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European Institute of Innovation & Technology

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European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Invitation to submit a proposal for the Green Growth Greenland activities

(Call RELEX-EIT-2026-GREENLAND-IBA)

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1. Introduction

This is an invitation to submit a proposal for an EU **action grant** in the field of sustainable raw material value chains under the **Decision on the Overseas Association including Greenland (DOAG)**. The implementation of the grant will be managed by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- **Contribution Agreement between the European Commission (DG INTPA, EC Representation in Nuuk) and the EIT**, which is foreseen to be signed before the end of August 2026;
- **Regulation 2024/2509** (EU Financial Regulation)[1];
- The operational aspects of the action shall take into account the **DOAG Decision** 2021/1764[2];
- **EIT legal framework**: EIT Regulation (recast), EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027 and the EIT's 2026 Work Programme[3].

This invitation concerns the **award of an action grant to the KIC Legal Entity of EIT RawMaterials** that can form a consortium with relevant entities for the implementation of the activities outlined in Section 2 for sustainable raw material value chains in Greenland (the topic of the action) in order to implement activities under the project entitled "**Green Growth Greenland"**.

The applicant acknowledges that any grant awarded under this invitation will be subject to, and must comply with, the requirements of the signed Contribution Agreement.

Disclaimer: This invitation is launched in anticipation of the Contribution Agreement between the European Commission and the EIT, which is foreseen to be signed before the end of August 2026.

The signature of the Contribution Agreement is a precondition for the award of the grant under this invitation.

Following the signature of the Contribution Agreement, if necessary, the EIT may amend this invitation, in order to ensure the invitation's full alignment with the final terms and conditions of the Contribution Agreement.

The applicant is invited to read the **invitation documentation** carefully, and in particular this Invitation document, the Model Grant Agreement, the EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual and the EU Grants AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement.

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

[1] Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024).

[2] Council Decision (EU) 2021/1764 of 5 October 2021 on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Union including relations between the European Union on the one hand, and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other (Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland) (OJ L 355, 7.10.2021, p. 6-134).

[3] Decision 21/2026 of the EIT Governing Board on the amendment of the Final Single Programming Document (2026-2028) of the EIT (Ares(2026)7050201)

The Invitation document outlines the:

- background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (Sections 2 and 3)
- timetable and available budget (Sections 4 and 5)
- admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents (Sections 6 and 7)
- criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (Section 8)
- evaluation and award procedure (Section 9)
- award criteria (Section 10)
- legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreement (Section 11)
- how to submit an application (Section 12)

- 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:
  - detailed 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)*.

2. Background

Since leaving the European Communities in 1985, Greenland has maintained a long-standing and mutually beneficial partnership with the EU focusing predominantly on fisheries and education. In 2021, the partnership was expanded to include Green Growth, i.e. promotion of Greenland's economic potential in sectors such as sustainable tourism, renewable energy and raw materials. The latter presents significant potential for Greenland as a source of economic diversification and for the EU as a supplier of minerals needed e.g. for the green and digital transitions. Amid rising strategic interests in the Arctic and strategic autonomy, the importance and potential of the EU-Greenland partnership is becoming more apparent.

While the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 for Greenland maintains significant financial support for the education sector, the EUR22.5 million Green Growth programme aims to assist the Government of Greenland in its efforts to develop Greenland's largely untapped potential in terms of mineral raw materials, renewable energy, and sustainable tourism while addressing global challenges, notably climate change and biodiversity loss. The Green Growth programme is in line with the EU Arctic Policy of 2021, and it is an essential support for the implementation of the Roadmap accompanying the November 2023 EU-Greenland Memorandum of Understanding on Sustainable Raw Material Value

Chains, signed during the visit of EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to Greenland in March 2024.

While the majority of the Green Growth programme is implemented as budget support, a small part is implemented as complementary support to provide capacity building for the Government of Greenland in its efforts to attract investment in Green Growth sectors. For this action, capacity building in geodata management and geo-mapping is the focus of this action.

Relevance of the Action

While the EU and other like-minded nations are looking for alternative, reliable supply chains for energy and raw materials for the green and digital transition, Greenland is looking to diversify its economy that is heavily reliant on fisheries (in excess of 95% of exports) and transfers from Denmark (54% of Government revenue in 2026 Budget Act) to reduce the country's vulnerability to external shocks.

