

Call for Applications: Assessment of Cross-KIC Financing Opportunities

Terms of Reference

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1. Purpose of this Document

The Terms of Reference (in the following named ToRs) detail the assignment of a consulting firm to undertake an assessment of Cross-KIC Financing Opportunities. It spells out the expected outputs, timeline and requirements related to the envisaged assignment. The ToRs will also serve as the basis for a contractual arrangement between Climate-KIC (the commissioner of the assignment; the client) and the consulting firm (the service provider).

This document informs interested applicants about

- background and objectives of the envisaged assessment,
- the terms of reference, e.g. the deliverables and schedule, of the assignment, and
- the submission of proposals and contact details.

2. Background Information

Created in 2008, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is a unique EU initiative that spurs innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe with one simple idea: through diversity there is strength. The EIT brings together leading universities, research labs and companies to form dynamic pan-European partnerships. These unique partnerships, called Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), develop innovative products and services, start new companies, and train a new generation of entrepreneurs. They bring ideas to market, turn students into entrepreneurs and, most importantly, they innovate.

KICs bring together businesses (industry and SMEs), research centres and universities as partners, creating a favourable environment for creative thought and innovation to flourish, allowing innovative products and services to be developed in different areas, including climate change, healthy living and active ageing, new companies to be started, and a new generation of entrepreneurs to be trained. They carry out a whole range of activities that cover the entire innovation chain – including training and education programmes, reinforcing the journey from research to the market, innovation projects as well as business incubators and accelerators.

There are currently six KICs. Each KIC focuses on a different societal challenge:

- **EIT Climate-KIC**: addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation
- **EIT Digital**: addressing Information and Communication Technologies
- **EIT InnoEnergy**: addressing sustainable energy
- **EIT Health**: addressing healthy living and active ageing
- **EIT Food**: addressing sustainable food supply chains from resources to consumers
- **EIT Raw Materials**: addressing sustainable exploration, extraction, processing, recycling and substitution of raw materials

In 2016, the Governing Board of the EIT allocated a share of its funding to the KICs for cross-KIC collaboration from 2017 onwards. One of the four agreed priorities for this funding was a Cross-KIC Funding Opportunities initiative. The primary focus of this should be on ***cross-KIC collaboration, in five target countries/regions, to generate additional funding from national and regional funding streams for developing and enhancing the KICs core activities***. Such cross-KIC activities, the KIC's collaboratively seek funding for, can be

- activities along the innovation chain to boost products from research stage to the market access,
- training and education programmes on specific multi-KIC topics, as well as
- business incubators and accelerators.

It was agreed that Climate-KIC would lead and manage the initiative, with representation, contribution and business development effort from each of EIT Digital, InnoEnergy, EIT Health, EIT Raw Materials and EIT Food. Since then, the six KICs collaborate on a shared funding opportunities initiative. The initiative is led by Climate-KIC, but all other KICs contribute. Climate-KIC seeks external expertise and professional guidance in developing a pathway for cross-KIC funding, specifically to develop an ***assessment of potential cross-KIC funding opportunities at EU level and within the five target countries*** (for details of the assessment please see next section).

3. Objectives of the Assessment

The overall objective of the assessment of potential cross-KIC funding opportunities at EU level and within the five target countries (Assessment) is to obtain a detailed insight into the landscape of grants and public procurements for cross-KIC initiatives (i.e. where more than one KIC might work together). Additional objectives of this exercise are to identify: a) EU instruments and programmes devolved to national (member state) action or at sub-national (regional or local) levels, (e.g. through the ESIF or ERDF or similar facilities) b) member state or regional funding schemes specific to the target countries or regional/ local levels therein, c) private sector, foundation or philanthropic activities with similar aims.

The following countries have been chosen to be included in the assessment for a detailed, country level assessment:

- Netherlands
- UK
- Germany
- Spain
- Sweden

Next to the above, other countries in which the KICs operate may also be of relevance for the assessment.

The assessment should define fitting funding opportunities, including an evaluation of the programmes' potential (budget, success rate indication, criteria, deadlines), and the necessary steps to take in order to apply for financing under the specific programmes. Where appropriate, the assessment should also include proposals to develop cross-KIC projects and partnerships as essential for the specific financing options.

4. Scope of the Assessment

The main scope of the assessment to be produced is to

- identify funding opportunities for cross-KIC activities (for activities, please refer to section 2), commissioning organisations and processes associated with in the EU and the five target countries,
- identify relevant funding opportunities (grants and public procurements) in the EU and the five target countries that are specifically available for funding within the upcoming years (2017 to approx. 2022),
- assess size of funding opportunities for cross-KIC themes (health, energy, climate, digital, food, raw materials) and activities,
- assess the eligibility of the KICs for the identified funding opportunities, and
- assess the prevailing success rates and the competition and commissioning criteria.

The underlying approach and methodology will be left to decide by the applicant and, together with potential issues that are outside of the scope, are expected to be described in the applicant's proposal.

5. Deliverables and Schedule

Expected product:	Written report on the scope of the assessment as described in section 4 (in Microsoft Word or PPT)
Structure and format of the product:	<p>The report should be concise, accessible and non-technical and cover the following paragraphs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Executive summary highlighting key points, facts, and learnings;• Overview of all funding opportunities that have been identified as relevant;• Analysis of funding opportunities regarding their fit to cross-KIC initiatives;• Recommendations on most suitable funding options, including detailing of underlying assessment criteria;• Annexes with relevant analysis tables and assumptions of the assessment
Language of the product:	English
Schedule:	<p>6 November 2017: Kick-off meeting between commissioner and assigned consulting firm (service provider)</p> <p>8 December: draft report to be submitted to the commissioner</p> <p>15 December: Commissioner provides service provider with feedback and report adaptation requests.</p> <p>29 December 2018: Final report to be submitted to commissioner</p>
Modes of transmission:	<p>Draft report to be submitted electronically via email to the contact person identified below.</p> <p>Final report to be submitted electronically via email as well as in hard copy via post to the contact person identified below.</p>

6. Structure of the Proposal and Submission Guidelines

Required content of the proposal:	<p>Description of the methodology to undertake the assessment</p> <p>Estimated costs of the assessment</p> <p>References relevant to the assignment</p>
Modes of transmission:	Proposals to be submitted electronically via email.
Indicative call timeline:	<p>Issue call to public: 23 October 2017</p> <p>Deadline to pose questions to commissioner: 1 November 2017, 6 p.m. GMT</p> <p>Proposal deadline: 3 November 2017, 12 a.m. GMT</p> <p>Information about proposal decision: 15 September, 2017</p>

7. Budget

Climate-KIC seeks for the best value-for-money Assessment. Applicants are asked to submit a budget proposal with their own estimates based on the tasks they propose for the parts of the assessment as described in section 4.

The proposal must state an overall amount that is expected to cover all costs of the assessment (personnel costs, per diems, travel costs and any additional subcontracting payments or other expected costs).

8. Contact Details

For any questions regarding the call for applications, please contact **Mike Cherrett**, Director European Affairs at:

Phone: +44 (0)20 3770 8037

Email: mike.cherrett@climate-kic.org