

EIT HEI Initiative

Call 3 for Proposals



Frequently Asked Questions (version 2)

Question	Category	Answer
What makes a good quality Innovation Vision Action Plan (application proposal)?	Application	Quality Innovation Vision Action Plans establish clear links to the objectives of the HEI Initiative and the focus of the call for proposals. They build a credible path towards reinforcing the innovation and entrepreneurship capacities of higher education institutions and establish concrete actions in their Innovation Vision Action Plan (IVAP) to fill in their existing gaps. They set ambitious yet sound targets for key performance indicators, to measure the success of project implementation. They involve the relevant players in their consortia that are able to address the objectives defined in the project, that have a wide geographical scope and include organisations from RIS countries as much as possible.
Should each HEI in the consortium create an IVAP, or should this be delivered at the consortium level?	Application	The IVAP (this is the proposal you submit through application) should be one collaborative document, put together and submitted via the application system, by the consortium lead.
Could you explain the project 'phases'?	Application	There will be two implementation phases: Phase 1 and Phase 2, as described in the call text. In between, there will be a 'stop-go decision period' during which the project will be assessed against its KPI targets and the successful fulfillment of them will inform the decision around its continuation to phase 2 and the securing of phase 2 funds. Please see the call text for information on the dates of each phase.
What is meant by the KPI: 'Minimum 1 partnership created as a result of the HEI Initiative'?	Application	This refers to a partnership emerging from one of the actions or activities of the project. For example, you may arrange an informal partnership with an industry player, which creates an internship opportunity for a student.
Is the minimum number of KPIs enough or should we aim for more? Will this make a difference when assessing applications?	Application	Applications will be partially assessed on their capacity for impact, therefore projects that show higher ambition toward KPI targets may be more positively evaluated.
What is deep tech?	Application	Please refer to the definition on page 8 of the call text. More info on the Deep Tech Talent Initiative may be found HERE .
Is it mandatory to choose only one area of deep tech to focus on in the application?	Application	No, it is not mandatory to choose only one deep tech area, you can select multiple ones.

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Are partners obliged to join the Deep Tech Talent Initiative Pledge if their HEI Initiative Call 3 proposal is selected?	Application	No, partners are not obliged to join the Deep Tech Talent Initiative Pledge. However, all participating HEI partners are asked to complete this expression of interest form for the DTTI Pledge before submitting their HEI Initiative Call 3 application, which will allow the DTTI to share more information about the Pledge as it is released. Participating partners in the HEI Initiative Call 3 will be encouraged to join the Pledge given the alignment of activities between the two initiatives.
How fresh/recent the HE Innovate self-assessment should be by the time of submission of the project proposal?	Application	The HE Innovate self-assessment should be done during the submission window (i.e., anytime from 8 November 2022 – 28 February 2023).
Can a non-HEI partner be an entity offering training under KPI 8.1?	Application	Yes, yet such courses must correspond to at least 2 ECTS-equivalent credits, meaning 50-60 hours of workload including self-study if it is for student training. Staff trainings do not need to follow such strict criteria.
Is there a definition for 'student' under KPI 8.1? Is a student considered people who are formally enrolled at one of the partner HEIs?	Application	It is up to the consortium applying for funding to define 'students'. The important point is that you cover in your application the definition of student categories that you would like to train. Moreover, it would need to be clearly outlined in your project application how the training would enhance innovation and entrepreneurship capacity within your partner institutions.
Can the training be delivered 100% remotely?	Application	Yes, the training can be delivered face-to-face, hybrid or entirely online.
What qualifies as deep tech talent training for students?	Application	There are two possibilities for such training: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. proven deep tech focused training delivered to students enrolled in any academic programme (for instance, this could be business and management students, social sciences students, etc.) who need training in a deep tech domain to complement their entrepreneurial and innovation related activities and studies AND/OR 2. innovation/entrepreneurship capacity building training delivered to science/engineering/technology students who are studying or working on deep tech fields, for the purpose of complementing their deep tech expertise. For further information, see p. 13 of the call text.
Is there a template for the 'Commitment letters'?	Application	There is no 'Commitment Letter' template; the 'Commitment Letter' must be signed by the top management of each HEI on official HEI letterhead.
Can a European University Alliance participate in a HEI Initiative project? Can the whole consortium apply, even if it was awarded an HEI Initiative project in a previous call?	Consortium	European University Alliances are welcome to apply to the HEI Initiative and build synergies in their workplan between the HEI Initiative and other European programmes such as Erasmus+. They will have to demonstrate how they contribute to the objectives of the call, particularly deep tech training related activities, and prove the additionality of their activities compared to previous EU supported projects. They will have to make a particularly strong case to prove their added value in case they intend to submit a new project with the same consortium of previously funded HEI Initiative projects. As a general rule, consortia should aim at including new higher education institutions as much as possible, in line with the objective of the HEI Initiative to attract 500+ universities and build their capacity.
What are the benefits for well-established universities and smaller ones when participating in the HEI Initiative?	Consortium	Both HEI types will reinforce and build their capacity for innovation and entrepreneurship and get access to a wider network. The former may be especially interested in strengthening their links to the innovation ecosystem and its different players, such as other HEIs, the business sector (e.g., to develop internships in business, programmes to support start-ups, etc.) and the government level (e.g., contribution to the definition or implementation of smart specialisation strategies). The latter can benefit from the experience of more mature universities to improve their programmes and equip themselves with the relevant structures to support I&E (e.g., knowledge transfer offices).