While there have been mining operations in Greenland for more than a century, the potential of Greenland's mineral raw material sector remains underdeveloped. This is partly due to limited infrastructure and investment hurdles, but also the fact that there was less focus on developing multiple supply chains for mineral resources as a necessity for strategic autonomy. As a reflection of the size of the population, the small public administration cannot always process exploitation or exploration requests in a timely manner although the 2025 Mining Act accelerated the process significantly. It is therefore of immediate interest to the EU to support Greenland's efforts in developing the raw materials sector to enable EU industry to have stable access to high quality resources from a reliable partner that shares the same core values as the EU.

3. Objectives — Activities that can be funded — Expected results

The overall objective of this action is to support Greenland's sustainable development and economic diversification.

3.1. Specific objectives

The specific objective of this action is to enhance the development of sustainable raw material value chains in Greenland and between Greenland and the EU.

The outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding specific objectives are:

- Improved geological, geochemical and geophysical surveys, mineral mapping and data analysis;
- Digitalisation of geological data, creation of a database on geological data to facilitate investment

3.2. Themes and priorities (scope)

The activities under this Contribution Agreement will support Greenland's efforts in developing the raw materials sector to enable EU industry to have stable access to high quality resources from a reliable

partner that shares the same core values as the EU. The focus will be on improving the geological knowledge through digitalisation and creating a tailored geochemical database, to be complemented with the acquisition of geophysical data.

3.3. Activities to be funded (scope)

The grant beneficiaries will commence the technical implementation of all work streams in close coordination with the Government of Greenland, the European Commission Office in Greenland, and relevant stakeholders. During the first year, activities will be carried out in parallel across the three main components of the action. This will include the initiation of critical raw materials (CRM) mapping and data harmonisation, the conceptualisation and initial implementation of the geochemical database, and the planning and prioritisation of the Greenland-wide geophysical data acquisition programme. Initial coordination mechanisms, stakeholder consultations, technical assessments, data exchange arrangements, and preparatory work for future surveys will be undertaken simultaneously. This parallel implementation approach is designed to maximise efficiency, ensure synergies between the different components of the action, and provide early tangible progress across all deliverables.

3.3.1 Mapping of CRM

The activities will focus on:

- Enhancing geological knowledge of Greenland's mineral raw material resources – digitalising and strengthening data management of Greenlandic mineral resources and reserves.
- Exchanging of geo-data management on CRM projects (primary and secondary). Information should be harmonised and evaluated using EU INSPIRE standards.
- Access to geological and production data and information will increase the attractiveness of business opportunities.
- Linking efforts to digitalise and strengthening data management of Greenland’s mineral resources and reserves with existing efforts to compile harmonized mineral resources data, linking with the European Geological Data Infrastructure, which is designed to deliver data compliant with European and international standards (the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS) already maps Greenland mineral resources data).

3.3.2 Geochemical database

The activities will focus on:

- Conceptualizing and initializing a geochemical raw materials database considering existing Finnish input standards, and based on a model specifically developed for Greenland data.
- Synchronize with data from the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS).

3.3.3. Planning a Greenland-Wide Geophysical Data Acquisition

The activities will focus on:

Establishing a priority map identifying how and where data should be acquired for a regional survey (covering all of Greenland) having as high a resolution as possible, and crosschecking different survey method; acquisition of below listed type of data, and if possible, in one acquisition:

1. spectral and hyperspectral data;
2. directional gravity data;
3. magnetic data and
4. magnetic telluric data.

3.4. Expected results (impact, outcome, output)

Indicative Outputs

- Digitised geological mapping data
- Operational Modern Geological Database based on recognized standards and tailored for Greenland
- Greenland-wide geophysical data acquisition plan including sequencing and data types
- Prioritization roadmap ordering different areas of the country for geophysical data by priority (according to costs, efforts and likely output)

