EIT HEI Initiative

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EIT HEI Initiative: Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education

INFORMATION SESSION FOR THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2024

02 October 2024

Agenda

- Welcome and introduction
- General requirements of the call
- Specific requirements of the call
- Preparing an application
- Questions & answers
- Closing remarks

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01

Introduction to the EIT HEI Initiative

EIT HEI Initiative

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Empower, transform and thrive in higher education

The EIT HEI Initiative is a joint activity of the EIT community, coordinated by EIT RawMaterials.

It recognises higher education institutions (HEIs) as the pivotal actors in regional and European innovation ecosystems.

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Institutional change

Partnerships

Innovation

Entrepreneurship

Knowledge sharing

Transforming mindset and culture

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KICs involved in the EIT HEI Initiative

Coordinated by

eit RawMaterials
Connecting matters

eit Climate-KIC

eit Food

eit Health

eit Digital

eit Culture & Creativity

eit UrbanMobility

eit Manufacturing

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Achievements

65 projects

€69 million awarded to support 359 HEIs and 380+ non-academic organisations

90,000+

Trained students, academic and non-academic staff on innovation and entrepreneurship

1,700+

Start-ups and scale-ups supported

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02

General requirements of the call

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Call for Proposals 2024

The EIT HEI Initiative Call for Proposals 2024 offers an opportunity for **higher education institutions and its partners from across the knowledge triangle** across Europe to collaborate on innovative projects, with the goal of **turning HEIs into hubs for innovation and entrepreneurship.**

€56M total funding for up to 42 projects, with €1.34M available per project

Deadline: 12 December 2024, 17:00 CET

Timeline

Call documents
on website
Call open – 12 weeks
Info sessions

Call closed

Eligibility check
Ranking by external evaluators
Selection committee

Project Duration and Funding

Phase 1	Phase 2a	Phase 2b
1 April 2025 – 31 December 2025	1 January 2026 – 31 December 2026	1 January 2027 – 30 April 2027
€540,000.00	€800,000.00*	

Total maximum funding per project: €1,340,000. The call aims to fund up to 42 projects.

**Phase 2 funding is subject to the successful completion of Phase 1 activities and the EIT's approval of the 2026-2027 Grant Agreement.*

Key Conceptual Dimensions

Knowledge Transfer

Strengthening knowledge triangle integration

Regional Focus

Enhancing regional dimension and smart specialization

Sustainability

Ensuring long-lasting impact and institutionalization

Diversity

Expanding reach and institutional diversity

Two-Strand Approach

Strand A

- Innovation and entrepreneurship capacity building at HEIs.

Strand B

- Innovation and entrepreneurship capacity building at HEIs for the enhancement of Deep Tech.

Strand B: Deep Tech Focus

Enhancing deep tech innovation and entrepreneurship aligned with the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative

- **Deep technology or deep tech** is a classification of an institution, an organisation or a start-up company, with the expressed objective of providing advanced and emerging technology solutions to deep societal challenges.

Advanced Computing / Quantum Computing	Advanced Manufacturing	Advanced Materials
Aerospace, Automotive and Remote Sensoring	AI and Machine Learning, including Big Data	Biotechnology and Life Sciences
Communications and Networks, including 5G	Cybersecurity and Data Protection	Electronics and Photonics
Internet of Things, W3C, Semantic Web	Robotics	Semiconductors (microchips)
Sustainable Energy and Clean Technologies	Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Metaverse	Web 3.0, including Blockchain, Distributed Ledgers, NFTs

