Ref. Ares(2024)8429633 - 27/11/2024



# European Institute of Innovation and Technology

# Invitation to submit a proposal for the European Raw Materials Academy

**HORIZON-EIT-2024-ERMA-EAMA-IBA**

## HORIZON EUROPE Programme

Version 1.1

25 November 2024

| HISTORY OF CHANGES | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Version | Publication Date | Change | Page |
| 1.0 | 22.10.2024 | ▪ Initial version. | |
| 1.1 | 25.11.2024 | ▪ Amended version:<br>- Chapter 5 Timetable and deadlines updated<br>- Chapter 12 Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreement, Section 12.1 Starting date and project duration updated | 12<br>22 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

# Table of Contents

Introduction ..... 5
1 Background ..... 6
2 Objectives, Scope and Activities ..... 7
2.1 Objectives ..... 7
2.2 Activities that can be funded (scope) ..... 8
3 Expected results (impact, outcome, output) ..... 12
4 Available budget ..... 12
5 Timetable and deadlines ..... 12
6 Admissibility and documents ..... 13
7 Eligibility ..... 14
7.1 Entities eligible for funding ..... 14
7.2 Eligible activities ..... 16
8 Ethics and values ..... 16
9 Financial and operational capacity and exclusion ..... 17
9.1 Financial and operational capacity ..... 17
9.2 Exclusion ..... 17
10 Evaluation and award procedure ..... 19
11 Award criteria ..... 19
12 Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreement ..... 21
12.1 Starting date and project duration ..... 22
12.2 Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount ..... 22
12.3 Budget categories and cost eligibility rules ..... 23
12.4 Eligibility of direct and indirect costs ..... 24
12.5 Financial support to third parties ..... 24
12.6 No double funding ..... 24
12.7 Reporting and payment arrangements ..... 25
12.8 Certificates ..... 26
12.9 Liability regime for recoveries ..... 27
12.10 Provisions concerning the project implementation ..... 27

12.11 Non-compliance and breach of contract ..... 28
13 How to submit an application ..... 28
13.1 Submit the proposal (using PIC number) ..... 28
13.2 Contact ..... 29
14 Transparency ..... 29
15 Processing of personal data ..... 29
16 Annexes ..... 30
Annex 1: Logical Framework ..... 31

# Introduction

This is an **invitation to submit a proposal for an EU action grant** in the field of raw materials financed from the **Single Market Programme – SME Pillar** and the **Horizon Europe Programme – Cluster Digital, Industry and Space**, which will be managed by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) under the Horizon Europe legal framework.

The regulatory and contractual framework for this action is the following:

- **EIT legal framework**: EIT Regulation (recast)[1] and EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027[2] and the EIT's 2024 Work Programme[3];
- **The implementation of the grant will follow the Horizon Europe legal framework** (HE Regulation[4]);
- The operational aspects of the action shall take into account the **Single Market Programme Regulation** 2021/690[5].

The Invitation is launched in accordance with the **EIT's 2024 Work Programme** and will be managed by the EIT, following the signature of the **Contribution Agreement**[6] between the European Commission (DG GROW) and the EIT on 9 September 2024.

This Invitation concerns the **direct award** to **one or more KIC Legal Entities** for the **European Raw Materials Academy activities** (the topic of the 'action') in order to support the upskilling and reskilling, by education and training providers in EU Member States, of workforce required in the EU for, among others, exploration, extraction, processing, and recycling of raw materials, including SMEs.

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

---

[1] 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)

[2] 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)

[3] Decision 42/2023 of the EIT Governing Board on the Final Single Programming Document (2024-2026) of the EIT (ref. Ares(2023)8668848), as amended by Decision 26/2024 of the EIT Governing Board (ref. Ares(2024)4696519).

[4] Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021)

[5] Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme) (OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, p. 1)

[6] Ares(2024)6440910

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

The Invitation outlines the:

- background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1, 2 and 3);
- timetable and available budget (section 4 and 5);
- admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; section 6 and 7);
- criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 9);
- evaluation and award procedure (section 10);
- award criteria (section 11);
- legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreement (section 12);
- how to submit an application (section 13).

The Online Manual outlines the:

- procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal');
- recommendations for the preparation of the application.

The AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement contains:

- annotations on the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant *(including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc)*.

# 1 Background

Following the European Parliament's adoption on 25 April 2024, on 27 May 2024 the Council adopted the Commission's legislative proposal for a Net-Zero Industry Act[7] (NZIA) with the objective to support the scale-up of EU industrial manufacturing capacities of key net-zero technologies. The Act puts forward a simplified regulatory framework to meet the EU climate neutrality goals in technologies such as batteries, windmills, heat-pumps, solar photovoltaic, electrolysers, carbon capture and storage. The Act includes a Chapter on "Enhancing Skills for quality job creation" to support the re-skilling and upskilling of workers required for the upscaling of EU industrial manufacturing capacities. Article 30 of the Act states that "the Commission shall support, including through the provision of seed-funding, the launch of European Net Zero Industry Academies" to develop education and training content to upskill and reskill workers required for key net-zero technology value chains, including the raw materials needed for these value chains. The Critical Raw Materials Act[8] (CRMA), adopted on 24 May 2024, focuses on building the EU's capacity to supply raw materials and highlights skills as one of the main requirements for the presence of raw materials across many industrial value chains.

