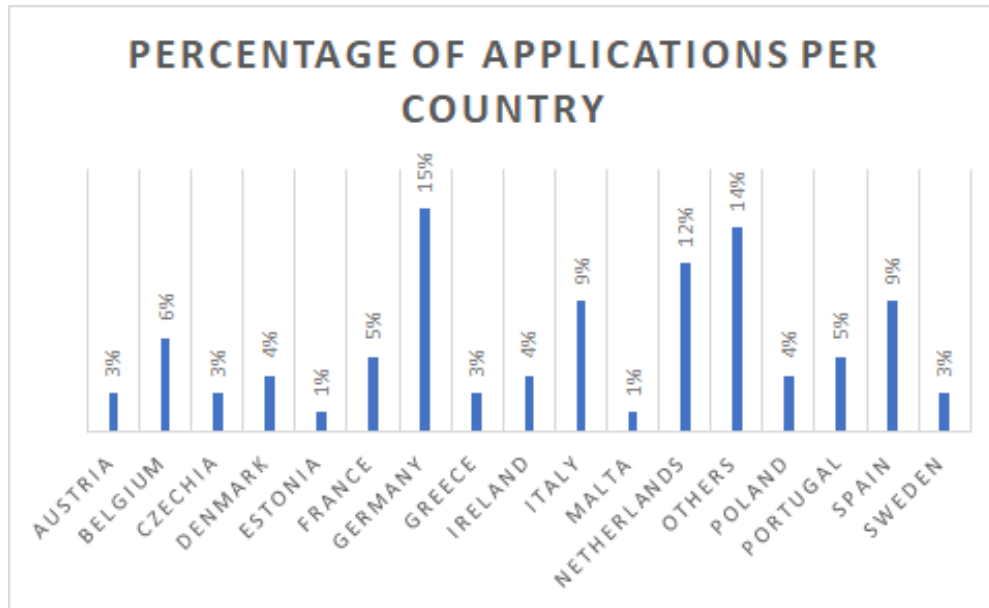
Table 2 Evaluation phase results

EVALUATION PHASE	TOTAL PROPOSAL	NUMBER OF PROPOSAL
SUBMISSION	TOT PROPOSAL FINALIZED	78
ELIGIBILITY CHECK	PROPOSAL DUPLICATED	3
	INELIGIBLE PROPOSAL	1
	<b>TOT ELIGIBLE PROPOSAL</b>	<b>74</b>
REMOTE EVALUATION	PROPOSAL BELOW THRESHOLD	35
	PROPOSAL ABOVE THRESHOLD	39
CONSENSUS MEETING	<b>PROPOSAL EVALUATED</b>	<b>39</b>
JURY DAY	<b>PROPOSAL ASSESSED</b>	<b>25<sup>2</sup></b>
SELECTED PROPOSAL	<b>TOTAL PROPOSAL</b>	<b>10</b>

For all MUSAE Open call details, please refer to the MUSAE [web page](#).

<sup>2</sup> The decision to invite 25 proposals (instead of 15) was taken to assure that all three thematic tracks have the similar probability to be covered by the final winner list see (Sec. 2.2)

Figure 2 MUSAE 1st open call submitted proposal: countries, thematic tracks and technologies represented



### Table 3 MUSAE 1st Open Call evaluation timeline

	PARTNER	gen-23	feb-23	mar-23	apr-23	may-23	jun-23	jul-23	ago-23	set-23
<b>T3.3 - EVALUATION PROCESS (Committee, criteria and selection)</b>	UB, GLUON, MADE		<b>D3.2</b>							
T3.3.1 - Definition of evaluation methodology (1st + 2nd call)	UB									
T3.3.5 - Selection of evaluators (1st call)	ALL					<b>M3.2</b>				
Open call published on STARTS website	UB					M3.1				
Selection of evaluators	UB									
T3.3.6 – NDA and non-COI signed by evaluators	UB						<b>M3.3</b>			
T3.3.7 Evaluation of first call	UB							<b>M3.4</b>		
Eligibility	MADE/POLIMI/AB.ABAC US							M3.5		
Remote Evaluation	UB							M3.6		
Consensus meeting	UB							M3.7		
Jury day	all							M3.8		
Decision making and winners announcement	UB/MADE/POLIMI							M3.9		

Legend of milestones:

M3.1 Open call text, including deadline, methodology of evaluation and criteria, and the methodology for evaluators selection published on the STARTS website<sup>3</sup>.

