

# Call for Proposals – Climate Innovation Ecosystems: Cross-European Projects

## Overview of Call

EIT Climate-KIC invites proposals that will make a unique contribution to our existing portfolio, and that help tackle climate change at the speed and scale we need. The purpose of this call to action is to identify project proposals that contribute to the following objectives: i) to nurture the capacity of places for systems change for climate action, ii) to establish and empower networks of actors for developing and implementing innovation policy and strategy and learning amongst themselves, iii) to convene and work with partnerships that promote place-based hotspots and strands of systems innovation at multiple levels of government in Europe, and iv) to undertake exchanges of innovation experience and expertise globally.

The fundamental assertion supporting EIT Climate-KIC's emphasis on place-based innovation is that for high-impact innovation to flourish, and particularly systemic, transformative innovation, the specific properties of a particular place (city, region, territory) play an essential role. These properties range from unique combinations of talents, capacities, mindsets, appetite and determination for positive change, to assets and resources, regulatory frameworks, social and political contexts, technological expertise, and investor landscapes that are conducive to entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship, but also powerful existential and cultural drivers, and more. While there is not only one suitable set of properties, systemic transformation through innovation cannot succeed without deep understanding and leverage of the specific properties of the place.

This work helps create a landscape for systems innovation interventions, where driving forces including policy, regulation, market structures, skills and behaviours – can be deeply influenced through climate or climate-relevant innovation. The purpose of the WP is to:

- Pull EIT Climate-KIC Partners and other applicants together more effectively and mobilise them as innovation cohorts rather than just through project-based innovation collaborations
- Develop several coherent innovation ecosystem groupings based around locations and/or topics
- Develop skills, knowledge and innovation capacity both within and between the ecosystems/clusters
- Enable cross-fertilisation of organisations from different parts of society (government, academia, industry and civil society)
- Complement and strengthen the skills and expertise of both the community and EIT Climate-KIC as an organisation (for example by creating opportunities for it to engage with policy networks, networks of investors, and to create exchanges of experience between its Geographies)
- Reach into new geographical spaces in a more coherent way
- Learn about how to prioritise interventions in innovation ecosystems to help them perform better with efficient use of resources
- Inform and refine EIT Climate-KIC's Impact Goal Framework by gathering a more demand-led, place-based perspective
- Generate additional funding for the innovation cohort from other government/EU sources and foundations



Successful projects will not only form climate innovation hotspots but can also interconnect, thereby creating cross-European innovation ecosystems. We see these connections acting in multiple dimensions. Innovation hotspots not only joining across different areas, levels, Impact Goals and strategies, but also testing innovation models in a variety of regulatory, climatic and economic settings. Furthermore, with growing options for receiving support from mechanisms outside EIT Climate-KIC, we aim to raise the level of ambition and increase the potential of the involved ecosystems. Through this we expect successful projects to deliver greater volumes, intensity of innovations and systemic change through cross-fertilisation and capacity building through mutual learning and practitioners' exchanges.

Proposals should identify concrete challenges, potentialities and barriers to be worked upon as well as domains and modes of intervention. They should also present action plans that specify targets and relevant parameters to measure progress in the desired transformation (using scenarios) and involve a portfolio of activities ranging from skills development to knowledge sharing, partnership approaches, co-ordination across different domains and stakeholder groups and cross-country learning processes and exchange.

Involving EIT Climate-KIC teams in the preparation of project proposals and in the implementation of selected projects is an important component of all activities under this KAVA. Prior to full proposal submission, project consortia are strongly advised to discuss with EIT Climate-KIC teams who are focused on the relevant impact goals, including local teams focused on place-based innovation, as well as teams working on our new Deep Demonstrations.

