

EIT Higher Education Initiative

Info Session:

Overview of the EIT HEI Call for Proposals 2025



EIT Higher Education Initiative

01

About the EIT Higher Education Initiative



Empower, transform and thrive in higher education

The EIT Higher Education Initiative brings together organisations from across education, business and research to empower HEIs to become pivotal actors in the European innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Funded projects implement capacity building activities translate research into market-ready solutions, establish strategic partnerships, support new ventures, and attract investment.

EIT Community Initiative

Coordinated by



Annual Calls for Proposals

The EIT Higher Education Initiative Calls for Proposals offer an opportunity for **higher education institutions and their chosen strategic partners** to design and collaborate on unique, needs-based innovation action plans, with the goal of **transforming HEIs into innovation and entrepreneurship powerhouses.**



Impact Domains and funded Actions



02

Call for Proposals 2025 - General Requirements



Core objectives

- Strengthen innovation & entrepreneurship capacity in European higher education.
- Build a competitive, skilled STEM talent pipeline.
- Deepen cooperation between HEIs, industry, and EIT KICs.
- Foster long-term synergies with European Universities alliances.



Application overview and support

Application Overview

- Call launched Wednesday 3 December 2025
- Deadline to apply: 4 March 2026, 17:00 CET
- Submission via **EIT HEI Application Portal**
- Selected proposals informed July 2026

Application support

(all available on the Call 2025 webpage)

- Full Call text
- Matchmaking platform
- 8 Info Sessions
- Interactive Guide for application readiness
- FAQs document (dynamic)
- KIC Synergies documents
- Application Portal (*Seedbook*)
- EIT HEI newsletter
- HEI inbox



Project Duration & Funding

Project Duration

- 24 months
- 1 Sept 2026 – 31 Aug 2028

Maximum Funding

- Up to €2,000,000 per project
- Funding rate: 100% eligible costs

Available Budget

- €70M total, allocated across the two Topics

Full Lifecycle

- 1 Application**
Consortia submit proposals aligned with EIT HEI Call 2025 objectives
- 2 Evaluation and Selection**
Evaluation and selection of winning proposals
- 3 Implementation of funding period**
24-month project period to execute innovation capacity building activities
- 4 Long-term Impact**
Projects continue efforts towards long-term vision for institutional change



Proposal preparation

1

Consortium-building

Build your consortium in line with the consortium composition criteria and project objectives

2

HEInnovate Self-Assessment

Evaluate current innovation capacity of the participating HEI partners

3

IVAP Development

Create detailed action plan

Core of each project:

Innovation Vision Action Plan (IVAP)

- Purpose: Outlines consortium's strategy and detailed Action Plan for innovation capacity building
- Structure:
 - Technical information (Part A)
 - Narrative content (Part B)

03

Call for Proposals 2025 - Specific Requirements



Call Topics (Two-Topic Approach)

Topic 1 – STEM Capacity Building

(EIT-HEI-2025-STEM-CAPACITY-BUILDING)

- Strengthen innovation & entrepreneurship capacity in STEM education.
- Integrate IP, innovation & entrepreneurship training directly into STEM programmes.
- Improve research-to-market pathways and reinforce KTO/TTO performance.
- Reduce territorial disparities & strengthen regional ecosystems.
- Align with 2 – 3 EIT KICs.

Topic 2 – Building Synergies

(EIT-HEI-2025-BUILDING-SYNERGIES)

- Strengthen innovation capacity within **European Universities alliances**.
- Build long-term strategic cooperation with 2–3 EIT KICs.
- Improve innovation & entrepreneurship training
- Leverage the alliance's and chosen EIT KIC's network to expand and scale cross-border innovation activities;
- Reinforce KTO/TTO structures and alliance-wide innovation strategies.

Eligible Participating Organisations

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

Recognized degree-granting institutions at tertiary level, accredited by national authorities.

Businesses, Industry, Investors

Private enterprises of all sizes, from small to large corporations.

Research Organisations

TTOs and KTOs

Public bodies at local, regional or national level

Intermediary organisations or associations

Which represent Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), including EUAs legal entities

Social enterprises and NGOs

Registration in the EU's Participant Register and PIC number required.



Consortium Composition Criteria

Eligible consortia must include at least five funded partners:

- Minimum **three HEIs** established in three different Horizon Europe eligible countries,
 - If you apply as a European Universities alliance, these must be part of the same alliance
- **One business partner** (private; small, medium or large enterprises),
- **One other non-HEI partner** (private or public; e.g. research institute, NGO, public body, KTO/TTO)

There is no maximum number of organisations within an EIT HEI project consortium.

An organisation must not participate in more than one Proposal (cannot apply to both Topics).



Consortium Roles and Responsibilities

Coordinator

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

Beneficiaries

Full partners in the EIT HEI 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

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

Previous EIT HEI project partner participation

Previous partners may participate as **Innovation and Entrepreneurship Pioneers**:

- NOT permitted to repeat past activities
- May build on, scale up and amplify previous projects, expanding across and incorporating new organisations
- Topic 1: Pioneers focus on scaling innovation capacity in STEM
- Topic 2: Pioneers embed their expertise of the EIT HEI and the EIT ecosystem within alliance-level strategies for KIC cooperation.



