



EIT HEI Call for Proposals 2025

Potential synergies with EIT RawMaterials

EIT RawMaterials (EIT RM) is preparing to play a strategic role in the upcoming EIT Higher Education Initiative Call for Proposals 2025, as it not only coordinates the overall implementation of the Initiative, it also seeks applications to the Call that align with – and could contribute to – the EIT RawMaterials strategic objectives.

The role of EIT RawMaterials is particularly relevant due to the twofold aim of the EIT HEI Call 2025:

- to drive innovation capacity-building in STEM (naturally aligning closely with the raw materials sector),
- to drive stronger cooperation between the European Universities alliances and the EIT ecosystem.

EIT RM seeks to help those consortia looking to strengthen the innovation and entrepreneurship capacity and output of the raw and advanced materials higher education area, and thus respond to Europe's growing need for sustainable, resilient, and circular value chains.

1. Who We Are

EIT RawMaterials is the world's largest network in the raw materials sector, established by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) to strengthen Europe's strategic autonomy and accelerate the transition to a sustainable, circular, and resilient raw materials value chain. Our community brings together industry leaders, universities, research organisations, and innovators across Europe to address critical challenges in exploration, extraction, processing, recycling, substitution, and advanced materials for the green and digital transitions. We operate at the intersection of innovation, education, and entrepreneurship, ensuring that breakthrough ideas become scalable solutions supporting Europe's competitiveness and climate-neutral ambitions.

2. Strategic alignment with the EIT HEI Call 2025

The EIT Higher Education Initiative's Call for Proposals 2025 introduces a two-topic structure, including a strong focus on STEM (Topic 1) and strategic collaboration between the European Universities alliances and the EIT KICs (Topic 2). EIT RawMaterials may directly support these objectives through its long-term mission and European-wide infrastructure. Our work is guided by the EIT RawMaterials Strategic Agenda 2021–2027 and aligned with major EU priorities, including the



Critical Raw Materials Act, Net-Zero Industry Act, and the EU's Union of Skills framework, emphasised in this EIT HEI 2025 Call.

EIT RawMaterials builds a resilient and sustainable raw materials supply for Europe by advancing innovation across exploration, processing, recycling, and substitution and by driving circular approaches throughout the value chain. It strengthens Europe's global competitiveness through partnerships, market acceleration, and technology upscaling, while also developing the next generation of talent equipped with entrepreneurial and scientific skills. This work includes a dedicated focus on enhancing innovation capacity within higher education through alignment with other initiatives such as the EIT Higher Education Initiative.

Short-term focus (2025–2027) prioritises strengthening regional ecosystems, scaling successful innovations, and deepening collaboration with HEIs. Medium-term focus expands impact across industrial value chains and European policy frameworks. Long-term focus aims at building a self-sustaining ecosystem with global reach.

3. What We Do

EIT RawMaterials delivers concrete services, programmes, and opportunities across the full raw materials value chain. A full overview of activities is available at: <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/what-we-do/>. EIT RawMaterials creates impact through three interconnected pillars:

3.1. Innovation

EIT RawMaterials supports innovation from early-stage concepts to market-ready solutions by providing funding for collaborative projects, enabling upscaling activities that help technologies reach industrial maturity, and offering access to world-class infrastructure such as pilot plants, analytical facilities, and laboratories. Close collaboration with industrial partners ensures that innovations respond to real market needs and are positioned for successful commercial uptake.

More information: <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/innovation/>

3.2. Entrepreneurship

EIT RawMaterials operates one of Europe's strongest entrepreneurship ecosystems in the raw materials sector. Through the RawMaterials Accelerator, Booster funding, and tailored business creation services, we support start-ups and SMEs at various stages of development. Entrepreneurs benefit from coaching, mentoring, investment readiness support, and access to a Europe-wide industrial network that opens pathways to markets, customers, and strategic partnerships.

More information: <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/entrepreneurship/>



3.3. Education

Our education programmes reinforce the talent pipeline required for Europe’s raw materials strategy. We offer EIT Labelled Master’s and PhD programmes that combine academic excellence with mobility, industry engagement, and entrepreneurial education. Professional and lifelong learning courses help upskill staff and students to meet industry demands, while thematic trainings and summer schools provide hands-on experience in areas such as critical raw materials, circularity, and industrial innovation.

European Raw Materials Academy & European Advanced Materials Academy

The European Raw Materials Academy (ERMAcademy) and the European Advanced Materials Academy (AMAcademy) are complementary initiatives led by EIT RawMaterials to address Europe’s skills gap across the full materials value chain.

