

European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Invitation to submit proposals for the 2022 KIC Business Plans and estimated budgets (encompassing also the 2021 KIC Business Plans and estimated budgets)

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HISTORY OF CHANGES			
Version	Publication Date	Change	Page
1.0	09.07.2021	Initial version	

1 Introduction

This is an invitation to submit proposals for EU action grants under the Horizon Europe Programme, European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

The EIT, as part of the Horizon Europe (HE) Framework Programme for Research and Innovation[1], is governed by a new regulatory framework (i.e. EIT Regulation (recast)[2], EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027[3]) and a new contractual framework (EIT Partnership Agreement (PA) and HE Model Grant Agreement (GA)) in the 2021-2027 period.

The main conditions for the grants for the 2022 period are defined in this *"Invitation to submit proposals for 2022 KIC Business Plans and estimated budgets (encompassing also the 2021 Business Plans and estimated budgets)"* which includes the 2022 Cross-KIC and the 2022 Higher Education Institutions (HEI) initiative activities, and in the 2022 Business Plan Guidelines and the templates provided by the EIT.

This invitation is launched and the 2022 EIT financial contribution to the KICs will be determined based on the criteria and processes described below, and in line with the following decisions of the EIT Governing Board (EIT GB):

- Decision 28/2021 of the EIT GB on the principles for the determination of the EIT financial allocation to Knowledge and Innovation Communities' Business Plans for 2022, including Cross-KIC activities and shared services for 2022 and the pilot HEI initiative 2022, and repealing Decision 16/2021 of the EIT Governing Board[4];
- Decision of the EIT GB on the adoption of the Final Single Programming Document (2022-2024)[5], Annex XI on Grants, which will be the financing decision for 2022;
- Decision of the EIT GB on the adoption of the EIT Budget and Establishment Plan for the financial year 2022[6].

[1] 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) 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1.)
[2] Regulation (EU) 2021/819 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast) (OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 61)
[3] Decision (EU) 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 (OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 91)
[4] Ares(2021)4370362
[5] To be adopted in Q4 of 2021.
[6] To be adopted in Q4 of 2021.

The KICs shall submit their proposals in accordance with the conditions laid down in the present invitation and should be aligned with the Business Plan Guidelines and the templates provided by the EIT. More details on the action, the timeline, the eligible entities, eligible activities, evaluation criteria and the allocation process can be found below.

Therefore, we invite you to read the **call documentation** carefully, and in particular this invitation, the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement, the EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual, the Horizon Europe Guidelines and the EU Grants AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement.

2 Topic of the invitation

This Invitation covers the following topic:

Type of Action (ToA)	Topic	Comments
EIT KIC Action	**KIC Business Plans 2022, including Cross-KIC activities and shared services and the pilot HEI initiative**	- In 2022 the KICs will continue to implement the **EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS)** individually and included in the Business Plans. - **Cross-KIC activities and shared services** will be included in the Business Plans: • The **ongoing thematic innovation Cross-KIC activities** (Digitized Production, Child Obesity, Water Scarcity) will be included in the Business Plans in 2022 and will be closed in 2022. • One **shared services** Cross-KIC activity • Five **strategic Cross-KIC activities** i. Strategic Education ii. Strategic Synergies iii. Access to Finance iv. Strategic Regional Innovations v. Strategic Outreach • **Pilot Higher Education Institutions (HEI) Initiative** - Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education - The legal commitment for 2022 will be ensured by way of extending (with 12 months) and amending the 2021 Grant Agreements signed with the KICs in 2021 (i.e. Annex I of the amendment will include a two-year consolidated Business Plans 2021-2022).

3 Available budget

Available budget 2022

The overall indicative EIT budget available for the 2022 funding allocation decision is MEUR 385.

In 2022, the funding shall be distributed by means of three separate 'funds', as follows:

Type of 'Fund'	Indicative budget in 2022
EIT KIC Fund (i.e. KIC Business Plans)	MEUR 320
Cross-KIC Fund (i.e. Cross -KIC activities, including shared services and the thematic innovations)	MEUR 30 (out of which MEUR 5 is for cross-KIC thematic innovations)
HEI Fund (i.e. pilot HEI initiative activities)	MEUR 35
Total (without third country contributions)	**MEUR 385**

After deducting the Cross-KIC Fund and **HEI Fund from the overall EIT budget available for KICs in 2022, the remaining EIT budget (the 'EIT KIC Fund') shall be distributed between the four waves of KICs in accordance with the split indicated in Chapter 8.1 below, while further performance-based funding criteria shall apply as determined by the EIT Governing Board in Chapter 8.1 below.**

Funding allocation principles

As it is already the case for the 2021 grants, the 2022 funding allocation criteria are primarily **performance-based**, without a pre-defined support funding element.

As required by Chapter 5.1 of the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027:

- at least 10% and a maximum of 15% of the overall EIT budget (2021-2027) shall be dedicated to implementing EIT RIS activities, thereby increasing the number of KIC partners from targeted countries and regions;
- a maximum of 7% of the EIT budget (2021-2027) shall be dedicated to Cross-KIC activities, including support to KICs for which the partnership agreement is expired or terminated;
- a maximum of 3% of the EIT budget (2021-2027) shall be dedicated to a pilot to help develop the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of HEI, this pilot initiative shall be of three years.

The KICs' co-financing requirements shall be aligned with the rates indicated in Chapter 3.6.2 of the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027. In accordance with the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027, some KIC activities, due to their specific nature, might need extra incentives to be performed. To this aim, the EIT Governing Board decided that

- the EIT RIS activities will be implemented in 2022 at a funding rate up to 100%,

- Cross-KIC activities and shared services will be implemented in 2022 at a funding rate up to 100% (with the exception of thematic innovations for 2022 which will have a funding rate up to 70%), and
- the pilot HEI initiative activities will be implemented in 2022 at a funding rate up to 100%.

The EIT RIS activities shall be integral part of the KIC Business Plans, in accordance with Chapter 3.2 of the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027. In addition, Cross-KIC activities and shared services as well as the pilot HEI initiative shall be also included in the KIC Business Plans in 2022.

4 Timetable and deadlines

The indicative timeline of the submission and evaluation procedure is the following:

Key dates	Date and time or indicative period
Launch of Invitation to submit the draft 2022 Business Plans	9 July 2021
Deadline for submission of the Business Plan (i.e. Business Plan 2021-2022)	**30 September 2021**
Evaluation period	October 2021 – January 2022
Hearings with the EIT Governing Board	24-25 November 2021
Funding allocation decision by EIT Governing Board and letters sent to the KICs, including strategic recommendations	**30 November 2021**
Amendment of 2021 Grant Agreement[7]	Before 15 December 2021
KICs to submit final Business Plan proposal	By 15 January 2022
Grant award decision by EIT Director	By end of January 2022
Amendment of the 2021-2022 Grant Agreement[8]	**15 February 2022**
Submission of the pre-financing report (on portfolio level) by KICs (by email)	By end of February 2022[9]
Second pre-financing payment	Within 60 days from receiving the additional pre-financing report
Submission of interim report (on KAVA level) by KICs (via the EIT Grant Management Platform)	By end of March 2022[10]

[7] This amendment will serve for the extension of duration with 12 months and the inclusion of the possibility for a second prefinancing and interim report and interim payment.
[8] This amendment will ensure that the 2021-2022 BP and budget will be included in the Grant Agreement.
[9] Maximum 60 days after the end of the reporting period (12 months)
[10] Maximum 90 days after the end of the reporting period (12 months)

Interim payment	July-August 2022

General remarks:

- The 'Multi-annual strategy' criterion assessment is initiated with the GB Rapporteur visits to the KICs in July-September 2021 and will be completed before the EIT GB Hearings.
- Other criteria than BP assessment are assessed in parallel, consolidated from KIC Report assessment and monitoring activities.

5 Admissibility criteria

Business Plans must be submitted no later than the date indicated under Chapter 4.

The Business Plans must be submitted electronically using the Duna IT platform:

https://duna.eit.europa.eu/businessplanning

The submission shall comply with the KIC Business Plan Guidelines, templates and standards available in the Duna IT platform. Failure to comply with this requirement may lead to the rejection of the Business Plan.

The Business Plans must be drafted in English.

More information about the **Business Plan proposal template** can be found in the Business Plan Guidelines.

6 Exclusion criteria

The following criteria will be applied to entities acceding the Grant Agreement:

Criteria: Entities shall be excluded from participation in the invitation and from award if they are in one of the situations referred to in Article 136(1) and 141 of the EU Financial Regulation[11].

Evidence:

[11] Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (1) (OJ-L 193/30.07.2018, p.1)

- Entities acceding to the grant agreement shall provide a **Declaration of Honour** (DoH) at the time of the accession, except when such declarations have already been submitted for the purposes of another award procedure, provided that the situation has not changed and that the time that has elapsed since the issuing date of the declarations does not exceed one year[12].

