

EVALUATION CRITERIA

EIT Call for Proposals 2021 for a new EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community in the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI)

Following the deadline of the EIT Call for Proposals, admissibility, eligibility and exclusion checks will be performed for each proposal.

1. Admissibility criteria

Prior to the evaluation, proposals will be examined for compliance with the following admissibility criteria:

- the proposal must be submitted electronically via the proposal submission system operated by the European Commission in accordance with the provisions of the [EU Financial Regulation](#)¹ (Article 149(2));
- all mandatory parts of the proposal must have been completed;
- the proposal must be submitted by the Call deadline.

Only proposals satisfying all of the admissibility criteria shall pass on to the eligibility criteria assessment stage.

Since the working language of the EIT is English, applicants are invited to submit the proposal in English. If the proposal is submitted in any other official language of the European Union, the EIT may ask for the English translation of the specific document from the applicant.

In addition, the proposal must be accessible and legible, otherwise the EIT may request the applicant to resubmit the application document.

2. Eligibility criteria

Following the admissibility check, only proposals complying with the following conditions will be considered eligible for further evaluation:

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



- the applying consortium must contain at least three independent partner organisations established in at least three different Member States;
- at least two thirds of the partner organisations forming the consortium are established in different Member States;
- the applying consortium includes at least one higher education institution one research institution and one private company;
- the proposal must be submitted by a consortium containing a maximum of 50 partners.

Only proposals satisfying all of the eligibility criteria shall pass on to the evaluation stage.

3. Exclusion criteria

Applicants will be excluded from participation in the Call and from the award if they are in one of the situations referred to in Articles 136(1) of the EU Financial Regulation.

As evidence, the applicants will have to submit a declaration of honour on exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest. Following the designation decision, the winning consortium will be requested to submit recently issued evidence (e.g. registration and tax certificates, judicial records) in support of the declaration of honour, in accordance with Article 137 of the EU Financial Regulation.

Only admissible and eligible proposals will be evaluated against the financial and operational capacity criteria.

4. Financial capacity criteria

The Coordinator's organisation will be subject to the financial capacity assessment if (and when) the winning consortium has been designated. The Coordinator's organisation will be subject to a financial viability check. Financial capacity will be assessed based on the financial viability check².

At the proposal submission stage³, the Coordinator will be asked to confirm that the organisation has carried out a self-check of the financial capacity of the organisation through the financial self-check tool⁴ or has been covered by a financial viability check for an EU project for the last closed financial year.

² The organisation's financial viability will be assessed by checking that: it has sufficient liquidity – it is able to cover its short-term commitments, it is financially autonomous, it is solvent - capable of covering its medium and long-term commitments, it is profitable – by generating profits, or at least with self-financing capacity.

³ This confirmation will be requested on the SEP system as part of the proposal submission forms.

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/lfv/lfvSimulation.do>

If, following the designation decision, the Coordinator's organisation financial viability would be assessed as 'weak' or 'insufficient':

- the Coordinator has to step down from his role but can participate in any other; in this case, the applying consortium must put forward a solution, including the appointment of a new Coordinator and reassignment of the coordination tasks;
- the consortium's activities will be subject to additional monitoring and reporting based on an action plan;
- if no acceptable solution or action plan would be presented by the Coordinator, the KIC designation/start-up phase may be terminated, and the designated consortium is cancelled.

Following the provisions of Article 198(5) of the EU Financial Regulation, public bodies, including Member State organisations, international organisations, or legal entities whose viability is guaranteed by a Member State or a Horizon Europe associated country, will be exempted from the financial capacity check.

5. Operational capacity criteria

1) The Coordinator's familiarity with the Call's theme and experience of coordinating and/or participating in international projects related to innovation, research and education, (separately or together), as well as familiarity with the European Union's financial procedures, is proven through having:

- participated in at least one project with a total budget (allocated or coordinated) exceeding EUR 3 million;
- coordinated at least one project with at least two other partners (three in total) from at least three different European countries and from at least two sides of the Knowledge Triangle;
- participated in at least two EU financed projects.

The Coordinator should provide references for the above required projects as evidence of his/her operational capacity (one project may meet several of the above criteria). The projects should have been successfully completed, the final implementation date of the projects should not be earlier than 31 December 2017, and the minimum budget of the projects should be higher than EUR 300.000 to make the reference eligible. All reference projects should be related to the relevant thematic area.

2) The capability and necessary experience of the key members of the Interim Management Team, namely the CEO (Chief Executive Officer), COO (Chief Operational Officer), Chief Financial Officer (CFO) are evidenced through them having:

- at least 7 years work experience relevant to the position (i.e. tasks in the Interim Management of the designated consortium);
- for the CEO, 7 years, and for the COO 5 years work experience in the Call's thematic field;
- at least 5 years work experience in an international environment (including implementation of international projects).

Relevant curriculum vitae (maximum four pages) in Europass format⁵ covering the related professional qualifications, work experience in international environment and management expertise shall be attached to the Coordinator’s Motivation and Commitment Declaration.

Only proposals that pass the operational capacity verification will be evaluated by the external experts.