M3.2 List of selected evaluators, including justification document.

M3.3 Evaluators selected and contractualized (Assignment letter, Avoidance of Conflict-of-interest declaration, NDA).

M3.4 List of eligible proposals, including justification for ineligible proposal.

M3.6 List of ranked proposal (above threshold and below threshold).

M3.7 List of ranked proposal.

M3.8 List of selected proposal and report of Jury Day.

M3.9 List of selected proposals, evaluation report.

Description of the main evaluation principles we followed to organize the evaluation process:

- i. **Excellence.** The proposal(s) selected for funding must demonstrate a high quality in the context of the topics and criteria set out in the call.
- ii. **Transparency.** Funding decisions must be based on clearly described rules and procedures, and all applicants should receive adequate feedback on the outcome of the evaluation of their proposals.
- iii. **Fairness and impartiality.** All proposals submitted to a call are treated equally. They are evaluated impartially on their merits, irrespective of their origin or the identity of the applicants.
- iv. **Confidentiality.** All proposals and related data, knowledge and documents are treated in confidence.
- v. **Efficiency and speed.** Evaluation of proposals and award of the financial support should be as rapid as possible, commensurate with maintaining the quality of the evaluation, and respecting the legal framework.

Evaluation methodology is described in each section

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<sup>3</sup> <https://starts.eu/open-call-artists-musae-starts-residencies-2023-1/>

### 3.1 Eligibility Check

Once the open call was closed, the proposals were checked whether they meet the eligibility criteria, indicated in Section 5 of Guide of Applicants, basing on statements declared by the applicants in the proposal stage. The eligibility criteria were checked against a Declaration of Honour or self-declarations included in the application form. The projects that did not comply with these criteria were not accepted for the remote evaluation phase except for some subjudice cases assessed by an internal committee.