- Before the time of the signature of the 2021 Grant Agreement, the EIT requested **appropriate evidence that the KIC Legal Entity is not in one of the exclusion situations referred to in Article 136(1) of the EU Financial Regulation:** e.g. a recent extract from the judicial record for the KIC CEO and recent certificates issued by the competent authority/ies of the country of establishment of the KIC Legal Entity (KIC LE) (e.g. certificate from the registry in which the KIC LE is registered, tax certificate, social security certificate)[13]. (This obligation can be waived only in the cases indicated in Article 137(4) of the EU Financial Regulation).

Since the duration of the 2021 Grant Agreement will be extended with 12 months, entities (KIC Legal Entity, KIC partners) who have already acceded to it in 2021, do not need to resubmit the DoHs (nor the exclusion criteria evidence for the KIC Legal Entity), if there is no change in their situation. The same applies to affiliated entities already approved in 2021.

7 Eligibility

7.1 Entities eligible for funding

In accordance with the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022[14], in order to be eligible for funding, the applicants must be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:

- the Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU) including their outermost regions
- the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the Member States[15]
- eligible non-EU countries:
  - Countries associated to Horizon Europe[16]

[12] Article 137(1) of the EU Financial Regulation
[13] Article 137(2) of the EU Financial Regulation
[14] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents
[15] Entities from Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) are eligible for funding under the same conditions as entities from the Member States to which the OCT in question is linked. See the Horizon Europe Programme Guide on the portal for a complete list of OCTs.
[16] Most third countries associated to Horizon 2020 are expected to be associated to Horizon Europe by the end of 2021. In addition, other third countries can also become associated to Horizon Europe during the programme.

- Certain low and middle income countries[17]

Legal entities, which are established in countries not listed above will be eligible for funding when their participation is considered essential for implementing the action by the EIT.

Business Plan proposals shall be submitted by KIC LEs on behalf of the KIC partnership. Since the duration of the 2021 Grant Agreement will be extended with 12 months, entities (KIC Partners) who have already acceded to it in 2021 do not need to re-accede the Grant Agreement, and affiliated entities approved in 2021 do not need reapproval (if there is no change in the affiliation).

Specific eligibility criteria may apply for specific activities, please see the relevant chapters.

7.2 Eligible activities

In line with Article 7(1) of the recast EIT Regulation, KICs will undertake in particular:

(a) innovation activities and investments with Union added value, including facilitating the creation of innovative start-ups and the development of innovative businesses in complementarity with the EIC and the InvestEU Programme, fully integrating the higher education and research dimensions to attain a critical mass and stimulating the dissemination and exploitation of results;

(b) innovation-driven research, experimentation, prototyping and demonstration in areas of key economic, environmental and societal interest and drawing on the results stemming from Union and national research, with the potential to strengthen the Union's competitiveness at international level and find solutions for the major challenges faced by European society, including those relating to health and the digital market;

(c) education and training activities in particular at master's and doctoral level, as well as professional training courses, in areas with the potential to meet future European socio-economic and socio-ecological needs and which expand the Union's talent base, promote the development of innovation-related skills, the improvement of managerial and entrepreneurial skills and the mobility of researchers and students, and foster knowledge-sharing, mentoring and networking among the recipients of EIT education and training activities, including those that are EIT-labelled;

(d) actions as part of the pilot higher education initiative to better integrate HEIs in innovation value chains and ecosystems and bring them together with other key innovation players from the knowledge triangle and thereby improve their innovation and entrepreneurial capacity;

(e) outreach activities and the dissemination of best practices in the field of innovation with a focus on the development of cooperation between higher education, research and business, including the service and financial sectors, and, where relevant, public and third sector organisations;

Please see the Horizon Europe Programme Guide on the Portal for up-to-date information on the current list of and the position for Associated Countries.

[17] See the Horizon Europe Programme Guide on the Portal for a complete list of these countries.

(f) RIS activities, fully integrated in the KICs' multiannual strategy and linked to the relevant smart specialisation strategies, in order to strengthen innovation capacity and to develop sustainable innovation ecosystems with a view to decreasing the disparities and divide in innovation performance across the Union;
(g) to seek synergies and complementarities between KIC activities and existing Union, national and regional programmes, in particular the EIC, other European Partnerships and missions of Horizon Europe, as appropriate;
(h) to mobilise funds from public and private sources, in particular seeking to raise an increasing proportion of their budget from private sources and from income generated by their own activities;
(i) to provide, on request, information on research and innovation outputs and results, and related intellectual rights, developed pursuant to the activities of the KICs, and on the relevant inventors.

The Business Plan proposals shall cover activities in line with the EIT Regulation, the Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027, the Partnership Agreement and the KIC Strategic Agenda (Annex 1 of the Partnership Agreement).

Specific eligibility criteria, especially defining which activities are eligible for EIT RIS/Cross-KIC/pilot HEI activities are laid down below.

8 KIC Business Plan 2022

The following table summarises the activities to be implemented under the KIC Business Plan:

EIT KIC Action activities		Indicative budget (without third country contributions)	Funding rate	Topic description and eligible activities	Award criteria and evidence
8.1 KIC Business Plan activities	KAVAs	MEUR 320	Up to the rate indicated in the SIA 2021-2027	Chapter 8.1.1	Chapter 8.1.2
	EIT RIS activities		Up to 100%		
8.2 Cross-KIC activities	Main Cross-KIC activities: - Cross-KIC strategic activities - Cross-KIC shared	Earmarked maximum MEUR 25	Up to 100%	Chapter 8.2.1	Chapter 8.2.2

	services				
	Thematic innovations	Earmarked maximum MEUR 5	Up to 70%		
8.3. HEI initiative		Earmarked maximum MEUR 35	Up to 100%	Chapter 8.3.1	Chapter 8.3.2

8.1 KIC Business Plan activities: KAVAs and EIT RIS activities

8.1.1 Topic description and eligible activities

Each KIC Business Plan shall meet the following:

- Expected outcome

  The results of Business Plan 2022 should contribute to the expected outcomes set out in the KIC Strategic Agenda 2021-2027 over the medium term, and to the wider expected impacts and respective targets over the longer term in line with the EIT Impact Framework.

- Objectives

  - Relevant and appropriate Business Plan for 2022 implementation of the KIC's multiannual strategy, demonstrating its **excellence** (including objectives and ambition; methodology; financial sustainability), its **impact** (including KIC's pathways towards impact; measures to maximise impact - dissemination, exploitation and communication) and its **quality and efficiency of the implementation** (including work plan and resources at portfolio level; capacity of participants and KIC Partnership as a whole).

  - to address the KIC's **target societal challenges** and **Knowledge Triangle Integration (KTI)**, contributing to achieving the future high-level results and impacts included in the EIT Impact Framework.

  - KIC objectives/priorities in the Business Plan, describing its objectives using SMART criteria (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound) and why are they pertinent to the KIC Strategic Agenda).

- Scope

  The KIC's Business Plan 2021-2022, describing the activities at KAVA and at portfolio level, shall be aligned to the KIC Strategic Agenda in the framework of the EIT Strategic Agenda 2021-2027.

- Expected Impact

In response to this invitation, the KIC should show how the KIC could contribute to the outcomes and impacts described in the KIC Strategic Agenda and the KPIs in the EIT Impact Framework following the specific KIC Impact Pathways, the likely scale and significance of this contribution, and the measures to maximise these impacts in the context of Horizon Europe.

Eligible activities:

The Business Plan shall cover activities in line with the recast EIT Regulation, the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027, the Partnership Agreement and the Strategic Agenda of the KIC concerned (see Annex 1 of the Partnership Agreement). For EIT RIS specific activities, please see below.

EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS)

In line with the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027, **10-15% of the EIT grant shall be earmarked to the EIT RIS on a multiannual basis**. KICs should ensure that entities established in EIT RIS eligible countries and regions[18] increasingly participate in KIC portfolio of activities moving towards the objective to attracting and facilitating the integration of new EIT RIS participants into the portfolio. The EIT expects that by implementing the EIT RIS, including integrating new EIT RIS partners and improving the innovation capacities of local ecosystems, the KICs will realise the ambitious EIT RIS related EIT Core KPIs at portfolio level as well as, ensure a better geographical spread of their activities.

As from 2022, the new EIT RIS Implementation Framework 2022-2027 is applicable. In this context, the KICs should describe at portfolio level what steps they have taken to transit to the new EIT RIS Implementation Framework, including how the EIT RIS became an integral part of all their activities.