6. Technical evaluation criteria

Further to the Horizon Europe criteria requirements⁶, the following EIT specific technical evaluation criteria will be applied:

Table 1 – Technical evaluation criteria

EXCELLENCE 40 points max.	QUALITY & EFFICIENCY OF IMPLEMENTATION 25 points max.	IMPACT 35 points max.
TOTAL 100 points		
<p>1.1 STRATEGIC APPROACH</p> <p>Relevance, specificity and added value of the strategic approach aiming at excellence and proposed focus within the theme; applicability of the EIT KIC model to tackle the CCSI societal challenge via a multidisciplinary approach by integrating the knowledge triangle and fostering entrepreneurship and innovation throughout Europe. Relevance and specificity of the Consortium’s strategy to become a sustainable institutionalised European Partnership.</p> <p><i>[15 points max]</i> [0-5 points; weighting: 3]</p>	<p>2.1. OPERATIONS</p> <p>Relevance and quality of the management and governance plans; effectiveness of the operational structure including selection and connectivity of co-location centres and demonstration how the knowledge triangle integration approach will be implemented on the operational level in an efficient manner. This should also include clear reference to how the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme is integrated.</p> <p><i>[10 points max]</i> [0- 5 points; weighting: 2]</p>	<p>3.1 IMPACT</p> <p>Planned pan-European impact in line with the EIT Impact Framework for each of the following impact pathways, demonstrated by relevant KPIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Societal impact relevant to the CCSI societal challenge - technological/ economic/innovation impact by influencing the creation and growth of companies, creating of new innovative solutions, direct and indirect jobs and mobilising additional public and private investments) - educational impact by strengthening human capital

⁵ <https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae/templates-instructions>

⁶ Article 28 and Annex III HE Regulation

1.2 INNOVATION POTENTIAL

Consortium's innovation potential to implement the future KIC's strategy, demonstrated by the combined quality and commitment of the partners (including SMEs), forming a diverse, balanced, collaborative and world-class/excellent partnership to improve the innovation capacity of local ecosystems including through the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme in accordance with EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda (2021-2027) and demonstrated openness to integrate new partners.

[15 points max]

[0- 5 points; weighting: 3]

1.3 SYNERGIES

Demonstrated added value and readiness to establish concrete synergies and complementarities, positioning of the future KIC towards other relevant public, private and third sector initiatives at EU, Member State and other levels.

[10 points max]

[0- 5 points; weighting: 2]

2.2 KIC BUSINESS MODEL AND FINANCIAL PLAN

Feasibility of the future KIC's business model and financial plan (including the generation of funding from non-EIT sources as set out in the EIT SIA/ attraction of co-funding from partners) aiming at financial sustainability in the long-term. Quality and relevance of the future KIC's plan for the management and exploitation of intellectual property supporting the KIC's business model as well as plans to generate other type of revenues.

[15 points max]

[0- 5 points; weighting: 3]

in research and innovation, enhancing innovative and entrepreneurial skills both at individual and organisational levels.

[25 points max]

[0-5 points; weighting: 5]

3.2 COMMUNICATIONS

Quality and relevance of the future KIC's plans for communications including the contribution to the EIT Community brand identity.

[5 points max]

[0- 5 points; weighting: 1]

3.3 DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

Quality and relevance of dissemination plans for KIC results, including sharing good practices within, between and beyond the KICs, across EU Member States, regions and institutions to ensure maximum impact.

[5 points max]

[0- 5 points; weighting: 1]

7. Hearing with the EIT Governing Board and designation of the EIT KIC

Following the approval of the evaluation results by the EIT Governing Board, the representatives of those proposals reaching the threshold of 70% points at the Panel of Experts evaluation stage will be invited to a hearing of the EIT Governing Board.

At the evaluation stage of the Governing Board Hearing, the overall strategic rationality and consistency of the EIT KIC model presented in the proposal will be assessed. This will be done by evaluating the proposals from a holistic perspective against the three main criteria: Excellence, Quality & Efficiency of Implementation and Impact. In particular, the aspects shown in table 2 are key to the EIT KIC model and will be assessed:

Table 2 – Evaluation criteria for Hearing with the EIT Governing Board

EXCELLENCE 10 points max.	QUALITY & EFFICIENCY OF IMPLEMENTATION 10 points max.	IMPACT 10 points max.
TOTAL 30 points		
Adaptability and suitability of the EIT KIC model for the proposed strategic approach aiming at excellence by the applicant and potential contribution to the EIT’s strategic objectives. [0- 5 points; weighting: 2]	Feasibility and quality of the proposed KIC operational model and its plan towards financial sustainability, taking into account lessons learnt from current KICs. Feasibility and quality of the plan for the management of the interim period. [0- 5 points; weighting: 2]	Consistency of the applicant’s KIC model, its potential and feasibility to achieve a significant and sustainable systemic impact in line with the EIT’s overall objectives and EIT Impact Framework. [0- 5 points; weighting: 2]

The Governing Board’s score will be calculated as the average of the individual scores of the Governing Board members. The sum of the points from the Governing Board Hearing will be added to the points obtained at the technical evaluation stage (Panel of Experts stage). The proposal receiving the highest number of points out of the maximum of 130 points can be designated by the EIT Governing Board. The EIT GB can designate one applicant and may establish a reserve list with one applicant.