Table 1 MUSAE Open Call: eligibility criteria

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	APPLICATION FORM QUESTION
CRITERION 1. Applicants must be Artists, namely any natural person or SME 14 created and recognized as such under national law, EU law or international law, which has legal personality, and which may, acting in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations. Such legal person must act under NACE code '9003 Artistic Creation'15 who undertakes artistic activities as a professional occupation. 2. A self-employed individual (freelancer) that undertakes artistic activities as a profession/job occupation, such as creative technologists, media artists, creative coders, artistic front & back-end designers & hackers, digital artists, etc.	7. (Indicate) VAT number and or Entity registration number. <i>In case of doubt case, the proposal will pass in the next evaluation phase and the criteria is further checked in the grant management phase</i>
CRITERION 2. A self-employed individual (freelancer) that undertakes artistic activities as a profession/job occupation, such as creative technologists, media artists, creative coders, artistic front & back-end designers & hackers, digital artists, etc.	7. (Indicate) VAT number and or Entity registration number. <i>In case of doubt case, the proposal will pass in the next evaluation phase and the criteria is further checked in the grant management phase</i>
CRITERION 3. Legally established in one of the Countries eligible for Horizon Europe funding <sup>4</sup>	5 (Indicate) Country where the entity is registered/country of residence or citizenship
CRITERION 4. Each proposal can request a contribution of up to 40.000€.	36. (Indicate) total requested funding <i>In case of doubt case, the proposal will pass in the next evaluation phase and the criteria is further checked in the grant management phase</i>
CRITERION 5. Applicants shall not have any potential conflict of interest with the selection process and during the implementation of the project. All cases of potential conflict of interest will be assessed case by case.	10. I declare not to undergo any Conflict of Interest with MUSAE Consortium * <i>For more information see "Guide of Applicants - MUSAE". Link: <a href="https://musae.starts.eu/wpcontent/uploads/sites/3/2023/04/MUSAE_Guide-of-applicants_DEF_V2.pdf">https://musae.starts.eu/wpcontent/uploads/sites/3/2023/04/MUSAE_Guide-of-applicants_DEF_V2.pdf</a></i>
CRITERION 6. The topic of the experiment must cover one of the thematic tracks and be based on at least one of the technologies foreseen in Section 2	21. Select one or more of the thematic tracks you are interested to explore - 1st Priority * 23. Select the technologies provided by the consortium you would like to include
CRITERION 7. Proposals must be submitted in English.	Based on all proposal text
CRITERION 8. Applicants must not fall under the categories of the Exclusion Criteria [Sect. 10 of Guide of Applicants].	14. I declare not to fall in any of the Exclusion Criteria set out in section 10 of the Guide of applicants * <i>Here the link to Guide of Applicants: <a href="https://musae.starts.eu/wpcontent/uploads/sites/3/2023/04/MUSAE_Guide-of-applicants_DEF_V2.pdf">https://musae.starts.eu/wpcontent/uploads/sites/3/2023/04/MUSAE_Guide-of-applicants_DEF_V2.pdf</a></i>
CRITERION 9. Ethical check must be completed.	12. I declare that this proposal arises no Ethic Issue accordingly to Horizon Europe Ethics Self Assessment * <i>Here the link to Horizon Europe Ethics Self-Assessment: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/fundingtenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment">https://ec.europa.eu/info/fundingtenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment</a>. You need to read it and identify if there are some conflicts with your proposal.</i>

<sup>4</sup> Accordingly to Work Programme 2023-2024 13. General Annexes ([click here](#)). As a general rule the wider European dimension applied.

	<i>For the Jury Day selected proposal, an additional ethical assessment was run by Project Ethical Manager.</i>
CRITERION 10. Applications must be submitted within the timeline indicated in section 6.	Confirmed by the time of submission certified the Platform



## 3.2 Remote evaluation

The organization of the remote evaluation had as a purpose to guarantee that the evaluation process is transparent, fair and equal to all our participants. **MUSAE** is committed to an inclusive selection process, with an explicit focus on ensuring, socio-cultural, and gender diversity within the project.

**Remote Evaluation Committee:** In the **Remote Evaluation** the Expert committee was composed of 10 External Art experts, 10 External Technological experts, 11 Internal Art experts and 9 Internal Technological experts. All experts were paired in 22 Committee so that each proposal was reviewed by 1 external and 1 internal, 1 art and 1 technological expert.

**Methodology:** 74 proposals were assessed. During the **Remote Evaluation**, each proposal was evaluated by **two experts**, one internal<sup>5</sup> and one external<sup>6</sup> to the consortium with complementary expertise (i.e., arts + technology), against the evaluation criteria. Experts were called to a Webinar on **Thursday 22 June 2023, at 14.30 CET time** to explain the project, open call objectives and scope, evaluation methodology and procedure, their tasks and platform for evaluation. The internal guideline was then shared to the evaluators as supporting documentation, as well as webinar recording.

