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European Institute of Innovation & Technology

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European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Invitation to submit a proposal to support the Autonomous Region of Sardinia

(Call HORIZON-EIT-2026-RAS-IBA)

Version 1.0
13 July 2026

HISTORY OF CHANGES			
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1. Introduction

This is an invitation to submit a proposal for an EU action grant in the field of digital skills financed from the regional funds of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia, and managed by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) under the Horizon Europe legal framework.

The main conditions for the grant are defined in this invitation as well as in the respective guidelines and templates.

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

- The Invitation is launched following the signature of the **Contribution Agreement** between the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (ARS) and the EIT on 24.06.2026[1].
- **EIT legal framework**: EIT Regulation (recast)[2] and EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027[3] and the EIT's 2026 Work Programme[4];
- The grant will be implemented in accordance with the **Horizon Europe legal framework,** including the Horizon Europe Regulation (HE Regulation[5]) and the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement;

This Invitation concerns the **award of a lump sum grant to 28Digital** for the following activities:

- Technical and organizational support for the creation and development of a local 28Digital office in Sardinia, that is the coverage of the cost of an on-the-ground operative who implements part of the activities and facilitates the connection between the Sardinian ecosystem and the pan-European EIT ecosystem.
- Support for the delivery of digital skills training programmes.
- Support through advanced training initiatives and online education support in strategic innovation sectors.

[1] Ares(2026)6397455

[2] Regulation (EU) 2021/819 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast) (OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 61)

[3] Decision (EU) 2021/820 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) 2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe and repealing decision No 1312/2013/EU (OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 91)

[4] Decision of the EIT Governing Board on the Amendment of the Final Single Programming Document (2026-2028) of the EIT (under adoption in written procedure by the EIT Governing Board)

[5] 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

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

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions that might arise when preparing the application.

- The **invitation** outlines:
    - The topics of the invitation
    - Available budget and timetable
    - Admissibility and documents
    - Eligibility criteria
    - Exclusion criteria
    - Financial and operational capacity criteria
    - Award criteria
    - Evaluation, funding allocation and award procedure
    - Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreement
    - How to submit an application
- The **annotated Part B** of the application form contains:
    - Guidance for completing the proposal according to the expected quality
- 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 Model Grant Agreement** contains:
    - Detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement that the KIC will have to sign to obtain the grant *(including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc)*.

2. Overall objectives, activities, available budget and timeline

As part of the regional policies aimed at fostering competitive and strategic regional economies, the EIT invites 28Digital to support the Autonomous Region of Sardinia through the implementation of the activities described below.

Overall objective

The overall objective of the action is to promote the digital, organisational, and environmental transformation of Sardinian companies and citizens through a structured pathway that includes basic and advanced training processes, business check-ups, development of international synergies and the integration of specialised skills, including programmes focused on innovative development and business growth.

Activities

The pathway will be designed in close collaboration with the Autonomous Region of Sardinia and will be structured around integrated action lines, aligned with the region's strategic priorities.

The activities will focus on creating a **permanent local presence through a 28Digital branch office in Sardinia**, to ensure local coordination, attract investments and provide systemic connection with the European innovation ecosystem.

The opening of a 28Digital branch office in Sardinia is designed as a regional operational hub serving the entire local ecosystem. In addition to facilitating connection with the European innovation ecosystem, the branch will play an active role in supporting the implementation of programmes funded by the Region, helping to maximise the effectiveness and impact of available public funds. In particular, the branch office will serve as a local access point for businesses, students, researchers and institutions, and will provide technical assistance in the management, monitoring and valorisation of activated projects. Its added value will lie in its ability to integrate local resources with European opportunities, ensuring operational continuity, scalability of initiatives and international visibility.

