



European Institute of
Innovation & Technology

EIT HEI Initiative

Innovation Capacity Building
for Higher Education



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EIT HEI Call 2: Fact sheet

Why has the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) launched an initiative to boost innovation in higher education institutions (HEIs)?

- This is a key objective for the EIT as part of its new strategy, the [EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda \(SIA\) 2021-2027](#).
- The European Commission has entrusted the EIT, based on its experience in fostering innovation to increase the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of Europe's higher education sector by promoting and supporting institutional change in higher education institutions and their integration in innovation ecosystems.

What is the EIT HEI Initiative: Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education?

- The initiative will help HEIs across Europe to strengthen their ability to innovate.
- More specifically, the initiative aims to encourage these institutions to look at their own practices and develop concrete actions to increase the impact of their innovation and entrepreneurship activities on their local and regional ecosystems.
- Selected projects will receive expert coaching and funding from the EIT Community to support them in achieving these aims.

What type of activities will the initiative support?

- Activities to support HEIs can focus on several themes, including:
 - Fostering institutional engagement and change
 - Strengthening partnerships between higher education, business and research organisations
 - Developing innovation and business support services
 - Enhancing the quality of entrepreneurial education
 - Creating and disseminating knowledge

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Who can apply for the EIT HEI Call 2?

We invite a consortia of HEIs and non-academic organisations to submit a proposal. Consortia can be made up of:

- Higher education institutions (HEIs). These are institutions which offer recognised degrees or other tertiary level qualifications and other comparable institutions at tertiary level, if recognised by the national authorities. These institutions must be recognised as a higher education institution by the national authority of its country. Each HEI must provide proof of accreditation by the corresponding national authorities to offer recognised degrees. The applicant/coordinator must be an HEI.
- Public or private, small, medium or large enterprises (including social enterprises)
- Research institutes
- Public bodies at local, regional or national level
- Intermediary organisations or associations which represent HEIs

An organisation may participate as a full partner in only one HEI application. Multiple applications which include the same organisation as a full partner will result in only the first application submitted being included in the selection process. An organisation may participate as a full partner in one HEI application and as an associated partner in another HEI application. Moreover, an organisation may participate as an associated partner in multiple applications.

What should consortia look like?

The HEI project consortium must consist of:

- A minimum of three HEIs from three different countries, as follows:
 - One HEI must be the applicant/coordinator
 - Minimum two other HEIs in the consortium must be full partners
 - Minimum one HEI shall be an existing partner of an EIT KIC
 - The majority of HEIs shall not be partners of an EIT KIC
- A minimum of one actor from another side of the Knowledge Triangle (e.g. VET organisations, RTOs, SMEs and start-ups). These actors may be full partners or associated partners.

When should HEIs apply and how long will the project run for?

- The EIT HEI Call 2 will be open from 18 November 2021 until 28 February 2022, at 18:00 CET. The evaluation results will be announced to selected applicants in the first half of May 2022.
- Projects will run for 24 months from July 2022 until June 2024.
- The successful completion of Phase 1 (July – December 2022) will facilitate progression into Phase 2 (January 2023 – June 2024).

How much funding is available?

- Total funding of up to EUR 1.2 million over 24 months based on the conditional approval and subject to approval of the budget.

How should consortia apply?

- The full call text, eligibility criteria and application portal can be accessed at eit-hei.eu
- The application deadline is 28 February 2022.

Will further calls be launched?

- Yes, this is a strategic priority for the EIT as part of its 2021 to 2027 strategy.

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