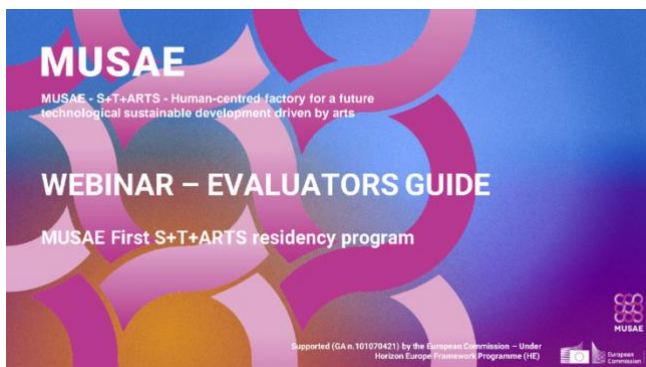
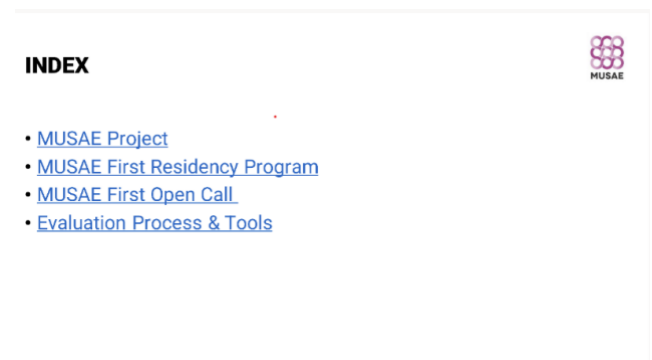


Figure 3 MUSAE Evaluators internal guideline



Reassignment proposal to new evaluators, while maintaining the committee basic composition, was implemented to mitigate the following incurred risk

- Operation: Evaluation delay of internal evaluators; reassignment of external evaluators from evaluation activity; internal evaluators classified as external.
- Technical: issue linked to the platform.

When reassigning the proposal, performed evaluation were deleted and replaced by the new ones.

The Remote evaluation lasted 4 weeks starting from 21/06/2023. Remote evaluation was done through the F6S platform<sup>7</sup>. Technical assistance was provided by WP3 leader.

<sup>5</sup> i.e. part of MUSAE consortium partner

<sup>6</sup> i.e. belonging to organization outside MUSAE consortium partners

<sup>7</sup> www.f6s.com

The external evaluators are experts that applied to the 1st Open expert call and do not belong to any of the institutions of the MUSAE consortium. The internal experts are members linked to those same organizations of the MUSAE consortium. Still for the transparency and straightforwardness of the evaluation process, they also applied to the 1<sup>st</sup> Open expert call. Each evaluator recorded his/her individual opinion on each proposal using the evaluation form available online.

All the experts who took part in this evaluation process be individuals with experience and knowledge in the fields of art and the implementation of digital technologies or technological strategies.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Proposals were evaluated on the following criteria detailed in Table 2.

**TABLE 2 Remote evaluation: evaluation score grid**

Criteria	Minimum threshold	Priority in case of ex aequo
<b>EXCELLENCE</b> <b>1. Innovation:</b> Coherence and relevance to objectives and scope, including innovative concepts and complementarity to the project's areas and domain of MUSAE. <b>2. Fit:</b> The Proposal demonstrates a clear understanding of the thematic tracks it responds to and fits within the vision of MUSAE <b>3. Soundness:</b> The proposal demonstrates a clear and credible approach to deliver (a) demonstrable scenario by the end of the residency project.	3 out of 5	3
<b>IMPACT</b> <b>1. Artistic potential:</b> the proposal demonstrates potential for artistic outcomes. <b>2. Challenges:</b> definition of which innovative aspects the proposal contributes in relation to the challenges of contemporary ecosystems and its suitability to the defined topic. <b>3. Critical and proactive sense:</b> balance between critical thinking and practical application of the results.	3 out of 5	1
<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b> <b>1. CV/ Artistic portfolio:</b> the capacity, expertise and experience of the artists and the ability to go from the conceptual to the development stage within a project. <b>2. Artistic and technological quality:</b> based on previous works and the vision proposed in the application, how the synergy between art and technology are applied to tackle the thematic area(s) and potential scenarios. <b>3. Resources:</b> the proposal clarifies the needs and goals of the program and is realistic to achieve within the given time and budget constraints.	3 out of 5	2

All applications were assigned a score from 0 to 5 for each criterion.

