# EIT Call for Proposals – Q&As

**The Q&A contains all questions received on the EIT Call for Proposals as of 26 October 2021 (publication date of the Call for Proposals) until 03 February 2022 (deadline for submission of questions).**

**1. How much is the specific budget for this Call and how many projects are usually financed as average based on the experience of previous calls? And if Switzerland can participate in this call as a partner.**

Generally, please kindly note that the designation of the winning consortium by the EIT Governing Board does not result in the award of a grant. EIT funding to established KICs is decided by the EIT Governing Board on the basis of a performance-based allocation and after the assessment of KIC proposals (i.e. Business Plans) on annual or multiannual basis, also depending on the budget availability of the EIT. For further information, please check the principles for financing, monitoring and evaluation of KIC activities. The EIT may award a start-up grant to the designated partnership to cover activities for legal readiness, operational readiness and fostering EIT identity and other initial KIC activities to support the efficient setting up.

With the possibility to leverage more funds from the private and public sector, approximately EUR 300 million of funding is available for two new EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities to be launched during the 2021-2027 EU funding period.

Organisations from Switzerland are *eligible for participation* in the Call for Proposals, in accordance with the Horizon Europe Regulation. However, they are *not eligible to receive EIT funding* as it is currently a non-associated country to Horizon Europe (unless the participation is deemed essential, it is justified and an exception is given by the granting authority).

**2. We would be interested in whether partners from Montenegro could be included in the consortium (minimum criteria refer to the partners from the EU Member States if we understood well)?**

In accordance with the Horizon Europe Regulation (Article 22), entities regardless of the place of establishment (thus also from Montenegro) are *eligible for participation* in the EIT Call for Proposals. The EIT's Call will result in the designation of the winning consortium by the EIT Governing Board (no funding will be awarded at this stage of the procedure).

As regards *eligibility for funding*, the designated winning consortium will receive funding for the start-up phase of the KIC: as a general rule, entities from EU Member States and Horizon Europe associated countries are eligible for funding (Article 23 of the Horizon Europe Regulation).

Generally, please note that in line with the eligibility criteria the applying consortium

- must contain at least three independent partner organisations established in at least three different Member States;

- at least two thirds of the partner organisations forming the consortium are established in different Member States;

- the applying consortium includes at least one higher education institution one research institution and one private company;

- the proposal must be submitted by a consortium containing a maximum of 50 partners.

There are several possible ways to identify and engage with potential applying consortia. One of these is that the EIT has been facilitating the process with a networking website that will be available until March 2022 allowing potential partners to connect for the Call for Proposals: https://eit-culture-creativity.b2match.io/.

### 3. To be sure to understand: is it possible to establish membership fees during the Start-up Grant Agreement year then?

A KIC may decide to follow a membership fee model from the beginning to secure other sources of funding besides the EIT grant. Membership fees give the KIC room for operational flexibility as well as the possibility to implement activities or pursue investments which are not eligible from the EIT grant (e.g. take up equity in promising start-ups). Membership fees are also important to bridge liquidity risks until returns from successful innovations and activities can sustain the ecosystem. However, membership schemes should not prevent openness of the partnership and can in no way be tied to privileged access to funding for innovation projects.

Certainly, membership fees can be charged only as of the legal and operational set up of the KIC (e.g. registration of the KIC Legal Entity, adoption of the Statutes and by-laws of the KIC which regulate the different membership types), which usually happens in the middle of the start-up year.

### 4. What are the co-financing rates?

In line with the funding requirements of the EIT SIA 2021-2027, the new KIC can expect a funding rate up to 100% in years 1-4, up to 80% in years 5-7 (this is applicable at portfolio level), decreasing further to maximum 70% between years 8-11 and finally arriving up to 50% at year 12, decreasing by additional 10% per annum.

Notwithstanding the above, due to their specific nature, some activities can be funded up to 100% irrespective of KIC operating year, such as Cross-KIC activities, RIS activities and the pilot HEI initiative.

### 5. I am working on a long-term photo documentary that will result in 2023/2024 in an installation, exhibition, book, educational programs, organizing debate. Is this within the goals of the call?

In line with Article 9 of the EIT Regulation, the EIT Call for Proposals is not open for natural persons, but for organisations. Also, the EIT does not pre-define the strategic sub-areas eligible within the field of CCSI leaving it to future applicants to propose focus areas in their strategies. To learn more about the scope and theme for this new proposed EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community, please check the factsheet.