KPI Criteria – Topic 1 (STEM)

KPI Code KPI	Basic Description	Minimum Target
EIT HE03.1	Number of start-ups and scale-ups supported by the project	6
EIT HE04.1	Number of start-ups and scale-ups created by the project	2
EIT HE08.1	<p>Number of successful participants who complete training programmes</p> <p><i>For this KPI, all participants must come from STEM fields, as per the official list of eligible STEM disciplines linked in the Call text.</i></p>	<p>4000</p> <p><i>Students + academic staff + non-academic staff (no specific breakdown)</i></p>
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	<p>4</p> <p><i>One of these must enhance diversity and inclusion, such as a new structure supporting female entrepreneurs</i></p>
EIT HE20.1	Number of new partnerships established as a result of the EIT HEI Initiative.	4

Core KPI Criteria – Topic 1 (STEM) Choose minimum 1 of 3

Core KPI Code	KPI	Basic Description	Minimum Target
EIT HE02.4		Number of innovations launched on the market by the project	#1
EIT HE04.4		Number of start-ups and scale-ups created by the project, <u>with a financial transaction of minimum 10,000 EUR</u>	#1
EIT HE06.1		Total EUR amount of private and public capital attracted by startups/scale-ups supported by the project	Minimum 10,000 EUR; € target set by the project

KPI Criteria – Topic 2 (Synergies EIT-EUAs)

KPI Code KPI	Basic Description	Minimum Target
EIT HE03.1	Number of start-ups and scale-ups supported by the project	6
EIT HE08.1	Number of successful participants who complete training programmes <i>For this KPI, it is encouraged for participants to come from STEM fields, as per the official list of eligible STEM disciplines linked in the Call text</i>	4000 <i>Students + academic staff + non-academic staff (no specific breakdown)</i>
EIT HE09.1	Number of students enrolled in EIT labelled master's, EIT labelled PhD programmes, participants in EIT labelled Fellowship schemes and other education activities awarded EIT Label	50
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	4 <i>One of these must enhance diversity and inclusion, such as a new structure supporting female entrepreneurs</i>
EIT HE20.1	Number of new partnerships established as a result of the EIT HEI Initiative.	4 <i>These partnerships should be with stakeholders in the EIT ecosystem to generate EIT-alliance cooperation.</i>

Core KPI Criteria – Topic 2 (Synergies EIT-EUAs)

Choose minimum 1 of 2

Core KPI Code KPI	Basic Description	Minimum Target
EIT HE05.1	Number of start-ups established by students enrolled and graduates from EIT labelled programmes	#1
EIT HE07.1	Sum of graduates from EIT labelled master's, PhD programmes and other education activities awarded the EIT Label	#10

Major notable simplification measures (compared to previous Calls)

No Phases, STOP-GO model removed

IVAP (including budget and KPIs) must be planned on a calendar-year basis, at the discretion of the consortium.

Naturally, a per-calendar year target must be in place for KPIs.

Funding distribution criteria removed

Previous funding distribution criteria removed: No longer specific requirements around funding distribution between organisation types and KIC-partnership status.

Evaluation of Proposals

See Sub-Criteria per Topic in the Call text

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.

Call 2025 Info Sessions

UPCOMING EVENTS |  Online Event

EIT KIC Discovery Day

 10 December 2025, 10:00-12:15 CET

[Register](#) →

UPCOMING EVENTS |  Online Event

Overview of EIT HEI Call for Proposals 2025 (Call 2025 Info Sessions)

 15 December 2025, 15:00-16:30 CET

[Register](#) →

UPCOMING EVENTS |  Online Event

MEL Framework and the Impact Domains and Actions (Call 2025 Info...)

 14 January 2026, 15:00-16:30 CET

[Register](#) →

UPCOMING EVENTS |  Online Event

KPI Expectations (Call 2025 Info Sessions)

 15 January 2026, 15:00-16:30 CET

[Register](#) →

UPCOMING EVENTS |  Online Event

Introduction to HEInnovate (Call 2025 Info Sessions)

 18 December 2025, 10:00-11:15 CET

[Register](#) →

UPCOMING EVENTS |  Online Event

European Universities alliances Participation (Call 2025 Info Sessions)

 12 January 2026, 15:00-16:30 CET

[Register](#) →

UPCOMING EVENTS |  Online Event

Application and Budget Planning (Call 2025 Info Sessions)

 19 January 2026, 15:00 CET

[Register](#) →

UPCOMING EVENTS |  Online Event

Open Q&A (Call 2025 Info Sessions)

 20 January 2026, 15:00-16:30 CET

[Register](#) →

Register on the Call 2025 page NOW!

Thank you for your participation!



Email: hei@eitrawmaterials.eu



Website: eit-hei.eu



X: [@EIT_HEI](https://twitter.com/EIT_HEI)



LinkedIn: [@EIT HEI Initiative](https://www.linkedin.com/company/eit-hei-initiative)