The overarching objective of the EIT RIS is to contribute to the advancement of the innovation performance of targeted countries and their regions by strengthening the capacity of their innovation enablers and actors and linkages among them (such as business accelerators, incubators, start-ups, scale-ups, businesses including SMEs, agencies, educational and research institutions and their infrastructures, etc.) through the dissemination of the KTI approach, the cornerstone of the EIT intervention logic. More particularly, KIC activities supported through the EIT RIS shall aim to deliver on the following objectives:

- improve the innovation capacities of the local ecosystem, via capacity building activities and closer interactions between the local KT innovation actors (such as, clusters, networks, regional

[18] Countries and regions eligible for EIT RIS activities are those countries identified as either “moderate” or “modest” innovator in at least one of the three European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) annual reports issued in 2018, 2019 and 2020 for the period 2021-2024 and those identified as either “moderate” or “modest” innovator in at least one of the three EIS annual reports issued in 2021, 2022 and 2023 for the period 2025-2027, as well as Outermost Regions as defined in Article 349 TFEU.

public authorities, HEIs, research organisations, Vocational Education and Training (VET) institutions, SMEs) and their activities;

- support the objective of attracting and facilitating the integration of potential new partners in the KICs and link local innovation ecosystems to pan-European innovation ecosystems, including through the establishment of CLCs and RIS Hubs, as part of a "place-based" innovation approach;
- used as a bridge towards relevant RIS3s (Research and Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategies);
- leverage additional private and public funding, with particular attention to European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).

In this context, and in line with guidance provided in the EIT RIS Implementation Framework 2022-2027, the KICs are strongly expected to engage with local players from EIT RIS countries and their regions, most especially in those geographical areas where their engagement remains limited[19], with the aim of attracting and facilitating their participation in their activities. Additionally, through the establishment of CLCs and RIS Hubs, the KICs should foster closer interactions between the actors of the knowledge triangle. Existing and future RIS Hubs and CLCs should also engage in dialogue with the Managing Authorities from Member States to spur the implementation of RIS3 over the period 2021-2027, since the EIT KTI's approach and the RIS3's Entrepreneurial Discovery Process both focus on bringing together innovation stakeholders.

Eligible activities under the EIT RIS: The KICs have a certain degree of flexibility in designing their own EIT RIS activities, provided the activities contribute towards achieving the EIT's overarching objectives as defined in Annexes I and Ia to the Regulation establishing Horizon Europe, as well as the specific objectives of the EIT for the period of 2021-2027 as outlined in the EIT SIA. Namely, the KICs are free to design the best-fitting approach in line with their multi-annual strategies and priorities to deliver the desired tangible deliverables and impact, especially in terms of widening participation in the KICs.

The KICs may choose to use their annual EIT RIS dedicated budget allocation to finance EIT RIS activities, as described in the EIT RIS Implementation Framework, co-funded up to 100%, as they consider it most appropriate, in line with their strategy and priorities to deliver tangible deliverables including widening participation in the KICs from EIT RIS countries and regions. In this context, the EIT RIS should also be mainstreamed within the KICs' core activities (that is participation in innovation, business creation and education actions) and used to exempt EIT RIS participants from co-funding rates and membership fees, thereby facilitating and attracting a high-level of participation to the EIT Community and boosting its pan-European spread. The KICs need to pre-fix the co-funding rate already at the call stage.

[19] This, in particular, includes those countries and regions which do not host a CLC.

It is pertinent to note that beyond the 15% maximum budget dedicated to the EIT RIS, entities and partners from EIT RIS countries and regions still be fully involved in all activities in line with the co-funding rates delineated in the EIT SIA. Yet, the up to 100% funded activities is limited to the EIT RIS allocations which will be capped at a maximum 15% of the overall EIT funding for existing and new KICs. The EIT GB will regularly monitor and evaluate the EIT RIS funding and may issue strategic guidance as appropriate.

The ultimate EIT RIS target groups who shall benefit from the EIT RIS activities are teams, individuals and organisations from EIT RIS countries and regions. As a general rule, EIT RIS must directly benefit teams, individuals and organisations from EIT RIS countries and regions and widen participation (e.g. attract new partners and other participants from the regions where the KIC has limited presence, for instance, where there is not yet an established CLC).

8.1.2 Award criteria

For 2022, the EIT KIC Fund shall be split as follows:

KIC wave	Indicative split
First wave (EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Digital, EIT InnoEnergy)	25%
Second and third waves (EIT Health, EIT Raw Materials, EIT Food)	50%
Fourth wave (EIT Manufacturing, EIT Urban Mobility)	25%

The EIT GB will decide on the maximum funding for each KIC, which will be calculated on a set of criteria, taking into account among others performance against specific targets.

Criteria	Maximum score	Evidence
1) Progress in implementing the Multiannual strategy	30	EIT GB Rapporteur visit; EIT GB Hearing Continuous reporting
2) Financial sustainability (2020)	20	KIC report 2020
3) Effectiveness of KTI measured by KPIs (2020)	20	KIC report 2020
4) Financial performance measured by KPIs (2020)	10	KIC report 2020
5) Non-financial performance (2020 and 2021)	10	KIC report 2020; Monitoring 2021
6) Business Plan excellence, impact and quality, efficiency of the implementation (2022)	10	Consolidated Business Plan 2021-2022 (portfolio level)

The score received by individual KICs will be converted to funding, based on the indicative budget per wave, in proportion of the KICs' relative scores. Because there is only one KIC in the third wave, second and third wave KICs are grouped for the purpose of the calculation.

The detailed sub-criteria, scoring methodology and evaluation evidence are presented in the following subchapters.

1. Multi-annual strategy

The following are considered when assessing the multiannual strategy criterion:

- Progress in addressing the KIC's key strategic challenges including strategic recommendations issued by the EIT GB and effectiveness in integrating the KT;

- Progress towards the objectives and targets indicated in the multiannual strategies, inter alia, the impact, results and openness, including the number of partners and the establishment of new co-location centres, coordination and management of the KIC's ecosystem;
- Consistency with the strategic objectives of the European Union, in particular Horizon Europe, and KIC's contribution to achieving these goals;
- Alignment with good governance principles set by the EIT;
- Cross-KIC collaboration and synergies with other programmes (both the planned activities and the results achieved); and
- Results of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme.

The key strategic challenges are KIC-specific and may encompass topics, such as KIC's strategic objectives, impact and KPIs, partnership, governance, openness and transparency and/or financial sustainability. The final score will be determined by the EIT GB members (including the GB Rapporteurs) after the Hearings.

The following indicative scale were used (maximum 30 points):

- 0-5: KIC fails to demonstrate sufficient strategic focus, insufficiently addressing the key recommendations
- 6-10: Poor – KIC addresses the relevant aspects inadequately or there are serious inherent weaknesses
- 11-15: Fair – KIC broadly addresses the relevant aspects, but there are significant weaknesses
- 16-20: Good – KIC addresses the relevant aspects well, but a number of shortcomings are present
- 21-25: Very good – KIC addresses all relevant aspects very well, but small number of shortcomings are present
- 26-30: Excellent – KIC successfully addresses all relevant aspects. Any shortcomings are minor.

Evidence: The evaluation (with scores) is based on:

- the information provided by EIT and KICs in the framework of the GB Rapporteur visit as well as other supporting documents;
- the Hearings with the EIT GB; and
- KICs' performance towards the targets set in the draft KIC Strategic Agenda.

The supporting documents provided by the EIT will synthesise information from different available sources. They focus on multi-annual aspects and trends (e.g. analysis of BPs and KIC Reports data, past and current monitoring outcomes, BP assessment feedback of strategic importance provided by external experts, etc.). The KICs shall address questions at the Hearings through a presentation and at the Q&A session.

2. Financial sustainability (2020)

Financial sustainability performance will be measured by qualitative assessment of the progress towards financial sustainability through the support of external experts, including achievement against target, total revenues generated, diversification of revenues and funding sources, and the portfolio of financial assets each KIC is developing to reach financial sustainability (maximum 10 points).

In addition, the financial sustainability coefficient will be scored as follows (maximum 10 points):

Score	1st wave KIC	2nd wave KIC	3rd wave KIC	4th wave KIC
10	≥25%	≥20%	≥15%	≥10%
8	≥20% - <25%	≥16% - <20%	≥12% - <15%	≥8% - <10%
6	≥15% - <20%	≥12% - <16%	≥9% - <12%	≥6% - <8%
4	≥10% - <15%	≥8% - <12%	≥6% - <9%	≥4% - <6%
2	≥5% - <10%	≥4% - <8%	≥3% - <6%	≥2% - <4%
0	<5%	<4%	<3%	<2%

Evidence: The evaluation (with scores) will be based on the submitted KIC Reports 2020 and their assessment carried out by experts and the EIT.

3. Effectiveness of KIC operations as measured by KPIs (EIT core KPIs (2020))

The final score will be calculated as the sum of the results for the following EIT Core KPIs:

EITN01	**Number of graduates** from EIT labelled MSc and PhD programmes	Max 4
EITN03	**Number of products (goods or services) or processes** launched on the market	Max 4
EITN02 + EITN04	**Number of start-ups** created as a result of innovation projects and created by students enrolled and graduated from EIT labelled programmes	Max 4
EITN06	**Investment attracted** by start-ups supported/have been supported by KICs	Max 4
EITN08	Number of new participants in **EIT RIS programmes** (EITN08.01 Individuals and EITN08.01 organizations as validated in the KIC Reports 2020)	Max 4

The results will be benchmarked against the best result among the KICs in the same wave (second and third waves combined) and the scores will be calculated as follows:

("KIC score"/"Highest score among the KICs of the same wave")

Evidence: The evaluation (with scores) will be based on the submitted KIC Reports 2020 and their validation carried out by experts and the EIT.

