

DECISION 20/2025
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

ON THE APPROVAL OF THE RESULTS OF THE PANEL OF EXPERTS EVALUATION STAGE
IN THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2025
FOR A NEW EIT KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION COMMUNITY (KIC)
IN THE WATER, MARINE AND MARITIME SECTORS AND ECOSYSTEMS

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 2021/819 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast) (hereafter referred to as the “EIT Regulation (recast)”)¹, in particular Articles 6(c), 9 and 17(2) thereof, point (e) of Section 2 of the Statutes and point 5 of Section 3 of the Statutes as annexed to the EIT Regulation (recast);

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (hereafter referred to as the “Horizon Europe Regulation”)² in particular Articles 24, 28 and 29 thereof;

Having regard to Decision 2021/820 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) 2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe and repealing Decision No 1312/2013/EU (hereafter referred to as the “EIT SIA 2021-2027”)³, in particular Section 3.3 and Appendix 1 thereof;

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) (hereinafter referred to as the “EU Financial Regulation”)⁴;

Having regard to the Commission Staff Working Document of 27.6.2024 on a Commission ex-ante analysis on the relevance of a new Knowledge and Innovation Community of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology on Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems and confirming its launch in 2026⁵;

Having regard to Decision 21/2019 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 25 September 2019 on the Financial Regulation of the EIT⁶, in particular Article 1 thereof;

Having regard to Decision 18/2021 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 7 May 2021 on the rules of procedure of the EIT Governing Board and Executive Committee⁷;

¹ OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 61

² OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1

³ OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 91

⁴ OJ L 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, p. 1-239

⁵ SWD(2024) 162 final, 27.6.2024

⁶ Ref. Ares(2019)6810859

⁷ Ref. Ares(2021)3139636

Having regard to Decision 33/2024 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 30 October 2024 on the adoption of the evaluation criteria of the EIT Call for Proposals 2025 for a new EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community on Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems⁸;

Having regard to Decision 34/2024 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 20 November 2024 on the approval of the Call for Proposals 2025 for a new EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) in the Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems⁹;

Having regard to the agreement of the European Commission, expressed by its Representative at the extraordinary meeting of the EIT Governing Board on 28 October 2025, as recorded in the minutes of the meeting;

WHEREAS

- (1) In accordance with Article 9(1) of the EIT Regulation (recast), a partnership shall be selected and designated by the EIT as a KIC following a competitive, open and transparent procedure. Detailed criteria for the selection of the KICs, based on the principles of excellence and innovation relevance in delivering on global challenges and Union policy priorities, shall be adopted and published by the EIT. External independent experts shall be involved in the selection process.
- (2) The evaluation criteria for the EIT's 2025 Call for Proposals were published by the EIT on 4 November 2024.
- (3) The 2025 Call for Knowledge and Innovation Communities' proposals was launched on 16 January 2025 in the thematic area of Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems.
- (4) Online information sessions were held on 18 September, 25 September, 2 October 2024, and on 7 May 2025 to provide potential applicants with information on the Call and with guidance on how to submit high quality and successful applications. Additionally, an Info day was held in Brussels on 5 March 2025 as part of the European Ocean Days 2025, organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE).
- (5) The deadline to submit applications was 17 June 2025. The EIT received eight proposals.
- (6) An EIT Evaluation Committee was appointed by the EIT Responsible Authorising Officer before the deadline for submission. The Committee assessed the admissibility, eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria; as a result, four proposals failed to meet the criteria.
- (7) Before the deadline for submission, the EIT selected independent external experts, based on a transparent procedure in line with the EIT Expert Policy¹⁰ ensuring the avoidance of conflicts of interest, to carry out the evaluation of the eligible proposals.
- (8) The Panel of Experts, comprising two thematic experts, three horizontal experts and one rapporteur

⁸ Ref. Ares(2024)7798658

⁹ Ref. Ares(2024)8482797 (Clerical correction: Ares(2025)213029)

¹⁰ Ref. Ares(2024)7387749

evaluated the four eligible proposals with respect to the criteria set out in the 2025 Call for Proposals.

- (9) Additionally, the 2025 Call for Proposals procedure is followed by an Independent Observer to observe and give an independent opinion on the evaluation process.
- (10) Following the completion of the evaluation of the proposals by the Panel of Experts, the EIT Governing Board and the Commission Representative have received all the necessary documents and information with regard to the 2025 Call for Proposals, in particular the following documents: the 2025 Call documents¹¹, all eight proposals submitted, the Evaluation Report of the EIT Evaluation Committee on the admissibility, eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria check, the four Evaluation Summary Reports of the Panel of Experts, and a briefing note with a summary table with the scores per proposal/criteria. The Governing Board and the Commission have reviewed all the documents and information received regarding the 2025 Call for Proposals.
- (11) At its extraordinary meeting on 28 October 2025, the EIT Governing Board discussed and assessed the results of the evaluation steps concluded so far and, in particular, the evaluation conducted by the Panel of Experts. The purpose of the meeting was to decide on the results of the evaluation procure carried out so far.
- (12) In line with point 5 of Section 3 of the Statutes annexed to the EIT Regulation (recast), the agreement of the Commission, expressed by its Representative in the Governing Board, is necessary for the adoption by the Governing Board of the present decision. The Commission Representative's observations and opinion were shared before the voting by the Governing Board at the extraordinary Governing Board meeting. Following the voting, the Commission, by way of its Representative, gave its agreement with the outcome of the meeting, including the adoption of the present decision.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Decision on the approval of the results of the admissibility, eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria assessment

The EIT Governing Board approves the results of the admissibility, eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria assessment for the 2025 Call for Proposals, including the exclusion of the following proposals due to their non-compliance with the admissibility, eligibility and exclusion criteria:

Proposal number	Name
101261445	AT
101250493	g
101243721	TAT
101243443	Water

Article 2

Decision on the approval of the results of the Panel of Experts evaluation stage

- (1) The EIT Governing Board approves the results of the Panel of Experts evaluation stage of the 2025 Call Proposals procedure.

¹¹ <https://www.eit.europa.eu/our-activities/call-for-eit-communities/eit-water>

(2) Consequently, the representatives of the following proposals

- shall be invited to the hearings to be held on 11 November 2025 in Budapest:

Ranking	Proposal number	Name
1.	101261262	AllWaters
2.	101261270	One Water
3.	101261235	INNFLOW

- shall not be invited to the hearings to be held on 11 November 2025 in Budapest:

Ranking	Proposal number	Name
4.	101261455	WISER

Article 3 *Confidentiality*

This decision shall be kept strictly confidential and shall be published on the EIT website only following the adoption of the designation decision by the EIT Governing Board.

Article 4 *Entry into force*

This decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

Done in Budapest on 28 October 2025



Silvia Lenaerts
Member of the EIT Governing Board, chairing the meeting of the EIT Governing Board in absence of Stefan Dobrev