[7] (COM(2023) 161 final)
[8] COM(2023) 160 final

More recently, in a joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council on a "European Economic Security Strategy"[9], the Commission listed among the priorities promoting our own competitiveness by, inter alia, investing in human capital including by upskilling the European workforce, as well as protecting ourselves from economic security risks. Linked to that is the Commission Recommendation on critical technology areas for the EU's economic security for further risk assessment with Member States.

Seed funding for the Raw Materials Academy is made available under the Single Market Programme - SME Pillar under its 2024 work programme, as well as under the Horizon Europe 2024 budget of the 2023-2025 work programme, to be implemented via indirect management by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

# 2 Objectives, Scope and Activities

## 2.1 Objectives

### Overall objective

The overall objective of the action is to launch and manage the Raw Materials Academy ('the Academy') to support the upskilling and reskilling, by education and training providers in EU Member States, of the workforce required in the EU for, among others, exploration, extraction, processing, and recycling of raw materials, including SMEs.

### Main objectives:

I. Support the education and training of workers in the raw materials value chain and competent public authorities in Europe, addressing critical needs of the sector consistent with the objectives of the Net-Zero Industry Act and the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA), and outlined, among others, in the Communication accompanying the CRMA.

II. Develop learning programmes, content and learning and training materials for the raw materials value chain; promote the use of the learning programmes, content and materials by education and training providers in the Member States; develop learning credentials and micro credentials. Specifically focus on the needs of SMEs in all three actions.

### Specific objectives:

- Develop learning programmes, content and learning and training materials for training and education, among others, on raw materials exploration, mineral extraction, refining, processing and recycling, as well as indirect jobs (e.g., research and development, engineering, equipment, services, utilities, energy), as well as support the capacities of public authorities competent to issue permits and authorisations and contracting authorities. To this end, and to ensure

[9] JOIN(2023) 20 final

consistency with related EU projects, the Academy must demonstrate that it will work closely with any existing or upcoming EU skills actions in the sector of raw materials, such as the Pact for Skills or developed by the European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA). It must, moreover, take into account input from Member States and stakeholders. It will also build upon and demonstrate synergies with the European Battery Alliance Academy and other academies if relevant.

- Facilitate the deployment of the learning programmes, content and materials developed by the Academy, among others by setting up a network of education and training providers in Member States. This network must be sufficient to provide a significant contribution to the training of the workforce in Member States, including in SMEs.

- Put in place credentials, including micro-credentials, for the learning programmes that it develops. The credentials will be issued to learners who have completed a relevant learning programme. These credentials will facilitate the transparency of skills acquired and enhance the transferability between jobs and the cross-border mobility of the workforce and promote matching with relevant jobs.

## 2.2 Activities that can be funded (scope)

The Academy shall carry out the following activities:

1. Develop learning programmes, content and learning and training materials and ensure their continuous update and improvement.

2. Make available a learning platform to serve as a repository for all learning content developed.

3. Build a network of education and training providers in the Member States to deploy the learning programmes, content and learning and training materials developed.

4. Support the deployment of learning programmes, content and learning and training materials by education and training providers in the EU Member States.

5. Ensure certification of learning and training programmes and education and training providers.

6. Develop and support the deployment of learning credentials, including micro-credentials.

7. Perform continuous skills intelligence actions.

8. Perform continuous promotion and communication.

These actions are intended to establish a comprehensive service package for education and training providers in the EU Member States three years from signature of the agreement.

#1 Develop learning programmes, content and learning and training materials and ensure their continuous update and improvement

The Academy shall develop learning programmes, content and learning and training materials for training and education on raw materials exploration, mineral extraction, refining, processing and recycling, as well as indirect jobs (e.g., research and development, engineering, equipment, services, utilities, energy). It shall also work to strengthen the capacities of public authorities competent to issue permits and authorisations.

To ensure access of SMEs and their workers to the learning programmes, content and learning and training materials, learning content shall take into consideration the specific requirements of SMEs and resources available to SMEs for the provision of education and training. The beneficiary shall ensure the access to SMEs and their workers to learning programmes, content and learning and training materials. The EIT shall monitor compliance with these principles.

To ensure that the learning content developed by the Academy continuously reflects the latest technological developments in the sector, the Academy shall continuously update and improve this content with feedback collected from the Net-Zero Industry Platform, education and training providers, industry, social partners, stakeholders and trainers participating in the Academy (who in turn shall collect it from learners/trainees in order to adapt the learning content), and any existing or upcoming relevant EU skills actions in the sector of raw materials (such as the Pact for Skills), or developed by the European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA) and other EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) through the EIT education panel, among others.

#2 Make available a learning platform to serve as a repository for any learning content developed

The Academy shall make available a learning platform in which it will store all learning resources for distribution and/or re-use by the network of education and training providers. This will allow the Academy to offer shared learning resources such as online courses, case studies, training programmes and other learning formats, also accessible by individual learners.

#3 Build the network of Education and training providers for the roll-out of the training programmes

Meeting the Academy objectives requires a network of education and training providers, including with proven SME outreach, rolling out the learning programmes, content and learning and training materials developed by the Academy. One key activity shall thus be the creation of a network of education and training providers in the Member States, ensuring maximum relevant geographical spread, by engaging with relevant stakeholders. Attention shall be paid to education and training providers targeting SMEs.