**6. What difference do you see the between culture sector and tech sectors such as mobility or manufacturing in terms of ROI and measures of impact?**

Of course, each sector has its specificities however applicants as well as existing KICs are required to determine KPI targets and describe how these will be achieved in line with the EIT Impact Framework. Furthermore, during the start-up period, the new KIC is expected to define its seven-year Strategic Agenda, building on the proposal submitted. The Strategic Agenda outlines the ambition and impact proposed, building on the identified sector-specific challenges and strategic measures.

**7. Besides these informational webinars mentioned and besides the networking platform where organisations can contact each other b2b, will you organise also any dedicated brokerage event for KIC CC?**

There are several possible ways to identify and engage with potential applying consortia. One of these is the networking platform you mentioned https://eit-culture-creativity.b2match.io/. The EIT has set up the networking platform without intervening further to ensure equal treatment of all potential applicants and the EIT will not organise any brokerage events.

**8. In 2021 there should be two evaluations of KICs. Will the results be published?**

The results of the KIC evaluations will be made publicly available as required by the EIT legal framework. The comprehensive assessments of EIT Health and EIT RawMaterials were launched in November 2021 and the results are expected to be published in the 2nd half of 2022.

**9. Are there any limitations to the activities provided to generate extra funds? (e.g. consulting; advisory; etc.)**

EIT KICs need to develop revenues from innovation, education and business creation activities for example in the form of IP revenues, new products sales revenue sharing, and consulting services fees, but also develop financial assets for more long-term revenues for example in form of equity positions. Allowed sources of funding for a KIC are defined in the EIT legal framework (EIT SIA 2021-2027, EIT Regulation), and as follows:

a. Contributions from partner organisations, forming a substantial source of funding;

b. Voluntary contributions from Member States, associated countries or third countries or public authorities within them;

c. Contributions from international bodies or institutions;

d. Revenue generated by the KICs' own assets and activities and royalties from intellectual property rights;

e. Capital endowments;

f. Bequests, donations and contributions from individuals, institutions, foundations or any other bodies established under national law;

g. The financial contribution from the EIT;

h. Financial instruments, including those funded from the general budget of the Union.

The exact provisions on how to account for non-EIT funded activities of the KICs are still to be decided.

## 10. Should there be a consortium leader at the application stage?

Yes, in line with 6.5 of the Call for Proposals, the coordinator for applying consortia assumes an important role.

## 11. Thank you for the explanations during the webinar on 16 November. But this assumes that you never expect that a KIC will not succeed?

According to the EIT SIA 2021-2027, on the basis of the result of the comprehensive assessment, the EIT Governing Board shall decide to continue, modify or discontinue the financial contribution to a KIC (thus not extending the partnership agreement) and reallocate the resources to better performing activities (SIA 5.2.2). In case of positive performance and positive outcomes of the interim review and of the comprehensive assessment of the KIC conducted during the initial 7-year Partnership Agreement, the latter can be extended for a further period of up to seven years.

## 12. I was looking into the eligibility criteria, in which there is written that one has to be a private company. Does this include a public private partnership, that is mostly financed by private/ equity financing?

The minimum condition to form a KIC is the participation of at least three independent partner organisations, that are comprised of at least one Higher Education Institution (HEI), one research organisation and one private company and that are established in at least three different Member States. In addition, Article 2(5) defines partner organisations as follows: "A 'partner organisation' means a legal entity which is a member of a KIC and may include, *in particular*, higher education institutions, vocational education and training providers, research organisations, public institutions, public or private companies, financial institutions, regional and local authorities, foundations and not-for-profit organisations."

In line with the above, public private partnerships can also participate in a KIC. Whether such a private partnership should be considered as private or public, this depends on the exact form and nature of the partnership. If it is relevant in order to meet the eligibility criteria, please add an explanatory document, as supporting document of the application (which can be merged with the pfd that includes the motivation and commitment letter, DoH, selection criteria evidence, etc.).

## 13. Can you clarify the sentence of 'privileged access to funding for innovation projects' in page 10? Is privileged access allowable for example for Education or Entrepreneurship Activities? Are differentiated funding conditions (rather than privileged access) allowable as long as they do not inhibit access of all or privilege a specific group by excluding others?

As stated in the call text, membership systems should not prevent openness of the partnership and can in no way be tied to privileged access to funding.

It is mandatory for the KICs to remain open and flexible to attract new partners who bring added value to the partnership based on excellence and innovation relevance. Calls for innovation and business creation activities should as a rule be fully open to attract the best talents and ideas with the highest innovation potential. To achieve this, the KIC should put in place appropriate governance and management systems and ensure openness and transparency in their activities to identify and support the most promising innovations and entrepreneurs in Europe. For education activities, the EIT awards the EIT Label for several years, which means that for these activities the KIC must plan its calls differently than for innovation and business creation activities where KICs usually launch annual calls (or even several calls within one year).

