



European Institute of  
Innovation & Technology

A body of the European Union



# EIT WATER

Call for a new EIT  
Knowledge and Innovation  
Community in water, marine  
and maritime sectors and  
ecosystems

# Catching the Wave

Becoming an EIT Knowledge and  
Innovation Community

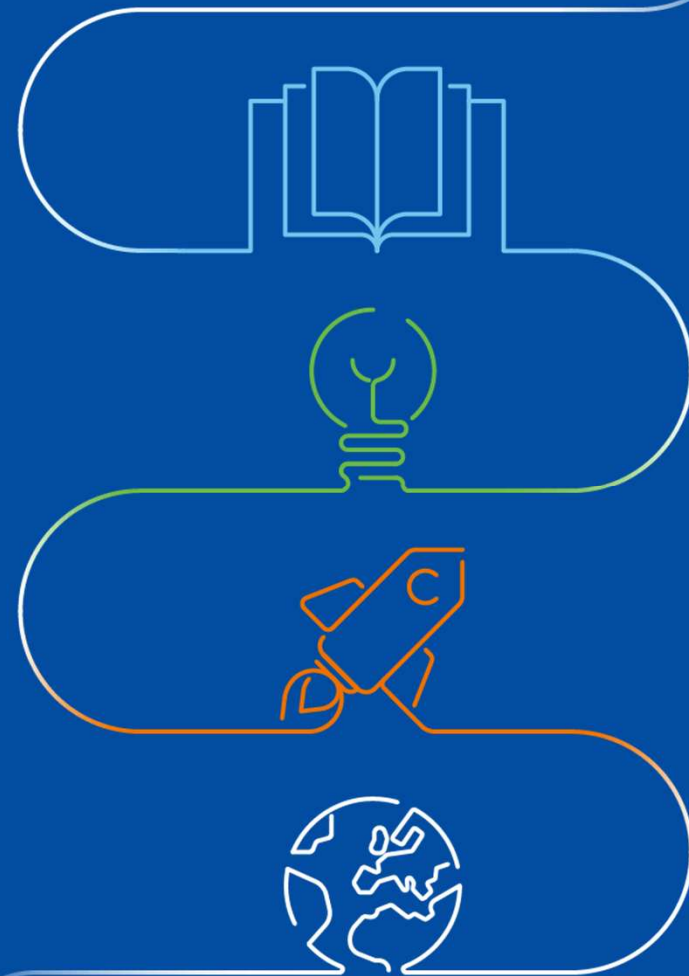
#EITWater

# Key elements of an EIT KIC and its expected impact

David TAS  
Head of Unit 'Supervision and Monitoring', EIT



A body of the European Union







## Becoming a KIC means joining the entire EIT Community

### Our strengths are:



- Strong European and global presence
- Best performing investor (*ranked by Sifted in 2024*)
- Quick in responding to urgent challenges (e.g., COVID response and support to Ukraine)
- Adaptable to take on and expand emerging topics/initiatives (e.g. skills and deeptech initiatives)
- Strong policy participation