4. Financial performance measured by KPIs (2020)

Financial performance will be measured with regard to the following two parameters:

- EIT grant absorption: the proportion of EIT grant approved compared to the awarded amount in the original SGA 2020 (i.e. before any amendments)
- KIC error rate in EIT funded KAVA costs declared: proportion of ineligible costs in comparison to total EIT-funded KAVA cost declared in the 2020 cost reports

The calculation will be based on the following formula:

Absorption: 10 points if ≥97%, 8 points if ≥94%, 6 points if ≥91%, 4 points if ≥88%, 2 point if ≥85%
LESS
*% of error rate in EIT co-financed KAVA costs*100*

The minimum score for this criterion is zero, it cannot be a negative number.

Evidence: The evaluation (with scores) will be based on the submitted KIC Reports 2020 and their assessment carried out by experts and the EIT.

5. Non-financial performance (2020 and 2021)

Non-financial performance will be measured based on two parameters: diversity and EIT/EU co-branding. The maximum individual score on each criterion will be 5, so a total of 10 points can be achieved.

- **Diversity**

The target is set to at least 25% of less represented gender in top governance and management positions combined. Top governance refers to the members of the KIC boards (Supervisory Board or equivalent), whilst KIC management refers to the KIC CEO, COO, CFO / Director of Finance, Chief Strategy Officer, Pillar directors (Education, Innovation, Business Creation) and CLC Directors. The score 0 or 5 will be given based on the state of the play as of the 2021-2022 Business Plan submission deadline date.

- 5 points if percentage of less represented gender reaches at least 25 %
- 0 points if percentage of less represented gender does not reach at least 25 %.

- EIT/EU visibility

The KIC's alignment with the EIT/EU co-branding, as stipulated in the legal framework, will be assessed, considering the following dimensions:

- KIC Partnership and corporate communication: adequate mechanism in place to ensure that the EIT/EU co-branding is consistently promoted by KIC Partnership (and all other involved organisations)
- Level of alignment measured on a sample (e.g. top KAVAs in terms of budget and potential impact)

No points will be provided in case of serious non-compliance with EIT/EU visibility requirements.

The following scale will be used:

- 0: KIC fails to address/ align with the relevant aspects/ the principles.
- 1: Poor – KIC addresses/is aligned with the relevant aspects/principles inadequately, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 2: Fair – KIC broadly addresses/is aligned with the relevant aspects, but there are significant weaknesses
- 3: Good – KIC addresses/is aligned with the relevant aspects well, but a number of shortcomings are present
- 4: Very good – KIC addresses/is aligned with all relevant aspects very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present
- 5: Excellent – KIC successfully addresses/is aligned with all relevant aspects. Any shortcomings are minor.

Evidence: The evaluation (with scores) will be based on the submitted KIC Reports 2020, monitoring activities in 2021 and additional information collected from available sources.

6. Business Plan excellence, impact and quality, efficiency of the implementation

Business Plans for 2022 will be assessed with aspect to three criteria:

- Excellence regarding the KIC's Strategic Agenda 2021-2027, in particular:

  - Clarity and pertinence of the KIC Business Plan's objectives, and the extent to which the proposed innovation activities are ambitious and impactful on the societal challenge, and goes beyond the state of the art.
  - Level of ambition and credibility of the implementation of the KIC Financial Sustainability Strategy in 2022.

- Soundness of the proposed methodology to create sustainable KIC innovation ecosystems, the adequacy of the KIC Governance and management structure, the management for cooperation with other KICs & synergies.

- Impact, in particular:

  - Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and economic and societal impacts specified in the KIC Strategic Agenda and in the EIT Impact Framework, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions based on the Business Plan.
  - Expected impact of the activities for 2022 under the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme.
  - Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.

- Quality and efficiency of the implementation, including:

  - Quality of the selection process of activities and innovations to be supported demonstrating openness, transparency and high innovation potential of selected projects.
  - Quality and effectiveness of the Business Plan portfolio, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages (portfolio areas), and the efficiency and effectiveness of resources allocated
  - Capacity and role of the KIC LEs, and extent to which the KIC partnership as a whole brings together the necessary expertise to deliver on the Business Plan.

The following scale will be used:

- 0: KIC fails to address the relevant aspects
- 1: Poor – KIC addresses the relevant aspects inadequately, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 2: Fair – KIC broadly addresses the relevant aspects, but there are significant weaknesses
- 3: Good – KIC addresses the relevant aspects well, but a number of shortcomings are present
- 4: Very good – KIC addresses all relevant aspects very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present
- 5: Excellent – KIC successfully addresses all relevant aspects. Any shortcomings are minor.

Evidence: The evaluation (with scores) will be based on the submitted Business Plan 2022, in particular the following parts: Business Plan *per se,* additionally, summaries of the Annex II-IV will be used as additional evidence.

8.2 Cross-KIC activities and shared services 2022

By the EIT GB Decision on the principles for the determination of the 2022 EIT financial allocation, **the EIT has earmarked 30 MEUR grant** for the financing of Cross-KIC activities, including shared services.

8.2.1 Topic description and eligible activities

Through joining forces, the KICs should design and implement **value added Cross-KIC activities and shared services that shall explore the potential synergies and economies of scale, valorise the innovation potential across KICs, develop new innovation delivery mechanisms, promote the EIT KIC model and increase EIT visibility** as defined in the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027. A genuine Cross-KIC activity should allow all participating KICs to be involved in the delivery of the actions with clear objectives, milestones and achievements as well as clear allocation of roles.

Any KIC may participate and implement the eligible activities under the Cross-KIC scheme. The participating KICs and their individual contributions have to be agreed by all KICs participating in the specific Cross-KIC activity.

One KIC should be assigned to lead a Cross-KIC activity. Any KIC may lead a Cross-KIC activity. The leading KIC leads the Cross-KIC activity implementation and coordinates the contributions of the participating KICs. There should be also one clear leader per each Work Package (WP). Any KIC might lead a WP. All KICs participating in the Cross-KIC activity (including the leading KIC) must agree on the main objectives, milestones and annual achievements, as well as the budget distribution. Thus, **an overall Cross-KIC Activity Plan must be agreed by the participating KICs and submitted as additional document to the BP following the Horizon Europe template**.

Eligible activities:

The following **main Cross-KIC activities** are foreseen in 2022, with an earmarked maximum EIT grant of 25 MEUR:

- Cross-KIC Shared Services
- Cross-KIC Strategic Outreach
- Cross-KIC Strategic Regional Innovations
- Cross-KIC Strategic Synergies
- Cross-KIC Strategic Education

Cross-KIC Strategic Access to Finance

And **thematic innovation Cross-KIC activities** (continuation from 2021), with an earmarked maximum EIT grant of 5 MEUR:

Cross-KIC Child Obesity – TI
Cross-KIC Digitized Production – TI
Cross-KIC Water Scarcity – TI

EIT Cross-KIC activities description (new ones in 2022):

Cross-KIC Shared Services

- Objective: Increase of the EIT Community efficiency and effectiveness of operations through development of joint operational and administrative activities;

  The consolidation of KICs operational and administrative processes should result increase effectiveness while reducing administrative costs and overheads by pooling resources and joint handling of tasks common to several or all KICs.

- Scope:
  - supporting the EIT Community in the transition to improved IT and data tools;
  - servicing the EIT Community with providing the Certificates of Financial Statements (CFS);
  - increase the cooperation, coordination and visibility of the EIT Community in locations with the presence of at least two Co-location Centres or EIT Hubs of Knowledge and Innovation Communities across Europe;
  - establishing new KIC joint and shared services;
  - financing KICs joint co-locations/ hubs according to an agreed methodology.

