

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

SGA2019 – Climate Innovation Ecosystems Work Package 2 Intake

Deadline for Application: 27th February 2019 1800 CET

Covering

Programme: Other Innovation: Climate Innovation Ecosystems

Specifically: Work Package 2: Developing and supporting national and sub-national climate innovation ecosystems

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1. Summary of Intake

- EIT Climate-KIC is issuing an invitation to submit for Work Package 2 of the Climate Innovation Ecosystems programme: Developing and supporting national and sub-national climate innovation ecosystems. This is an additional intake to supplement the Calls for Proposals scheduled for 2019.
- Applicants should co-create proposals with the EIT Climate-KIC team.
- Each proposal will be assessed on both its individual merit and in relation to EIT Climate-KIC's portfolio of activities.

2. Purpose

The objective of this document is to provide detailed guidance on the preparation of proposals for EIT Climate-KIC's Climate Innovation Ecosystems Work Package 2: Developing and supporting national and sub-national climate innovation ecosystems.

This document outlines the area of work to be focussed on, the proposal submission process and review, and decision-making mechanism under the Specific Grant Agreement 2019 signed between the Climate-KIC Holding B.V. (on behalf of itself and KIC Partner Organisations.)

3. Introduction

EIT Climate-KIC is a European community with the will and ambition to support Europe's leaders in tackling climate change, to enable Europe to fulfil its commitments in respect of the Paris Agreement, and to inspire global efforts by creating prosperity and wellbeing in the next economy. By focusing our efforts on systems innovation, we can achieve the critical structural and exponential changes that must occur both rapidly and on multiple fronts simultaneously to address climate change'.

By systems innovation we mean integrated and co-ordinated interventions in economic, political and social systems, and along whole value chains through a portfolio of deliberate and connected innovation experiments (*a portfolio approach*). Such an approach is designed to generate viable pathways to change through identification of options for a better future and the scaling of transformative solutions.

This KAVA is looking to construct the enabling conditions i.e. the ecosystem, towards catalysing transformative systemic change. This approach is steered by a Theory of Change focused on human agency in system transformation.

The key objectives of Work Package 2 are to create the conditions that:

- i) nurture the capacity for systems innovation;
- ii) establish networks of actors for developing and implementing innovation policy and learning amongst themselves.

More specific guidance on the priority for each Geography is set out in Annex 1. Proposals in this Work Package will be developed by both EIT Climate-KIC team members and by partners working closely with them.

Contact lists for our EIT Climate-KIC offices can be found on our website: <https://www.climate-kic.org/in-your-country/>

UK Partners and Linked Third Parties, and consortiums involving UK entities are advised to read the communications issued by Climate-KIC regarding eligibility and the UK's exit from the EU detailed under the Brexit section on the [website](#).

4. Funding Available

EIT funding of up to €1.2m is available in 2019 for activities in this Work Package. You should contact your local EIT Climate-KIC office to understand more about the challenges being targeted (as outlined in Annex 1) and the size of projects being pursued.

EIT Reimbursement Rate

The Maximum EIT Reimbursement Rate is applied at the project level and each project is subject to the Maximum EIT Reimbursement Rate as stated in the Eligibility section of this document. Individual Partners may seek EIT reimbursement of up to 100% within a consortium providing the maximum EIT Reimbursement Rate for the programme is not exceeded by the project overall. For multi-annual projects, a Partners' EIT Reimbursement Rate should remain the same each year. Please refer to Managing Performance, Risk, and Fairness in Implementing the EIT Grant, under the [Finance and Grant Management section of the website](#).

An example where the Maximum EIT Reimbursement Rate of the programme is 80% is set out as follows:

The EIT Reimbursement Rate is viewed at partner level – where the project reimbursement must not exceed 80%, individual Partners can seek up to 100% EIT reimbursement (but others would need to seek lower amounts) i.e.:

- Partner A: 70% EIT Reimbursement + 30% co-funding
- Partner B: 100% EIT Reimbursement + 0% co-funding
- Partner C: 70% EIT Reimbursement + 30% co-funding

Partner	EIT Funding Request (€)	Co-funding (€)	EIT Reimbursement Rate	Co-funding
Partner A	70,000	30,000	70%	30%
Partner B	100,000	0	100%	0%
Partner C	70,000	30,000	70%	30%
TOTAL	240,000	60,000	80%	20%

5. How to Get Involved

- Read this document and the priorities set out by each Geography in Annex 1 of this document.
- You will need to contact your local EIT Climate-KIC office to register interest in this Work Package and have a proposal form opened in our grant management system (Plaza) for the completion of your application.
- Contact lists for our EIT Climate-KIC offices can be found on our website: <https://www.climate-kic.org/in-your-country/>
- EIT Climate-KIC will only open an application within Plaza on agreed priority topics that are outlined within Annex 1 of this document. Partners will need to work with EIT Climate-KIC staff to complete proposal submissions.

