

# Cross-KIC Circular Economy Call for Circular Economy Cross-KIC Analysis

## *Instructions and process description*

### **Background**

Circular Economy is currently one of the main strategic initiatives at European level. Moving to more circular economic models promises a much brighter future for the European economy. It would allow Europe to rise to the current and future challenges of global pressure on resources and rising insecurity of supply. Pumping resources back into productive use again and again, cutting waste and reducing dependence on uncertain supplies is a direct route to improving resilience and competitiveness. By helping to decouple economic growth from resource use and its impacts, it offers the prospect of sustainable growth that will last.

The KICs community clearly represent one of the most relevant stakeholders able to support/boost/facilitate the adequate implementation of this key European strategy. The different thematic fields covered by the KICs community represent some of the main sectors involved in the Circular economy main objectives of resource efficiency and zero waste, so the correct and coordinate work of the KICs community will clearly ensure the correct definition/implementation of main factors/innovations/solutions/initiatives to support the Circular Economy strategy. To be recognised by the European society as a main stakeholder, a coordinated and efficient collaboration among the different KICs is necessary. A joint coalition will ensure a greater and more relevant impact from the KICs side comparing with individual actions going in parallel by each KIC. In addition, this collaboration will not only increase visibility and relevance of the KICs community at European level but also at National, regional level and also at world level.

### **1. Eligibility criteria – who can apply**

All existing partners of participating KICs (EIT RawMaterials, EIT Climate KIC, EIT Digital, EIT Food, EIT Manufacturing and EIT UrbanMobility) are eligible to apply.

This call is designed for individual partner applicants, so no consortia will be eligible.

This call is made available to prospective applicants through the participating KICs websites and internal communication channels.

### **2. Aim and Content**

*A joint strategy is necessary on how the KIC's want to address the topic of Circular Economy and how they want to shape a roadmap to impact for the upcoming years.* The right implementation of a joint Circular Economy strategy will only be achieved through the correct use of different tools/actions

covering the whole range of potential factors affecting that implementation as policy, markets incentives, technological/innovative solutions, adequate educational and business creation initiatives, etc, and all those factors that are covered in the current KICs.

Partners of participating KIC's are invited to submit an application for the work on the development of a Cross-KIC analysis/strategy on the topic of Circular Economy. The following steps are necessary to build the strategy including specific actions to achieve the objectives of a joint Circular Economy Action:

- Investigation of current activities for each KIC on the topic of Circular Economy (Innovation, Business Creation, Education and Public engagement)
- Investigation of strategic plans/roadmaps of important Stakeholders outside the EIT KIC's (such as the EC, DG's, City's, NGO's, etc.)
- Analyse results of these assessments and see what are the common topics/activities? Where are the gaps? What are the specific strengths of the KIC community? How can the KIC community jointly support the right transition from linear to circular economy?
- Definition of a future joint strategy on a Circular Europe by the KIC's, integrating Innovation, Business Creation and Education
- Design of a roadmap of actions for the KIC's that will lead to this joint strategy in the upcoming 5-10 years
- Development of a digital systems map of circular economy related projects/initiatives
- List of activities/next steps for the Cross-KIC collaboration on Circular Economy.

### **3. Output and deliverables**

The winning applicant should develop a final report including the Cross-KIC Portfolio/activities analysis and external analysis in Circular Economy as well as a clear and detailed joint strategy for Circular Economy, including specific actions required to achieve the objectives of the joint strategy (roadmap). The winning applicant should also develop a digital system map of circular economy related projects/initiatives included in all the participating KICs.

### **4. Funding specification**

Funding will be provided to cover the costs of activities necessary to generate the deliverables. Although it is expected that much of the funding will be used to cover personnel costs, other cost categories can be covered.

The winning applicant will follow the administrative rules of the its partnering KIC; however, considering there are a number of partners participating in several KICs, the winning applicant participating in several KICs should choose the one doing the administrative follow up of the project.

The technical follow up will be carried out by the Cross-KIC group in Circular Economy through a kick-off meeting and monthly online meetings to ensure a correct development according to the Cross-KIC group requirements.

Note that, unlike for the 'standard' KAVA projects:

1. There is no co-funding requirement.
2. There is no requirement to contribute KCAs (KIC Complementary Activities).
3. Cross-KIC Group intends to take an active role for the technical follow up of the project; details to be agreed with the winning applicant.
4. The Applicant must provide a list of their projects/activities related to the topic carried out during the last 6 years. For each project/activity, the list must include: title, name of coordinating institution and coordinator, duration, short description (300-500 words), funding institution.
5. The following cost categories do not apply:
  - a. Cost of large research infrastructure
  - b. Equipment and infrastructure depreciation
  - c. Prizes
  - d. Scholarships
  - e. Sub-granting ('Task Partners')
  - f. Unit costs EIT labelled Master programmes (AVSA)
  - g. Unit costs EIT labelled PhD programmes (AVSA)

The maximum project cost will be € 100.000,00.