- The expected outcomes should in principle be focused on (but not limited to):
  - establishing of the centralised CFS scheme for all KICs/Partners exceeding CFS thresholds, audits below CFS threshold or other types of audits to increase assurance and cover needs after the HE transition;
  - development of IT tools supporting the EIT Community in the transition to the Horizon Europe operational and legal framework, in particular common data and knowledge management, e.g. common data model, common templates, common reporting/publication (CORDA, EC Tender and Funding Portal, EIT website), shared data management systems;

- developing joint activities and increasing the awareness and visibility of the EIT Community in locations with the presence of at least two KIC CLCs across Europe (including EIT House in Brussels) by showcasing and promoting KIC assets and hosting key events with key actors and priority stakeholders, providing a meeting/exhibition space and allow start-ups associated with the EIT Community to meet with potential investors and to invite key people;

- increasing the operational efficiency and effectiveness of KICs through co-locating KIC CLC activities, particularly in Brussels, Berlin, Budapest, Copenhagen, Espoo, Paris, Stockholm; other locations might be considered by providing the cost benefit analysis to the EIT and conditioning on the EIT's approval. The methodology of selecting, estimating and justifying the EIT contribution to finance joint CLCs should be provided in the application and should take into account the new hybrid way of working, needed space, staff numbers and local specificities. The assessment according to the proposed methodology for the EIT support should also include existing consolidated CLCs;

- development of joint EIT Community communications activities, in particular for the joint organisation and participation in high level events, fairs and exhibitions across Europe, joint organisation of communications campaigns on topics of common interest (education courses/programmes, regional innovation scheme actions, business creation and acceleration programmes, women entrepreneurship, etc.), joint access to communications management and monitoring tools (e.g. media monitoring), facilitating the communications of EIT community activities at national and regional level and of cross-KIC activities;

- development of KICs joint dissemination activities, in particular the quality support centre for developing information on activities results for all on-going and just implemented innovation projects (which has been finalised since 2019) through the EC dissemination channels (in particular the Horizon Results Platform), ensuring dissemination of innovation project results, facilitating dissemination of results of cross-KIC activities;

- proposing and developing joint activities in other areas, e.g. joint procurement, HR, sustainable office, legal issues, partnership management, staff training, capacity building (including activity on shared values of the EIT Community), anti-fraud measures, document management, data protection, etc. – the efficiency and effectiveness gains should be demonstrated and quantified and the cooperation with other organisations (e.g. KIC partners, other EU programmes such as EIC or other EU Agencies) is explicitly encouraged;

- effective management of the activity, including coordination, monitoring of the activities' implementation and reporting the progress to the EIT, managing the grant reporting process in a close collaboration with the EIT, ensuring adequate visibility and dissemination of results of the Cross-KIC activity, ensure operationalisation of the steering committee overseeing the activity implementation, which should meet at least every quarter and be open for the EIT and KICs, ensure coordination of the activity implementation with the KICs' activities and synergies with the KICs Business Plans

implementation. The activity's coordinator (at least 0.75 FTE) should be located in Brussels or Budapest.

- Expected Impact: to be defined by applicants addressing the specific objectives of the activity, its scope and expected outcomes supported by the cost benefit analysis of the supported actions. The intended impact should be described by results KPIs but also should include a description of the long term qualitative and quantitative impact if relevant.

Cross-KIC Strategic Outreach

- Objective: The activity should multiply and maximise the EIT Community impact and help deliver on the KICs' impact pathways, transfer/ outreach the KTI EIT model, contribute to the KICs' financial sustainability through its global presence, and foster international knowledge exchange and reciprocity.

- Scope:
    - setting up and development of the EIT community Hubs in USA (Silicon Valley), United Kingdom (London), Israel (Tel Aviv), and other potential locations of the EIT's strategic interest and in alignment with the EU Global Approach to Research and Innovation;
    - ensuring the respective Hub's financial sustainability and contribution to the KICs' financial sustainability through an adequate strategy;
    - linking the innovation ecosystem of Europe with that of the selected outreach locations, including relevant synergies;
    - effective support to EIT community and other EU innovators and entrepreneurs in the selected outreach locations;
    - participate in the development of the EIT's global outreach strategy and on this basis prepare the methodology and preparation a market study and business model for other potential strategic outreach locations;
    - Ensure full alignment with the overall EU's policy priorities, Strategic Framework for EIT Community Global Outreach Activities the EU Global Approach to Research and Innovation, and Horizon Europe.

- The expected outcomes should be focused on (but not limited to):
    - further developing the activities of the existing Global Outreach Programme EIT Hubs, with multiple KIC participation, in Israel, USA, United Kingdom, reflecting EIT's knowledge triangle approach and in alignment with the EU priorities for international collaboration with the respective outreach location;

- exploring the feasibility and business model for the establishment of an EIT Hub in other strategic outreach locations of common interest for the EIT Community and in full alignment with the EU Strategy for International Cooperation;

- implementing of impactful activities linking the innovation ecosystem of Europe with that of the selected outreach locations through showcasing EIT-supported innovations, forging synergies with global innovation leaders, contributing to enhancing Europe's leadership in addressing the world's major societal challenges with the purpose of providing tangible benefits for the EIT Community, fostering knowledge exchange, collaborative research and technology transfer, and promoting reciprocity in international cooperation and development;

- ensure sustainability of the outreach locations and contribute to the financial sustainability of the EIT Community;

- developing a support scheme with quantifiable outputs supporting EIT and overall EU innovators and entrepreneurs in the selected outreach locations, as well as supporting local start-ups, both with the aim of supporting the development and introduction of products and services with a concrete impact, accelerating the provision of digital services and technology to all citizens, and delivering green solutions for global challenges;

- providing a framework for the EIT Community platform to join efforts, resources, share good practices and lessons learnt form the implementation of the global outreach activities, supported by the cost-benefit analysis;

- effective management of the activity, including coordination, monitoring of the activities' implementation and reporting the progress to the EIT, managing the grant reporting process in a close collaboration with the EIT, ensuring adequate visibility and dissemination of results of the Cross-KIC activity, ensure operationalisation of the steering committee overseeing the activity implementation, which should meet at least every quarter and be open for the EIT and KICs, ensure coordination of the activity implementation with the KICs' activities and synergies with the KICs Business Plans implementation. The activity's coordinator (at least 0.75 FTE) should be located in Brussels or Budapest.

- Expected Impact: to be defined by applicants addressing the specific objectives of the activity, its scope and expected results in the context of elevating the impact of the EIT Community and improving its financial sustainability through expanding the KICs operations beyond Europe. The impact description should be supported by results KPIs and qualitative and quantitative description of the long-term impact in line with the EIT Impact Framework. The results KPIs should be accompanied/ justified by the outputs KPIs.

Cross-KIC Strategic Regional Innovations

- Objective: strengthen the impact of EIT through the EIT KICs' presence, outreach and coordination n the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme area as well as other priority countries and regions.

- Scope:

    - geographical scope: regions and countries eligible under the EIT RIS scheme as well as other priority countries and regions, including in particular the Western Balkan countries.

- The expected outcomes should be focused on (but not limited to):

    - strengthening the EIT KICs' presence, outreach and integration in line with the EIT RIS implementation framework within the RIS area and other priority regions, including the Western Balkans region;

    - Ensure adequate coordination and consolidation of EIT KIC activities within the same EIT RIS country or region;

    - exploring linkages and synergies between the EIT Community and local innovation ecosystems and Smart Specialisation Strategies, and provide capacity building support;

    - identifying best practices in the field of start-up support and incubation, education and KTI development and transfer them to create synergies within the EIT Community;

    - exploring and establishing strategic alliances and possible cooperation with key actors in the targeted countries and regions, at different levels (e.g. Regional Cooperation Council, Enterprise Europe Network, European Innovation Council among others);

    - exploring and linking the EIT funded activities with other programmes including Horizon Europe, the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF);

    - scoping, preparation and implementation of potential innovation projects addressing circular economy or other EU priorities in the Western Balkans region;

    - strengthening entrepreneurial education via implementation of the joint pre-accelerator EIT Jumpstarter;

    - development and implementation of knowledge-sharing platform to ensure alignment between regional priorities and KICs' EIT RIS activities;

    - effective management of the activity, including coordination, monitoring of the activities' implementation and reporting the progress to the EIT, managing the grant reporting process in a close collaboration with the EIT, ensuring adequate visibility and dissemination of results of the Cross-KIC activity, ensure operationalisation of the

steering committee overseeing the activity implementation, which should meet at least every quarter and be open for the EIT and KICs, ensure coordination of the activity implementation with the KICs' activities and synergies with the KICs Business Plans implementation. The activity's coordinator (at least 0.75 FTE) should be located in Brussels or Budapest.

- Expected Impact: to be defined by applicants addressing the specific objectives of the activity, its scope and expected results in the context of elevating the impact of the EIT Community in the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme area as well as other priority countries and regions and increasing their competitiveness and innovativeness level. The impact description should be supported by results KPIs and qualitative and quantitative description of the long-term impact.

Cross-KIC Strategic Synergies

- Objectives:
    - Elevate the EIT Community impact in key strategic areas through cooperation and/or alignment with other programmes;
    - coordination of joint thematic and the key EIT's strategic agendas according to the EIT SIA 2021-2027 and EU policy priorities, with the participation of the majority of KICs.
- Scope:
    - Artificial Intelligence - Enhance impact through the provision of joint support, exchange of best practices schemes and a common platform for the EIT community supported AI start-ups and innovation activities as well as KIC partners using AI technology. This can include joint services, knowledge sharing, access to research and cooperation with other EU programmes including skill development/ education and access to finance opportunities from investors and with other EU and non-EU funded programmes. The aim is to enhance the EIT's position as one of the most important and largest the EC funded AI innovation programmes in the EU;
    - Circular Economy collaboration – enhance impact of the already initiated KICs activities regarding Cross-KIC Circular Economy extending the collaboration with key EU stakeholders as DG ENV in different actions within the European Circular Economy Action Plan (i.e. Environmental Technology Verification Program (ETV)). This initiative shall allow participating KICs to offering joint forces regarding Circular Economy expertise in relevant initiatives as the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (ECESP), Circular/Innovative Cities, Best Available Techniques Reference Documents (BREFs) to pool and create further non-technical knowledge regarding specific aspects affecting the adequate implementation of Circular Economy approaches, as well as facilitating the access to markets for innovative KICs solutions. Ensure cooperation with the Western Balkan project on circular economy;

- New European Bauhaus – based on EU priorities support the delivery phase of the NEB, in particular, build on the lessons learnt from the 2021 pilot, further link the KICs' activities with the NEB agenda, explore synergies and funding opportunities with other EU and non-EU funded programmes, establish links and explore synergies with other NEB related stakeholders at the EIT community level;

- Women entrepreneurship - in particular, develop and support networks of women start up leaders and women led venture capital firms/ investors, network of women leaders in the EIT community; explore synergies and funding opportunities for women entrepreneurs; support women entrepreneurship and digital training of women; ensure that beneficiaries take all measures to promote equal opportunities, in line with the gender mainstreaming policies and gender equality plans.

