

## Call for expressions of interest to carry out facilitation activities within “Finding innovative solutions for water scarcity in Southern Europe”

**EIT Climate-KIC is looking for an organisation and/or professional(s) that would carry out some activities within the project “Finding innovative solutions for water scarcity in Southern Europe” in 2020.**

**Application deadline:** 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**Application template:** see Annex (online form).

Further details about EIT Climate-KIC can be found at: <https://www.climate-kic.org/>, and the principles of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme are described at: <https://eit.europa.eu/activities/outreach/eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris>. With respect to the present call, **EIT Climate-KIC will not provide new information that has not already been included in this call document**, but can assist the potential applicants by explaining contents of this document (please contact [itris@climate-kic.org](mailto:itris@climate-kic.org) )

### 1) Background information

#### 1.1 EIT Regional Innovation Scheme

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is an EU body created by the European Union in 2008 to strengthen Europe’s ability to innovate. The EIT is an integral part of Horizon 2020, the EU’s Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

The EIT RIS is the EIT Community’s outreach introduced in 2014 to share good practices and experience emerging from EIT Community activities. The EIT RIS opens the activities of EIT’s Innovation Communities to innovators that are not partners, by providing targeted support to individuals and organisations to take part in and benefit from EIT Innovation Communities’ activities, services and programmes.

Although we share one continent, European’ countries are divided because of disparities in innovation performance. This has resulted in the classification of European countries in two main groups— innovation leaders and strong innovators versus moderate and modest innovators. One reason for lower innovation performance is weak linkages among the key players—businesses and research institutions and academia, as well as between the private and public sectors, including a systematic approach towards innovation. As a response to this challenge, the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS) was introduced. The EIT RIS is designed for the EU Member States and Horizon 2020 Associated Countries in Europe who are modest and moderate innovators, and where Innovation Communities have few or no partners. Strategically, the Scheme is an additional offer to these countries to facilitate their engagement with the EIT Innovation Communities. The Scheme’s aim is to promote access to services and programmes offered by the EIT Innovation Communities.

Each Innovation Community cooperates with local innovators – individuals such as students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and organisations such as SMEs, universities, research labs, regions, NGOs

and cities. The EIT Innovation Communities involve the local players in education, business creation and acceleration activities, as well as innovation-driven research.

## 1.2 Scope of the Project

The overall project's objective is finding innovative solutions to prevent and mitigate water scarcity and drought situations, as well as the over-usage of water; moving towards a water-efficient and water-saving economy, focusing on raising awareness, learning to save water, and managing the available resources more efficiently and sustainably.

Considering the extent of this challenge, four Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) – EIT Food, EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Manufacturing and EIT Raw Materials - have joined forces, supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Regional Innovation Scheme in tackling this issue.

The project aims to work on this crucial challenge for Southern Europe starting from the discussion with experts and practitioners across the region that – through system innovation methods and facilitated by the local teams – can set up the work based on concrete territorial needs and engaging with the demand. As for that, EIT Climate-KIC together with 3 other KICS are setting up a Body of Knowledge (BoK) of experts and practitioners in Water Scarcity to work with us defining the key challenges and priorities for the regional context in Southern Europe enabling the uptake of innovative solutions, notably developed by start-ups, engaging in synergy with other relevant initiatives and designing useful training for the community.

The present call is launched by EIT Climate-KIC to select facilitators for the BoK meetings. The selected facilitators will perform activities described in the Project Activities format and requirement sections.

Applicants will be selected via an open call managed by EIT Climate-KIC, using clear and transparent selection criteria.

## 1.3 Project Activities format and requirements

The selected organisation/professional(s) will be involved in the knowledge management of the BoK group, whose scope is:

- Participate in up to 4 meetings throughout the year in Greece, Italy and Spain (some of those might be online) in order to analyse the current state of the art, identify needs – through participatory methods and system innovation tools – and assess what type of innovation can intervene to support tackling this challenge
- Collaborate with KICs on the design and delivery of the challenge Labs and education training for professionals, developed in this programme.
- Collect and propose six ideas/challenges/issues directly relevant to water scarcity that will be used as topics, to engage start-ups and entrepreneurs in 3 challenge labs.
- Contribute to the production of a report including workshops' results, best practices, find links and study other potential connections, opportunities and upcoming possibilities with EIT Climate-KIC to continue the work of the group in the future

- Support and contribute to the establishment of a Partnership agreement with at least one initiative either national or regional activities and policy instruments related to water scarcity (S3, H2020, or other European or National/regional and regional/social funds)

Therefore, experienced facilitators should facilitate these activities, and especially:

- Enable the smooth collaboration between the experts and practitioners, proposing and collecting ideas, challenges and issues directly relevant to water scarcity that will be used as topics, to engage start-ups and entrepreneurs in challenge labs.
- Facilitate the selection of 6 ideas, challenges and issues that will be worked out during the labs by the start-ups and entrepreneurs.
- Use system thinking, participatory methods and innovative approaches to facilitate the discussion.

