Call for Proposal 4 EIT HEI Initiative - Overview

Recordings of info sessions	https://eit-hei.eu/calls/call-for-proposals-4/
NETWORKING & joining forces	https://events.conversationstarter.net/e/eit-hei-partner/
List of HEIs	List of HEIs
APPLICATION PLATFORM	https://seedbook.eitrawmaterials.eu/Login.aspx?Action=SignUp

Program: EIT Higher Education Institutions (HEI) Initiative

Opening date: 19 September 2024

Deadline: 12 December 2024, 17:00 CET

Main objective: Enhance the quality and competitiveness of European higher education; improve research and technology transfer from higher education and support business creation through strengthening collaboration between HEIs and business partners across Europe.

Budget: Total budget per project is 1.34 million EUR per project. The funding rate is 100%. There will be 2 implementation phases, namely:

> Phase 1: 1 April 2025 – 31 December 2025 (9 months, 540,000 EUR)
> Phase 2: 1 January 2026 – 30 April 2027 (16 months, 800,000 EUR)

For the purposes of activities, KPIs and budget planning only, Phase 2 is broken down into two parts over the two calendar years it encompasses, as follows:

> Phase 2a: 1 January 2026 – 31 December 2026 (12 months)
> Phase 2b: 1 January 2027 – 30 April 2027 (4 months)

Eligibility\Consortium:

- Higher Education Institutions (HEIs): recognized degree-granting institutions at tertiary level, accredited by national authorities
- Businesses/ industry (private; small, medium or large enterprises)
- Research institutes
- Public bodies at local, regional or national level
- Intermediary organizations or associations which represent HEIs
- Social enterprises and NGOs

Consortium composition:

- Minimum three full partner HEIs, with the following criteria: they are based in three different Horizon Europe eligible countries / **One of the full partner HEIs must be the Project Coordinator** / **Minimum two HEIs must be 'new,**' i.e., didn't participate in a previous EIT HEI Initiative cohort.
- Minimum one business/ industry partner (private; small, medium or large enterprise)
- No maximum number of organizations within an HEI Initiative project consortium.

Note:

-Geographical representation is encouraged especially RIS and Widening countries
-Full partners (funded entities) must register in the EU Participant Register before submitting their application, to obtain a Participant Identification Code (PIC). Participants must be a legal entity.
-Consortia should match organisations with a strong history and performance in innovation and entrepreneurship

Project Duration: 25 months

Strands:

A: Innovation and entrepreneurship capacity building at HEIs.

The scope of the proposal may be freely shaped according to consortia needs and according to the call requirements.

B: Innovation and entrepreneurship capacity building at HEIs for the enhancement of Deep Tech (smaller strand, funding up to 12 projects)

Applications to this strand must demonstrate how they align with the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative and contribute to deep tech innovation and entrepreneurship.

The indicated list of deep tech fields:
1. Advanced Computing / Quantum Computing
2. Advanced Manufacturing
3. Advanced Materials
4. Aerospace, Automotive and Remote Sensing
5. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, including Big Data
6. Biotechnology and Life Sciences
7. Communications and Networks, including 5G
8. Cybersecurity and Data Protection
9. Electronics and Photonics
10. Internet of Things, W3C, Semantic Web
11. Robotics
12. Semiconductors (microchips)
13. Sustainable Energy and Clean Technologies
14. Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Metaverse
15. Web 3.0, including Blockchain, Distributed Ledgers, NFTs

Activities that can be funded:

List of Domains and associated funded Actions

Domain 1 – Fostering institutional engagement and change
• Secure and maintain institutional engagement for the implementation of the IVAP, including departments and other units of HEI(s) as well as the leadership of HEI(s).
• Enhance the scale and scope of student engagement activities, including improving student support offices to advise on innovation and entrepreneurship.
• Infrastructure development (incl. digital infrastructure).
• Develop inter- and multi-disciplinary support structures, testbeds and other structures to foster innovation.
• Set up or improve organisational units and/or entities, such as technology transfer offices, to develop collaborations for technology transfer.

Domain 2 – Strengthening partnerships (knowledge triangle integration)
• Establish new collaborations and enhance the nature, content and types of collaborations with external partners, including businesses, regional authorities, research organisations, governmental bodies, NGOs and other societal partners.
• Exchange good practices through enhanced networking and mutual learning.
• Collaborate with the EIT KICs, e.g. through peer-to-peer collaboration.

Domain 3 – Contributing to developing innovations and businesses
• Develop structures, conditions and incentives for people to create or develop their businesses and start-ups.
• Create structures, conditions and incentives for innovation-driven research.
• Utilise testbeds and other types of platforms.