- The expected outcomes should be focused on (but not limited to):

  - Coordination of the EIT and KICs' joint key strategic agendas (in particular in the area of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Circular Economy collaboration, Green Deal, New European Bauhaus and Women Entrepreneurship) and activities;

  - development of joint activities in the key strategic areas, including support systems/ activities for ventures, promoting gender equality, citizens engagement activities, innovation projects or education activities run by the KICs;

  - identification and dissemination of good practices and lessons learnt on policy level from implementation of the activities;

  - engaging and defining collaboration with the key stakeholders in the key strategic aeras to elevate the impact of the KICs activities;

  - identifying and linking with the relevant other programmes in the key strategic areas;

  - effective management of the activity, including coordination, monitoring of the activities' implementation and reporting the progress to the EIT, managing the grant reporting process in a close collaboration with the EIT, ensuring adequate visibility and dissemination of results of the Cross-KIC activity, ensure operationalisation of the steering committee overseeing the activity implementation, which should meet at least every quarter and be open for the EIT and KICs, ensure coordination of the activity implementation with the KICs' activities and synergies with the KICs Business Plans implementation. The activity's coordinator (at least 0.75 FTE) should be located in Brussels or Budapest.

- Expected Impact: to be defined by applicants addressing the specific objectives of the activity, its scope and expected results in the defined key strategic areas. The impact description should be supported by results KPIs and qualitative and quantitative description of the long-term impact.

Cross-KIC Strategic Education

- Objectives:
    - Elevate the impact of the EIT education agenda and the KICs EIT Alumni organisations;
    - contribute to the Digital Education Action Plan implementation in the scope defined by the policy documents.
- Scope:
    - EIT's contribution to the European Commission Digital Education Action Plan (DEAP);
    - joint KICs activities in the area of education aimed at testing new methods, tools and approaches, disseminating good practices and lessons learned;
    - implementation of the joint EIT Alumni agenda under the overall steer of the EIT Alumni Board.
- The expected outcomes should be focused on (but not limited to):
    - contribution to the Digital Education Action Plan (DEAP), in particular Girls go Circular activity and DigiEduHack, according to the targets set in the relevant policy documents;
    - support the implementation of the joint EIT Alumni agenda, in particular through organisation of annual EIT Alumni Connect activities, implementation of at least 4 joint projects each year (including possible prizes), organising workshops and/or trainings (at least 4 times a year), supporting organisation and coordination of the EIT Alumni Board activities (including meetings), promotion and communication activities related to EIT Alumni Communities including possible online publications, enhancing internal communications, reporting and data gathering;
    - promoting entrepreneurial education and disseminate good practices and lessons learnt from the Innovation Communities activities;
    - building synergies between the KICs education activities and alignment with other relevant programmes and stakeholders, including Green Deal and European Skills Agenda;
    - facilitating collaboration and knowledge sharing between the KICs in the domain of education and testing new methods, tools and approaches to better deliver entrepreneurial education;
    - effective management of the activity, including coordination, monitoring of the activities' implementation and reporting the progress to the EIT, managing the grant reporting process in a close collaboration with the EIT, ensuring adequate visibility and dissemination of results of the Cross-KIC activity, ensure operationalisation of the steering committee overseeing the activity implementation, which should meet at least

every quarter and be open for the EIT and KICs, ensure coordination of the activity implementation with the KICs' activities and synergies with the KICs multiannual Business Plans implementation. The activity's coordinator (at least 0.75 FTE) should be located in Brussels or Budapest.

- Expected Impact: to be defined by applicants addressing the specific objectives of the activity, its scope and expected outcomes but focusing on elevating the impact of the EIT education agenda and the KICs EIT Alumni organisations. The impact description should be supported by results KPIs and qualitative and quantitative description of the long-term impact.

Cross-KIC Strategic Access to Finance

- Objective:
  - Developing synergies with EIC, EIF and EIB to facilitate investments to the KICs ventures or projects and contribute to the KICs' financial sustainability.
- Scope:
  - Facilitation of financial and non-financial support to the KICs ventures to accelerate their growth;
  - develop a pipeline of innovative funds, projects and ventures supported by the EIT Community that benefit from EIC, EIB and EIF support;
  - development of capacity and expertise available to the whole EIT Community in accessing EIB, EIF and EIC support.;
  - Development of synergies between EIT and EIC, EIF, EIB.
- The expected outcomes should be focused on (but not limited to):
  - creating and developing an investment pipeline and to establish an annual deal flow of at least five successful investment proposals originating from the EIT Community to be supported by the European Investment Bank (EIB) annually.
  - developing synergy between the EIT Community and European Investment Fund (EIF), by preparing and launching an open innovation platform / investment instrument that will bring together key players (Corporates, Private Venture Capital firms, and public entities), addressing issues such as green cities and sustainable mobility, decarbonisation of industries and power generation, biomanufacturing, agri-food tech, circular economy, technology enablers for green transition, to make investments in innovation start-ups / scale-ups and that will be contributing to the KICs' financial sustainability.

- support the implementation of a fully-fledged systemic and structural cooperation between EIT and EIC in the context of the 8 January 2021 signed EIT-EIC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), including but not limited to the development of support mechanisms for KICs innovative start-ups and SMEs to access EIC Accelerator, and EIC advisory services and networks, but also to facilitate market access for and investments in innovative start-ups and SMEs, to support women innovators and innovators from widening countries, to identify opportunities for supporting EIC Pathfinder projects by KICs to transform research results into innovations, to identify new opportunities for collaboration and synergies, and to share data / experience and reporting.

- effective management of the activity, including coordination, monitoring of the activities' implementation and reporting the progress to EIT, managing the grant reporting process in a close collaboration with the EIT, ensuring adequate visibility and dissemination of results of the Cross-KIC activity, ensure operationalisation of the steering committee overseeing the activity implementation, which should meet at least every quarter and be open for the EIT and KICs, ensure coordination of the activity implementation with the KICs' activities and synergies with the KICs Business Plans implementation. The activity's coordinator (at least 0.75 FTE) should be located in Brussels or Budapest.

- Expected Impact: to be defined by applicants addressing the specific objectives of the activity, its scope and expected results in the context of increasing the innovation performance and innovation potential of the European Union and growth and number of new jobs to be created in the supported ventures.

8.2.2 Award criteria

Criteria: All Cross-KIC proposals will be evaluated against the following award criteria aligned with the Horizon Europe legal framework: excellence, impact and quality and efficiency of the implementation as follows:

EIT Strategic activities	Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Weights of criteria	40%	40%	20%
Sub-criteria	- Relevance, value added and objectives - Quality of the proposed methodology - Financial sustainability	- Impact - Dissemination, and communication	- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, - Implementation efficiency - Capacity and role of each participant
EIT Shared Services	Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Weights of criteria	20%	20%	60%
Sub-criteria	- Relevance, value added	- Impact	- Quality and effectiveness

	and objectives - Quality of the proposed methodology - Financial sustainability	- Dissemination, and communication	of the work plan, assessment of risks, - Implementation efficiency - Capacity and role of each participant

The EIT may prioritise and/or reject a Cross-KIC activity. In case the EIT Cross-KIC Fund is lower than the requested grant, the EIT will decide on the funding level based on the outcomes of the evaluation process.

KICs might be funded only if the overall scoring at the technical evaluation stage would exceed 60% threshold.

Evidence: The evaluation will be based on the submitted proposals for 2022.

Depending on the evaluation outcomes and identified weaknesses of proposals, EIT might reduce the requested funding. Following the evaluation round, EIT might also provide requirements to the applicants to revise the content of the proposal and adjust the budgetary request accordingly.