#4 Support the deployment of learning programmes, content and learning and training materials by education and training providers in the EU Member States

The Academy shall offer training to the trainers at the education and training providers that are members of the network mentioned under activity 3. In doing so, it shall include trainers targeting workers for

SMEs. This will further support their deployment of the learning programmes, content and learning and training materials developed by the Academy.

The Academy will make learning programmes, content and learning and training materials available in the national language of Member States whose education and training providers would like to use these in their national language.
Many training formats require significant investments in education technology – EdTech- such as a learning repository, a digital learning platform, VR/AR solutions, virtual hybrid classrooms, remote labs, serious gaming platforms and digital certificates. It is often not efficient or even possible for small education and training providers and SMEs to invest in state-of-the-art EdTech solutions. The Academy shall offer a number of shared EdTech solutions as a service to those in the network that might need these. This should also include access (remote or on site) to lab equipment.

#5 Ensure certification of learning and training programmes and education and training providers

The Academy shall ensure that the learning activities and programmes it develops meet defined standards of quality, relevance, and accuracy and cover necessary learning required to achieve a specific level of knowledge and skills in designated areas. To this end, it shall use a process of independent certification of these learning activities and programmes covering key criteria, such as content accuracy and relevance, pedagogical design, interactivity, assessment mechanisms and/or accessibility. Where possible, the Academy shall seek and expand the EIT label, to ensure a high-level recognition and qualification of its learning activities and programmes.

The Academy shall certify the education and training providers in Member States for the roll-out of its courses, to ensure that institutions which deliver the training uphold the integrity and quality of the learning activities and programmes. This could be based on criteria such as qualification of educators/trainers, teaching infrastructure, learner support, monitoring and feedback mechanisms and ethical practices.

#6 Develop and support the deployment of learning credentials, including micro-credentials

The Academy shall develop relevant credentials including micro-credentials, as evidence of the specific skills, programmes, modules or other learning achievements linked to their learning programmes. The relevant credentials should be identified and developed based on the particular learning needs of the workers, employers and stakeholders served by the Raw Materials Academy. The description of these credentials shall be based on the European Learning Model. As part of its activities supporting the deployment of credentials, the Academy should ensure that the education and training provider or awarding body awards final credentials to learners in the format of European Digital Credentials for Learning.

#7 Perform continuous skills intelligence actions

This activity shall combine market research, innovation trends and industry insights related to skills, skill gaps, new job profiles and talent needs for the raw materials value chain. Skills intelligence shall be gathered in permanent contact with the key players and projects in the industry, including SMEs, and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders listed in the Net-Zero Industry Act, as well as by consulting the

Net-Zero Europe Platform. The results shall allow to anticipate the needs of the value chain. The results of the skills intelligence should inform the development of the Academy's learning content.

#8 Perform continuous promotion and communication

The beneficiary will promote the Academy and its products and services to relevant actors along the raw materials value chain to support their uptake and impact. Promotion and communication will target, among others:

- Relevant education and training providers in the EU Member States, Member States' authorities, including at regional and local levels, social partners and industry, in particular SMEs, as well as all types of universities.
- ESF+ Managing Authorities in order to promote their use of EU funds to support the deployment by education and training providers in the Member States of learning and training content and materials developed by the Academy.
- European Industrial Alliances set up by the European Commission, such as raw materials, solar, and battery alliances and others if appropriate.
- EIT events, EIT education and business creation panels, EIT Campus and other relevant EIT fora.
- Relevant SME fora (e.g., Enterprise Europe Network, European Cluster Collaboration Platform and others)
- Relevant European Commission services: GROW, EAC, EMPL, if relevant RTD regarding the Advanced Materials Academy, and others if interested.

The Academy shall provide promotion and communication support for all education and training organisations in the network, which then will customize and adapt it to local needs.

All Academy actions must be in line with the Net-Zero Industry Act, notably with respect to innovating and scaling up the manufacturing capacity of raw materials technologies in the EU and must have as their objective to support the benchmarks announced in the Critical Raw Materials Act.

### Indicative Action Plan and Work Plan for the first year

The proposal shall contain a detailed Action Plan to meet the objectives defined above and in the Logical Framework in Annex, and implementing the actions set out therein. The Action Plan shall include a description of the Human Resources allocated by the beneficiary, including a proposal for a Head of the Academy with an appropriate seniority, background and experience.

Additionally, the proposal shall include a detailed Work Plan for the duration of the action, but in particular for the first year.

The beneficiary's proposed plan will be regularly checked, and progress vs the plan confirmed at each reporting milestone (see Section 12.7). Quarterly Project management meetings will be held between the EIT and the beneficiary (to which the European Commission will be invited). During the inception period of the action's implementation (1-3 months), these meetings shall be held monthly.

**Sustainability**

The proposal shall explain how the results of the action will be sustained after the end of the action.

Following the kick-off meeting, the beneficiary shall submit an "Action plan for financial sustainability" in the inception phase of implementation (as part of the Inception Report – see Section 12.7).

# 3 Expected results (impact, outcome, output)

The expected impact and result shall be in line with the EIT's Impact Framework 2021-2027 and EIT's Key Performance Indicators based on EIT Governing Board Decision 08/2022.

On the level of the European Raw Materials Academy activities, the overall and specific objectives, the expected results and activities are described in **Annex I – Logical Framework Matrix**.