Indicative List of Deliverables

Number	Deliverable name	Short description	Delivery date (in months)
D0	Consortium agreement	Agreement with the roles and tasks of the partners including the decision making procedures	M2
D1	Prioritization of areas with undiscovered resources	Classification of prospective areas for follow-up exploration, ranked according to undiscovered resource, shown on Greenland Portal.	M12
D2	Review of the mineral resource potential in Greenland	Assessment of the mineral potential in Greenland, including raw materials newly categorized as critical by the EC in 2026 and UNFC deposit classification.	M18
D3	Prospectivity mapping	Identification of targets for selected CRM commodities in Greenland	M24
D4	Producer/ consumer matching	Identification of possible companies for offtake agreements of Greenlandic resources	M24
D5	Gap analysis report	Evaluation of current infrastructure, digital maturity, and improvement needs	M8
D6	Database/ MVP	Operational MVP (required infrastructure setup for scope) and data management approach	M16

	architecture design	-updating IT-infrastructure based on requirements (MVP pilot scope)	
D7	Harmonized geochemical data reserve	Initial harmonization (assessment) of selected geochemical datasets into a standardized structure.	M20
D8	Database implementation	Core database implementation and data model upgrades (MVP pilot scope) and Roadmap for future development steps	M24
D9	Prioritisation plan	Report containing map of Greenland divided into acquisition blocks and a prioritised list of geographical areas and geophysical methods.	M9
D10	Acquisition plan	Report with description of relevant information for each acquisition blocks.	M18
D11	Tender material	Draft tender material for each acquisition block	M24
D12	Assessment of satellite-borne data	Report with assessment of the useability of satellite-based hyperspectral data and recommendations for possible up-scaling	M18

List of Milestones

Milestone number	Milestone name	Due date (in month)	Means of verification
1	Project Review Meeting with Steering Committee	M6, 12, 18, 24	Actual meeting with PO for verification of status of project implementation
2	Meeting with public Greenlandic stakeholders regarding the prioritization mapping	M1, 3, 6, 12	Minutes of the meeting (in person)
3	Prototype options for a potential database ready and cleared by the Greenlandic government	M10, M24	Assessment and prototype API-interfaces and initial database
4	Acquisition blocks published in government-owned repository	M8	Government Geologic Data Repository

3.5. Project Governance, Reporting, and Communication Requirements

The beneficiaries will be requested to provide updates through **Progress Reports** on activities, achievements, risks and financial execution, as specified in Section "11.4. Reporting and payment arrangements".

Deliverables of the project are expected to be endorsed by a **Project Steering Committee**. The Project Steering Committee must be composed by representatives from the implementing consortium, the EC Office in Greenland and from the Government of Greenland, with a representative from the EIT as an observer. The Project Steering Committee must meet on a regular basis to discuss and approve the state of play and progress achieved based on progress reports. The EC Office in Greenland will support the beneficiaries in providing a formal acceptance of project deliverables, considering the technical input provided by the relevant stakeholders where appropriate.

Specific **communication, dissemination and visibility requirements** will be defined in the Grant Agreement. These will include availability for and participation in a communication or dissemination activities through the Government of Greenland.

Additionally, it must be ensured that the Government of Greenland is the recipient of the outputs of the project.

4. Available budget

The maximum available budget for this action is **EUR 1,619,048**. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

Indicative specific budget information per activity can be found in the table below:

Activity	Indicative budget per activity
Coordination	200,000
Mapping of CRM	434,524
Geochemical database	550,000
Planning a Greenland-Wide Geophysical Data Acquisition	434,524
Maximum budget	**1,619,048**

The consortium is expected to spend at least 45% of the budget during the first year of implementation.

5. Timetable and deadlines

Key dates	Date and time or period (indicative)
Invitation opening for proposal submission in the Funding & Tenders Portal	13 August 2026

Deadline for submission of the proposal	**17 September 2026, 17:00:00 CET (Brussels)**
Evaluation period	18 September – 8 October 2026
Starting date of the action (retroactive)	**Date of proposal submission**
Grant award decision by EIT Director	End of October 2026
Information on evaluation results to the applicant	End of October 2026
Grant Agreement signature	**November 2026**

6. Admissibility and documents

The proposal must be submitted before the **call deadline** *(see timetable Section 5)*.

The proposal must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the link in the invitation letter). Paper submission is NOT possible.

The proposal (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided inside the Submission System.

⚠ 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.

The proposal must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:

- **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 *(template to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded)*
- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** *(templates to be downloaded form the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded)*:
  - detailed budget table/calculator
  - work plan (activities matrix)
  - logframe
  - timetable/Gantt chart

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

Your application must be **readable**, **accessible and printable** (please check carefully the layout of the documents uploaded).