Proposals will need to:

- detail the activities that will be conducted (the workplan) to achieve the objectives of the project / activity
- indicate the main outputs, deliverables, Impact Goals ([see Plaza page](#) for more details) and KPIs

We will select partner activities that at a minimum:

- offer a well-conceived, high-quality initiative at the project level, along with the potential to make a meaningful input into our current portfolio of activities
- clearly address a challenge as detailed in Annex 1

EIT Climate-KIC will assess proposals on their individual quality and their contribution to an overall portfolio.

Proposal submission deadline: **Wednesday 27th February 2019 1800 CET**. Late submissions will not be accepted and Plaza will be locked at the deadline.

Partner Status

Only EIT Climate-KIC Partner Organisations who have acceded to the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with EIT are eligible to receive EIT-funding.

However, organisations who have not applied for or received partnership status are strongly encouraged to participate in/apply to programmes. Should such organisations wish to receive EIT-funding, they are welcome to apply for partnership status (which must be obtained before receiving EIT funds). Please reach out to your local EIT Climate-KIC office for further information.

Non-EIT Climate-KIC Partners can apply to the intake but will not be eligible to receive funding until they have EIT Climate-KIC Partner status. Please note that Plaza is only accessible to EIT Climate-KIC partners. Organisations/ individuals who are not yet EIT Climate-KIC Partners but are preparing a bid will need to contact [your local Climate-KIC office](#) before starting your application

All registrants are asked to read and accept EIT Climate-KIC's General Terms and Conditions, which includes our Privacy Policy, Acceptable Use Policy and Cookie Policy, along with warranting that they represent and have the authority to agree and accept these on behalf of the named organisation as condition of accessing the grant management system. Personal data provided may be processed, including sharing with other organisations, by EIT Climate-KIC and certain sensitive data elements will be visible to other partners or potential partners of EIT Climate-KIC. The named partner organisation or potential partner of EIT Climate-KIC warrants and represents that in providing personal data in connection with the proposal, the data subjects have consented to the provision of this personal data and the processing of it by EIT Climate-KIC in the manner indicated in accordance with our Privacy Policy, and that the partner organisation or potential partner of EIT Climate-KIC provides the personal data in accordance with applicable law.

6. Proposal Submission and Assessment Process

Proposals can be submitted at any time from the launch of the intake until **1800 CET on Wednesday 27th February 2019**.

Proposals will be submitted either by EIT Climate KIC or by partners in liaison with their local EIT Climate-KIC office. All applications must be submitted via Plaza.

Please note: No extensions will be granted. Any changes to the proposal requested by the applicant after submission will not be accepted.

Review Mechanism & Decision-making

All proposals will be assessed fairly and transparently in the scope of EIT Climate-KIC's 2019 strategy - which includes Innovation Impact Goals- programme eligibility, assessment criteria, and the current portfolio.

Conflicts of interest are mitigated through a disclosure process and follow a full recusal from the decision process in such instances. Any that do not meet the criteria will be informed that they will not progress to the next stage of assessment. All other applications will be sent for further assessment. EIT Climate-KIC reserves the right to declare applications as out of scope based on the parameters set out in this Proposal's Guidelines.

Applications will be evaluated by a mix of internal and external assessors.

Applications are assessed against the criteria set out in Annex 2. In addition to individual assessment criteria, the proposals will be reviewed against the portfolio design principles as set out in Annex 3.

Decisions as to whether a proposal is accepted or rejected will be communicated by the **18th March 2019**.

Annex 1: Geography Priorities: Developing and supporting national and sub-national climate innovation ecosystems

This intake of proposals will focus on building upon relationships developed by Geographies in their respective capitals, cities and regions with climate innovation hubs, and boosting EIT Climate-KIC's impact and effectiveness by:

- Strengthening and crystallising our ecosystems capacity at the local and regional level and either within identified sectors of the economy, or across sectors around specific Impact Goals;
- Animating and deepening existing innovation ecosystems by convening local partnerships, co-designing location-specific engagement plans which address systemic issues and develop effective public programmes – events, training activities – which strengthen the cluster partnership and its role within the local/regional economy;
- Improving how we engage with national ministries, agencies, and city and regional governments;

Activities of the Geographies will consist of:

- Developing and deepening strategic dialogue with their partner and stakeholder communities,
- Identifying where we need to:
 - i) expand our network / teams;
 - ii) concentrate our efforts to support the places / networks with the strongest ingredients for achieving transformational climate action, and;
 - iii) structure climate innovation ecosystems to optimise synergies between our Impact Goals and the main drivers and initiatives for climate action.