Domain 4 – Enhancing the quality of innovation and entrepreneurial education
• Develop or improve innovation and entrepreneurial curricula.
• Assessment of teaching and learning practices.
• Develop innovation and entrepreneurial training programmes and mentoring schemes for staff and students.
• Organise internships in businesses.

Domain 5 - Knowledge sharing
• Collect and share Success Stories and Lessons

KPI Criteria:

Phase 1:
1. Number of start-ups and scale-ups supported by the KIC for at least 2 months in year N, provided the KIC's services contribute to the company's growth (including potential growth): **4 (minimum target)**

2. Number of successful participants in EIT professional development courses, online training courses and other education/training activities delivered or in a process of delivery (by country and type of programme), including data on country of citizenship and gender. Only participants, who successfully finished the programme, will be counted: **350 Students, 50 Academic Staff, 50 Non-Academic Staff (minimum target)**

3. Number of successful participants in additional mentoring related to the training programmes: 35 Students, 15 Academic staff, 15 Non-Academic Staff (minimum target)

4. Number of new and/or improved structures and mechanisms established in or mobilized by HEIs participating in the EIT HEI Initiative with an objective to support innovation and / or entrepreneurship: **2 (minimum target)**

5. Number of new partnerships established as a result of the EIT HEI Initiative. This indicator has two sub-indicators, for which only one subindicator needs to be fulfilled: 2 (minimum target)
• [EITHE20.1] # New partnerships established by participating HEIs and businesses, research organisations, other actors
• [EITHE20.2] # and % of HEIs which participate in other activities of the KICs

All Phase 1 EIT KPIs must be increased in Phase 2 by a set percentage, as follows:

1. At least double the target you set for Phase 1

2. Projects must achieve minimum KPI results across three different participant categories, as listed below:
Students: 30% or more than in Phase 1
Academic Staff: 30% or more than in Phase 1
Non-Academic Staff: 30% or more than in Phase 1

3. Students: 30% or more than in Phase 1
Academic Staff: 30% or more than in Phase 1
Non-Academic Staff: 30% or more than in Phase 1

4. At least double the target you set for Phase 1

5. At least double the target you set for Phase 1

In addition, the following EIT KPIs must be achieved in Phase 2:
6. Number of innovative products, processes and methods & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications resulting from KIC activities: **2 (minimum target)**

7. Number of start-ups established in year N as a result / based on the output(s) of KAVA(s), or start-ups created for the purpose of an innovation project to organise and support the development of an asset: **2 (minimum target)**

Furthermore, the IVAP must select and deliver on a minimum of one of the following EIT Core KPIs, to be achieved by the end of the project funding period:

8. Number of innovations introduced on the market during the KAVA duration or within 3 years after completion41 with a sales revenue of at least 10 000 EUR documented: **1 (minimum target)**

9. Number of start-ups established in year N as a result / based on the output(s) of KAVA(s), or start-ups created for the purpose of an innovation project to organise and support the development of an asset having financial transactions of at least 10 000 EUR for services/products (result of the KIC KAVA [EIT HEI Initiative project]) sold to customers or at least 200,000 EUR raised via private investment into start-up equity: **1 (minimum target)**

10. Total EUR amount of private and public capital attracted in year N by supported startups/scale-ups (per country) that have received KIC business creation services support or EIT HEI Initiative project support for a total duration of at least two months: **No minimum value, to be set by the project**

Requirements:

1. A signed letter of commitment is required from top management at the application stage (using the template provided in the application portal), and this letter will outline the following elements:

• **Leadership Commitment**
o Personal Endorsement: leadership's personal commitment and support for the project and its activities
• **Integration into Institutional Strategy**
o Strategic Alignment: how the project activities align with the institution's strategic goals
o Ongoing Support: how the project will be incorporated into the institution's strategic plan
• **Long-Term Engagement**
o Sustainability Plan: steps to ensure the sustainability of project activities beyond its funded duration. o Transferability Plan: How project outcomes will be integrated into ongoing operations.

2. All projects selected for funding are required to create an Innovation Vision Action Plan (IVAP) as the core of their application. The IVAP will be submitted through the application portal, in two Parts, A and B, according to the following structure:

Part A – Technical information (to be completed online within the Application Portal):
1. General information
2. Applicant information
3. Associated Partners
4. Domains and Actions
5. KPIs
6. EIT KIC alignment
7. Project budget

Part B – Narrative content (a downloadable Word document template, containing instructions for what to cover in each Section, to be completed and uploaded as an attachment within the Application Portal):
• Section 1: Excellence
• Section 2: Impact
• Section 3: Quality and Efficiency of Implementation

Projects selected for funding will participate in a mandatory face-to-face IVAP Kick Off Workshop in April/May 2025, during which participants will co-learn and collaborate across projects around the core themes of their IVAP.