The proposal is 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. Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In accordance with the Annual Work Programme 2026 of the EIT, and the Contribution Agreement foreseen to be concluded between DG INTPA and the EIT, **this invitation is addressed to the KIC Legal Entity of EIT RawMaterials** that can form a consortium with relevant entities for the implementation of the activities outlined in Chapter 2.

In order to be eligible, the applicant(s) (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies);
- be effectively established in one of the eligible countries (see list of participating countries):
    - EU Member States and overseas countries and territories (OCTs);
    - EEA Member States.

Therefore, the EIT expects to receive one proposal submitted by **the KIC Legal Entity of EIT RawMaterials.** Besides the KIC Legal Entity acting as coordinator, other entities may participate in the proposal as applicants in a consortium[4] (and will be co-beneficiaries in the grant agreement).

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc.

Any beneficiary and affiliated entity must register in the Participant Register — 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.

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

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

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'[5]. 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)[6])*. 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).

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

Please note that the efficient allocation of project roles including during the project preparation will be evaluated as part of the 'Implementation' and 'Budget and cost effectiveness' criteria. Projects with partner consortia that merely act as intermediaries or with other entities that do not actively participate in the project activities will NOT be accepted. All participating entities must be actively involved in implementing the action tasks.

7.2. Eligible activities

The application will only be considered eligible if its content corresponds wholly (or at least in part) to the topic description for which they are submitted.

Eligible activities are the ones set out in Section 3 above.

Financial support to third parties is not allowed.

7.3. Geographic location (target countries)

The proposal must relate to activities taking place in or for the benefit of Greenland.

7.4. Duration

The project shall last 24 months.

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

5 For the definitions, see Articles 190(2) and 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

6 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.

7.5. Ethics and values

Projects must comply with:

- highest ethical standards and integrity
- applicable EU, international and national law.

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). Incidents (or allegations of incidents) 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 the Grant Agreement. Project tasks must be implemented in a transparent and objective way, in the sole interest of the project and avoiding any conflicts of interest. Participants 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.

Please do not forget to provide the SEA-H questionnaires (Annex 5 to Part B; not needed for projects where the requested project grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000 and for participants that are natural persons, pillar-assessed entities or national administrations or other public bodies).

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*).

8. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

Applicant(s) must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all projects.

As stated in Section 7.1, this invitation is addressed to the EIT RawMaterials KIC Legal Entity, and it is, in principle, considered to have sufficient financial and operational capacity to carry out the action.

8.1. Financial capacity

By submitting the application, the applicant(s) confirm that they have **stable and sufficient sources of funding** to maintain their activity throughout the period for which the grant is awarded.

If an applicant is participating in several grant agreements, it must have sufficient capacity to implement them parallel.

At the proposal submission stage, the applicant(s) will be asked to confirm that they have carried out a self-check of the financial capacity of their organisation through the financial self-check tool[7] or have been covered by a financial viability check for an EU project for the last closed financial year.

The financial capacity of each applicant will be checked, unless they fall under Article 201(5)(a)-(f) of the EU Financial Regulation. (Exceptionally, in accordance with the last paragraph of Article 201(5) of the EU Financial Regulation, the EIT may, following a risk assessment, decide to check the financial capacity of the lead applicant only.)

If, before the award decision, the applicant'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 applicant may be structurally guaranteed by another legal entity/ies).

8.2. Operational capacity

By submitting the application, the applicant(s) confirm that they have the **know-how, professional competencies and qualifications, and resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

8.3. Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate[8]:

- 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[9] (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)

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

8 See Articles 138 and 143 of EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

9 'Professional misconduct' includes, in particular, the following: violation of ethical standards of the profession; wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility; breach of generally accepted professional ethical standards; false declarations/misrepresentation of information; participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition; violation of IPR; attempting to influence decision-making processes by taking advantage, through misrepresentation, of a conflict of interests, or to obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage; incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence or similar activities contrary to the EU values where negatively affecting or risking to affect the performance of a legal commitment.

- 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)
- 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)
- intentionally and without proper justification resisted[10] an investigation, check or audit carried out by an EU authorising officer (or their representative or auditor), OLAF, the EPPO, or the European Court of Auditors.