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1 **Application**

Consortia submit proposals aligned with EIT HEI Initiative objectives

2 **Selection**

Evaluation and selection of winning proposals

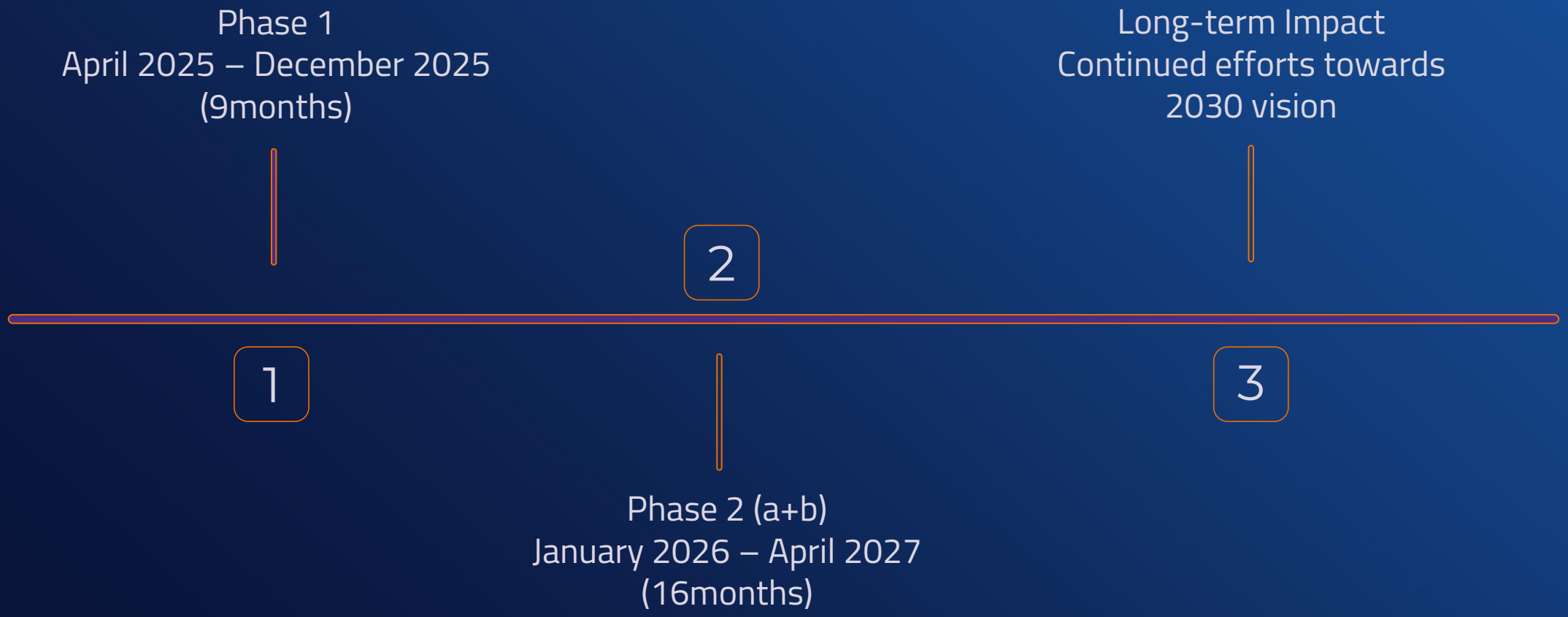
3 **Implementation**

25-month project period to execute innovation capacity building activities

4 **Long-term Impact**

Projects continue efforts towards 2030 vision for institutional change

Project Implementation and Long-term Impact



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1

HEInnovate Self-Assessment

Evaluate current innovation capacity of the participating HEI partners

2

IVAP Development

Create detailed action plan

3

Implementation

Execute funded actions

4

Long-term Vision

Continue efforts towards 2030 goals

Core of each project: **Innovation Vision Action Plan (IVAP)**

- Purpose: Outlines consortium's strategy for innovation capacity building
- Structure:
  - Technical information
  - Narrative content

➢ **Clear roadmap for implementation during funded period and up to 2030**

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03

Specific requirements of the call

Eligible Participating Organisations

1. **Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)**
   Recognized degree-granting institutions at tertiary level, accredited by national authorities.
2. **Businesses and Industry**
   Private enterprises of all sizes, from small to large corporations.
3. **Research Institutes**
4. **Public bodies at local, regional or national level**
5. **Intermediary organisations or associations**
   which represent Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
6. **Social enterprises and NGOs**

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Consortium Composition

Minimum Five Full Partners

- Participating HEIs

At least three HEIs from different Horizon Europe eligible countries, with one as Project Coordinator. Two HEIs must be new to the Initiative.

- Industry Involvement

Minimum one business/industry full partner required in the consortium.

- Geographical Scope

Broad geographical representation encouraged, especially involving RIS and Widening countries.

Consortium Roles and Responsibilities

Coordinator

The applicant or coordinator, which must be a Higher Education Institution (HEI), submits the HEI Initiative application on behalf of all partners and is fully responsible for ensuring the project's proper implementation.

Full Partners*

Full partners in the EIT HEI Initiative actively contribute to project objectives, lead work packages or activities, receive funding, and are advised to sign a mandate granting the coordinating organization authority to act as the main beneficiary on their behalf during project implementation.

