



Climate-KIC

CALL TO ACTION

Call for Innovation
Projects inc. RIS for 2020



Call for Proposals

Call Announcement – 1st October 2019

Innovations for Transformation, in Time

EIT Climate-KIC invites proposals that will make a unique contribution to our existing innovation portfolio and that help tackle climate change at the speed and scale we need.

Context

EIT Climate-KIC's *Transformation, in Time* strategy states that 'continuing to work through gradual, incremental changes will not be enough [to successfully tackle climate change]. What is needed now is a fundamental transformation of economic, social and financial systems that will trigger exponential change in decarbonisation rates and strengthen climate resilience.'

EIT Climate-KIC is a European innovation 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 future 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 acting on economic, social and financial systems, and along whole value chains, to unlock change dynamics in addition to providing specific solutions to reduce GHG emissions or improve climate resilience.

Our role is to identify such interventions through a portfolio of deliberately chosen, diverse and connected innovation experiments and demonstrations (*a portfolio approach*). In a context of deep uncertainty and urgency, such an approach is designed to generate viable pathways to change through testing alternatives and identifying scalable options for decision makers, policy makers and investors.

Accordingly, we are looking to support ambitious, and potentially transformative innovation projects that can add something unique or complementary to our existing portfolio. In doing so, it will help our community to learn what works in catalysing systems change for climate action.

We invite proposals that:

- Are aligned with our *Transformation, in Time* strategy, and seek to effect change through innovation in four overarching systems - Cities, Land, Materials, Finance
- Hypothesise a role in unlocking systemic change to support achievement of one or more of EIT Climate-KIC's Impact Goals
- Have a clear strategic argument for the relationship between innovation and impact, including how the innovation will act on key levers of systems change.
- For Innovation Projects specifically:
 - Have the duration of up to three years, but with a key milestone by the end of 2020.



- Have EIT budget requests of between €100k – €300k for the year 2020. Due to uncertainties with EIT funding for 2021 and beyond, we cannot yet commit to offering EIT funding for years 2021 and 2022. We expect to allocate between €5m – €8m of 2020 EIT funding to this call.
- Bring minimum co-funding levels of 30% to the total costs of the work (projects request EIT reimburse up to 70% of the total costs).
- See eligibility criteria.

We would particularly welcome innovation proposals that address one or more of the following:

- Involve unusual innovation actors – for example community groups, farmer associations, seafarer associations, cooperative-based organisations, sports communities, libraries, culinary associations, e-sports communities, faith-based organisations, arts and culture bodies.
- Innovate around policies or regulations, or behavioural change, future(s) visioning, or new ways of developing skills and learning, such as peer-to-peer learning and immersive learning.
- Deliberately cross disciplinary boundaries and intentionally involve non-typical collaborations. Consider innovations that address climate as well as biodiversity loss, inequality, well-being, poverty alleviation, and social justice
- Engage [start-ups](#) from EIT Climate-KIC's Entrepreneurship Programme
- Are complementary to the areas addressed by our new [Deep Demonstrations](#)
- Involve innovation to address the water-energy-climate nexus as a cross-cutting element to our overarching systems and impact goals.
- Engage and involve Partners and other entities from Central and Eastern European and EIT RIS countries and focus on their respective priorities

Changes to our Innovation Call to Action and Processes

We have removed much of the detailed information about where we see gaps in our portfolio and are offering a much more open frame for the innovation projects we are seeking to support. Our goal is to encourage more creative and unusual innovation proposals that seek to explore the boundaries of possibility; unconstrained by lengthy, tailored guidance and able to generate new learning about complex systems. We have made such a choice for this 'call for proposals' in order to complement our Deep Demonstration programme, which will generate portfolios for the more tightly-specified innovation needs of cities, regions or countries.

We are not splitting the call into multiple innovation sub-categories as we have done previously. We are not asking proposers to select pathfinder, accelerator, demonstrator or scaler for example. However, in the detailed guidance, we do highlight the specific requirements associated with *Ecosystem* proposals (see below) as these have different characteristics to the body of innovation proposals. Equally, it is important to be clear how mature your proposed innovation is on an innovation development journey.

Responding to feedback, we have introduced a new element in the application processes for some programmes. We now offer application processes that are structured either as a one-stage process or as a two-stage process, depending on the programme. Please review the call to action for the activity you are applying for to determine what type of application process is relevant to you.

- One stage application processes must submit a full proposal by the published deadline



- Two stage application processes will have an Expression of Interest first-stage submission. In a two-stage submission scheme, proposals must pass the first-stage submission in order to proceed to the second stage. For avoidance of doubt, an Expression of Interest must be submitted within the specified timeframe – failure to do so will preclude the full submission of any new idea

The aim of this change is to help Partners and other applicants manage their resource commitment. It allows for applicants to submit ideas, present strategic arguments about how their proposal will contribute to our portfolio of experiments and receive feedback, before embarking on the detailed work required for a full proposal.

Partners and other applicants submitting successful first-stage expressions of interests will be notified and will be invited to submit a full proposal. Partners submitting unsuccessful idea statements will be given feedback and may be invited to resubmit to future calls. This will help streamline the process, reduce the overall time spent by our Community and offer a greater chance of co-design.

