

Call for Proposals for a new EIT KIC

As part of Horizon Europe, the EU's main programme for Research and Innovation, the EIT is set to create a **new Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) in the field of water, marine and maritime sectors and ecosystems** in line with its strategy for 2021-2027.

The EIT supports dynamic pan-European partnerships called EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) between leading companies, research labs and universities. Together with their leading partners, the EIT Community offers a wide range of innovation and entrepreneurship activities across Europe: entrepreneurial education courses, business creation and acceleration services and innovation-driven research projects.

What is an EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC)?

An EIT KIC is a thriving Pan-European partnership that brings together businesses, research centres and higher education institutions to power innovation. The EIT Community powers:

- a new generation of entrepreneurs and innovators equipped with **skills** in business and cutting-edge technology;
- innovative **products and services** that are developed and launched on the market in green, health and deep tech;
- **start-ups and scale-ups** ready to take on the planet's most urgent issues.

Why the water, marine and maritime sectors and ecosystems?



The new EIT KIC will develop an integrated approach across water, marine and maritime sectors and ecosystems and will address the following challenges and opportunities through the EIT's innovation model:

- Water scarcity, drought, and floods
- Marine and freshwater ecosystem degradation
- Circular and sustainable Blue Economy.

What will this new Knowledge and Innovation Community set out to deliver?

EIT Water will apply the unique EIT KIC model and bring together top businesses, research centres, and universities to provide education programmes, innovation-driven research projects, and business creation and acceleration programmes. It will also forge synergies and complement existing initiatives by creating a pan-European ecosystem in the water, marine and maritime fields.

Who can apply to form this new partnership?

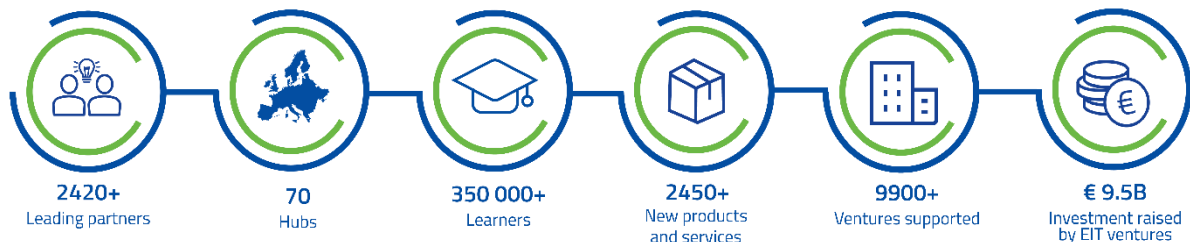
The EIT Call for Proposals is for consortia consisting of leading organisations from business, education and research. (To apply, consortia are not required to establish a KIC legal entity or other legal forms or entities.) The full evaluation criteria for the Call for Proposals is available [here](#).

What are the next steps?



About the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

The EIT strengthens Europe's ability to innovate by powering solutions to pressing global challenges and by nurturing entrepreneurial talent to create sustainable growth and skilled jobs in Europe. The EIT is an EU body and an integral part of Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.



Find out more!

Keep an eye out for news, events, and opportunities around the upcoming KIC on the dedicated page on the [EIT website](#) and on our [LinkedIn page](#)!

Further useful links:

- [EIT's 2025 Call for Proposal Text](#)
- [Apply here – Link to the Funding & Tenders Portal](#)
- [EIT Press Release about Call Opening](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Evaluation Criteria](#)
- [EIT Innovation Model Paper](#)
- [European Commission Study](#)
- [European Commission Staff Working Document](#)
- [EIT Strategy 2021-2027](#)