# EIT KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION COMMUNITIES (KICs)

## EIT CLIMATE-KIC

Accelerating the transition to a zero-carbon economy

## EIT DIGITAL

Drive Europe's digital transformation

## EIT INNOENERGY

Achieve a sustainable energy future for Europe

## EIT HEALTH

Healthier lives for EU Citizens

## EIT RAWMATERIALS

Develop raw materials into a major strength for Europe

## EIT FOOD

Lead a global revolution in food production & innovation

## EIT MANUFACTURING

Increase Europe's manufacturing competitiveness

## EIT URBAN MOBILITY

Smart, green & integrated transport

**THE EIT KICs AND THEIR PARTNERS MAKE UP THE**  
***EIT COMMUNITY***

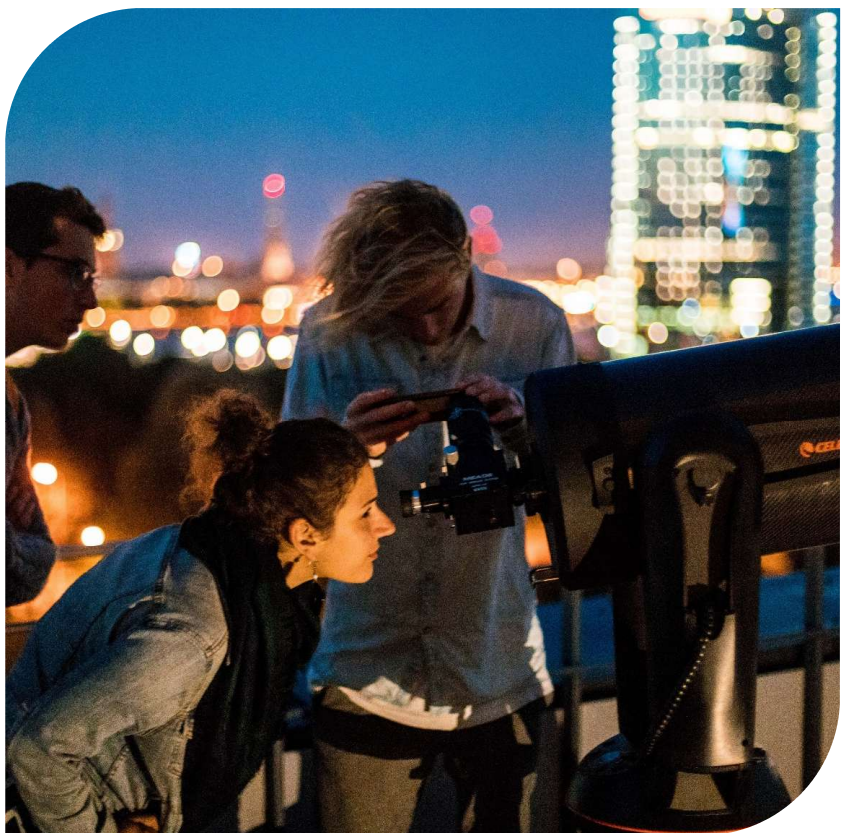
## EIT CULTURE & CREATIVITY

Unite Europe's creatives

## EIT WATER

COMING SOON





## EIT KIC is a way of delivering solutions to societal challenges | How is it done?

- Investing in and developing innovative solutions
- Bringing innovative **solutions on the market**
- Supporting creation and growth of **innovative start-ups**
- Supporting start-ups in securing investments
- Educating & training **talent** for industry and start-ups
- **Reskilling** the workforce
- Supporting policy-makers with the industry perspective
- Delivering on broader **policy objectives** & specific initiatives (e.g. regional innovation valleys)
- Closing European regional **innovation gap**



## How to become an EIT KIC?



Strategy & impact



Partnership



Governance & business model

# Strategy



## IMPACT

### Delivering solutions to societal challenge:

Achieving economic, educational and societal impact in water, marine and maritime sectors and ecosystems



## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

### Creating a self-financing ecosystem:

Capacity to finance knowledge triangle activities and maintain innovation ecosystem independently of EIT contributions



## EDUCATION & SKILLS

### Creating future innovators:

Deliver entrepreneurs and provide business and industry with a skilled workforce



## INNOVATION

### Breaking down the barriers for collaboration:

Innovation projects between universities, research organisations and business that helps to turn research into commercial products and services



## BUSINESS CREATION

### Turning ideas into businesses:

Help start-ups and ventures to start and accelerate the growth of their business.