Applicants will also be rejected if it turns out that[11]:

- 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 call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

9. Evaluation and award procedure

The proposal will have to follow a **single-stage submission procedure**. It will be checked against the formal requirements (admissibility, eligibility) and then evaluated by an evaluation committee (assisted by an independent external expert) for operational capacity and award criteria (see Sections 7 and 9). If successful, the applicant will be invited for grant agreement preparation.

⚠ 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.

10 'Resisting an investigation, check or audit' means carrying out actions with the goal or effect of preventing, hindering or delaying the conduct of any of the activities needed to perform the investigation, check or audit, such as refusing to grant the necessary access to its premises or any other areas used for business purposes, concealing or refusing to disclose information or providing false information.

11 See Article 143 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

10. Award criteria

10.1. Award criteria

The **award criteria** for this invitation are as follows:

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
1. Relevance		
Consistency with call objectives	n/a	2
Relevance to country/region/sector needs	n/a	3
Target groups, key stakeholders and final recipients	n/a	3
Added value elements	n/a	2
Total Relevance	n/a	10
2. Design		
Intervention logic	n/a	10
Logical framework	n/a	8
Context analysis	n/a	3
Activities	n/a	3
Cross-cutting issues	n/a	3
Risks and assumptions	n/a	3
Total Design	n/a	30
3. Implementation		
Work plan	n/a	10
Project management (technical)	n/a	5
Project management (operational and financial)	n/a	5
Monitoring, reporting and evaluation	n/a	10
Total Implementation	n/a	30
4. Sustainability		
Long-lasting benefits	n/a	5
Multiplier effect	n/a	4
Sustainability	n/a	6
Total Sustainability	n/a	15
5. Budget and cost effectiveness		
Budget	n/a	5
Cost effectiveness	n/a	10
Total Budget and cost effectiveness	n/a	15
Overall (pass) scores	50	100

Maximum points: 100 points.

Overall threshold: 50 points.

The following questions will be used for the evaluation of the award criteria and sub-criteria:

1. Relevance

- Consistency with call objectives How relevant is the proposal to the objectives and priorities of the call for proposals and to the specific themes/sectors/areas or any other specific requirements stated in the call? (2 points)

- Relevance to country/region/sector needs How relevant is the proposal to the particular needs and constraints of the target country(ies), region(s) and/or relevant sectors (including synergy with other development initiatives and avoidance of duplication)? What is the capacity of local co-applicants and affiliated entities (if any)? (3 points)

- Target groups, key stakeholders and final recipients How clearly defined and strategically chosen are the target groups and final recipients? Have their needs (as rights holders and/or duty bearers) and constraints been clearly defined? Does the proposal address them appropriately? (3 points)

- Added value elements Does the proposal add value elements (e.g. innovation, best practices) and the other additional elements indicated in Section 2? (2 points)

2. Design

- Intervention logic Does the proposal indicate the expected results (outputs/outcomes/impacts) to be achieved by the action? Does the design of the action identify explicitly the necessary sequence to achieve the desired objectives beginning with inputs, moving through activities and outputs, and culminating in outcomes and impacts? Are the expected results of the action aligned with the priorities defined in Section 3? (10 points)

- Logical framework Is the logical framework complete? Does each result (output, outcome, impact) include an adequate number of indicators that are sufficient in scope to measure its achievement? Is each indicator RACER (Relevant, Accepted, Credible, Easy to monitor, Robust)? Does each indicator have a baseline value (with year), target value (with year), and a credible source of data? If baselines and targets are not available, is this justified and is study (or other relevant tools) foreseen and budgeted in the proposal? (8 points)

- Context analysis Does the design of the action include the background and a robust analysis of the needs to be addressed, including the capacities of the relevant stakeholders? Are those also embedded adequately in the intervention logic? (3 points)

- Activities Is the planned list of activities in the work plan (activities matrix) linked to and consistent with the expected outputs? (3 points)

- Cross-cutting issues To which extent does the proposal integrate relevant cross-cutting elements such as environmental/climate change issues, promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities, needs of disabled people, rights of minorities and rights of indigenous peoples, youth, combating HIV/AIDS (if there is a strong prevalence in the target country/region)? (3 points)