- 1 (Fail): Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- 2 (Poor): The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 3 (Fair): While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses.
- 4 (Good): The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary.
- 5 (Excellent): The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question.

Each evaluator produced an Individual Evaluation Report based on the above criteria. The final marks per each section results from the average of each Individual Evaluation Report. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores was 10, out of a grand total of 15 whereas the minimum threshold per each criterium was 3. If two or more proposals were tied with the same overall score, priority was given to proposals who has received a higher score in the second criterion "Impact", then the third criterion "implementation". As a result, 39 proposals were evaluated above threshold and passed to the Consensus meeting evaluation.

### 3.3 Consensus meeting

The above threshold proposals passed to the Consensus meeting, where a committee composed by 7 external experts and 10 internal experts assessed proposal alignment with MUSAE overall scope and goals. The Consensus meeting was held on 19 of July in MSTeams from 10:00 to 13:30h. All external and internal experts were invited.

The Agenda of the Consensus meeting contained:

10.00 – 10.15h, Welcome

10.15 – 10.30h, Overview of the evaluation process

10.30 – 13.00h:

a) Discussion of proposals disregarded due to not achieving minimal score to be considered

b) Discussion of proposals in descending order

For this purpose, a provisional ranking of the proposals according to the average grades will be provided. Special attention will be paid to evaluations with big discrepancy.

13.00 - 13.15h, Final rank of proposal to be passed to Jury Day

13.15 – 13.30 Closing

The members of the Selection Committee shared and collated the evaluation criteria, and reached in a consensual list, starting from the scores detailed on the Remote Evaluation Summary. A Consensus on allowing the best ranked 25 proposals to be invited to the Jury Day was taken following the overall score of the Remote evaluation process. All evaluators were then requested to confirm the final rank by raising objection in written form. The decision to invite 25 proposals (instead of 15) was taken to assure that all three thematic tracks have the similar probability to be covered by the final winner list.

### 3.4 Jury day

The 25 finalists proposed by the **Expert Committee** were invited to present their proposals at the Jury Day on 26 of July in MSTeams to the internal evaluators and project's ethical manager in role of an Ethical Observer (without right of vote).

Before the beginning of the presentations, the applicants were invited to connect in [MSTeams](#) from 8:00 to 8.30 CET time to check their video, audio and presentation screen sharing. 9 of the applicants

connected and tested successfully their devices and presentations. The evaluators scored each proposal basing on the instruction shared (Attachment 1).

At 8:45h CET time the Jury commission connected in MSTEams and discussed the Jury Day evaluation and the agenda for the day. There were not any important or critical last-minute questions about the evaluation process. We reviewed the agenda for the day including which proposals were going to be presented and in which order, at what time we had the breaks and how and when the final decision will be made. The order of presentations was done based on the numerical scores from the Remote evaluation.

The proposals presentations began at 9:00 CET time. Each of the Applicants connected in the previously predetermined time for their presentation in MSTEams waiting in the MSTEams waiting room. Once the previous proposal finished, the applicant of the next proposal was invited to enter the MSTEams main room. Each of the proposals had assigned 15 minutes where at the beginning the applicants were reminded to keep to the “pecha-kucha” format (20 slides in 6 minutes 40 seconds’) to have enough time for the Q&A part.

During the whole proposals’ presentation, the members were provided an excel template with a sheet corresponding to each applicant, to put their quantitative score according to the 3 sub-criteria (Excellence, Impact and Implementation). The weights for the three criteria were Excellence - 55%, Impact - 10% and Implementation – 35%. They also had to provide in the excel file some qualitative comments about the proposal and its presentation. The template was prepared to make the average of the quantitative scores and obtain the final scoring.