# What Impact do the KICs create?



Revenues of companies



New jobs created



Jobs at risk sustained



Sustainable innovation ecosystems



Enhanced use of renewable power sources



Reduced greenhouse emissions



Reduced food waste and food loss



Improved disease treatment/prevention



High employment



Reinforced capacity of higher education



HEIs integration into innovation ecosystems



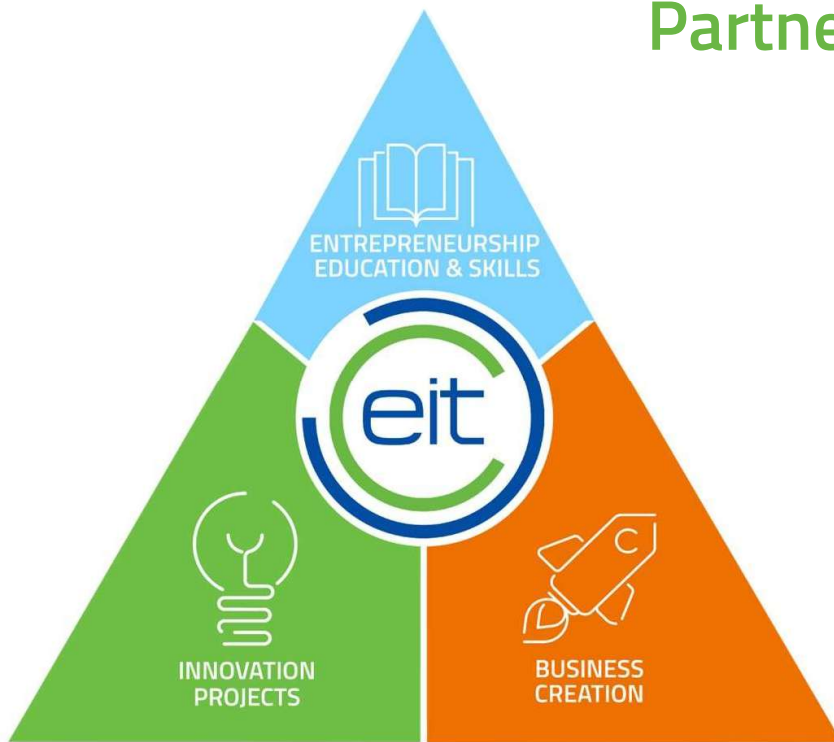




## Financial Sustainability | Revenues to KIC

- ✓ Short-term revenues from membership fees, linked to KIC's value proposition
- ✓ Financial assets and strong investment portfolio: equity, options, etc.
- ✓ Commercial agreements with projects: revenue sharing, success fees, IP revenues, etc.
- ✓ Value-added services: fees from education, consulting, etc.
- ✓ Synergies to attract funding and co-investment opportunities : EIF, EIB, EIC, Horizon Europe, etc.
- ✓ Investment initiatives: own investment funds, sponsoring the creation of funds of funds, etc.

## Partnership | Integrating three sides of knowledge triangle



- ✓ Grow a European partnership
- ✓ Grow a pan-European ecosystem
- ✓ Exercise global outreach