Associated Partners

Organizations that contribute to project tasks, activities, or support dissemination and sustainability without receiving EIT funding must complete and sign a letter of intent (using the provided template) to be uploaded in the application portal.

**Full partners from previous EIT HEI Initiative cohorts can join the 2024 call as 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship Pioneers,' supporting novice partners and enhancing the consortium's innovation capacity.*

Impact Domains and Funded Actions

1. Foster institutional engagement and change
2. Strengthening partnerships (knowledge triangle integration)
3. Contributing to developing innovations and businesses
4. Enhancing the quality of innovation and entrepreneurial education
5. Knowledge sharing (mandatory)

KPI Criteria (Phase 1)

KPI Code KPI	Description	Minimum Target
EIT HE03.1	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
EIT HE08.1	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. For this KPI, only those education and training activities which have clearly defined learning outcomes, and which carries out competency assessment method are applicable.	350 Students 50 Academic Staff 50 Non-Academic Staff
	Number of successful participants in additional mentoring related to the training programmes.	35 Students 15 Academic staff 15 Non-Academic Staff
EIT HE19.1	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 (One of these must enhance diversity and inclusion, such as a new structure supporting female entrepreneurs)
EIT HE20.1	Number of new partnerships established as a result of the EIT HEI Initiative.	2

KPI Criteria (Phase 2)

KPI Code KPI	Description	Minimum Target
EIT HE03.1	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)	At least double the Phase 1 target
EIT HE08.1	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. For this KPI, only those education and training activities which have clearly defined learning outcomes, and which carries out competency assessment method are applicable.	At least 30% increase of Phase 1 target
	Number of successful participants in additional mentoring related to the training programmes.	At least 30% increase of Phase 1 target
EIT HE19.1	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	At least double the target of Phase 1 (Two of these must enhance diversity and inclusion, such as a new structure supporting female entrepreneurs)
EIT HE20.1	Number of new partnerships established as a result of the EIT HEI Initiative.	At least double the target of Phase 1 target

KPI Criteria (Phase 2)

KPI Code KPI	Description	Minimum Target
EIT HE01.1	Number of innovative products, processes and methods & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications resulting from KIC activities.	2
EIT HE04.1	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

KPI Criteria (Phase 2)

*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:*

KPI Code KPI	Description	Minimum Target
EIT HE02.4	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
EIT HE04.4	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
EIT HE06.1	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

Funding Allocation

For a proposal to be eligible, the project's total budget distribution/allocation across the full consortium partners must fulfil the following criteria (both for Phase 1 and Phase 2):

The majority of the total project budget must be allocated to full partners in the consortium who fulfil ALL of the following criteria:

- Their organisation type IS an HEI
- They are an HEI that is NOT formally affiliated to any EIT KIC
- They are an HEI that has NEVER participated in a selected EIT HEI Initiative project before