Eligibility Criteria

Project Type	DURATION	MAX. EIT REQUEST Per annum	MAX. EIT REIMBURSEMENT RATE	MIN. CO-FUNDING (total project costs)	OTHER
Innovation Projects (inc. RIS*)	1- 3 years	Minimum 100k EIT request	70%	30%	Guiding maximum EIT request for 2020 is circa 300k
	RIS: 12 months		RIS: 80%	RIS: 20%	RIS: Guiding maximum EIT request for 2020 is circa 50k Projects cannot span multiple calendar years

*Only partner consortia led by partners located in EIT RIS countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Northern Macedonia, are eligible to apply under this project type - projects have to benefit stakeholders located in these countries exclusively.

Specific Application Process

For Innovation Projects including RIS, there will be a two-step application process, this call for proposals will therefore have an expression of interest first stage, after which proponents may or may not be invited to submit a full proposal.

Submitting an Expression of Interest for Innovation Projects

Expressions of Interest should include brief statements of the following:

- A clear articulation of the need, problem or challenge the proposal will address.
- A strong strategic argument for how the innovation will effect change in one or more of the four systems outlined above, including the lever/s of change it will influence to do so.
- A description of the proposed solution or path to develop the solution.
- The geographical focus of any activities, the organisations involved in the proposal, the project start and end date, and proposed budget.
- How this idea brings something new to EIT Climate-KIC's portfolio.



Note, while proposals do not need to be a systemic (addressing a whole system) in and of themselves, the ideas statement should outline the system that the proposal will intervene in.

At the full proposal stage, proposers will also need to detail the role of each organisation involved, budget breakdowns, key performance indicators, and several other components outlined in our detailed guidance. This is not needed at the expression of interest phase.

Timeline for Innovation projects

- The deadline for submitting the initial expression of interest is **25 October 2019 at 1800hrs CET**
- Successful ideas will be informed by 18 November 2019, and invited to submit a full proposal, the deadline of which is **03 January 2020 at 1800hrs CET**
- 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 associated [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 and other applicants
- 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
Portfolio Fit & Contribution to the Climate Innovation Impact Goals & Levers of Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the idea statement provide a clear narrative substantiating how and why the project contributes to EIT Climate-KICs portfolio? 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? Help unlock systemic change to support achievement of one or more of EIT Climate-KIC's Impact Goals Have a clear strategic argument for the relationship between innovation and impact, including how the innovation will act on key levers of systems change.
Systems Innovation Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Idea statement show how it will innovate around policies or regulations, or behavioural change, or new ways of developing skills and learning? Does the idea address climate change, as well as biodiversity loss, inequality, well-being and social justice? Is the idea statement complementary to the areas addressed by our new Deep Demonstrations. Is the systems challenge that is being addressed clearly articulated?
Project Consortium/ Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve unusual innovation actors – for example community groups, faith organisations, or arts and culture bodies. Engage start-ups from EIT Climate-KIC's Entrepreneurship Programme To what extent are challenge owners expressing interest in the innovation (business leaders, city governments, regional governments, communities)? Or, are challenge owner representatives' part of the project consortium and/or expressing concrete interest in the innovation? (Note: Formal commitments will be favoured.) Do the consortium partners have the appropriate skills and capabilities to successfully deliver the project? 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.



Second-Stage (Full Proposal) Assessment Criteria

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION
Project Consortium/ Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the consortium partners have the appropriate skills and capabilities to successfully deliver the project? If no, what skills and capabilities are missing? 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? Does the consortium have a high degree of geographical diversity that is relevant for the project? 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.) To what extent are challenge owner representatives expressing interest in the innovation? Are challenge owner representatives part of the project consortium and/or expressing concrete interest in the innovation?
Project Plan & Clarity of Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the work plan and work packages clearly explained and relevant to support the project objectives and expected impact? Are the project outputs, deliverables and KPIs clearly stated and linked to the different work packages/project stages identified in the work plan? Is the work plan, work packages, outputs, deliverables and KPIs targeted reasonable for the duration of the project and the grant amount requested? Is consideration given to how the results and learnings inform further action? Are key assumptions and risks presented clearly?
Value for Money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well is the funding spent on activities directly linked to achieving the project objectives, deliverables and KPIs? How appropriate is the funding request in relation to the anticipated benefits? How much co-funding is offered to match the EIT funding? (Note: Baseline is the minimum programme-specific co-funding requirement.) How high is the potential for the innovation to attract further capital/ investment (beyond EIT-funding)?
Portfolio fit & Contribution to the Climate Innovation Impact Goals & Levers of Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Proposal provide a clear narrative substantiating how and why the project contributes to EIT Climate-KICs portfolio? 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? Help unlock systemic change to support achievement of one or more of EIT Climate-KIC's Impact Goals Have a clear strategic argument for the relationship between innovation and impact, including how the innovation will act on key levers of systems change.



Demand Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.) To what extent are challenge owner representatives expressing interest in the innovation? Are challenge owner representatives part of the project consortium and/or expressing concrete interest in the innovation?
Systems Innovation Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Proposal show how it will innovate around policies or regulations, or behavioural change, or new ways of developing skills and learning? Does the Proposal address climate change? Does the Proposal also address biodiversity loss, inequality, well-being and social justice? Is the Proposal complementary to the areas addressed by our new Deep Demonstrations. Is the systems challenge that is being addressed clearly articulated?
Expected Impact & Speed to Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? How well does the proposal consider socio-economic benefits and risks that the innovation entails? Is evidence provided to substantiate (if appropriate: quantify) the expected impact? Does the proposal adequately reference other studies? Does the project encourage diversity and gender equity?



EIT Climate-KIC is active
in 24 countries with 28
offices across Europe.

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