The facilitators should provide a report (possibly visual and interactive restitution) after each BoK meeting, on the achievements of the meeting, agreements and next steps.

*Duration:* From April to November 2020

*Expected location and timing* for the 4 BoK meetings:

- Online Meeting 15th April 2020
- Athens (Greece)/ the week from the 4<sup>th</sup> - the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2020
- Malaga (Spain) / the week from the 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Rimini (Italy)/ the week from the 30<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Each workshop will last for a maximum of 1 day (8 hours) (preferably from Tuesday to Thursday).

In consideration of COVID-19, EIT KICs organizing these activities, are considering to run some of the previously expected face-to-face meetings as remote events using online tools. The details on formats are going to be decided based on proposals from applicant organizations/individuals.

EIT Climate-KIC will take into consideration also the possibility of multiple organization which are based in the Countries involved, in case this will be presented as enabling a higher value result and reduction of emission due to travelling.

In case of an application for a specific workshop, please to provide the detailed information in the form below and also provide budget estimate that is needed accordingly.

#### 1.4 Project Activities budget

The selected organisation/professional(s) will sign a subcontracting agreement with EIT Climate-KIC with gross funding up to 10,000 € to cover the eligible costs associated with the activities performed as described in section 2.1. This will have to cover all the costs of planned activities:

- Facilitator costs (considering four days of work of 8 hours each)
- VAT
- Materials – creation and printing
- Online tools to run the online meeting
- 4 Reports (one for each meeting)

When applying for the call, to demonstrate their interest to work with EIT, interested organisations/professional should submit a proposal that details:

- Their experience is conducting workshops, providing mentoring or coaching services or similar engagement in the past, proving competences in training.
- Their experience in conducting online workshops, webinars, trainings or group activities, using online tools and platforms
- Previous experience with Water Scarcity (climate, raw material, manufacturing, food) related projects – this will be considered an asset.
- Their interest and expertise in working and supporting multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral teams
- The ability to successfully execute such workshops (including online workshops and/or other online activities), in particular, a plan of how they would tailor the general structure of the program proposed above and the methodology to be used for the meeting dynamization and facilitation.
- Experience in system thinking and innovative approaches to working on challenges
- Short CVs of the people that will be involved in the activities
- The ability to speak and write Proficient English
- A budget proposal that is listing the costs associated with the activities. The proposed budget has to cover all the costs of planned activities (including VAT).
- Availability to run all the four sessions or clearly state for which one they are applying

Considering the online session, ability to connect and access an online meeting (e.g. Go to Webinar, Zoom, Microsoft Teams or Skype) on a stable internet connection and ability to interact will be the candidate's responsibility.

## 2 Applications to organize the Project Activities

EIT Climate-KIC invites organisations/professional(s) to submit their proposals to become an organizer of the Project activities.

### 2.1 Countries or regions targeted by the call

The project will be run in Greece, Italy and Spain.

### 2.2 Eligible organisations/professional(s)

- Organisations/Entities such as companies, incubators or accelerators, higher education institutes, research institutes, non-governmental organisations as well as freelancers and professionals are eligible to apply
- Organisations/Entities that can sign a subcontracting agreement with EIT Climate-KIC
- Organisations/Entities experienced and with references of similar contracts, especially those carried out in the water, climate and agri-food sectors
- Organisations/Entities with the capacity to organize the Project activities in the timeframe from April to early November 2020

### 2.3 Benefits for organisations selected as Project activities organizers

Candidates selected by EIT Climate-KIC to organise the Project activities will be offered the following benefits:

- Ability to benefit from the collaboration with EIT Climate-KIC and the EIT community (as subcontractors in EIT Climate activities)
- Subcontracting agreement with relevant EIT Climate-KIC with gross funding of up to **10,000 €** to cover the eligible costs of the Project assigned activities
- Knowledge and organisational support of EIT KICs organising and implementing the actions

Organising the Project Activities shall be considered an opportunity to become associated with EIT Climate-KIC, establish relations with its community and potentially become better embedded in the activities.

### 2.4 Selection criteria

EIT Climate-KIC will assess bids based on the following factors ranked from most to least important:

- Quality of response – including proposed deliverables and services (40%)
- Capability and experience successfully dynamization and facilitation of experts' working groups meeting to produce results (40%)
- Pricing – ensuring the best value for money (20%)

### **APPLY NOW**

All personal data of the involved experts will be processed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The candidate experts will be selected by EIT Climate-KIC and other KICs members Team based on the provided information and will receive upon selection another invitation, followed by the relevant materials and more precise guidance.

Information to successful candidates will be sent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.