It is possible to apply "differentiated funding conditions", as mentioned in your question, as long as they ensure that:
- The KIC selects and finances the best projects with the highest possible impact, and in line with the KIC's long term strategy;
- within the selection procedures there is equal treatment, non-discrimination of the applicants and it the avoidance of conflicts of interests is also ensured.

**14. How to complete table B2? Overall partner contributions are to some extent a function of amounts of EIT funding received; which are not known a priori. Additionally, the majority of partners in later years are not known now. How to reflect their partner contributions? How does the EIT expect the (estimated) Overall Partner Contributions as specified in B2 to relate to the financial and non-financial Commitments that must be stated in the Commitment Letter B3?**

All consortia are requested to provide their best estimate of the financial resources needed to implement their strategy by 2030, in terms of funding requested from the EIT and co-funding provided based on commitment by the applying partnership and in line with the future partnership strategy. The financial commitments stated in the commitment letters are expected to be the basis of the co-funding calculations at least for the first year, before the partnership is expected to grow significantly. Please take into account that in line with the EIT Regulation, Art. 18 (4), the EIT financial contribution to the KICs may cover up to 100 % of the total eligible costs of KIC added-value activities in the initial stages of a KIC's life cycle. However, such a contribution shall gradually decrease over time in accordance with the funding rates set in the EIT SIA 2021-2027, Chapter 3.6.2 KIC funding model. This is in line with the requirement for the KICs to gradually become financially sustainable.

**15. Does the EIT allow - or even expect - proposals to name (some of) candidate hosts for RIS Hubs in the bid which are willing to participate in an open call once the KIC is running, as described in the call text? Or must a proposal refrain from naming candidates as this might be seen as an inhibition to an open call?**

The EIT RIS implementation framework allows the KICs a certain degree of flexibility in designing their own EIT RIS activities that best fit with their multiannual strategies and priorities, as long as these result in the desired tangible deliverables and impact, especially in terms of widening participation in the KICs. All KICs undertake a place-based innovation approach and engage local organisations to serve as EIT

Hubs in EIT RIS countries and regions. Local organisations are selected through an open competitive selection process and are designated to function as EIT RIS Hub for specific KICs. While the consortia may identify priority countries within its future EIT RIS Strategy, RIS Hubs will only be established following a thorough needs analysis carried out in close consultation with the EIT and, and, where appropriate, other stakeholders, including the relevant authorities in the EIT RIS countries and regions.

**16. We understand the need for an Interim Supervisory Board for the period 2022-2023. Should the proposal name one or more of proposed SB members or only the chair? Or should this be done in the Start Up Plan due Sept 2022?**

It is not required to include the names of the Interim Supervisory Board members in the proposal, nevertheless, the applicants may do so, if they wish. The Interim Supervisory Board will be important to be in place, as soon as the KIC Legal Entity is set up and the KIC's governance structure will start working during the start-up phase.

**17. The weighing of 3.2 Communications and 3.3 Dissemination is defined as 2 but they together can only add 10 points to the Impact Section overall total score of 35 max. Could this be a mistake and the weighing factor could be 1?**

This is indeed a clerical mistake and a corrected version of the Call for Proposals will be published.

**18. What is the difference between the EIT RIS Start-ups/Scale-ups Supported (EITHE03.2 EITRIS) and #EIT RIS Countries – KIC supported Start-ups/Scale-ups (EITHE03.3 EITRIS) in the KPI table?**

The KPI "EIT RIS Start-ups/Scale-ups Supported (EITHE03.2 EITRIS)" is "Number of start-ups and scale-ups registered in EIT RIS country supported by KICs for at least 2 months in year N". The KPI "#EIT RIS Countries – KIC supported Start-ups/Scale-ups (EITHE03.3 EITRIS)" is "Number of EIT RIS countries where start-ups/scale-ups supported by KICs are registered". Please see the KPI definitions in https://eit.europa.eu/library/eit-simplified-impact-framework.

**19. I have a question concerning the legal documents for the KIC CCSI. In the "eit call for proposal" text, the Governance & management of KIC CCSI are explained under 2.2.8 on page 9/10:**

…"The choice of an appropriate legal entity in order to deliver the strategic agenda of a KIC is crucial. It integrates the partners but must avoid conflicts of interest, and is the focal point for any interaction between the EIT and the partnership. It is the KIC Legal Entity (KIC LE) that, mandated by the KIC partnership, signs the Partnership Agreement and the Grant Agreements with the EIT".