# WHO DO WE WORK WITH?

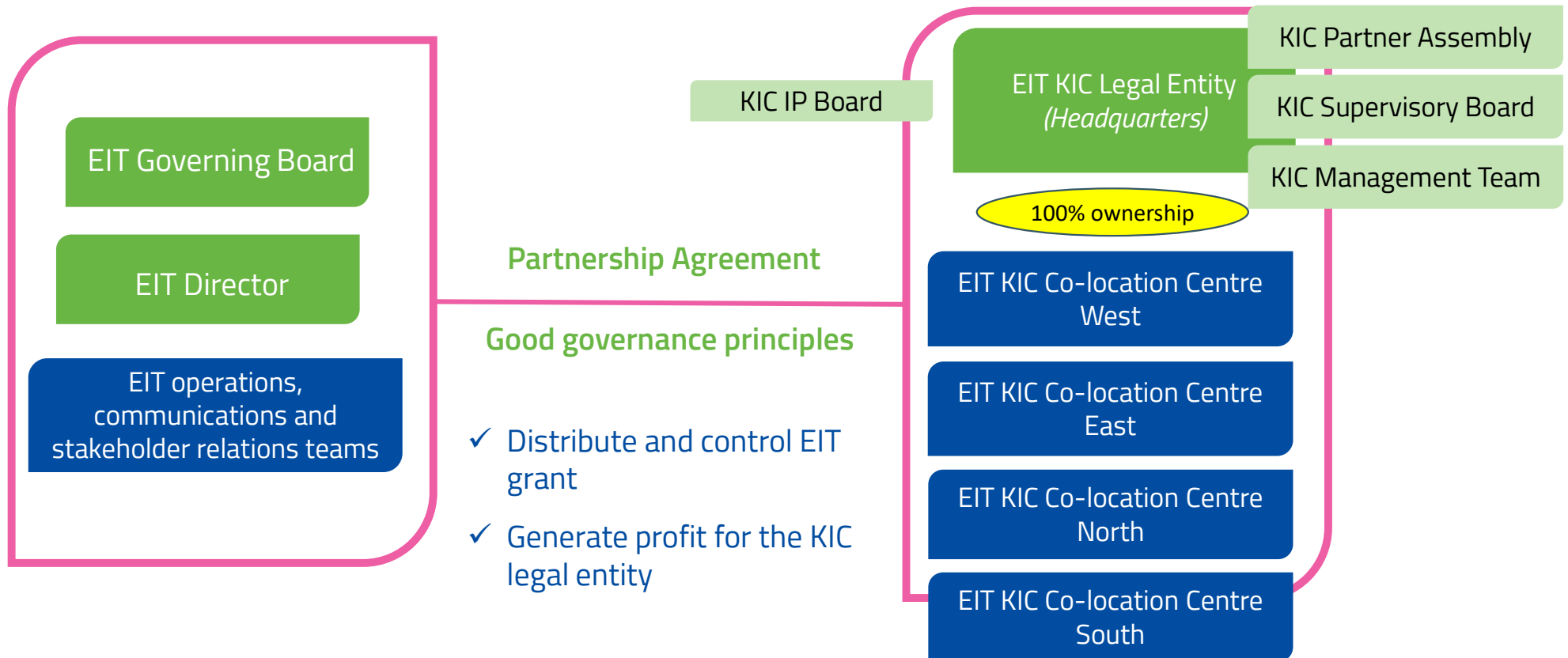
More than **2 400 Key players** from across Europe and beyond, including:

- 1 400 + companies (including SMEs)
- 500 + universities and higher education institutions
- 350 + research centres
- 250 cities, regions, and NGOs
- And many more...!





# Governance



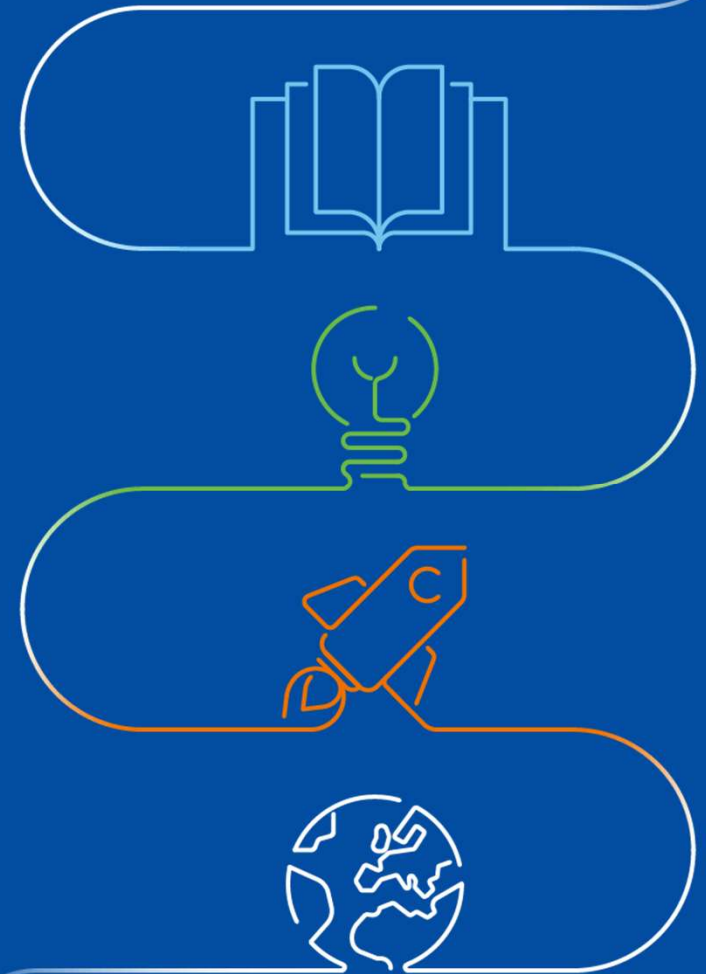
# Overview of the Call conditions, evaluation and selection process