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Preparing an Application

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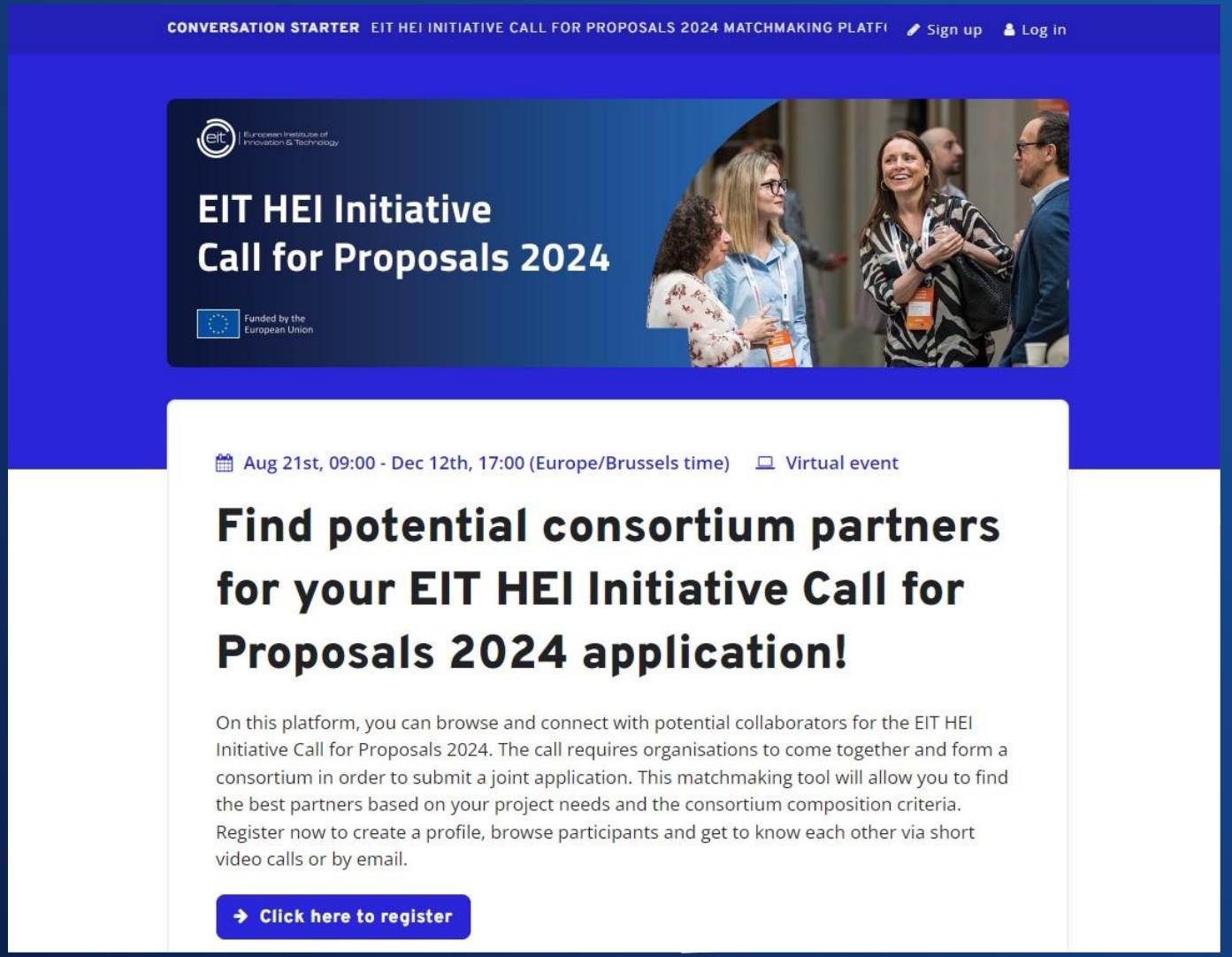
Matchmaking & Networking Tool

- Conversation Starter used as matchmaking and networking tool
- Conversation Starter
  - ➢ supports organisations to meet & match with the participants who best fit their EIT HEI Initiative project proposal concept
  - ➢ enables participants to browse others and send invitations for meetings
  - ➢ has a built-in video call function, thus, allowing the participants to call each other