The proposal will have to be structured and developed according to the **following mandatory activities**, **resulting in the related KPIs**:

	Mandatory activities	KPIs
HUB	1. Creation of a 28Digital branch office	1 fully functional office responsible for coordinating 28Digital activities in Sardinia
COACHING	2. Identification and coaching of at least 10 Sardinia-based SMEs or startups to submit collaborative project proposals in areas aligned with 28Digital's and Sardinia's strategic domains	5 Sardinian companies (startups, scaleups, SMEs) supported in submitting collaborative proposals in different innovation calls, involving at least one EU partner
	3. Scheduling of regular bilateral updates, joint planning sessions and opportunity scouting meetings with ecosystem players and project partners.	
	4. Involvement of at least 1 business, 1 university/RTO, 3 SMEs/startups from Sardinia in 28Digital's activities	
	5. Organisation of at least 20 1:1 meetings or check-ins with local partners to ensure continuous alignment and needs-based support	
COLLABORATION	6. Collaboration with regional authorities, research centres (e.g., CRS4, University of Cagliari/Sassari), and businesses to co-design strategic projects	Involvement of the Sardinian regional ecosystem in at least 2 Horizon Europe, Digital Europe Programme or I3- proposals
	7. Collaboration with regional stakeholders to design and deliver joint activities aligned with 28Digital strategic goals and local priorities	
EVENT CREATION	8. Organisation of at least 2 high-quality events in Sardinia, engaging at least 200 total participants across physical and online formats on strategic topics like "Digital Innovation for Sustainable Tourism" or "Smart Agrifood," leveraging 28Digital network speakers and regional partners	At least 4 local initiatives (e.g. events, info sessions, training workshops) co-created with Sardinian partners
	9. Coordination with 28Digital's communications and business teams to offer Sardinian companies' visibility and positioning in the EU ecosystem by promoting at least 3 Sardinian tech companies or scaleups through 28Digital pan-European events; and ensuring participation of Sardinian speakers in at least 2 international 28Digital or EC-aligned events	

SURVEY	10. Distribute a structured partner feedback survey (at least annually) to assess impact and identify areas for improvement.	Achievement of ≥80% satisfaction rate from Sardinian partners on the support received from 28Digital

The applicant is expected to contribute to the following KPIs from the EIT Impact Framework:

EITHE3.1: Start-ups and scaleups supported by KICs
EITHE10: Active partners collaborating in the KIC
EITHE15: Impact of KICs on achieving Sustainable Development Goals (target: strong positive impact; slightly positive impact; no impact; slightly negative impact; strong negative impact)*
EITHE22: Number of new and established KIC Partners from RIS countries

Maximum available grant

The maximum available grant for this action is EUR 147,000.

EIT reserves the right not to award the full amount of the available funding, depending on the proposal received and the results of the evaluation.

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	13 July 2026
Invitation opening for proposal submission in the Funding & Tenders Portal	6 August 2026
Deadline for submission of the proposal	**3 September 2026**
Evaluation period	4-25 September 2026
Starting date of the action (retroactive)	**Date of proposal submission**
Grant award decision by EIT Director	30 September 2026
Information on evaluation result to the applicant	1 October 2026
Grant Agreement signature	**End October 2026**

3. Admissibility and eligibility

3.1 Admissibility

The proposal must be submitted by the invited KIC Legal Entity **within the invitation deadline** (see timetable section 2).

The proposal must be submitted electronically via the Funding & Tenders portal through a dedicated link provided by EIT. Paper submission is NOT possible.

The submission shall comply with the respective Guidelines and the templates and standards available on the Portal. Failure to comply with this requirement may lead to the rejection of the proposal.

⚠ 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 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 (*to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded. However, an annotated version is annexed to this invitation.)*
- **Lump sum budget table**– Excel template that contains the detailed budget table, including explanations, when applicable. It is available to be downloaded from the EU Funding & Tenders Portal.

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

At proposal submission, the 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 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 (*if any*) and affiliated entity (*if any*) will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). A proposal without full support will be rejected.

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

The proposal must be limited to **maximum 28 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 and the Guidelines on Lump Sum grants in Horizon Europe and Lump Sum Guidance.

3.2 Eligibility

3.2.1 Eligible entities

In accordance with the Annual Work Programme 2026 of the EIT, and the Contribution Agreement concluded between the Autonomous Region of Sardinia and the EIT, **this invitation is addressed to the KIC Legal Entity of 28Digital.**

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

Any beneficiary and affiliated entity must comply with the Horizon Europe rules for eligibility for funding at the time of the submission of the proposal and during the implementation of the action. They 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.