**We invite proposals that:**

- Help unlock systemic change to achieve EIT Climate-KIC's Impact Goals
- Target blockages or levers of change that are underserved in our existing portfolio
- Have a clear strategic argument for impact
- Are for between 1-3 years, and have an EIT budget request of between €50k – €200k per year (cross-European)
- Bring co-funding to costs of the work. The minimum co-funding rate is 20% (national or subnational) or 33% (cross-European)
- Start in 2020

**We particularly would like to see proposals that:**

- Combine cross-boundary expertise to address each local context, and experiments with the same patterns and skills across different local contexts
- Involve unusual innovation actors – for example community groups, faith organisations, arts and culture bodies
- Innovate around policies or regulations, or behavioural change, or new ways of developing skills and learning
- Consider innovations that address climate change but also biodiversity loss, inequality, well-being and social justice
- Engage start-ups from EIT Climate-KIC's Entrepreneurship Programme
- Dovetail with our new Deep Demonstrations

For this call, we reserve the right to use a portfolio approach.



### Eligibility Criteria

Project Type	MAX. DURATION	MAX. EIT REQUEST Per annum	MAX. EIT REIMBURSEMENT RATE	MIN. CO-FUNDING (total project costs)	OTHER
Climate Innovation Ecosystems WP3	N/A	NA	67%	33%	CIE: Consortia must comprise organisations covering at least three countries

### Specific Application Process

- For cross-European projects, there will be a two-step application process, this call for proposals will therefore have an 'Expression of Interest' preliminary phase, after which proponents may or may not be invited to submit a full proposal.

### Timeline

- The deadline for submitting the initial Expression of Interest is 25 October, 2019
- Successful ideas will be informed by 11 November, 2019, and invited to submit a full proposal by 4 January, 2020
- The final outcomes will be communicated by 16 March, 2020

### Support

We have a system called [Exaptive](#), that allows proposers to search what is already in our existing portfolio. It is important to use this tool to be reassured that your proposal offers something unique. It also offers an opportunity to connect with other members of our Community, and to connect Partners and other applicants in new and different ways.

A more detailed explanation of our portfolio approach and the design principles we use to construct our innovation portfolio can be found in the [Proposal Guidelines](#).

### How will Expressions of Interest be evaluated?

- Expressions of Interest which do not pass basic eligibility criteria will not be assessed and feedback will be provided to Partners
- Expressions of Interest which do pass basic eligibility criteria will be evaluated an internal panel of Climate-KIC Holding staff against the expression of interest assessment criteria found in the proposal guidelines and using the principle of collective intelligence outlined in our portfolio approach.

The evaluation will be of the strategic argument in the expression of interest and how well it meets the criteria outlined above. At expression of interest stage, the evaluation will not be on project detail; this will be done at full proposal stage.



## Assessment Criteria

### First-Stage (Expression of Interest) Assessment Criteria

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION
<b>Portfolio Fit &amp; Contribution to the Climate Innovation Impact Goals &amp; Levers of Change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the idea statement provide a clear narrative substantiating how and why the project contributes to EIT Climate-KICs portfolio?</li> <li>Is the idea statement aligned with our Transformation, in Time strategy, and seek to effect change through innovation in four overarching systems - Cities, Land Use, Materials, Finance?</li> <li>Help unlock systemic change to support achievement of one or more of EIT Climate-KIC's Impact Goals</li> <li>Have a clear strategic argument for the relationship between innovation and impact, including how the innovation will act on key levers of systems change.</li> </ul>
<b>Systems Innovation Potential</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the Idea statement show how it will innovate around policies or regulations, or behavioural change, or new ways of developing skills and learning?</li> <li>Does the idea address climate change but also biodiversity loss, inequality, well-being and social justice?</li> <li>Is the idea statement complementary to the areas addressed by our new <a href="#">Deep Demonstrations</a>.</li> <li>Is the systems challenge that is being addressed clearly articulated?</li> </ul>
<b>Project Consortium/ Partnership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involve unusual innovation actors – for example community groups, faith organisations, or arts and culture bodies.</li> <li>Engage <a href="#">start-ups</a> from EIT Climate-KIC's Entrepreneurship Programme</li> <li>To what extent are challenge owner representatives (business leaders, city governments, regional governments, policy makers, communities, etc.) expressing interest in the innovation? Or, are challenge owner representatives' part of the project consortium and/or expressing concrete interest in the innovation?</li> <li>To what extent does the consortium 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.</li> </ul>