https://events.conversationstarter.net/e/eit-hei-partner/



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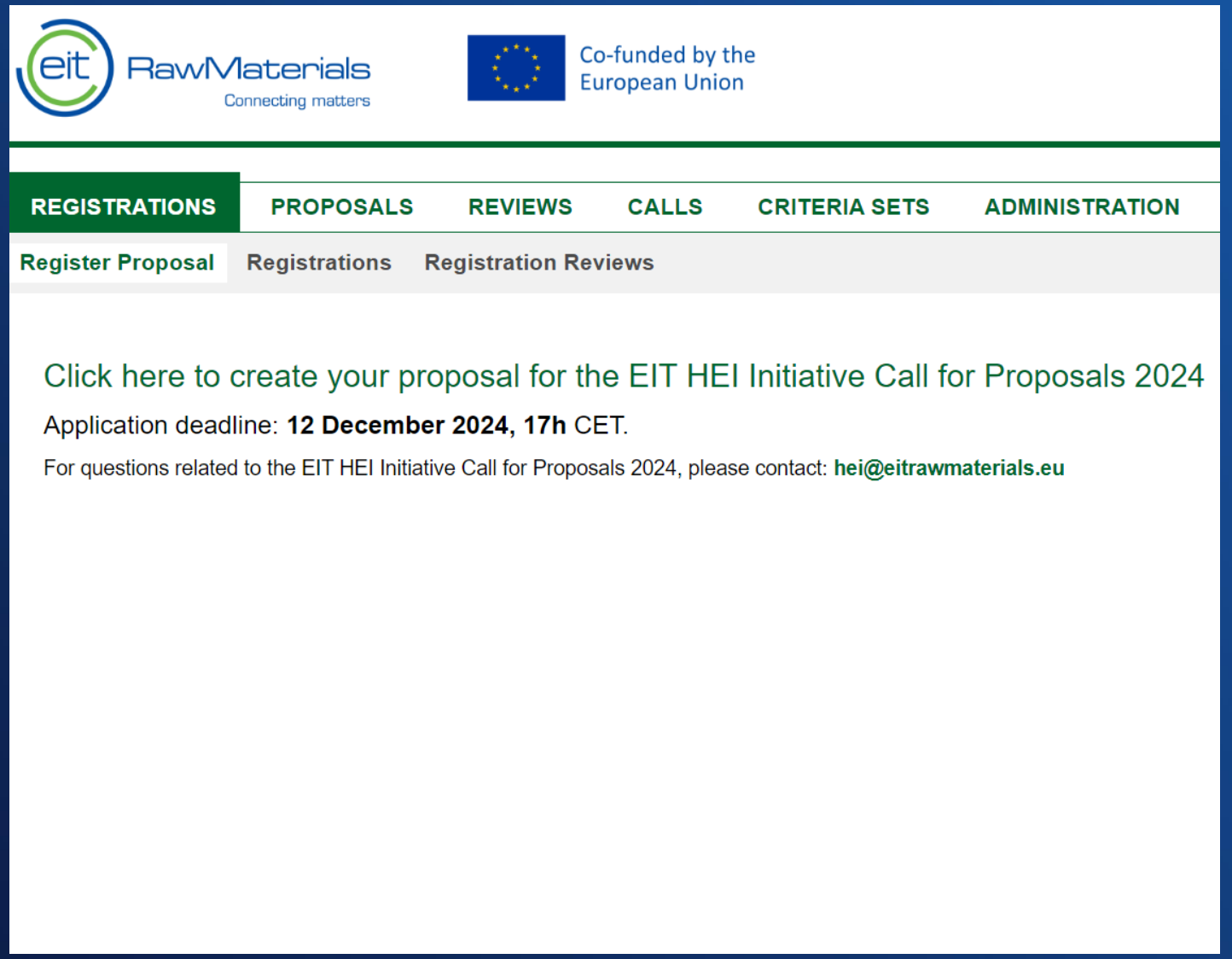
Application Platform

- **Accessing the Portal:** Register on the portal to access application forms and guidelines.
- **Navigating:** The portal is user-friendly and guides you through the process. Ensure all sections are complete.
- **Uploading Documents:** Upload all required documents.
- **Deadlines:** Submit before the deadline to avoid issues; drafts can be saved and updated.
- **Support:** For technical issues, support is available via the portal.

https://seedbook.eitrawmaterials.eu/Login.aspx?Action=SignUp



Evaluation of Proposals

1

Excellence

Evaluators assess the **clarity and relevance of project objectives**, as well as the **quality of proposed coordination and support measures**. The soundness of the methodology is a key factor in this criterion.

2

Impact

This criterion focuses on the **credibility of pathways to achieve expected outcomes and impacts**. Evaluators consider the **likely scale and significance of the project's contributions**, along with the quality of dissemination and exploitation plans.

3

Quality and Efficiency of Implementation

The work plan's quality, risk assessment, and resource allocation are evaluated. The capacity and roles of participants, as well as the consortium's overall expertise, are crucial factors in this criterion.

Understanding the Scoring Rubric*

0 — The application fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

1 — **Poor**
The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

2 — **Fair**
The application broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.

3 — **Good**
The application addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.

4 — **Very Good**
The application addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.

5 — **Excellent**
The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

**Where an application might fall between two full scores, evaluators will be allowed to provide half points if duly justified. This will apply to all three evaluation criteria.*

Information Sessions

- *2 October 2024: Overview of the Call for Proposals 2024*
- 7 October 2024: Introduction to HEInnovate
- 8 October 2024: MEL Framework and the Impact Domains and Actions
- 9 October 2024: Application Expectations and the IVAP
- 15 October 2024: KPI Expectations
- 17 October 2024: Role and opportunities for previous EIT HEI Initiative participants
- 29 October 2024: Applying to Strand B: I+E for the enhancement of deep tech
- 5 November 2024: Open Q&A session

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05

Questions and Answers

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Thank you!

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