## 5 Other conditions and information

1. Pre-financing from the KIC doing administrative control will be distributed according to the same rules and with the same timeline applicable to BP2020 projects.
2. All the funds awarded in this call must be fully expended by 31 December 2020.
3. All activities supported in this call must be fully completed by 31 December 2020.
4. The proposal selected in this Cross-KIC Call needs to follow the regular Business Plan reporting cycle and rules.
5. Each proposal must have a final report, a digital systems map, and a PowerPoint presentation. These must be described in detail in the proposal:
  - a) final report including the Cross-KIC Portfolio/activities analysis and external analysis in Circular Economy as well as a clear and detailed joint strategy for Circular Economy including specific actions required to achieve the objectives of the joint strategy (roadmap).
  - b) a digital system map of circular economy related projects/initiatives
  - c) a PowerPoint presentation (maximum 10 slides) with the scope and main outcomes of the project;
6. The proposal must include a kick-off meeting with Cross KIC Group and follow-up meetings every month.

## 6. Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by the Cross-KIC Group using the criteria listed below. Based on the evaluations and the overall available funding, the Cross-KIC Group will rank the proposals and select

the winning proposal. The total maximum score for a project is 15 (3 criteria, each with a maximum score of 5).

In addition to the eligibility criteria listed in Section 1 (note Appendix 1 for eligible topics), the following criteria will apply:

Maximum score	Description of criteria
5	<p><b>1. Strategic importance for the Cross KIC initiative in Circular Economy</b> including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall rationale for the project's strategic importance</li> <li>• Contribution to the Cross-KIC portfolio that is in line with its strategic objectives</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>2. Experience, expertise and budget allocation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of how your organization is capable of performing the project</li> <li>• Profile of the team members</li> <li>• Related past projects that demonstrate the level of experience</li> <li>• Details of how the funds are to be used: clear budget plan and timeline with justification</li> <li>• Clear and detailed definition and description of outputs and deliverables</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>3. Quality and impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of aims, objectives and deliverables and their relevance to the Cross-KIC Circular Economy.</li> <li>• Clear and detailed description of the project structure including WPs and Management strategy (including Kick off, regular online meetings and final meeting)</li> <li>• Demonstration of the project's added value: realistic assessment of the expected contribution that the project will make to the impact of the KICs in relation to the requested budget</li> <li>• Contribution to the KIC's KPIs (if any; this is not mandatory)</li> </ul>

Evaluation scale: In relation to each of the criteria above, the score ranges from 0 to 5 according to the following scale:

0	<b>Non-existent:</b> no relevant information provided in the application file or cannot be judged because out of range/scope
1	<b>Very poor:</b> The criterion is addressed in a very incomplete and unsatisfactory manner
2	<b>Poor:</b> There are serious inherent weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question
3	<b>Fair:</b> The criterion is somewhat addressed, but there are significant weaknesses
4	<b>Good:</b> The proposal addresses the criterion well, although some improvements are possible
5	<b>Excellent:</b> The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor only.

Coordinator of the project selected for funding will be informed by the Cross-KIC Group after approval.

## **7. Confidentiality**

Access to the project proposals will be given to all the KICs participating in this Cross-KIC action. The title, scope and overall budget of the project will be shared within the KICs communities and will be made publicly available (e.g., on the KICs web site, in presentations at conferences etc.).

## **8. Intellectual Property provisions**

Ownership of the Results generated under the Project, including any copy or other intellectual property rights attached thereto (“IP Rights”), shall be co-owned by the KICs LE and the Project Participant with the following understanding:

- Each Party shall be free to use, disseminate, extract and modify the Results for non-commercial purposes of the KICs, itself and its affiliates.
- Future commercial use shall be possible and aimed at a collaborative basis of all Parties interested therein.
- The transfer of rights in the Results to third parties shall require the consent of the other Parties.

The Project Participant shall make sure it does not infringe IP Rights of third parties in producing the Results. Further details if necessary, should be agreed between the project participant and the KIC carrying out the administrative control of the project.

## **9. Proposal submission**

Proposals should be submitted by email to:

[Ignacio.calleja@eitrawmaterials.eu](mailto:Ignacio.calleja@eitrawmaterials.eu)

[martine.vanveelen@eitfood.eu](mailto:martine.vanveelen@eitfood.eu)

Opening call:	19th March 2020
Closing call:	30th April 2020
Evaluation:	May 2020
Start project:	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2020
Finalise project:	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020 (latest)