Specific activities, including Knowledge Triangle Integration (KTI) learning events, will be proposed by Geographies with the aim to: i) strengthen 15 knowledge triangle integration partnerships and ii) create or pursue 20 technical and scientific learning and co-creation activities involving knowledge triangle actors and national or sub-national public bodies.

Each Geography has produced its specific priorities and insights in relation to activities that will contribute to our portfolio of activities. A high-level description is listed below. Partners are advised to contact their local EIT Climate-KIC office to understand more about these priorities and discuss opportunities to contribute.

Benelux Geography

The Benelux programme aims to engage and partner with 3-5 cities across the geography to find solutions to removing bottlenecks in the refurbishment of 10,000 homes, thereby creating the conditions for a serious market shift in Europe. The focus is on four key components:

- to get 3-5 cities on-board;
- to build communities of practice on the necessary learning, shared innovation and outcomes;
- to determine foreseen barriers and explore future innovation projects;
- and to develop and validate a systems innovation design approach.

This geography focuses on the drive to establish innovation eco-systems in three priority areas which correspond to EIT Climate-KIC Impact Goals 1, 4 and 9:

- We are looking for ecosystem activities focusing on air-pollution that includes necessary stakeholders and are connected to more Climate-KIC impact goals – in particular to promote retrofit and decentralised energy;
- Looking to integrate the CEE stakeholders in the field of climate smart agriculture - building on synergies with other existing CSA hubs in Europe (or on the global scene) to unify knowledge and efforts to find solutions;
- We are looking to continue and scale the actions to re-industrialise and transform the Silesia region. This Innovation District provides an opportunity to apply experimental methodologies by building ecosystems. Other regions with similar needs to re-industrialise, the transformation and diversify are also sought.

DACH Geography

The DACH programme focuses on capital cities and city-regions within the geography and aims to strengthen three main areas:

- Sustainable finance in the Frankfurt region;
- Circular construction in the Berlin region;
- A climate hub in the Vienna region.

MED Geography

The MED Geography's focus is on activities that aim to improve systemic engagement and dialogue with key stakeholders at national and sub-national levels e.g. national and regional ministries and agencies to catalyse and consolidate EIT Climate-KIC's ecosystem activity. If and where possible this could be done in collaboration with other KICs.

In France, specific priorities include:

- Place-based activities centred on metropolitan areas and regions which have a stronger, clearer focus on climate change issues, e.g. Paris, Orléans, Toulouse and Lyon;
- pursuing our initiatives to articulate the main drivers for climate action in France with our strategic orientations, with a particular focus on the intersection of water issues with our impact goals, as well as innovation pilots with an ecosystem of disruptive thinking in financial institutions and highly innovative SME partners;
- activities linked to the national environmental transition context that provide opportunities to join innovation communities around both a systemic and European approach.

In Italy there are four priority areas in 2019:

- Adaptation projects in agriculture and forestry based on 2018 initiatives in Sardinia and Emilia Romagna. Information on 2018 activities can be found by contacting the local EIT Climate-KIC office;
- Collaboration in the Lombardy region, with emphasis on the urban area of Milan;
- Supporting the development of, and connection with other, ecosystems in Southern Italy where there is a higher exposure to the effects of climate change;
- Re-engaging with national level decision-makers, notably on specific topics such as Sustainable Finance.

In Spain, activities shall be structured

- notably around the Spanish platform for Climate Action at national level;
- and around regional and local EIT Climate-KIC hubs, e.g. in Galicia (forestry, circular economy), Málaga (climate change regulation lab), Canary Islands, northern Spain (circular economy, reindustrialisation), Madrid...

Joint activities across the MED geography shall be explored in common topics such as water, sustainable tourism, climate challenges for islands, maritime industries.

Nordic Geography

In this geography the three priority areas are:

- Alternative proteins, where there is an urgent need to develop a more self-sufficient protein industry and hence reduce the reliance of Nordic farmers on soya imports;
- Zero emission construction sites where major Nordic cities such as Oslo are wanting to tackle machinery and procurement issues;
- Oceans based bio-economy including algae and seaweed mariculture.

UK & Ireland

For 2019 the UK & Ireland geography will seek to build on achievements in the four innovation established ecosystems: London, Birmingham/West Midlands (Energy Capital, circular economy in the WM industry); Edinburgh/South East Scotland; and Dublin (green finance).