# 4 Available budget

**The maximum available budget for this action is EUR 9 800 000.**

We reserve the right not to award (all of) the available funds, depending on the proposal received and the results of the evaluation.

# 5 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 a proposal | 22 October 2024 |
| Call opening for proposal submission | 31 October 2024 |
| **Deadline for submission of the proposal** | **15 January 2025** |
| Evaluation period | 15 January – end of February 2025 |
| **Starting date of the action (retroactive)** | **15 January 2025** (or the exact date of the proposal submission) |
| Grant award decision by EIT Director | February/March 2025 |
| Information on evaluation result to the applicant(s) | February/March 2024 |
| **Grant Agreement signature** | **March 2025** |

# 6 Admissibility and documents

**The proposal must be submitted by one or more of the KIC Legal Entities, invited for this Invitation.** For further information, please refer to Section 7.1.

The proposal must be submitted **within the invitation deadline** (see timetable in Section 5).

The proposal must be submitted electronically via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (as an action by invitation (named Beneficiaries and GA)). Paper submission is NOT possible.

The proposal (including the annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided inside the Submission System (NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

⚠ Please note that not using the correct template or not complying with the instructions therein (*e.g. font size limit, deletion of instructions, etc*) may lead to the inadmissibility of your proposal. Furthermore, to ensure a proper evaluation of your project the appropriate sections of the template must be filled in.

The proposal must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annex and supporting document:

- **Application Form Part A** — contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (*to be filled in directly online)*

- **Application form Part B** — contains the technical description of the project, including a task allocation of the project team *(to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed then assembled and re-uploaded)*

- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** *(templates available to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded):*
  - Detailed budget table / calculator
  - Timetable / GANTT Chart
  - Logframe and work plan (activities matrix)

Please note that the amounts entered into the summarised budget table (filled in directly online) must correspond to the amounts calculated in the detailed budget table. In case of discrepancies, the amounts in the online summarised budget table will prevail.

At proposal submission, the lead applicant will have to confirm to have the mandate to act for all other participants (only in case the proposal is submitted by a consortium). Moreover, the lead applicant will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that the participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, exclusion, financial and operational capacity, etc). Before signing the grant, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

The submitted application must be **readable**, **accessible and printable**.

Proposals are limited to **maximum 70 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc*).

For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the Online Manual.

# 7 Eligibility

## 7.1 Entities eligible for funding

Article 195(f) of the EU Financial Regulation allows that a grant may be awarded without a call for proposals for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers (on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals).

In accordance with the Annual Work Programme 2024 of the EIT, **this invitation is therefore addressed to the Legal Entities of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th wave KICs**.

**The EIT expects to receive only one proposal submitted by**

- **one KIC Legal Entity,**
- **or by more KIC Legal Entities in a consortium**[10]: in this case, besides the KIC Legal Entity acting as coordinator, other KIC Legal Entities may participate in the proposal as applicants (and will be co-beneficiaries in the grant agreement).

In case more than one proposal is received from the KIC Legal Entities, all eligible proposals will be evaluated.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc *(see section 13 and see Model Grant Agreement provisions)*.

Any beneficiary and affiliated entity must register in the Participant Register, if not already registered — before submitting the proposal — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

[10] In this invitation, any reference to an "applicant" shall also mean a reference to "more applicants forming a consortium".

Please note that the efficient allocation of project roles will be evaluated as part of the 'Implementation' and 'Budget and cost effectiveness' criteria.

Natural persons — Natural persons are NOT eligible (with the exception of self-employed persons, i.e. sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person).

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons.

EU bodies — EU bodies can NOT be part of the consortium.

Associations and interest groupings — Entities composed of members may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'[11]. ⚠ Please note that if the action will be implemented by the members, they should also participate (either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities, otherwise their costs will NOT be eligible).

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for certain entities *(e.g. entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)[12])*. Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

ℹ For more information, *see Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment*.

## 7.2 Eligible activities

The application will only be considered eligible if its content corresponds to the activities described in section 2 above.

# 8 Ethics and values

The project must comply with the highest ethical standards and integrity and with applicable EU, international and national law.

[11] For the definitions, see Articles 187(2) and 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.
[12] Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the EU Sanctions Map.

The beneficiaries must pay particular attention to the principle of proportionality, the right to privacy, the right to the protection of personal data, the right to non-discrimination, the need to ensure protection of the environment and high levels of human health protection.

They must respect human rights, environmental legislation applicable in the countries where the action is taking place and internationally agreed core labour standards (e.g. the ILO core labour standards, conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining, elimination of forced and compulsory labour, elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, and the abolition of child labour).

They must respect the right to the physical and mental integrity of a person (including no physical abuse or punishment, threats of physical abuse, sexual abuse or exploitation, harassment and verbal abuse, as well as other forms of intimidation). Such incidents (if any) must be reported to the granting authority within 30 days of when the beneficiary learned about them.

Any form of conflict of interest, bribery or corruption is prohibited under this grant. Project tasks must be implemented in a transparent and objective way, in the sole interest of the project and avoiding any conflicts of interest. Beneficiaries must not give or receive (or promise or agree to) any gift, gratuity, commission or consideration of any kind as an inducement or reward for performing or refraining from performing any act relating to the project or for showing favour or disfavour to any person in relation to the project. They must comply with all applicable laws and regulations and codes relating to anti-bribery and anti-corruption.