If I click now under "Grant agreement", the link guide me to the following template: general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf (europa.eu). Does the KIC has to sign the "General Model Grant Agreement of the EIC Accelerator Contract"?

Indeed, the link leads to the general **Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement** (HE MGA) template placed on the Commission webpage, which is applicable to the HE funding programmes, including the ERC, the EIC, and the EIT too. The programme specific provisions can be found in Annex 5 of the HE MGA template. It is stated on the same main page that *"This document is aimed at assisting applicants. It*

shows the full range of provisions that may be applied to this type of agreement, and is provided for information purposes only. The legally binding agreement will be that which is signed by the parties in the system." Accordingly, before the signature of the grant agreement, the provisions which are not relevant for the EIT will be automatically removed from the grant agreement. Therefore, the applicants should not be concerned to have to sign the wrong grant agreement.

### 20. Based on experience of previous KICs, what is the percentage of KIC founding members/partners who remain involved for 7 years or more?

Considering the KIC business logic and their high degree of autonomy, the EIT does not assess in depth the partnership evolution and retainment of founding members at the 8 existing KICs beyond the necessary checks during the start-up phase (from the designation until the Partnership Agreement signature) and later specific reviews, as each KIC manages their partnership internally. In general, while there is fluctuation to some extent over the years within a KIC partnership, the core of the partnership tends to remain rather stable.

### 21. Based on experience of previous KICs, what percentage of funding provided by EIT to KIC is accessed and used by KIC founding members vs non-founding partners?

The EIT monitoring focuses on the processes and mechanisms through which the KICs distribute the EIT funding. In line with the legal requirements stemming from the Horizon Europe Regulation and the EIT Regulation, the EIT grant shall be distributed via open and transparent selection processes, with a particular focus on excellence and, where applicable, on 'impact' and 'quality and efficiency of implementation'. Accordingly, the KICs shall refrain from providing privileged access to funding to their partners, whether founding members or not.

### 22. This activity is called "Creation and Acceleration". Maybe I am wrong but I am understanding that services are more about acceleration than creation. Indeed, creation is maybe better supported by other actors (regional, local and national authorities). How do KIC complement with them?

EIT KICs conduct both types of activities, with beneficiaries' business acceleration with the start-ups or scale-ups they support, and also business creation for newly created start-ups, spin-offs and spin-outs stemming from EIT KIC education and innovation activities. Business creation can also be delivered by KICs to existing start-ups and scale-ups for example to develop their sales and customers bases. In many instances, KICs complement and expand on existing such activities at regional and national level, and take the supported start-ups or scale-ups to the European level, out of their original home market.

### 23. Could you please tell us about the expected duration of Pathfinder vs. Transition vs. Accelerator projects to be funded?

Pathfinder: In general, there is no specific expectation on the duration of EIC Pathfinder projects, which should be "fit-for-purpose", i.e. decided in line with the S&T ambition, by ensuring an efficient implementation strategy of the planned R&I, dissemination and exploitation activities and considering quickly changing research landscape in given area(s). For some Pathfinder Challenges, projects are expected to have a set duration specified in the in the Challenge Guide.

**Transition:** The EIC considers proposals with a duration of up to 3 years as appropriate for EIC Transition. Nonetheless, this does not preclude you to request a different duration, if properly justified.

**Accelerator:** In general, there is no specific expectation on the duration of EIC Accelerator projects. With regard to the duration of the investment component of the EIC Accelerator, the EIC Fund will invest patient capital, with a long average perspective on return on the investment (7-10 years) with a maximum of 15 years in general.

More information available in the investment guidelines https://eic.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-05/EIC%20Fund%20Investment%20Guidelines%20-%20Horizon%20Europe.pdf

**24. How do you select the companies to write a full proposal under Fast Track to EIC? Do you select specific EIT KICs funding schemes? Any SME already supported by the KIC is eligible to apply under Fast Track Scheme? Or the KIC select the SME to apply to EIC?**

Under the Fast Track scheme, applicants do not apply directly to the EIC Accelerator. Instead, the KICs decide whether an existing project previously supported under one of their programmes is suitable for support under the EIC Accelerator. This decision is based on a project review performed by the KICs themselves to assess the eligibility as well as the innovation or market deployment potential of such project. The project review to be performed by the KICs must be set up in compliance with the requirements contained in the EIC Work Programme.