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What is the role of associated partners and their added value for the project?	Consortium	Associated partners complement the role of full partners. While they do not receive EIT funding, they may contribute knowledge and expertise, opportunities for scaling up project achievements, support for future financial sustainability, etc. The actual contribution depends on the objectives of the project and the set-up of its consortium. Please note that involving an organisation in a project as an associated partner is not a reason for awarding them contracts and the like; adequate publicity and a best value for money assessment is required (for more information on this, consult the AMGA , article 6.2.B).
What are the rules around partners of a current HEI project (Pilot and Second cohort) participating in a Call 3 application?	Consortium	An organisation involved as a full or associated partner in a successful HEI cohort 1 or 2 project may participate as a full or associated partner in an application submitted to HEI Initiative Call 3. Please refer to the consortium composition criteria and the funding distribution criteria in section 2.6 of the Call text to fully understand the parameters of this, and remember that a. all funded call 3 activities implemented by cohort 1 or 2 partners must be deep-tech related, and b. if cohort 1 or 2 consortia apply for Call 3, they must add at least one 'new' HEI partner to their consortium.
Are the KPIs counted per participating partner or per consortium?	Consortium	The KPIs are counted per consortium, and all participating partners should be contributing to the fulfilment of the KPIs.
Is it favourable to include Ukrainian partners in a consortium?	Consortium	Involving Ukrainian organisations in your consortium is strongly encouraged and will be positively evaluated.
What is the funding distribution criteria?	Eligibility	The funding distribution criteria state that the majority of the project funding must go to non-KIC partner HEIs (this means more than 50%); this criterium applies to the Phase 1 budget, the Phase 2 budget, and the total project budget. Please refer to page 21 of the call text.
My organisation is an HEI Initiative Cohort 1 or 2 project partner and therefore I understand that any Call 3 funding we receive must go towards deep-tech activities. Does this mean all funding would be for KPI 8.1 (student deep tech training programmes), or could we also receive funding for other KPI activities?	Eligibility	If you are a cohort 1 or 2 partner, your allocated HEI Initiative funds must indeed go exclusively towards deep-tech related activities. However, your organisation is not restricted to only contributing to KPI 8.1 (student deep-tech training programmes); it may also use funding for other activities if they incorporate the deep-tech thematic focus. For example, the support of deep-tech start-ups (KPI 3.1), or a deep tech innovation launched on the market, etc.
According to the call text, minimum one HEI shall be an existing partner of an EIT KIC. Where can I find the most recent KIC partner list?	Eligibility	The KIC partner list can be found HERE . For the purpose of this call, this shall be the only KIC partner list to be consulted.
According to the call text, the majority of HEIs in a consortium shall not be partners of an EIT KIC. What if there is an even number of KIC and non-KIC partners (e.g., 2-2, 3-3)?	Eligibility	In the case of an even number of KIC and non-KIC partners (e.g., 2 KIC and 2 non-KIC partners), this means that only half (and not the majority) of partners are non-KIC. To reach the majority of non-KIC partners, this would mean adding at least one more non-KIC partner (e.g., 2 KIC and 3 non-KIC partners forming a consortium).
A minimum of two faculties or departments per HEI are required to commit to participation in the project. Do these have to be academic faculties, or can these also include non-academic offices such as Tech Transfer or Innovation?	Eligibility	When we are referring to faculties and departments, we are referring to the non-central units. An office such as Technology Transfer or Innovation would generally be considered a central unit, as it provides a service to all faculties. However, if you can justify that such an office is considered a non-central unit within your institution, please demonstrate this in your application.
Are universities that only offer bachelor-level education eligible to apply, or do we have to also offer recognized master's degrees?	Eligibility	Please refer to section 2.2 of the HEI Call 3 text. If you offer degrees recognised by a national authority, you are eligible to apply.