A project involving ethics issues will have to undergo an ethics review to authorise funding and may be made subject to specific ethics rules (which become part of the Grant Agreement in the form of ethics deliverables, e.g. ethics committee opinions/notifications/authorisations required under national or EU law).

# 9 Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

## 9.1 Financial and operational capacity

As stated in Section 7.1, this invitation is addressed to KIC Legal Entities as particular type of bodies in accordance with Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation, and they are, in principle, considered to have sufficient financial and operational capacity to carry out the action.

By submitting the application, the applicant confirms that it has **stable and sufficient financial resources and the know-how, qualifications and operational resources (human, technical and other)** to successfully implement the project.

Any organisation participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

In accordance with Article 27 of the Horizon Europe Regulation, the financial capacity shall be verified only for the Coordinator and only if the requested funding is equal or greater than EUR 500 000.

At the proposal submission stage, the Coordinator will be asked to confirm that the organisation has carried out a self-check of the financial capacity of the organisation through the financial self-check tool[13] or has been covered by a financial viability check for an EU project for the last closed financial year.

If, before the award decision, the Coordinator's financial viability is assessed as "weak" or "insufficient", the EIT may request specific measures to address this risk (e.g. the activities will be subject to additional monitoring and reporting based on an action plan; the financial capacity of the Coordinator may be structurally guaranteed by another legal entity/ies).

## 9.2 Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or is in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate[14]:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts);

- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts);

- guilty of grave professional misconduct [15] (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);

- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);

- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);

---

13 https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/lfv/lfvSimulation.do

14 See Articles 136 and 141 of the EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

15 Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.

– guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation 2988/95 (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);

– created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).

An applicant will also be rejected if it turns out that[16]:

– during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information;

– they were previously involved in the preparation of the invitation and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

Evidence:

- Before signing the grant, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH)[17].

- Before the time of the signature of the grant agreement, the EIT may request **appropriate evidence that the beneficiary 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)[18]. (This obligation can be waived in the cases indicated in Article 137(4) of the EU Financial Regulation).

# 10 Evaluation and award procedure

The invited proposal will have to follow a **single-stage submission procedure**. It will be checked against the formal requirements (admissibility) and then evaluated by an evaluation committee (assisted by an independent external expert) for eligibility, operational capacity and award criteria. If successful, applicants will be invited for grant agreement preparation.

[16] See Article 141 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

[17] 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 (Article 137(1) of the EU Financial Regulation

[18] Article 137(2) of the EU Financial Regulation

⚠ No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding, as various legal checks need to be completed and confirmed before grant award: legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.

**Grant preparation** will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from the applicant side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations and/or conditions of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the grant.

If the applicant believes that the evaluation procedure was flawed, a **complaint** can be submitted following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter. Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending will be considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access (see also Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions).

# 11 Award criteria

The award criteria for this invitation are as follows:

| | Criteria | Maximum score |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Excellence | - Adequacy, clarity and consistency of the proposal;<br>- General objectives and the extent to which they address the objectives of the Invitation and the EIT;<br>- Needs analysis and specific objectives;<br>- Complementarity with other actions and innovation, synergies with other EU and Member States programmes, European added value | 40 |
| 2. Quality and efficiency of implementation | **Project design and implementation:**<br>- technical quality of the proposal;<br>- methodology for implementing the project (concept and methodology; project management, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation; risk management);<br>- feasibility of the project within the proposed time frame; cost effectiveness and financial management (value for money)<br>- Quality of the work plan, work packages | 20 |
| | **Project teams, staff and experts and cooperation arrangements:**<br>- quality of the project team;<br>- quality of the outside resources;<br>- appropriate procedures and problem-solving mechanisms | 20 |
| 3. Impact | - Ambition and expected long-term impact of results;<br>- Impact for EU Member States and non-EU countries;<br>- Appropriate communication and dissemination strategy for ensuring visibility, sustainability and long-term impact after EIT funding ends; | 20 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | - Coherence with the EIT Education agenda and the EIT Impact Framework | |
| Total | | 100 |

The following indicative scale will be used for the assessment:

1. EXCELLENCE (max. 40 points):

- 0 - 8: Fail - Proposal does not comply with the European Raw Materials Academy objectives and is inadequate
- 9 - 16: Poor – Proposal properly implements some of the Invitation requirements, but there are inherent weaknesses requiring its full redesign
- 17 – 28: Fair – Proposal properly implements most of the Invitation requirements, but there are significant weaknesses that need to be addressed prior to granting the Award
- 29 - 36: Good – Proposal properly implements all the Invitation requirements with several minor weaknesses which are not critical for the European Raw Materials Academy implementation.
- 37 - 40: Excellent – Proposal properly implements all the Invitation requirements with no weaknesses identified

2. QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF IMPLEMENTATION (max. 20 points on Project design and implementation + 20 points on Project teams, staff and experts and cooperation arrangements):