After all presentations, the commission proceeded with the final scoring discussion based on the sum of the average of the weighted scores of each Commission member. Thus, the decision-making process was taken at the end of the Jury Day after the proposals’ pitches were completed. Special attention was paid to proposals that are competing in parallel to other S+T+ARTS Residencies projects. Several of the Applicants mentioned participation to other S+T+ARTS Residencies projects and/or application to other S+T+ARTS Residencies Open Calls during their presentation, but the Applicants confirmed that : 1) their proposal is content-wise not the same avoiding double funding and 2) that they will be able to combine the mandatory training sessions, deliverables and milestones of the different S+T+ARTS Residencies projects. As recognized by the Applicants, the Jury commission detected 3 proposals in this situation in the first 10 ranked proposals. The Jury commission had a long discussion if such “parallel” proposals’ work could be possible. At the end a decision to accept such situation if the approved applicants complete the goals of MUSAE, can confirm their participation to all mandatory activities and to meet the expected deliverables and milestones. They should follow the training activities within the MUSAE residencies. The ranking list was approved by the Jury commission where each proposal ranking was considered on a case-by-case basis. A final list of the best scored 10 proposals to be approved plus 2 proposals in the reserve list were voted on and approved by all members of the Jury commission (Section 4).

After the selected winners, these proposals were checked by Ab.Acus (ethical manager) for: existence of significant ethical concerns and alignment with the MUSAE goals & scope. The selected proposals were then sent to Project Officer. No problem was detected regarding such issues and final ESR were generated by UB-TECH and MADE to inform the winners, proposals in the reserve list and the not approved proposals. The final announcement and the ESR were sent to all applicants. The ESR contained: final decision, numerical score from the Remote evaluation and the Jury Day for those participated in the Jury Day, and textual feedback on the proposal compiled from the Jury Day and the Remote evaluation.

## 4. Conclusions

In summary, we can state that the evaluation procedure of the 1st Open Call of MUSAE went successfully and without substantial delay although the time of summer vacations. At the end we have 10 innovative and challenging proposals selected as winners. We spent special effort to complete all the tasks, so we expect no delays on the Winners' contract signature and the beginning of the Residency program. Proposals proposed for funding are depicted in Table 4.

**Table 4 1st MUSAE Open Call proposals proposed for funding.**

ID	NAME OF APPLICANT	COUNTRY	NAME OF PROJECT	THEMATIC TRACK	TECHNOLOGY
2090625	Baum Leahy <sup>8</sup>	Denmark	Holobiont Futures	Reducing carbon footprint in dietary behavior	AI, Wearable
2103332	Chloé Rutzerveld	Netherlands	Reimagining Food with AI: Pioneering Sustainable Culinary Experiences	Reducing carbon footprint in dietary behavior	AI
2084657	Lisa Mandemaker	Netherlands	Becoming with the M/Other: nutrition strategies for pregnant bodies	Role of food in holistic human well-being	AI, Wearable
2103721	Cathrine Kramer	Netherlands	4D Food Cultures: Backcasting the Transition to Regenerative Farming	Reducing carbon footprint in dietary behavior	AI, Robotics
2103290	Peter Kærgaard Andersen	Denmark	EATING/WORLDS - the coming together ... the becoming of something different	Reducing carbon footprint in dietary behavior	AI, Robotics
2103383	Eleonora Ortolani	United	Food Beyond Food	Role of food in holistic human well-being	AI, Robotics
2078995	Frederik De Wilde	Belgium	Working Title: SymBioGenesis	Role of food in holistic human well-being	AI, Wearable, Robotics
2093947	Nonhuman Nonsense	Sweden	The Council of Foods - A meeting place between humans and nonhumans(food), mediated by AI.	Rethinking the food chain in our environment	AI
2107213	Sanja Brkanovic Sikoparija	Serbia	Value Heuristics in Food and Technology	Rethinking the food chain in our environment	AI, Wearable
2107112	Maciej Chmara	Germany	Beyond Crumb and Crust	Role of food in holistic human well-being	AI, Robotics

<sup>8</sup> The consortium will ask for budget integration within Jury day or grant management