8.3 Pilot HEI initiative - Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education 2022

By the EIT GB Decision on the principles for the determination of the 2022 EIT financial allocation, **the EIT has earmarked 35 MEUR grant** for the **pilot activity aimed at increasing the entrepreneurial and innovative capacities of Higher Education Institutions.**

8.3.1 Topic description and eligible activities

The purpose of the pilot HEI Initiative is to create systemic impact in Europe **through strengthening the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of HEIs.** This will be realised by developing a strategy and an action plan, which must allow for flexibility and experimentation in the pilot stage 2021 - 2023. Specific objectives are to achieve the following:

- Increase the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of higher education institutions (HEIs), both regarding HEIs own capacity to be entrepreneurial and innovative as well as being able to teach and foster innovation and entrepreneurship;
- Strengthen and safeguard the integration of HEIs in innovation ecosystems.

The activities financed under the initiative must be in line with the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027.

Further to the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027, the pilot stage HEI initiative has started in 2021 and shall last for three years. The proposals to be submitted should cover the period of 2022.

Based on the results of the evaluation of the pilot HEI initiative activities in 2021-2023, the EIT Governing Board shall decide whether the pilot HEI initiative is to be continued and scaled-up or discontinued.

- Objective:

  To create systemic impact in higher education at the institutional level, by supporting HEIs to increase their innovation and entrepreneurial capacity and better integrate into and engage with innovation ecosystems.

- Scope:

  To ensure the success of the pilot higher education initiative, the EIT shall provide funding as well as specific guidance, expertise and coaching to participating HEIs and target HEIs from across Europe, paying particular attention to HEIs from countries (and regions in those countries) that are moderate and modest innovators and other low performing regions that wish to develop their innovation capacities and strengthen their innovation footprint and smart specialisation strategies.

  Particular attention shall be paid to ensuring: an open and inclusive approach to attract HEIs beyond the KICs' partners aiming for wide geographical coverage; an inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral approach; a broader participation of women in sectors where they are underrepresented; and a link with the RIS, relevant thematic platforms and smart specialisation strategies, and the Policy Support Facility when appropriate.

  As the initiative has been launched in 2021 with the pilot call for activities, it is expected, that projects launched in 2021 can continue in 2022 (pending on their positive checkpoint assessment). Additionally, in 2022 a set of new projects shall be selected through open calls.

- Expected outcome:

  As foreseen in the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) 2021-2027, the activities shall address primarily the capacity development of HEIs including:

  - the exchange and implementation of best practices in knowledge triangle integration, including organisational learning, training for up-skilling and re-skilling, coaching and mentoring;

  - the development of action plans on how to address identified needs in areas such as innovation management, start-up creation and development, technology transfer including intellectual property rights management, sustainability and climate neutrality by design, people and organisational management, the integration of gender approaches in innovation and engagement with local stakeholders and civil society; and

- the implementation of innovation capacity development action plans and follow-up actions.

- Expected Impact:

The aim of the pilot higher education initiative is that the impact of the EIT reach beyond the KICs and contribute to the EIT's core mission of boosting sustainable economic growth and competitiveness by reinforcing the innovation capacity of Member States, in line with the Horizon Europe goals of fostering entrepreneurial and innovation skills in a lifelong learning perspective, including increasing the capacities of HEIs across Europe at the institutional level.

8.3.2 Award criteria

Criteria: The proposal for the pilot HEI activities 2022 will be evaluated against the following award criteria aligned with the Horizon Europe legal framework: excellence, impact and quality and efficiency of the implementation as follows:

	Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Weights of criteria	40%	40%	20%
Sub-criteria	- Clarity pertinence and relevance of the proposal's objectives - Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures including soundness of methodology. - Quality of synergies and links with existing initiatives at EU, national and regional level. - Credibility of the financial model and contribution to KIC financial sustainability.	- Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the EIT SIA 2021-2027, participating KICs' strategic agendas and in the EIT Impact Framework, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the proposal. - Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.	- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall. - Capacity and role of each participant, and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

Evidence: The evaluation will be based on the submitted proposal. All KICs are expected to participate in the proposal for the pilot HEI activities as this initiative is a strategic priority identified by the EIT SIA

2021-2027. It is mandatory for all KICs to participate in the initiative, however if any of the KICs fails to take part for any reason, this should not prevent the other KICs to submit proposal.

9 Evaluation process

9.1 KIC Business Plan assessment

The proposed KIC Business Plans (including the Cross-KIC and pilot HEI proposals) shall be assessed by **independent external experts** selected by the EIT and organised in panels.

If the KICs wish so, they are welcome to submit brief videos (maximum 10 minutes) presenting their Business Plan 2022. The video will be made available to the experts, as part of the briefing documentation.

The KICs shall not have direct or indirect contact with the external experts regarding the evaluation at any time, including during or after the evaluation exercise. The information and the names of the experts shall remain confidential.

Evaluation with scores in line with the award criteria

The evaluation will be carried out **at portfolio level** against the award criteria and based on the evidence presented in the previous Chapter 8.

Evidence: as per
Chapter 8.1, criterion 6) Business Plan excellence, impact and quality, efficiency of the implementation (2022) and
Chapter 8.2 for Cross-KIC activities and
Chapter 8.3. for the pilot HEI initiative.

The outcomes of the Business Plan evaluation are included in the evaluation report which contains scores substantiated by evaluative justifications. This evaluation may also result in "EIT requirements" to be addressed before the Business Plan approval and the amendment of the 2021 Grant Agreement (see Chapter 10).

Evaluation leading to "EIT requirements"

To ensure quality of the Business Plan and in particular **at portfolio level**, the Business Plan will be assessed mainly in terms of **(a) Excellence regarding the KIC's Strategic Agenda 2021-2027 (b) Impact (c) Quality and efficiency of the implementation, as described in Chapter 8.**

Evidence: the whole Business Plan including all annexes. The EIT and the experts may also consult other submitted documentation, as described by the Guidelines for BP2022, or may browse publicly available sources to verify information provided by the KICs.

The outcome of this assessment leads to the formal EIT requirements which shall be met prior to the approval of the Business Plan as a condition for the grant award and the amendment of the 2021 Grant Agreement (see Chapter 10).

9.2 Multi-annual strategy assessment

The strategy and multi-annual progress assessment shall be carried out by the **EIT Governing Board** with support from the appointed GB Rapporteur. It shall focus on the **KIC development and achievements over the years from the strategic perspective**, i.e. how successful is the KIC in reaching the EIT's and KIC's strategic objectives. Part of this assessment is also to verify that the strategic recommendations made by the EIT Governing Board in previous years have been addressed by the KICs and that monitoring recommendations are followed up.

The task shall be carried out by GB Rapporteurs, designated by the EIT Governing Board, in order to oversee the assessment process and report back to the Board during the hearings with the KICs.

Three GB Rapporteurs, members of the EIT Governing Board, were appointed. The GB Rapporteurs' main role is to **meet the KICs in the particular wave in order to familiarise with the KICs' strategic and multi-annual development.** The GB Rapporteurs shall discuss the state-of-play of implementing the strategic recommendations with high-level representatives of the KIC (CEO, Chairperson or Members of the KIC Board). Any other topics of strategic importance identified during the year could also be discussed. The GB Rapporteurs shall conclude the visit with a feedback to the KIC with respect to the key strengths and weaknesses and recommendations/remaining challenges. The meeting shall be documented in the form of main conclusions report. Based on the knowledge gained during the visit and the KIC's weaknesses identified, the GB Rapporteurs shall highlight the KIC's key challenges which will be then discussed at the Hearings with the KICs.

9.3 Hearings with the KICs

The Hearings with the KICs constitute an important part of the Multi-annual Strategy assessment, but also, they embrace the whole 2022 financial allocation process.

The hearings with the KIC representatives will be held on 24-25 November 2021. The modalities of the hearings, in particular the scope and structure of the KIC interventions and the time allocated, will be communicated to the KICs in due time.

The main objective of the hearing will be to conclude on the Multi-Annual Strategy criterion assessment.

The hearings will comprise of a short introduction and an in-depth Q&A session aiming to increase the level of interaction with the KICs, enabling a deep discussion and understanding of the KIC strategy. The sessions will focus on key strategic challenges in areas of e.g. impact, synergies, KIC business model and progress towards financial sustainability, building the EIT Community Brand Identity, KIC governance, partnership and openness.

Following the hearings and after reaching consensus, the EIT Governing Board will take a decision on the final scores and will **take a decision on the level of maximum EIT financial contribution for each KIC in accordance with the timeline indicated in Chapter 4 above.**

The EIT Governing Board will issue recommendations to KICs on strategic elements to improve key areas and to further develop those elements that make each KIC unique.

10 KIC Business Plan approval – Grant award – Two amendments of Grant Agreement 2021

Following the Hearings, the EIT Director will communicate the evaluation results to the KICs (by email only) and will request the submission of the updated version of the KIC Business Plans based on the

(a) EIT requirements for the Business Plan revision, and
(b) the EIT GB strategic recommendations for the upcoming grant cycle(s).

The formal requirements issued by the EIT – including the maximum EIT contribution – shall be met prior to the approval of the Business Plan as a condition for the grant award and the amendment of the 2021 Grant Agreement.

A clarification session is offered to each KIC following the EIT requirements letter.