- 0 - 4: Fail - Proposal quality (Project design and implementation / Project teams, staff and experts and cooperation arrangements) is inadequate
- 5 - 8: Poor – Proposal quality (Project design and implementation / Project teams, staff and experts and cooperation arrangements) is somewhat adequate but contain inherent weaknesses requiring its full redesign
- 9 – 14: Fair – Proposal quality (Project design and implementation / Project teams, staff and experts and cooperation arrangements) is adequate but have significant weaknesses that need to be addressed prior to granting the Award
- 15 - 18: Good – Proposal quality (Project design and implementation / Project teams, staff and experts and cooperation arrangements) is fully adequate with a few minor weaknesses which are not critical for the implementation
- 19 - 20: Excellent – Proposal quality (Project design and implementation / Project teams, staff and experts and cooperation arrangements) is fully adequate with no weaknesses identified

3. IMPACT (max. 20 points):

- 0 - 4: Fail - Proposal impact is inadequate
- 5 - 8: Poor – Proposal impact is somewhat adequate but contain inherent weaknesses requiring its full redesign
- 9 – 14: Fair – Proposal impact is adequate but have significant weaknesses that need to be addressed prior to granting the Award
- 15 - 18: Good – Proposal impact is fully adequate with a few minor weaknesses which are not critical for the implementation
- 19 - 20: Excellent – Proposal quality is fully adequate with no weaknesses identified

# 12 Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreement

After passing the evaluation, the project will be invited for grant preparation, where the selected applicant will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EIT Programme Officer.

The Grant Agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on Portal Reference Documents.

## 12.1 Starting date and project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (Data Sheet, point 1).

Unless differently requested by the applicant and agreed by the granting authority, the **starting date** [19]of the action will be **15 January 2025** (or the exact date of the proposal submission).

**Project duration:** 36 months

Extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment.

[19] A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

## 12.2 Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

Maximum grant amount: EUR 9 800 000.

The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

The **grant will be a budget-based mixed actual cost grant** (actual costs, with unit cost and flat-rate elements). This means that it will reimburse ONLY certain types of costs (eligible costs) and costs that were actually incurred for your project (NOT the budgeted costs). For unit costs and flat-rates, the amounts will be calculated according to the Grant Agreement (see art 6 and Annex 2 and 2a);

The grant parameters (maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc) will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (Data Sheet, point 3 and Article 5).

**The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement: 66%**

The **project budget** will consist of the grant and the beneficiary's own contribution. The beneficiary of the grant shall contribute with its own financial resources to the launch of the Academy and the objectives and actions.

The maximum EU contribution for the grant is automatically calculated on the basis of the total costs and the fixed funding rates, but the applicant may request less EU contribution.

The grant may produce a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs).

Moreover, please be aware that the final grant amount may be reduced in case of non-compliance with the Grant Agreement *(e.g. improper implementation, breach of obligations, etc)*.

## 12.3 Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 3, Article 6 and Annex 2)*.

**Budget categories for this Invitation:**

A. Personnel costs
- A.1 Employees,
- A.2 Natural persons under direct contract,
- A.3 Seconded persons
- A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
- A.5 Personnel unit cost

B. Subcontracting costs

C. Purchase costs
- C.1 Travel and subsistence
- C.2 Equipment
- C.3 Other goods, works and services

D. Other cost categories
- D.1 Financial support to third parties
- D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services

E. Indirect costs

**Cost eligibility options:**
- In-kind contributions eligible costs
- Parental leave
- Project-based supplementary payments
- Average personnel costs (unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices)
- Travel and subsistence:
  - Travel: Actual costs
  - Accommodation: Actual costs
  - Subsistence: Actual costs
- Equipment: depreciation only
- Costs for providing financial support to third parties (actual cost; max amount for each recipient: EUR 60 000)
- Indirect cost flat-rate: 25% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs, subcontracting costs, financial support to third parties and exempted specific cost categories, if any)
- VAT: Yes (non-deductible VAT is eligible (but please note that since 2013 VAT paid by beneficiaries that are public bodies acting as public authority is NOT eligible)
- Other ineligible costs

**Budget flexibility:** Yes (no flexibility cap)

## 12.4 Eligibility of direct and indirect costs

'Direct costs' are specific costs directly linked to the performance of the action as described under eligible activities in the relevant chapters of this invitation and as presented in the work packages of the proposals, and which can therefore be directly booked to it.

They are:
- either cost that have been caused in full by the activities of the action;
- or costs that have been caused in full by the activities of several actions (projects), the attribution of which to a single action can, and has been, directly measured (i.e., not attributed indirectly via an allocation key, a cost driver, or a proxy).

'Indirect costs' are costs that cannot be identified as specific costs directly linked to the performance of the action. In practice, they are costs whose link to the action cannot be (or has not been) measured directly, but only by means of cost drivers or a proxy (i.e. parameters that apportion the total indirect costs (overheads) among the different activities of the beneficiary).

The costs of KIC management (C-level staff) cannot be claimed as direct costs, even if C-level staff perform activities directly linked to the performance of the action.

## 12.5 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) of the GA); and financial support in the form of prizes (Article 6.2.D.1 (b) of the GA).

As a general rule, financial support should be awarded to entities established in HE eligible countries[20].

Within this Invitation, the maximum amount of financial support to third parties should not exceed EUR 60,000.00 (unless a higher subgrant amount is needed, because otherwise the objective of the action would be impossible or overly difficult to achieve, and agreed with the granting authority).

Your project application must clearly specify why financial support to third parties is needed, how it will be managed and provide a list of the different types of activities for which a third party may receive financial support. The proposal must also clearly describe the results to be obtained.

## 12.6 No double funding

**There is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget.** 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.