- Risks and assumptions Is the design based on clear assumptions (the necessary and positive conditions that allow for a successful cause-and-effect relationship between different levels of results)? Does it take into account also risks (the factors that might hinder the achievement of results)? (3 points)

3. Implementation

- Work plan Is the work plan (activities matrix) for implementing the action clear and feasible? Are types of activities and outputs clearly clustered by work packages? Is the timeline realistic? (10 points)

- Project management (technical) Do the participants have the necessary technical skills to attain the objectives of the action? Are the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies) adequately involved

in the implementation (e.g. advocacy, research, capacity building, outreach related activities)? (5 points)

- Project management (operational and financial) Do the participants have sufficient in-house experience in project management and sufficient management in-house capacity (including staff, equipment and ability to handle the budget for the action)? (5 points)
- Monitoring, reporting and evaluation Does the proposal include a permanent system for monitoring and reporting on a regular basis? Is the system in place adequate to update the values of the indicators included in the logical framework – thus informing regularly on progress towards the achievement of the objectives and outputs? Is there an evaluation planned and budgeted (ex-ante, mid-term, final)? (10 points)

4. Sustainability

- Long-lasting benefits Is the action likely to ensure long lasting and transformative benefits to the target groups and the final recipients? (5 points)
- Multiplier effects Is the action likely to have multiplier effects, including scope for replication, extension, cross-fertilisation of experience and knowledge sharing? (4 points)
- Sustainability How likely the effects are to last after the intervention ends? (6 points)
  - Financial sustainability: Which financial resources are available to fund the continuation of the services provided by the intervention? How long are they likely to be available and from which sources?
  - Institutional sustainability: Which institutional arrangements allow for maintaining the benefits achieved? Is there any measure in place to ensure local ownership?
  - Policy level sustainability (if applicable): Is there any expected policy related effect from the action, e.g. improved legislation, codes of conduct, methods
  - Environmental sustainability (if applicable): Will the action have a negative/positive environmental impact?

5. Budget and cost effectiveness

- Budget Are the work packages (activities and related outputs) appropriately reflected in the budget? (5 points)
- Cost effectiveness Is the relation between the estimated amounts as per budget and the expected results adequate? (10 points)

10.2. Evidence

The proposal will be used for the evaluation of the award criteria.

10.3. Evaluation review

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. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreement

If you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EIT Programme Officer.

This 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 (RELEX) that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents can be found on Portal Reference Documents.

11.1. Starting date and project duration

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

Starting date of the action is the proposal submission date.

Project duration: see Section 7.4 above.

11.2. Form of grant and funding rate

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 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, you can charge the amounts calculated as explained in the Grant Agreement *(see Article 6 and Annex 2 and 2a)*.

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement (100%).

The maximum EU contribution for your grant is automatically calculated on the basis of your total costs and the fixed funding rates, but you may ask for less (requested EU contribution).

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)*.

11.3. Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Model Grant Agreement (RELEX) *(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 Volunteers: not applicable
- 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: not applicable
    - D.2 Project office: not applicable
    - D.3 Land purchase: not applicable
- E. Indirect costs

Specific cost eligibility conditions for this call:

- personnel costs:
  - SME owner/natural person unit cost[12]: Yes
  - volunteers unit cost[13]: not applicable
- subcontracting costs:
  - additional subcontracting rules: Yes:
    - compliance with the Guidance on external action procurement best practices
- purchase costs:
  - additional purchasing rules: Yes:
    - compliance with the Guidance on external action procurement best practices
- travel and subsistence unit cost[14]: No (only actual costs) *(— up to the ceilings set out in the Guidance on per diem rates)*
- equipment costs: depreciation only
- indirect cost flat-rate: 7% of the eligible direct costs
- VAT: non-deductible/non-refundable VAT is eligible (but please note that since 2013 VAT paid by beneficiaries that are public bodies acting as public authority is NOT eligible)

12 Commission Decision of 20 October 2020 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2020)7715).

13 Commission Decision of 10 April 2019 authorising the use of unit costs for declaring personnel costs for the work carried out by volunteers under an action or a work programme (C(2019)2646).

14 Commission Decision of 12 January 2021 authorising the use of unit costs for travel, accommodation and subsistence costs under an action or work programme under the 2021-2027 multi-annual financial framework (C(2021)35).