ERMAcademy focuses on raw materials supply—exploration, mining, processing, recycling, and circular economy practices. It aims to upskill over 100,000 learners by 2030 through modular courses, EU-aligned certifications, and labour-market insights.

AMAcademy targets advanced materials and high-tech applications, including sustainable-by-design materials, semiconductors, composites, and digital manufacturing. It aims to train 200,000 learners by 2029 and offers credentialed courses in emerging technologies such as additive manufacturing and AI-enabled materials design.

Combined impact: Together, the academies create a coordinated skills pipeline: ERMAcademy strengthens Europe’s capacity to secure and process critical raw materials, while AMAcademy develops expertise needed for advanced materials innovation. This integrated approach supports EU industrial, green, and digital transition priorities.

These activities directly support curriculum development aligned with evolving European industrial and STEM priorities, including those emphasised in the 2025 HEI Call.

More information: <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/education/>

We also run Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) programmes designed to strengthen innovation capacity in regions with moderate or modest innovation performance. These programmes help HEIs, research institutions, and companies develop skills, connect with the wider ecosystem, and participate in international value chains.

More information: <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/ris/>



4. Relevance of EIT RawMaterials for the EIT HEI Call 2025

The EIT HEI Call 2025 highlights the need for stronger STEM-driven innovation capacity, systemic collaboration across HEIs, and enhanced engagement with industry partners. EIT RawMaterials brings deep technical and ecosystem expertise to consortia responding to both Call Topics:

For Topic 1 (STEM & EU's Union of Skills Strategic Plan):

- We support integration of advanced materials, circularity, exploration, processing, and recycling knowledge into university curricula.
- We offer entrepreneurial training aligned with raw materials-driven deep tech.
- We connect HEIs with industrial partners facing real-world raw materials challenges.

For Topic 2 (European Universities Alliances & ecosystem development):

- We provide a strong sectoral network for alliances seeking deeper engagement with industry and research infrastructures.
- We support the development of innovation ecosystems across multiple countries, regions, and disciplines.

EIT RawMaterials may help consortia ensure that their proposals reflect strategic alignment with European raw materials priorities while strengthening the innovation capacity of HEIs. EIT RawMaterials can contribute its sectoral expertise, innovation infrastructure, and ecosystem-strengthening experience to HEI-led consortia.

Together, we may work to enhance innovation and entrepreneurship capacity within higher education, with special relevance for STEM fields, deep tech, circularity, and materials science. Through collaboration with EIT RawMaterials, HEIs can integrate cutting-edge raw materials and circular-economy knowledge into their curricula and research activities. HEIs may gain access to long-term partnerships with industry and research organisations, enabling them to co-create educational content and innovation-driven programmes. Institutions can strengthen their innovation and entrepreneurship capacity by incorporating raw materials deep-tech perspectives, leveraging access to testbeds, pilot plants, laboratories, datasets, and expert mentors, and embedding themselves more strongly in regional innovation ecosystems that reflect European strategic priorities.



5. Designing your IVAP: Why Collaborate with EIT RawMaterials?

In the context of the 2025 EIT HEI Call for Proposals, alignment and collaboration with EIT RawMaterials can strengthen projects by ensuring alignment with European deep-tech and raw materials priorities.

- Projects demonstrating alignment with EIT RawMaterials may benefit from expertise and guidance for their capacity-building activities, ensuring they align with strategic sectoral needs.
- They may seek access to an established entrepreneurship ecosystem that helps transform ideas into start-up ventures or industry collaborations.
- Industrial partners may be engaged directly in co-creation activities, ensuring practical relevance and reinforcing innovation pathways.
- Making the most of training, mentorship, and matchmaking services available at EIT RawMaterials could help integrate students and staff into broader innovation environments, while long-term sustainability support ensures project outcomes can continue beyond the funding period.

6. Contact & Next Steps

EIT RawMaterials welcomes dialogue with potential applicants (and especially the European Universities alliances for Topic 2 applications) preparing for the 2025 HEI Call.

We will be happy to engage with HEIs and partners interested in learning more about EIT RawMaterials to inform the design of their innovation capacity-building plans, especially with those who are seeking to tangibly engage with Europe's largest raw materials innovation ecosystem and its activities.

We invite potential applicants to:

1. Reach out for an initial meeting,
2. Identify opportunities for collaboration between the project and EIT RM (helping to inform proposal development),
3. Explore long-term cooperation with EIT RM.



Contact:

Jan Eggert
Head of Business Development

EIT RawMaterials
Knesebeckstr. 62
10719 Berlin
Germany

jan.eggert@eitrawmaterials.eu
<https://eitrawmaterials.eu/>