The EIT GB funding allocation decision will serve as the basis for the **award of the 2022 grants by the EIT Director** and for the **amendment of the 2021 Grant Agreement**:

1) as a first step to extend its duration with 12 months and to include the possibility for a second pre-financing, interim report and interim payment, and
2) as a second step to include the two-year consolidated Business Plan 2021-2022 and estimated budget in the Grant Agreement, provided that they:
   - are in compliance with the 'Guidelines for the 2022 KIC Business Plan and estimated Budget';
   - meet the requirements for the revision of the Business Plan issued by the EIT Director, including the decided maximum EIT financial contribution;
   - are aligned with the Strategic Recommendations issued by the EIT GB.

The 2022 grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested in the proposal.

Note: In accordance with Article 191 of the EU Financial Regulation concerning the principle of non-cumulative award and prohibition of double funding, each action may give rise to the award of only one grant from the EU budget to any one beneficiary. In no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by the EU budget.

11 Legal and financial provisions

Partnership Agreement and Horizon Europe Grant Agreement

The 2021-2022 grants shall follow the new legal framework and the new agreement models.

- The EIT Partnership Agreements (PA) have been signed in Q2 of 2021 with the eight KICs.
- The HE Model Grant Agreement (HE MGA) was used for the signature of the 2021 Grant Agreement.

As stated in Chapter 10 above, the legal commitment for 2021 will be ensured by way of extending and amending the 2021 Grant Agreements signed with the KICs in 2021. Annex I and II of the second amendment will include a two-year consolidated Business Plans 2021-2022 and the estimated budgets.

Starting date, eligibility period and expected Business Plan duration

Following the amendments of the 2021 Grant Agreement for each KIC, the action's starting date and duration will be from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2022.

Maximum grant amount, reimbursement of eligible costs and funding rate

The eligible and ineligible costs, the form of grant and reimbursement, calculation of the final grant amount, reporting and payment arrangements together with other financial conditions are described in the HE Model Grant Agreement.

The EIT will reimburse ONLY eligible costs incurred in line with GA provisions. In case of breach of those provisions NOT all budgeted and reported costs will be reimbursed. The final grant amount will be calculated in line with HE rules.

The costs of KIC added-value activities will be reimbursed in accordance with the funding rates stipulated in the SIA. **The maximum funding rate** shall take into account that Cross-KIC activities including shared services, pilot HEI activities and EIT RIS activities can be funded by the EIT up to 100%. The funding rate for other KAVAs shall respect the maximum ceilings, taking the average of 2021 and 2022 rates, set out below per KIC:

- Up to 45% for each KIC of the first wave, namely EIT Digital, EIT InnoEnergy, EIT Climate-KIC;
- Up to 75% for each KIC of the second wave, namely EIT Health and EIT RawMaterials;

- Up to 80% for each KIC of the third wave KIC, namely EIT Food;
- Up to 100% for each KIC of the fourth wave, namely EIT Manufacturing and EIT Urban Mobility.

The estimated budget shall be prepared in the line with the 2022 Business Plan Guidelines.

Financial support to third parties

Financial support to third parties involves funding provided by the beneficiary (i.e. the KIC LE) to a recipient that is not a party to the Grant Agreement. Financial support to third parties includes sub-grants (financial support to third parties, Article 6.2.D.1 (a)) and financial support in the form of prizes (Article 6.2.D.1 (b)). Please note that **EIT-specific rules are laid down in Annex 5 of the Grant Agreement.**

The maximum amount of financial support may exceed EUR 60,000, where achieving the objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible or overly difficult. Financial support to third parties should not exceed **EUR 500 000** for KIC Business Plan activities, including and Cross-KIC activities and shared services and the pilot HEI activities per recipient and per year.

Eligible costs for equipment, infrastructure, and other assets

The KIC LE and the CLCs are established specifically for the purpose of facilitating the coordination and operation of a KIC. In order to achieve its objectives, the KIC LE and CLCs must have the appropriate infrastructure in place, including office space, office equipment, IT equipment, etc. Such infrastructure is established uniquely for the EIT programme and used only for the purposes of the KIC. Setting up the necessary infrastructure requires an upfront investment, and KIC LEs and CLCs have limited financial means to support it.

Based on the above justification, in order to bring the KICs closer to their objectives while limiting costs to the minimum necessary and respecting the purpose of the relevant provisions of the HE framework, the EIT applies the following:

- Article 6.2.C.2 of the HE MGA allows for the use of depreciation and full cost for the listed equipment at the grant level (Option 3: to declare both the depreciation and full cost of listed equipment, infrastructure, or other assets at grant level, if selected for the call). This option includes an additional option (if selected for the grant) to list the exact type of equipment.

  Therefore, in the case of Grant Agreement 2021-2022, Option 3 with the additional option is allowed subject to the following limitations:

  - equipment, infrastructure or other assets are purchased specifically for the action (or developed as part of the action tasks);

- purchase costs are claimed by the coordinator or co-location centres (CLCs) for the area "management and coordination of the KIC", for KIC added value activities identified in the KIC Business Plan (Annex 1);
- the purpose of incurring the relevant costs is limited to the set-up and development of the KIC LE and CLCs;
- the relevant costs are claimed up to EUR 750 000 per KIC Business Plan (Annex 1) per year.

Joint and several liability of affiliated entities

Joint and several liability of affiliated entities: As a rule, declarations on joint and several liability will be requested by EIT if the budget of the affiliated entity is higher than the budget of the KIC Partner concerned, with the following exceptions:

a. If the total KAVA budget of the affiliated entity is lower than EUR 100,000,

b. If the affiliated entity is a public body

The KIC shall collect the Declaration on joint and several liability from the affiliated entities falling into the above situation and submit these in the Partnership Management tool continuously, by no later than the request for last amendment of the Grant Agreement foreseen for September 2022. Non-submission of the declaration may result in rejection of the costs for the affiliated entity concerned.

Reporting and payment arrangements and deliverables

The reporting and payment arrangements are laid down in the HE Model Grant Agreement (see Article 21 and 22). Obligatory deliverables set in the BP Guidelines are expected to be submitted during the implementation year while majority of deliverables are expected together with the final KIC report after the end of the implementation.

The first amendment of the 2021 Grant Agreement (as mentioned in Chapter 10 above) will include the possibility for a second pre-financing (subject to a pre-financing report), interim report and interim payment in the agreement provisions. The templates for the reports will be provided by the EIT.

The pre-financing report shall include a technical part (i.e. overview of the action implementation in the reporting period on the portfolio level, based mainly on the Business Plan per se) and a financial part (i.e. statement on the use of the previous pre-financing payment). If the statement on the use of the previous pre-financing payment shows that less than 70% was used, the amount set out in the Data Sheet will be reduced by the difference between the 70% threshold and the amount used. The pre-financing report shall be submitted in accordance with the timeline indicated in Chapter 4 above.

The second pre-financing payment will be made within 60 days from receiving the pre-financing report.

The contribution to the Mutual Insurance Mechanism will be retained from the second prefinancing payment too (at the rate and in accordance with the modalities set out in Point 4.2 of the Data Sheet) and transferred to the Mechanism.

Interim report shall include a technical part (i.e. overview of the action implementation in the reporting period on the KAVA level) and a financial part (i.e. individual and consolidated financial statements, explanation on the use of resources, certificates on the financial statements (CFS) if required, etc). The interim report shall be submitted in accordance with the timeline indicated in Chapter 4 above.

The **interim payment** will be made within 90 days from receiving the interim report.

The following interim payment ceiling applies in HE: 90% of the maximum grant amount.

Final report shall include a technical part (i.e. overview of the Business Plan and its annexes implementation in the reporting period on the portfolio level and on the KAVA level) and a financial part (i.e. individual and consolidated financial statements, explanation on the use of resources, certificates on the financial statements (CFS) if required, etc). The final report shall be submitted 90 days after the end of the action.

The EIT will calculate the final EIT grant amount. The final payment will be made within 90 days from receiving the final report. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, EIT will ask the KIC LE to pay back the difference (recovery).

KIC control strategy

Further to the sound management principles laid down in Article 7.1 of Partnership Agreement and Annex 5 of the HE Model Grant Agreement, the KICs must have in place effective and reliable control strategies. The KIC's control strategy shall be submitted to the EIT by 28 February 2022, which shall be followed by a methodology to be agreed with the EIT.

12 Processing of personal data

The reply to the present call for Business Plans involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed by the EIT pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices

and agencies and on the free movement of such data[20]. Any personal data requested in accordance with the Call for Business Plans will be processed solely for that purpose by the EIT. The EIT privacy statement for the management of grants is available at:
https://eit.europa.eu/data-protection

Personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System by the Commission, should the beneficiary be in one of the situations mentioned in Article 136 and 141 of the Financial Regulation 2018/1046 (for more information see the Privacy Statement on:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/data-protection-public-procurement-procedures_en.

[20] Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC

Electronically signed on 09/07/2021 18:18 (UTC+02) in accordance with article 11 of Commission Decision C(2020) 4482