- other taxes: duties, taxes and charges that cannot be recovered are eligible as part of the costs *(e.g. import duties, customs charges, etc)*, unless generated or activated specifically in view of the EU funding
- other:
  - in-kind contributions for free are allowed, but cost-neutral, i.e. they cannot be declared as cost

11.4. Reporting and payment arrangements

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

The deadline for submission of the reports is normally 60 days from the end of the reporting period.

Payment of the grant is generally made through an **initial prefinancing**, an **interim payment** 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. The size of prefinancing may be adjusted in case of risk.

Payment of the balance: At the end of the project, we will calculate your final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, we will ask the coordinator to pay back the difference (recovery).

Under this invitation, the following payment and reporting scheme is foreseen (indicative):

	When	Requirements	Reporting period
Pre-financing payment *(app. 45% of overall grant)*	Within 30 days following the signature of the grant agreement.	No contribution to the Mutual Insurance Mechanism will be retained from the prefinancing payment. A pre-financing guarantee may be required from the beneficiary, based on the result of the financial capacity assessment.	
1st Interim Report	Within 60 days following the end of the reporting period.	The Interim 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).	1-12 months
1st Interim payment	Within 90 days from receiving the Interim Report.	Based on the declared actual costs, with a ceiling that pre-financing and the interim payment together cannot be more than 90%.	
Final Report	Within 60 days following the end of the reporting period.	The 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).	13-24 months
Final payment	Within 90 days from receiving the Final Report.	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).	

In addition, you are expected to submit **Progress Reports** not linked to payments by the end of Month 7 (covering Months 1-6 of implementation) and by the end of Month 19 (covering Months 13-18 of implementation).

All payments will be made to the coordinator.

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

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

11.5. Prefinancing guarantee

If a prefinancing guarantee is required, it will be fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 4)*. The amount will be set during grant preparation and it will normally be equal or lower than the prefinancing for your grant.

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If you are established in a non-EU country, the granting authority may agree to accept a guarantee from a bank/financial institution from that country (or another non-EU country) if it offers equivalent security and characteristics as guarantees offered by EU banks/financial institutions.

This guarantee will remain in force until its release by the granting authority after the final payment as set out in the Grant Agreement *(see Article 23)*.

⚠ Please be aware that in case of issues with the guarantee during the project implementation (*e.g. bank not able/willing to abide by its commitments, not authorised to issue such guarantees, not financially reliable, financial guarantee ceases to be valid, etc*) we will ask you to replace the guarantee. If you fail to provide a new guarantee, we may terminate the contract.

Amounts blocked in bank accounts will NOT be accepted as financial guarantees.

Prefinancing guarantees are normally requested from the coordinator, for the consortium. They must be provided during grant preparation, in time to make the prefinancing (scanned copy via Portal AND original by post).

If agreed with us, the bank guarantee may be replaced by a guarantee from a third party.

The guarantee will be released at the end of the grant, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Grant Agreement *(Article 23)*.

11.6. Liability regime for recoveries

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

11.7. Other specificities

Consortium agreement: Yes

Budget flexibility caps: flexibility caps: transfers between budget categories of more than 25% per budget category set out in Annex 2 require an amendment.

11.8. 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).

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

12. How to submit an application

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

Submission is a **2-step process**:

a) create a user account and register your organisation

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to create an EU Login user account.

Once you have an EULogin account, you can register your organisation in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

b) submit the proposal

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the Calls for proposals section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit a proposal, through the link provided in the invitation letter).

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 5*). 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 6)*; excess pages will be disregarded.

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

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

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the IT Helpdesk webform, 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.

13. Transparency

In accordance with Article 38 of the EU Financial Regulation, information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the EIT website / Funding and Tenders Portal:

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.

14. 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[15]. 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.)

[15] 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

15. Help

IMPORTANT

- **Do not wait until the end —** Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to the last minute submissions (e.g. congestion, etc) will be entirely at your risk.
- **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). If affiliated entities participate in your project, please do not forget to provide documents demonstrating their affiliation link to your organisation as part of your application.
- **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** — The grant may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the project.
- **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; 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)*.
- **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 11/08/2026 21:54 (UTC+02) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121