## 12.7 Reporting and payment arrangements

The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement (Data Sheet, point 4 and art 21 and 22).

Payment of the grant will be made in **two pre-financing instalments and a final payment** (the balance). The aim of the prefinancing is to provide the beneficiaries with a float. The prefinancing remains the property of the EU until the payment of the balance.

- Where the consumption of the previous pre-financing is less than 70%, the amount of the new pre-financing payment will be reduced by the difference between the 70% ceiling and the amount used.

There will be no interim payments.

The following payment and reporting scheme is foreseen under this grant:

[20] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

| | When | Requirements | Reporting period |
|---|---|---|---|
| First pre-financing payment (app. 51%) | Within 30 days from entry into force | 5% of the maximum grant amount contribution to the Mutual Insurance Mechanism will be retained from the first pre-financing payment. | |
| Inception Report | Within 15 days following the kick-off meeting | The Inception Report will include:<br>- summary of the issues discussed at the kick-off meeting,<br>- an updated Work Plan for the first year, and<br>- an "Action Plan for financial sustainability" is requested as attachment to the Inception Report. | |
| First Progress Report | Within 30 days after the end of the reporting period | The **progress report** shall include a technical part only (template will be provided). | 1-6 months |
| Second Progress Report | Within 30 days after the end of the reporting period | The **progress report** shall include a technical part only (template will be provided). | 7-12 months |
| Additional pre-financing report | Within 60 days following the end of the reporting period. | The **additional pre-financing report** shall include a technical part 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. | 1-18 months |
| Second pre-financing payment (app. 39%) | Within 60 days from receiving the additional pre-financing report / financial guarantee (whichever is the latest). | N/A | |
| Third Progress Report | Within 30 days after the end of the reporting period | The **progress report** shall include a technical part only. | 19-24 months |
| Fourth Progress Report | Within 30 days after the end of | The **progress report** shall include a technical part only. | 25-30 months |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | the reporting period | | |
| Final report | Within 60 days following the end of the reporting period. | **Final report** shall include a technical part 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). | 1-36 months |
| Final payment (app. 10%) | Within 90 days from receiving the final report. | At the end of project, the EIT will calculate the final EIT grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, EIT will ask the beneficiary/ies to pay back the difference (recovery). | |

**All payments will be made to the coordinator**.

⚠ Please be aware that payments will be automatically lowered if one of the consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset — in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement *(see Article 22)*.

Please also note that the coordinator is responsible for keeping records on all the work done and the costs declared.

## 12.8 Certificates

Depending on the type of action, size of grant amount and type of beneficiaries, the submission of different certificates might be requested. The types, schedules and thresholds for each certificate are fixed in the Grant Agreement (Data Sheet, point 4 and Article 24).

## 12.9 Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet point 4.4 and Article 22).*

For **beneficiaries**, it is limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — *each beneficiary (if any) up* to their maximum grant amount.

The action may include **affiliated entities**. In that case, as a rule, declarations on joint and several liability will be requested by the EIT, if the budget of the affiliated entity is higher than the budget of the beneficiary concerned, with the following exceptions:

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

The beneficiary shall collect the Declaration on joint and several liability from the affiliated entities falling into the above situation and submit these to the EIT for the deadline indicated by the EIT.

## 12.10 Provisions concerning the project implementation

**Ethics rules:** *see Model Grant Agreement (Article 14 and Annex 5)*

**IPR rules:** *see Model Grant Agreement (Article 16 and Annex 5):*

- list of background: No
- access rights to ensure continuity and interoperability obligations: No
- rights of use on results: Yes
- access to results for policy purposes: Yes

**Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding:** *see Model Grant Agreement (Article 17 and Annex 5):*

- communication and dissemination plan: Yes
- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes
- limited communication and visibility to protect persons involved: Yes

⚠ If the applicant considers that the communication, dissemination or visibility obligations under the Grant Agreement would harm the safety of persons involved in the action, please fill out the alternative arrangements section in the Application Form, making sure to NOT disclose the EU grant and source of funding to any third party (including final recipients).

**Specific rules for carrying out the action:** *see Model Grant Agreement (Article 18 and Annex 5):*

- specific rules for PPI Grants for Procurement: No
- EU restrictive measures: Yes
- specific rules for financial support to third parties: No
- specific rules for blending operations: No

## 12.11 Non-compliance and breach of contract

The Grant Agreement (*Chapter 5*) provides for the measures we may take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).

ℹ For more information, *see AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement*.

# 13 How to submit an application

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

## 13.1 Submit the proposal (using PIC number)

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the Search Funding & Tenders section

Submit your proposal in 3 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file
- Annexes (see section 6). Upload them as PDF file (single or multiple depending on the slots). Excel upload is sometimes possible, depending on the file type.

The proposal must keep to the **page limits** (see section 7); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the right **category** in the Submission System otherwise the proposal might be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted before the **invitation deadline** (see section 5). After this deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application) will be sent. If no confirmation e-mail is received, it means that the proposal has NOT been submitted. If this is believed to be a fault in the Submission System, a complaint via the IT Helpdesk webform should be immediately filed, explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the Online Manual. The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System. In case of questions and clarifications, applicants are encouraged to review the existing documents listed in the Introduction chapter or the guidance below.

## 13.2 Contact

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the IT Helpdesk.