## Second-Stage (Full Proposal) Assessment Criteria

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION
<b>Project Consortium/ Partnership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Do the consortium partners have the appropriate skills and capabilities to successfully deliver the project? If no, what skills and capabilities are missing?</li> <li>▪ Does the consortium engage organisations from different parts of society (government, academia, industry and civil society)? Are there sectors missing relevant to the proposal's effective delivery/ impact?</li> <li>▪ Does the consortium have a high degree of geographical diversity that is relevant for the project?</li> <li>▪ Does the proposal convey how it aims to identify or address the challenges and needs of challenge owners (business leaders, city governments, regional governments, policy makers, communities, etc.) with this innovation? (Note: For projects exploring the supply side of innovation only, the proposal must clearly describe the already established challenges and needs.)</li> <li>▪ To what extent are challenge owner representatives expressing interest in the innovation?</li> <li>▪ Are challenge owner representatives part of the project consortium and/or expressing concrete interest in the innovation?</li> </ul>
<b>Project Plan &amp; Clarity of Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Are the work plan and work packages clearly explained and relevant to support the project objectives and expected impact?</li> <li>▪ Are the project outputs, deliverables and KPIs clearly stated and linked to the different work packages/project stages identified in the work plan?</li> <li>▪ Is the work plan, work packages, outputs, deliverables and KPIs targeted reasonable for the duration of the project and the grant amount requested?</li> <li>▪ Is consideration given to how the results and learnings inform further action?</li> <li>▪ Are key assumptions and risks presented clearly?</li> </ul>
<b>Value for Money</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How well is the funding spent on activities directly linked to achieving the project objectives, deliverables and KPIs?</li> <li>▪ How appropriate is the funding request in relation to the anticipated benefits?</li> <li>▪ How much co-funding is offered to match the EIT funding? (Note: Baseline is the minimum programme-specific co-funding requirement.)</li> <li>▪ How high is the potential for the innovation to attract further capital/ investment (beyond EIT-funding)?</li> </ul>
<b>Portfolio fit &amp; Contribution to the Climate Innovation Impact Goals &amp; Levers of Change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Does the Proposal provide a clear narrative substantiating how and why the project contributes to EIT Climate-KICs portfolio?</li> <li>▪ Is the Proposal aligned with our Transformation, in Time strategy, and seek to effect change through innovation in four overarching systems - Cities, Land Use, Materials, Finance?</li> <li>▪ Help unlock systemic change to support achievement of one or more of EIT Climate-KIC's Impact Goals</li> <li>▪ Do you have a clear strategic argument for the relationship between innovation and impact? This should include how the innovation will act on key levers of systems change.</li> </ul>



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<b>Demand Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Does the proposal convey how it aims to identify or address the challenges and needs of challenge owners (business leaders, city governments, regional governments, policy makers, communities, etc.) with this innovation? (Note: For projects exploring the supply side of innovation only, the proposal must clearly describe the already established challenges and needs.)</li><li>▪ To what extent are challenge owner representatives expressing interest in the innovation?</li><li>▪ Are challenge owner representatives part of the project consortium and/or expressing concrete interest in the innovation?</li></ul>
<b>Systems Innovation Potential</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Does the Proposal show how it will innovate around policies or regulations, or behavioural change, or new ways of developing skills and learning?</li><li>▪ Does the Proposal address climate change?</li><li>▪ Does the Proposal also address biodiversity loss, inequality, well-being and social justice?</li><li>▪ Is the Proposal complementary to the areas addressed by our new Deep Demonstrations.</li><li>▪ Is the systems challenge that is being addressed clearly articulated?</li></ul>
<b>Expected Impact &amp; Speed to Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Does the proposal clearly describe the mechanism for how it will contribute to climate change mitigation and/or increasing climate resilience? What is the potential scale of the impact?</li><li>▪ How well does the proposal consider socio-economic benefits and risks that the innovation entails?</li><li>▪ Is evidence provided to substantiate (if appropriate: quantify) the expected impact? Does the proposal adequately reference other studies?</li><li>▪ Does the project encourage diversity and gender equity?</li></ul>

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