**25. Hello, reaching business and market readiness in deep-tech takes usually 5 to 8 years. Commercial business is not possible to be estimated in the early stage for those cases. Especially investors do not understand that as mostly judge with a consumer thinking. How are these contradictions resolved in the evaluation criteria? Where is a clear definition for the key performance indicators for the technology transfer process?**

This is a broad question and more detailed information are available in our EIC Work Programme under each instrument's section. However, when it comes to tech transfer and our Transition activities, applicants should have sufficient preliminary business case/business model and market analysis for the application area(s) they have in mind at the proposal stage. The Transition projects should advance both the technology and business aspects. The business case and business model will be refined during the project duration as to become a credible basis for entrepreneurship, business creation and investment.

**26. I am writing to ask about the following operational capacity criteria in EIT Call for Proposals 2021for a new EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) in the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI):**

- *participated in at least one project with a total budget (allocated or coordinated) exceeding EUR 3 million;*
- *coordinated at least one project with at least two other partners (three in total) from at least three different European countries and from at least two sides of the Knowledge Triangle;*
- *participated in at least two EU financed projects.*

**Should the Coordinator fulfil all three criteria, or it is enough to complete some of them?**

In line with the call text, chapter 6.5.:

1) The Coordinator's familiarity with the Call's theme and experience of coordinating and/or participating in international projects related to innovation, research and education, (separately or together), as well as familiarity with the European Union's financial procedures, is proven through having:

- participated in at least one project with a total budget (allocated or coordinated) exceeding EUR 3 million;

- coordinated at least one project with at least two other partners (three in total) from at least three different European countries and from at least two sides of the Knowledge Triangle;

- participated in at least two EU financed projects.

The Coordinator should provide references for the above required projects as evidence of his/her operational capacity (one project may meet several of the above criteria). The projects should have been successfully completed, the final implementation date of the projects should not be earlier than 31 December 2017, and the minimum budget of the projects should be higher than EUR 300.000 to make the reference eligible. All reference projects should be related to the relevant thematic area.

**27. I have a question regarding the Declaration of honour. We are already gathering these declarations but have not found a specific model so we are using the one used for the 2020 EIT Awards. The question is: Is there a specific model for this declaration available? Can we keep on using the awards model?**

Please kindly note that when you start creating a draft proposal on the Tender and Funding Portal of the European Commission, you will be able to download all relevant templates in relation to this call including the declaration of honour (please see below).

Create proposal

Deadline
24 March 2022 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time

Call data:

Call: **HORIZON-EIT-2021-KIC-DESIGN**
Topic: **HORIZON-EIT-2021-KIC-DESIGN-EITCCI**
Type of action: **HORIZON-EIT-DESIGN**
Type of MGA: **HORIZON-EIT-DESIGN**

⚠ Topic and type of action can only be changed by creating a new proposal.

**Download Part B templates**

⬇ Download part B templates

Support & Helpdesk

28. I wanted to get in touch to ask about the Declaration of Honour to be submitted as annex of Part A. We are currently using the following document as template but we have some doubts and concerns from members of our consortium. https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit_awards_2020_-_declaration_of_honour.pdf Is there any other document or template to be used or are we doing the right thing?

Please kindly note that when you start creating a draft proposal on the Tender and Funding Portal of the European Commission, you will be able to download all relevant templates in relation to this call including the declaration of honour (please see below).

29. Regarding the Call for proposal open until March 2022 within the EIT Culture and Creativity, I would like to know whether the expert evaluators will be selected from the EC open database via the Tender portal or there is a separate external expert pool still open for new registration.

All independent external experts will be selected from the European Commission database. You can register here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/work-as-an-expert.

30. Dear ladies and gentlemen, based on § 6.8 of the EIT Call for Proposals 2021 for a new EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) in the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI), Version 1.0 dated 26 October 2021, we are requesting your support and answer on the following question: *Is a Consortium application not eligible to the EIT Call for CSSI if one of its up to 50 partners is legally based in Switzerland?*

Organisations from Switzerland are *eligible for participation* in the Call for Proposals, in accordance with the Horizon Europe Regulation. However, they are *not eligible to receive EIT funding* as it is currently a non-associated country to Horizon Europe (unless the participation is deemed essential, it is justified and an exception is given by the granting authority).

31. Following my latest question, I wanted to get in touch to clarify another issue in relation to the CVs of the interim management team.