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address at the latest 10 days before the submission deadline, indicate clearly the reference of the invitation and topic to which your question relates (see cover page): Diana.Holovacsko@eit.europa.eu

# 14 Transparency

In accordance with Article 38 of the EU Financial Regulation, information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the EIT website.

This includes:

- beneficiary names
- beneficiary addresses
- the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

# 15 Processing of personal data

The reply to the Invitation 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[21]. Any personal data requested in accordance with the Invitation 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.

# 16 Annexes

Annex 1: Logical Framework (to be Annexed to Part B) – link in Funding & Tenders Portal
Annex 2: Application Form Template (Part A and B) – link in Funding & Tenders portal
Annex 3: Detailed Budget Table Template – link in Funding & Tenders portal

[21] 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

## Annex 1: Logical Framework

| | Intervention Logic | Interim KPIs | KPIs | Means of Verification | Baseline | Assumptions |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Overall Objective** | The overall objective of the action is to launch the European Raw Materials Academy to support the upskilling and reskilling **by education and training providers in EU Member States**, of the workforce required in the EU **for, among others**, mining, mineral extraction and refining, and materials processing, mining, mineral extraction and refining, and materials processing, indirect jobs (e.g., research and development, engineering, equipment, services, utilities, energy) in **raw materials technologies, with a strong focus on employees in EU SMEs**. | - Reaching 15 000 learners by M12<br>- Upskilling and Reskilling 65 000 direct learners across the EU by M24 | - At least 100 000 direct learners across the EU raw materials sector and related industry within three years from the launch of the Academy | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Specific Objectives | Develop learning courses, content and learning and training materials.<br><br>The content and duration of the courses shall reflect the upskilling and reskilling demand of industry in the raw materials value chain. | - Develop at least 15 learning courses fully operational for upscaling in volume by M18<br><br>- Develop at least 25 learning courses fully operational for upscaling in volume by M24<br><br>- Establish a learning platform | - Develop at least 50 learning courses fully operational for upscaling within 3 years from the launch of the Academy. The number of the courses can be increased if the upskilling and reskilling demand of the industry requires it.<br><br>- Out of these, at least 15 courses should be newly developed. | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Facilitate the deployment of the learning programmes, content and materials developed by the Academy by the establishment of a network of certified education and training providers in Member States.<br><br>This shall include training the trainers and establishing a learning platform. | - At least 40 education and training providers fully certified to train workers across the raw materials value chain by M24.<br><br>- At least 80 trainers trained to roll-out the program to the targeted learners by M24.<br><br>- Make available a reliable ICT platform that can be scaled-up to meet the increased demand for these skills by M12.<br><br>- At least 75 trainers trained to roll-out the program to the targeted learners by M24. | - At least 60 certified education and training providers within 3 years from the launch of the Academy, ensuring maximum relevant geographic spread.<br><br>- At least 120 trainers trained to roll-out the program to the targeted learners by 3 years from the launch of the Academy. | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Put in place a system for the award of digital learning credentials, including micro-credentials, to be awarded to individual learners that successfully complete education and training programmes developed by the Academy | - At least X courses certified and able to issue credentials to learners by M18. | - All courses will build and issue credentials. | | | |
| **Evaluation source** | | | | | | |
| Reporting by the beneficiary as per this Invitation.<br>Quarterly project management meetings between the EIT and the beneficiary to which the European Commission will be invited. During the inception period of implementation (1-3m), these meetings will be held monthly and an additional deliverable “Action plan for financial sustainability“ is requested as attachment to the Inception Report. | | | | | | |

**IMPORTANT**

- **Don't wait until the end —** Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute technical problems. Problems due to last minute submissions (e.g. congestion, etc) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult the Portal** Topic page regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** — By submitting the application, all participants accept to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the Portal Terms & Conditions.
- **Registration** — Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the Participant Register. The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **Consortium roles** When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.

  The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as **beneficiaries** or **affiliated entities**; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. **Associated partners** and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). **Subcontracting** should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities). Subcontracting going beyond 30% of the total eligible costs must be justified in the application.
- **Coordinator —** In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- **Affiliated entities** — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any).
- **Associated partners** — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.
- **Consortium agreement** — For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.

- **Balanced project budget —** Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully *(e.g. own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc)*. You may be requested to lower your estimated costs, if they are ineligible (including excessive).

- **Completed/ongoing projects —** Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).

- **No-profit rule—** Grant may give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs).

- **No cumulation of funding/no double funding—** It is strictly prohibited to cumulate funding from the EU budget (except under 'EU Synergies actions'). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances be declared under two EU grants. If you would like to nonetheless benefit from different EU funding opportunities, projects must be designed as different actions, clearly delineated and separated for each grant (without overlaps).

- **Combination with EU operating grants** Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice *(see AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E)*.

- **Multiple proposals —** Please note that there are restrictions on the number of proposals that can be submitted under this call *(see section 0)*.

  Moreover, if there are several proposals for *very similar* projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw the others (or they will be rejected).

- **Resubmission —** Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.

- **Rejection —** By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this this Call Document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.

- **Cancellation —** There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.

- **Language —** The language of this call is English. The grant agreement will be in English (and, for parts submitted by you, in the language of the call). Proposals that are not submitted in the language of the call must be accompanied by a professional/certified translation in the language of the call. Full applications must be submitted in the same language as the concept notes.



Electronically signed on 26/11/2024 17:52 (UTC+01) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121