EIT Climate-KIC will be embedded and visible in these ecosystems; build knowledge development and learning programmes; and use them to contribute to the EIT Climate-KIC innovation framework. The plan is also to trial a zero-carbon, city-region offer to a broader range of city regions.

To be eligible to receive funding for this intake you must be an EIT Climate-KIC Partner. Please note that Plaza is only accessible to EIT Climate-KIC partners. Organisations/individuals who are preparing a submission will need to contact your local EIT Climate-KIC office before starting your application.

Criteria	Weight	Description
Strategic Fit to the Geography priorities	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the proposal provide a clear narrative substantiating how and why the project aligns with the challenges as set out in Annex 1 of this document, and the 2019 EIT Climate-KIC Impact Goals?
Contribution to the Climate Innovation Ecosystems portfolio	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the proposal support the objectives of Climate Innovation Ecosystems and does it have the potential to stimulate activity across EIT Climate-KIC's innovation portfolio?
Systems Innovation Potential	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the proposal illustrate how it will contribute to an innovation ecosystem? Is consideration given to how the results and learnings inform further action?
Project Partnership	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent does the project engage organisations from different parts of society (government, academia, industry and civil society)? All else being equal, a high degree of diversity will be preferred. Do the consortium partners have the appropriate skills and capabilities to successfully deliver the project?
Project Plan & Clarity of Outputs	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the work plan (and work packages) fully developed and feasible, given time and resources? Does it clearly support the project objectives and expected outcome? Are the project outputs, deliverables and KPIs clearly stated? Are key assumptions and risks presented clearly? Is the work plan reasonable for the duration of the project and the grant amount requested?
Value for Money	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How appropriate is the funding request in relation to the anticipated outcome? Are additional applications for other funds anticipated? How much co-funding is offered to match the EIT funding? (Note: Baseline is the minimum programme-specific co-funding requirement.)

Eligibility

Project Type	MAX. DURATION	MIN. EIT REQUEST	MAX. EIT REQUEST	MAX. EIT REIMBURSEMENT RATE	MIN. CO-FUNDING (total project costs)	OTHER
Climate Innovation Ecosystems (Sub-national)	12 months	N/A (but typically above €20,000)	N/A (but typically under €100,000)	N/A (but typically not more than 80%)	N/A (but typically more than 20%)	Projects cannot span multiple calendar years

Please note that all else being equal, proposals with a lower EIT Reimbursement Rate will be favoured.

Annex 3: Portfolio Design Principles

EIT Climate-KIC introduced the Portfolio approach to project assessment and selection in 2018. We are looking to support ambitious, and potentially transformative innovation experiments that can add something unique and complementary to our existing portfolio.

Subject to meeting the quality threshold, EIT Climate-KIC will manage the portfolio to achieve the correct balance of projects and funding across the Impact Goals and our drivers of change. EIT Climate-KIC reserves the right to apply a portfolio approach in this intake. This will make sure that funds are allocated across the strategic areas identified in the intake.

There are five design principles that are considered in the portfolio approach: spread, diversity, scale, speed, and connectivity. By way of example, the type of questions and considerations that inform the portfolio approach are:

Spread: How are the initiatives in the portfolio spread by impact goal with respect to looking for concentrations, gaps, and the possibility of effective combinations? Levers of change is also a critical variable given we recognize that systemic change will most likely be achieved through a combination of interrelated effects caused by working on multiple levers of change simultaneously. Along with level of riskiness, we also consider location in relation to the impact on place-specific and relevant learning, and the optimization of the current systems vs. 'leading edge' transformation potential.

Diversity: How is the leadership of initiatives in the portfolio distributed (by entity type)? (i) university and/or research body, (ii) community group or grassroots NGO, (iii) large business, (iv) SME, (v) public body etc.? And how many of the initiatives in the portfolio have the 'problem owner' at the heart of the project and how diverse is the cluster of initiatives addressing each impact goal and/or targeted systems change (e.g. supply chain) with respect to levers of change?

Scale: How are the initiatives in the portfolio distributed by administrative/geographical scale: (i) community or district (ii) city, (iii) region, (iv) nation state, (v) multiple state involvement, (vi) working beyond Europe? The principle of Scale is considered in relation to the distribution of initiatives in the portfolio by financial value and how the initiatives distributed by scale of impact.

Speed: How quickly is the initiative/portfolio able to transition from project approval to the implementation/action phase and likely to offer learning/insights?

Connectivity: How integrated is the initiative/portfolio with existing social networks? (e.g. degree of embeddedness of lead entity and individuals with other parts of the portfolio) and with 'networks of networks', which can offer a multiplier effect? The level of engagement that Climate-KIC Holding has with the initiative/portfolio is also reviewed (low, medium, high).