It is clearly stated in the B3 template that it has to be a Europass CV and it specifically mentions to see chapter 6.5 in the call text. When checking that part of the call text, it also explains the need for the CVs to be in Europass format and in a footer note there it provides the following link:

https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae/templates-instructions

While opening it there is no specific website that opens rather than the generic Europass website.
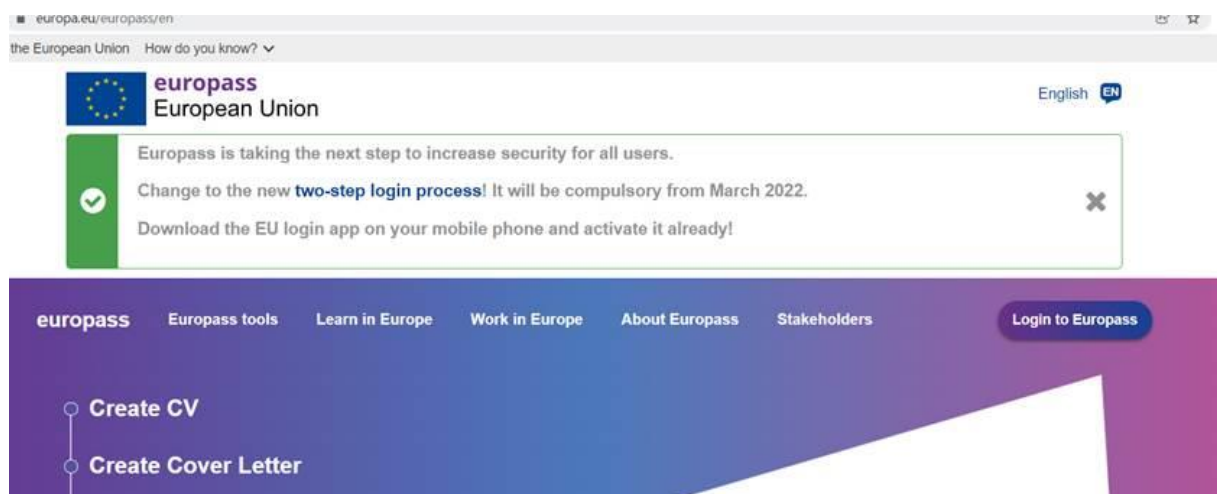
I wanted to ask about the format or template used in the Europass CVs. Some of the ones we need are already done in the template from 2019/2020. Would this be an issue? I have tried to look for clear specifications both from the EIT and from Europass on what the requirements are, or even looked for differences between templates or what is the current version and found nothing at all... Would be great to gain some clarity on this aspect to make sure the three profiles are prepared in the correct format.

Additionally, one of the profiles is currently an online version that is downloaded into a strange PDF version. Which takes me to my last question. Is there a clear PDF template (Europass) for the interim management team's profiles?

All of this, understanding that the three profiles will have to be submitted in PDF format, of course.

Thank you very much for your question:

If you follow the link and you have chosen your language, you will reach the following site allowing you to create a new Europass CV, import a previous CV or import a previous Europass CV:



32. I am reaching out to ask about the details shared where the background and operational capacity of the coordinator are specified.

This is the text from the call topic:

## 6.5 Operational capacity criteria

1) The Coordinator's familiarity with the Call's theme and experience of coordinating and/or participating in international projects related to innovation, research and education, (separately or together), as well as familiarity with the European Union's financial procedures, is proven through having:

- participated in at least one project with a total budget (allocated or coordinated) exceeding EUR 3 million;
- coordinated at least one project with at least two other partners (three in total) from at least three different European countries and from at least two sides of the Knowledge Triangle;
- participated in at least two EU financed projects.

The Coordinator should provide references for the above required projects as evidence of his/her operational capacity (one project may meet several of the above criteria). The projects should have been successfully completed, the final implementation date of the projects should not be earlier than 31 December 2017, and the minimum budget of the projects should be higher than EUR 300.000 to make the reference eligible. All reference projects should be related to the relevant thematic area.

Our question is:

What does the first point exactly mean? Does it mean the coordinator has had to be Coordinator in a project exceeding 3.0M€ budget? or does it mean only that the coordinator has had to be a partner in a 3.0M€ budget project? Another interpretation could even be that the coordinator has received 3.0M€ from a project in the past, which I believe is not the intention of this first point.

Concerning your question (first bullet point operational capacity criteria Call for Proposals):

In line with the Horizon Europe legal framework, for this Call for Proposals, participation means that the applying coordinator has substantially taken part in the activities of a successful project (as beneficiary, affiliated entity, associated partner) with a total budget (allocated or coordinated) exceeding 3 MEUR.