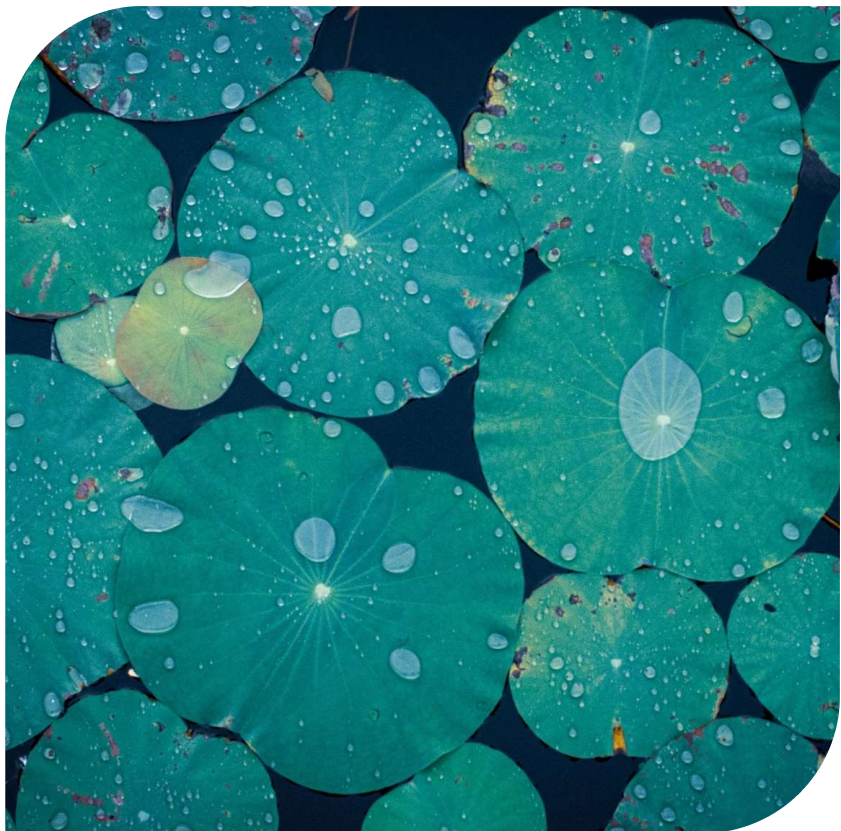
Laura HANIN

EIT Water Call coordinator



A body of the European Union





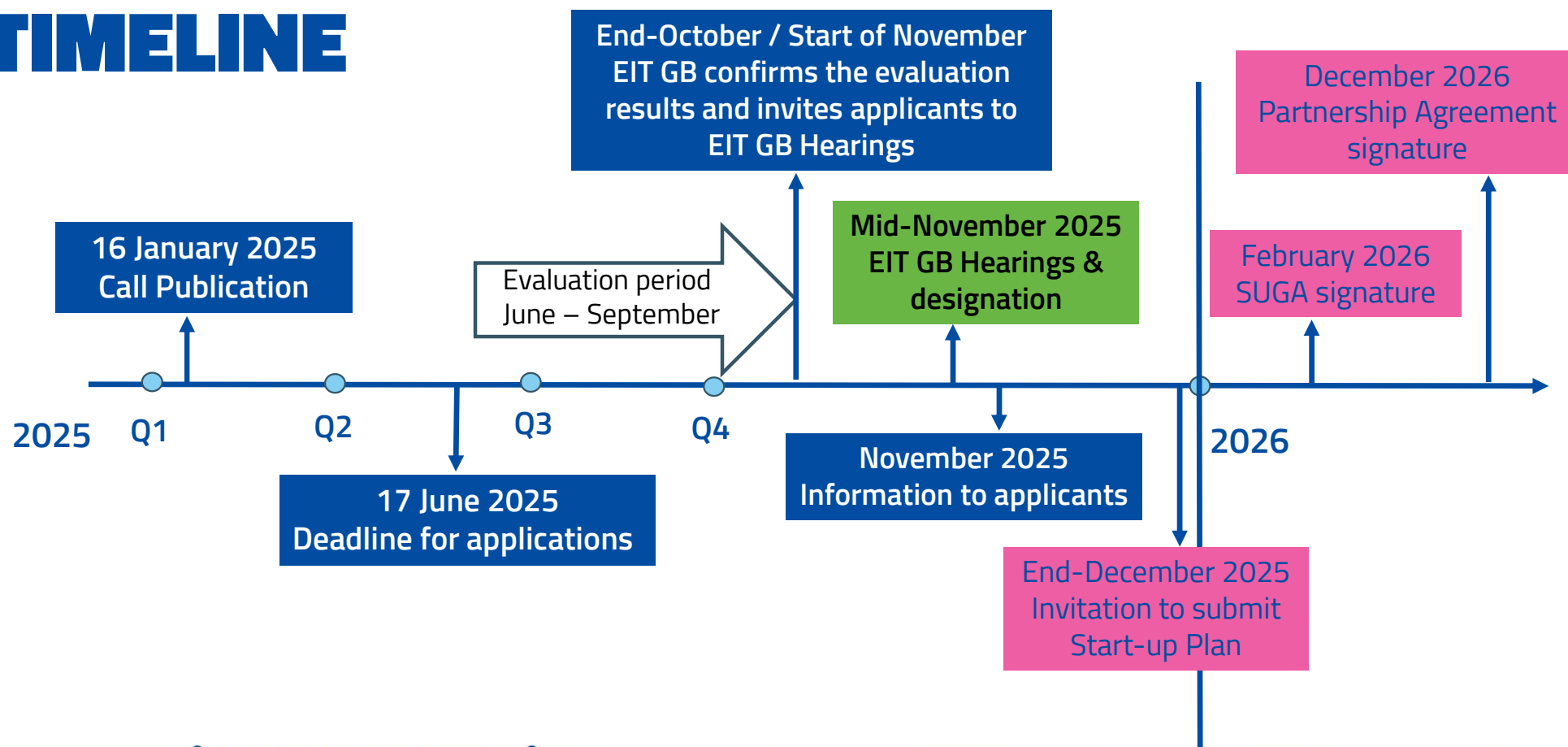
## EIT Water | Key challenges

EIT KIC on Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems shall deliver innovative solutions across the main areas:

- Water scarcity, drought and floods
- Marine and freshwater ecosystem and biodiversity degradation
- Circular and Sustainable Blue Economy



# TIMELINE





## EIT Water criteria | Overview

1. Admissibility criteria
2. Eligibility criteria
3. Exclusion criteria
4. Financial capacity criteria
5. Operational capacity criteria
6. Technical evaluation criteria
7. EIT GB Hearings evaluation criteria



## EIT Water consortia | Eligibility criteria

- At least three independent partner organisations established in at least **three different EU Member States**
- at least **two thirds** of the partner organisations established in **EU Member States**
- Reflect **Knowledge Triangle**: at least one HEI, one research institution and one private company
- All **existing KICs** and their legal entities are **not eligible** as consortia members