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'[6]. ⚠ 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)[7])*. 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).

Horizon Europe restrictive measures – Any legal entity which is under restriction based on the 2026-2027 Horizon Europe Work Programme (General Annex, B – Eligibility)[8], may not participate in the action.

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

3.2.2 Eligible activities

Eligible activities are set out in Section 2.

3.2.3 Geographic location

Activities shall take place in the Autonomous Region of Sardinia, Italy. If needed by the type of the actions and in alignment with the mandatory activities, activities may be implemented in other geographic locations (e.g. EU events as per mandatory activity 8, 9).

4. Exclusion criteria

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[9]:

- 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)

[6] For the definitions, see Articles 187(2) and 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.
[7] 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.
[8] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2026-2027/wp-15-general-annexes_horizon-2026-2027_en.pdf
[9] See Articles 138 and 143 of EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

- 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 [10] (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)
- 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[11] 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[12]:

[10] '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.

[11] '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.

[12] See Article 143 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

- 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:

Entities acceding the grant agreement shall provide a **Declaration of Honour** (DoH) at the time of the grant agreement signature or the accession request, 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[13].

In case of doubts, the granting authority may request a DoH during the evaluation procedure.

Before the time of the signature of the grant agreement, the EIT will request **appropriate evidence that the participating entity is not in one of the exclusion situations referred to in Article 138(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)[14]. The EIT Director may waive this obligation in the cases indicated in Article 139(4) of the EU Financial Regulation.

5. Financial and operational capacity

Financial capacity

If there are grounds to doubt the financial capacity of the applicant, the EIT shall verify its financial capacity, even if the requested funding is below the threshold of EUR 500 000, as laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation[15].

By submitting the proposal, the KIC confirms that it has stable and sufficient financial resources to successfully implement the proposal.

If a KIC is participating in several grant agreements, it must have sufficient financial capacity to implement them in parallel.

[13] Article 139(1) of the EU Financial Regulation
[14] Article 139(3) of the EU Financial Regulation
[15] In accordance with Article 27 of the Horizon Europe Regulation, the financial capacity shall be verified for the coordinator only if the requested funding is equal or greater than EUR 500 000.

At the proposal submission stage, the applicant 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**[16] or has been covered by a financial viability check for an EU project for the last closed financial year.

If, after the financial capacity check, the applicant's financial capacity is considered not satisfactory, further information may be required and further measure(s) may be applied:

- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities;
- the financial capacity of the applicant may be structurally guaranteed by another legal entity/ies;
- prefinancing paid in instalments;
- the granting authority may propose no prefinancing;
- the activities may be subject to additional monitoring and reporting based on an action plan;
- the granting authority may request that the applicant is replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

Evidence:

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents the applicant must upload in the Participant Register *(e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc)*. The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years, etc. If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

Operational capacity

By submitting the proposal, the KIC confirms that it has the experience, know-how, qualifications and operational resources (human, technical and other) to successfully implement the proposal.

If a KIC is participating in several grant agreements, it must have sufficient operational capacity to implement them in parallel.

If, in case of doubt, it is necessary to confirm the operational capacity of the applicant, the granting authority may request supporting documents, such as:

- information on the staffing situation of the applicant;
- profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the activities,
- description of the participants in the grant agreement;

[16] https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/lfv/lfvSimulation.do

- activity reports of last year(s);
- information and list of other projects implemented.

6. 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 for eligibility, operational capacity and award criteria (assisted by two independent external experts in assessing the award criteria). 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.

Award

The award criteria for this invitation are as follows:

Criteria	Sub-criteria	Maximum score
1. Excellence	- General objectives and the extent to which they address the objectives of the Invitation and the EIT, including specific objectives; - Methodology for implementing the project (concept and methodology; project management, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation; risk management); - Adequacy, clarity and consistency of the proposal	Maximum 5 points / each sub-criterion Maximum score: 15
2. Impact	- Ambition and expected long-term impact of results; - Appropriate communication and dissemination strategy for ensuring visibility, sustainability and long-term impact	Maximum 5 points / each sub-criterion Maximum score: 10

3. Quality and efficiency of implementation	- Technical quality of the proposal; - Quality of the work plan, work packages; - Feasibility of the project within the proposed time frame; - Value for money: cost effectiveness and financial management; - Suitability of costs estimations	Maximum 5 points / each sub-criterion Maximum score: 25
Total		**50**

The following indicative scale will be used for the assessment:

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

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).

7. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreement

After passing the evaluation, the project will be invited for grant preparation, where the applicant 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 Lump Sum Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on Portal Reference Documents.

7.1 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 of the action will be established at the **exact date of the proposal submission**.

Project duration: until 31 December 2027. Extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment, upon condition that the Contribution Agreement with Sardinia Region is also extended.

The milestones and the deliverables for the project will be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

7.2 Form of grant and funding rate

Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the Decision of 7 July 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme.

The lump sum grant will be **based on realistic cost estimations for each cost category** (personnel costs, subcontracting costs, purchase costs, other cost categories) per beneficiary and affiliated entity (if any), **and per work package.** For this type of lump sum, the cost estimations must be an approximation of the KIC actual costs. They must be:

- in line with the same eligibility rules as in actual costs grants of the programme, i.e. cost estimations can be included only if the same cost item/type of cost would be eligible in an actual cost grant (see AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, Art. 6)
- in line with your normal practices
- reasonable/not excessive
- in line with and necessary for the activities proposed.

The lump sum contribution will be paid **at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement: 100%**

The maximum EU contribution for the grant is automatically calculated on the basis of the total costs and the fixed funding rate, but the applicants 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*).

7.3 Reporting and payment arrangements and deliverables

The reporting and payment arrangements will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (Data Sheet, point 4 and Article 21 and 22). Deliverables are expected to be submitted during the project lifecycle, together with the progress and/or final reports, as result of the implementation.

At the end of the implementation period, the KIC shall submit a final report and 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 KIC LE to pay back the difference (recovery). All payments will be made to the coordinator.

Since the lump sum project is reported through the technical evidence of the implemented activities according to the awarded proposal, such technical evidence shall be available for reporting and for future audits. Please also note that the KIC is responsible for keeping records on all the work done.

The payment of the grant will be made in **one prefinancing instalment and a final payment (the balance)**. The aim of the prefinancing is to provide the beneficiary with a float. The prefinancing remains the property of the EIT until it is cleared against the contributions accepted by the granting authority (normally at final payment).

The following payment and reporting scheme is indicatively foreseen:

	When	Requirements	Reporting period
Pre-financing payment (up to 90% of overall grant)	Within 30 days following the signature of the grant agreement.	5% as a contribution to the Mutual Insurance Mechanism will be retained from the pre-financing payment.	
Progress Report	Within 30 days following the end of the reporting period.	The Progress Report shall include a technical part where the progress of the activities is indicated (a template will be provided by the EIT).	1-6 months
Final Report	Within 60 days following the end of the reporting period.	The Final Report shall include a technical part.	1-13 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 payment is higher than the final grant amount, EIT will ask the beneficiary to pay back the difference (recovery).	

7.4 Joint and several liability of affiliated entities

As a rule, declarations on joint and several liability will be requested by EIT if the budget of the affiliated entity is higher than the budget of the beneficiary, 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 KIC LE shall collect the Declaration on joint and several liability from the affiliated entities falling into the above situation and submit them to the EIT. Non-submission of the declaration may result in rejection of the costs for the affiliated entity concerned.

7.5 KIC's control strategy

The **KIC must have in place effective and reliable financial control and audit mechanisms**, in line with the provisions of the HE MGA Annex 5.

The mechanism must include the necessary elements defined in the '*EIT Guidelines for KICs' financial control and audit mechanisms*'.

8. Processing of personal data

The reply to the present 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[17]. Any personal data requested under this Invitation will be processed solely for that purpose by the EIT. The EIT privacy statement for the management of grants is available at: Data protection EIT

Personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) by the Commission, should the beneficiary be in one of the situations mentioned in Article 138 and 143 of the Financial Regulation 2024/2509 (for more information see the Privacy Statement on:

privacy-statement-grants-and-prizes_en.pdf

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

Electronically signed on 13/07/2026 15:13 (UTC+02) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121