## 33. Are NGO eligible in Albania to be partner of consortium? There are ministries' too available to part of consortium? which are more preferable? Universities or other public institutions?

In line with Article 9 of the EIT Regulation, the EIT Call for Proposals is not open for natural persons, but for organisations. The minimum condition to form a KIC is the participation of at least three independent partner organisations, that are comprised of at least one Higher Education Institution (HEI), one research organisation and one private company and that are established in at least three different Member States. In addition, Article 2(5) defines partner organisations as follows: "A 'partner organisation' means a legal entity which is a member of a KIC and may include, in particular, higher education institutions, vocational education and training providers, research organisations, public institutions, public or private companies, financial institutions, regional and local authorities, foundations and not-for-profit organisations."

In accordance with the Horizon Europe Regulation (Article 22), entities regardless of the place of establishment are eligible for participation in the EIT Call for Proposals (thus also from Albania). The

EIT's Call will result in the designation of the winning consortium by the EIT Governing Board (no funding will be awarded at this stage of the procedure).

As regards eligibility for funding, the designated winning consortium will receive funding for the start-up phase of the KIC: as a general rule, entities from EU Member States and Horizon Europe associated countries are eligible for funding (Article 23 of the Horizon Europe Regulation).

There are several possible ways to identify and engage with potential applying consortia. One of these is that the EIT has been facilitating the process with a networking website that will be available until March 2022 allowing potential partners to connect for the Call for Proposals. Potential partners may also want also to identify and approach other potential partners and consortia by themselves.

https://eit-culture-creativity.b2match.io/

**34. I wanted to reach out to ask about the possibilities we have in modifying the template, in structure and mostly, visually. Modifications going in the lines of: changing or editing the front/cover page, font styles (general text and titles (size and colour for titles, not aiming at changing size for general text)), eliminating the initial table with definitions included in B1 template. What would be your recommendations or indications on the topic?**

With a view to equal treatment/ unbiased assessment of all submitted proposals, modifications to Horizon Europe standard templates are not allowed.

**35. We are curious to ask if it is possible to know which universities or similar organisations that are working on applications to this call on Culture and Creativity etc.?**

There are several possible ways to identify and engage with potential applying consortia. One of these is that the EIT has been facilitating the process with a networking website that will be available until March 2022 allowing potential partners to connect for the Call for Proposals. Potential partners may also want also to identify and approach other potential partners and consortia by themselves.

https://eit-culture-creativity.b2match.io/

**36. If a consortium is invited to present their proposal to the Governing Board how long does this presentation will last? 20 Minutes? Half an hour? And how long time is foreseen for questions? So how long does this presentation takes all in all?**

Invitations to the applicant consortia reaching the threshold of 70% points at the Panel of Experts evaluation stage will be sent in June 2022 containing all relevant details. At this stage of the procedure, the EIT is not in the position to share any further information regarding the hearings.

**37. Would it be possible to provide clarification regarding the precise budget ? It is not entirely clear what the overall budget of the KIC CCSI will be. Even when consulting the Q&A (https://eit.europa.eu/news33-how-much-will-be-overall-budget-new-kic-be-and-what-will-be-co-funding-rate-throughout-period), the answer is vague and leaves room for interpretation in many directions. Therefore, it would be nice to know what the exact overall budget of the KIC CCSI will be.**

Generally, please kindly note that the designation of the winning consortium by the EIT Governing Board does not result in the immediate award of a grant.

The designated consortium will be invited to submit a start-up plan, based on which the EIT may award a **start-up grant (up to MEUR 6)** to cover activities for legal readiness, operational readiness and fostering EIT identity and other initial KIC activities to support the efficient setting up. It shall be used to finance the start-up activities and initial pilot actions to prepare for the first year of full operations and business plan implementation expected to start on 1 January 2024. Additional details on the start-up grant can be found under chapter 7.3 Call for Proposals. At the end of the start-up period (Q4 2023), the EIT Governing Board will confirm the establishment of the KIC, if the start-up phase was successful.

After this, **EIT funding to an established KIC is decided by the EIT Governing Board on the basis of a performance-based allocation and after the assessment of KIC proposal (i.e. Business Plan) on annual or multiannual basis,** also depending on the budget availability of the EIT. Therefore, the grant amounts which will be allocated to the new KIC as from 2024 will be subject to EIT Governing Board funding allocation decisions. (For further information on the performance base allocation, please check the principles for financing, monitoring and evaluation of KIC activities.) With the possibility to leverage more funds from the private and public sector, approximately EUR 300 million of funding is available for the two new EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities to be launched during the 2021-2027 EU funding period.