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Which countries are eligible to apply?	Eligibility	The HEI Call 3 is aligned to Horizon Europe, therefore please consult this programme guide for the latest information on country eligibility. Partners from those countries not associated with Horizon Europe may have to provide co-funding or funding from other sources, like national support, to cover their participation. Further news can be found HERE .
Are organisations from the UK eligible for HEI Initiative Horizon Europe funding?	Eligibility	<p>The European Commission has published a Q&A document confirming that UK entities are already eligible to apply as a beneficiary. If delays to association mean the grant agreement cannot be signed by successful UK applicants in a consortium, they can switch to participating as associated partner and request domestic funding. More details can be found HERE.</p> <p>Please note that UK applicants must apply for funding from the EU as beneficiaries and not as Associated Partners in order to be eligible for the domestic funding if that becomes necessary.</p>
Are organisations from Switzerland eligible to apply under the HEI Initiative?	Eligibility	Organisations from Switzerland are not eligible for Horizon Europe funding. However, Swiss legal entities can apply as full partners in the HEI Initiative. In case the proposal is awarded, then the said Swiss partner should apply for funding to the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). The latter provides financial guarantee to the Swiss partners taking part in Horizon Europe projects. For more information, see this link: Horizon Europe and Euratom (admin.ch)
Which Hungarian HEIs are impacted by the December 2022 Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506 on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary? Can these HEIs still participate in this HEI Initiative call for proposals?	Eligibility	<p>21 Hungarian HEIs are impacted by the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506 on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary, effective as of 16th December 2022. The list of the respective HEIs can be found HERE.</p> <p>These higher education institutions may still be part of an application under this Call for Proposals. However, no new legal commitments for ongoing selection procedures shall be entered into with any HU entity covered by the above Council Implementing Decision, unless the measures set therein are lifted. In case the Council measures would not be lifted, an applicant who has in its composition an entity falling under the Council Implementing Decision, may be offered, subject to the applicable rules and procedures in the Call for Proposal and to the feasibility of the project, to replace that entity and/or to change its status into associated partner. Tasks and budget could be redistributed accordingly.</p>
Are non-governmental/civil society organisations eligible to apply and receive funding under the HEI Initiative?	Eligibility	Yes, non-governmental, non-profit, civil society organisations are eligible to apply as full partners (and hence have funding allocated) under this call.
How can we access existing resources from the EIT KICs and the HEI Initiative, and how can we create synergies with what is already being done?	Resources	On the HEI Initiative website (https://eit-hei.eu/), you can find a fact sheet for each current HEI project, as well as information on upcoming events, news etc. In addition, if your application is successful, you will be granted access to the HEI Resource Hub, where you will find real examples of good practices and can connect with the wider HEI Initiative community.
My organisation is looking for potential consortium partners to apply for Call 3. How can we reach them?	Resources	The HEI Initiative has provided access to the networking online platform Conversation Starter, accessible via the Call 3 webpage. Complete the application questionnaire and connect with relevant people/organisations to help you build the perfect consortium for you!
Who can I address to seek advice on applying to the HEI Initiative call for proposals?	Resources	<p>For general queries, such as application process and rules for participation, you may contact: hei@eitrawmaterials.eu.</p> <p>For questions on specific Knowledge Innovation Community (KIC) Strategic Agendas, you may address the dedicated KIC contact person. Find the list on the Call 3 webpage.</p>