- ✓ Organisations participating in other KICs are eligible
- ✓ Maximum of 50 organisations in a consortium
- ✓ Natural persons cannot become members of consortia
- ✓ At the stage of application, consortia are not required to establish a KIC legal entity or other legal forms or entities





## EIT Water | Operational capacity criteria

- Coordinator
- Interim Management Team - CEO, COO and CFO
- ✓ Coordinator in charge of up to EUR 5 million Start-up Grant through 2026
- ✓ Interim Management Team leads building up the KIC in 2026





## EIT Water Coordinator | Operational capacity criteria

At least **TWO** reference projects in water area:

- Participated as project consortium member or coordinator, where its project budget share exceeded EUR 3 million (**NOT the project total budget**); and
- Coordinated a project with at least two partners (three in total) from at least three different European countries and from at least two sides of the Knowledge Triangle (i.e., research/innovation, education & industry); and
- participated in two EU funded projects as project partner

- ✓ final implementation date (as per contract) > 30 June 2023
- ✓ budget of the reference projects > EUR 300.000,00



## EIT Water interim Management Team | Operational capacity criteria

- at least 7 years' managerial work experience relevant to the position of Interim CEO, Interim COO and Interim CFO (i.e. tasks in the Interim Management in case the consortium is designated)
- For the CEO 7 years, and for the COO 5 years' work experience in the Call's thematic field
- At least 5 years' work experience in international public or private organisations, or international projects

✓ Three separate posts





## EIT Water evaluation criteria | Snapshot

Excellence, Quality & Efficiency of Implementation and Impact – max. 100 points

- **Innovation and commercialisation potential** of the proposed strategic approach and synergies
- Excellence-based and balanced partnership (geography and knowledge triangle representation)
- Governance and operational set-up suitable to deliver KIC's commercial activities and distribute and control the EIT grant, and **achieve financial sustainability**
- Integration of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme
- Ambition and feasibility to deliver on EIT impact pathways and create economic, societal and educational impact



## EIT Water evaluation criteria

EXCELLENCE	QUALITY & EFFICIENCY OF IMPLEMENTATION	IMPACT
<b>1.1 STRATEGIC APPROACH</b> <i>- innovation and commercialisation potential</i>	<b>2.1. KIC GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONAL SET-UP</b> <i>- appropriate set-up to deliver KIC's commercial activities and distribute and control the EIT grant</i>	<b>3.1 IMPACT</b> <i>- ambition and feasibility to deliver on EIT impact pathways</i>
<b>1.2 PARTNERSHIP AND INNOVATION POTENTIAL</b> <i>- excellence-based partnership</i>	<b>2.2 KIC BUSINESS MODEL AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY</b>	<b>3.2 COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH</b>
<b>1.3 SYNERGIES</b>		<b>3.3 DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS</b> <i>- incl. valorisation of knowledge, management and exploitation of IP</i>





## Application and Submission

Proposal consists of:

- **Part A** + Declaration of Honour
- **Part B1** | Technical proposal → Reflects evaluation criteria & aligned with KIC Strategic Agenda
- **Part B2** | Estimated financial resources
- **Part B3** | Motivation, commitment & operational capacity evidence

Submission: EU Funding & Tenders Portal:

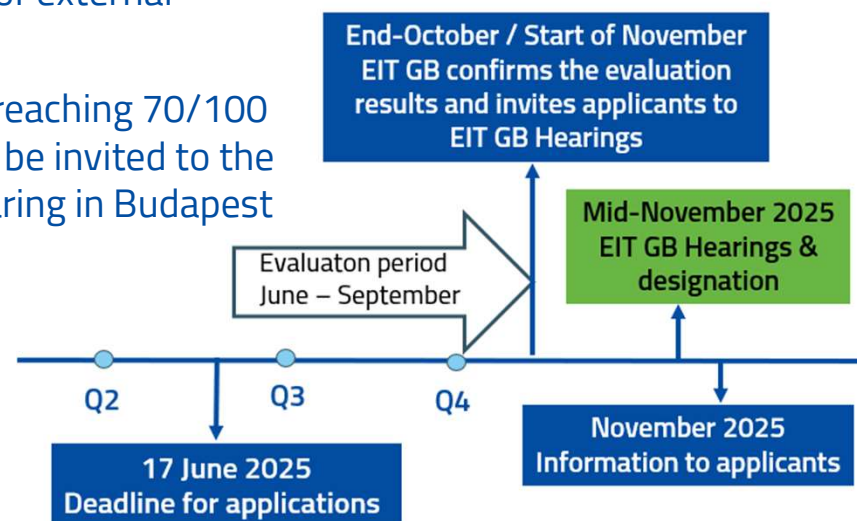
[EIT Call for Proposals 2025 \(HORIZON-EIT-2025-KIC-WATER\)](#)

- ✓ Only consortia members
- ✓ Umbrella organisations will be assessed in their own right, and not that of their members



## From evaluation to designation

- ✓ Evaluation follows the Horizon Europe standard practice
- ✓ Proposals will be evaluated by a panel of external experts
- ✓ Proposals reaching 70/100 points, will be invited to the EIT GB Hearing in Budapest







## EIT Governing Board Hearing and Designation

Excellence, Quality & Efficiency of Implementation and Impact – max. 30 points

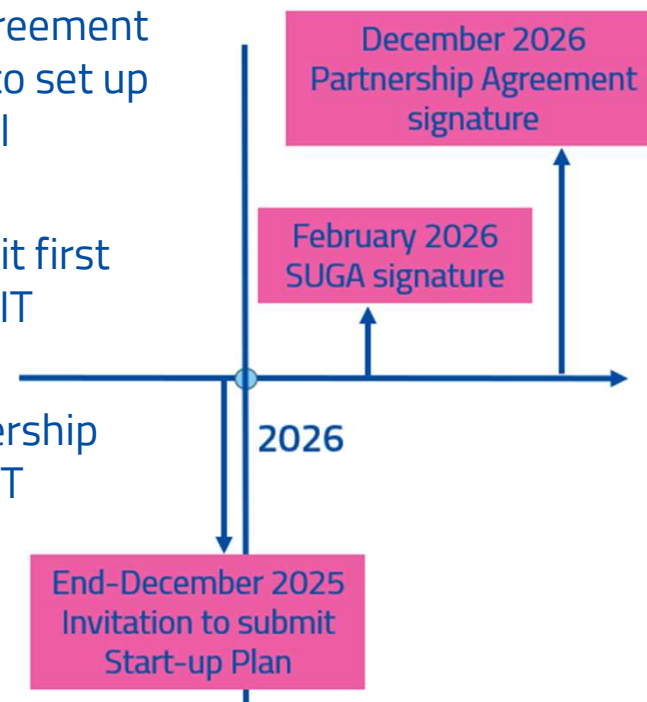
- Strategy and set-up, innovation potential and consistency of the proposal in achieving measurable and sustainable impact
- Interim Management Team's and Coordinator's readiness for the KIC start-up phase

- ✓ Only one proposal will be designated
- ✓ A reserve list will be created
- ✓ The designation does not result in EIT grant award



## What happens after the designation?

- Start-Up Grant Agreement 2026 — 5 MEUR to set up KIC as per proposal
- Develop and submit first Business Plan to EIT
- Sign 7-year Partnership Agreement with EIT



## USEFUL LINKS

- [Dedicated section on the EIT website](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [European Commission Study on the relevance of the proposed future EIT KIC](#)
- [European Commission Staff Working Document on the relevance of a new Knowledge and Innovation Community](#)
- [EIT Water factsheet](#)
- [EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027](#)
- [Networking app](#)





A body of the European Union