38. Please find following questions related to the CCSI KIC call:

Part B1

- The call text mentions: "In addition, a KIC is expected to take part in the EIT Higher Education Institutions (HEI) Initiative helping higher education institutions to build their capacity to innovate and to teach innovation and entrepreneurship" At the same time, the funding allocation to the HEI pilot initiative is defined to be max 3%. Are KIC applications expected to explicitly highlight the budget allocation going to the HEI initiative or is it sufficient to implicitly define this in budget allocated to activities related to education?

Part B2

- In the category "other sources", are we expected to split this further into sub categories?

Part B3

- What is the relationship between point 3 in this declaration and the numbers to be defined in table B2 on Financial sources?

- Are the commitments to be defined in point 3 in form B3 and the table B2 also somehow covering things that used to be labelled as KCA (vs KAVA funding) or should these commitments only refer to additional KIC governed actions and budgets?

- What exactly is expected to be stated under point 4 of the B3 declaration? Only Affiliate Partners that will be needed to carry out the work in the Start Up Grant Agreement or a more open list of Affiliated Partners (outside of the max. 50 consortium members) that are expected to / likely to be involved in the execution of the KIC from 2024?

Part B1

At this stage, it is sufficient to define the budget allocated to education activities.

Part B2

Please be as concrete as possible as regards the type of other sources.

Part B3

- The commitment (point 3) has to match the overview on estimated financial resources (B2).

- KCA does not exist anymore in the EIT Regulation, please do not include it.

- A more open list of affiliated partners may be indicated in point 4 of the B3 declaration (outside of the max. 50 consortium members), particularly those who would have a role in in the start-up phase implementation.

We hope this clarifies. Please also check the FAQ page on the EIT's website for additional information.

39. With regards to the EIT Call for Proposals 2021 for a new EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) in the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI), I would like to ask the following question:

There is a Bulgarian organization which is considered as a potential coordinator under this Call for Proposals. They address the following Operational capacity criteria:

- participated in at least one project with a total budget (allocated or coordinated) exceeding EUR 3 million;
- coordinated at least one project with at least two other partners (three in total) from at least three different European countries and from at least two sides of the Knowledge Triangle;
- participated in at least two EU financed projects.

I would like to enquire about the interpretation of the requirement that 'All reference projects should be related to the relevant thematic area'.

How explicitly would such relatedness be judged? For example, would projects that have wider scope, which includes work on cultural and creative industries, but are not explicitly focused on this thematic area, be considered eligible to continue to evaluation?

In this respect, considering that 'Only proposals that pass the operational capacity verification will be evaluated by the external experts', would you advise me on whether this could be an exclusionary

condition or whether administrative requirements could be overcome and the proposal be moved on to the next levels of evaluation?

As relevant thematic area all areas outlined in the factsheet on the KIC on Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI) are considered. Only references for projects focusing on those areas will be considered eligible, provided they also meet the other criteria under 6. 5 of the Call for Proposals.

We hope this clarifies. Please also check the FAQ page on the EIT's website for additional information.

40. I have founded a consortium project to address the EIT's call for its 9th KIC, on creativity. We still do not have a coordinator. It appears that most structures we have reached until now either do not meet the operational or financial criteria. I have written a proposition on the Marketplace space of the EIT's matching platform this noon, however would you know if an agency or a tool of the EU could transmit the list of all structures matching the operational criteria, essentially around participation and coordination of EU programs between 2018 and now of respectively 0.3 and 3 M€? In this case, we could send invitations to a selection of organisations in the end of becoming our coordinator.

The EIT has set up the networking platform https://eit-culture-creativity.b2match.io/ so that potential partners are able to connect. We hope that you will get responses to your proposition.

In addition, you might want to try the partner search tool: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/partner-search on the Funding & Tender Portal of the European Commission.

We hope that helps. Please also check the FAQ page on the EIT's website for additional information.

41. Thank you for this opportunity to clarify open questions. We would like to ask about the following issue concerning the document EIT Call for Proposals 2021 for a new EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) in the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI), Version 2.0, 20 November 2021.

In section 6.5. Operational capacity criteria, page 18, it is stated that: "The Coordinator should provide references for the above required projects as evidence of his/her operational capacity (one project may meet several of the above criteria). "

The formulation "his/her" suggests that the coordinator would be a natural person, which we consider might be misleading, as the coordinator is instead an organization. Please, could you clarify this and if necessary correct in the official document?

This could be indeed misleading. A linguistic correction has been made and an updated version of the Call for Proposals is published.