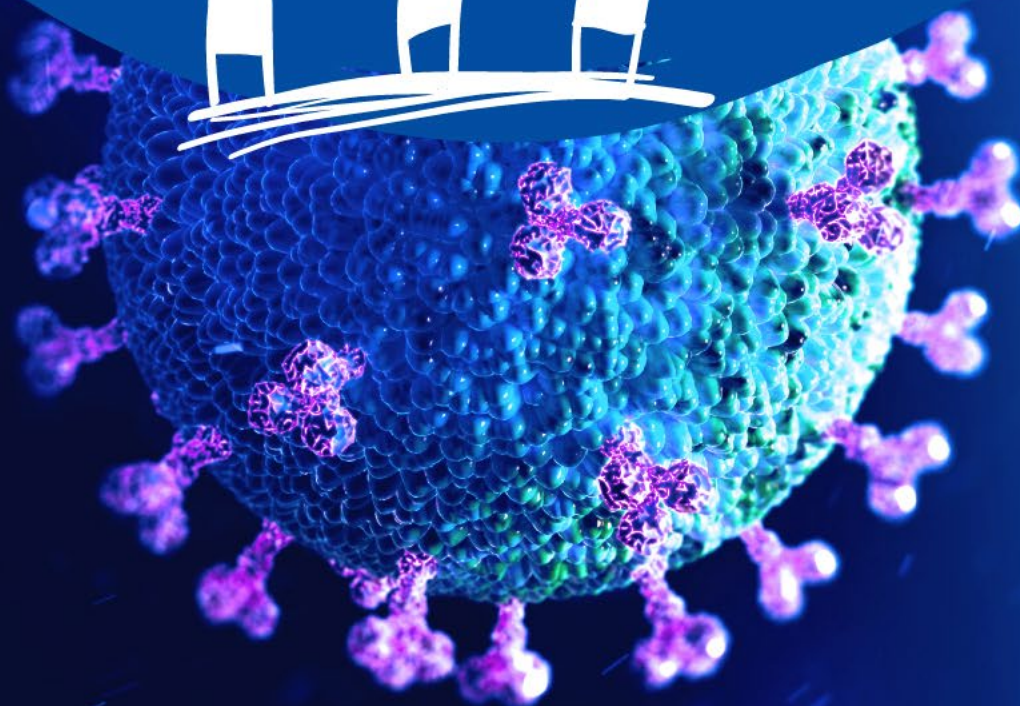# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Extraordinary Post COVID-19
Regeneration Call 2020

Call Description and Guidelines

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Extraordinary Post COVID-19 Regeneration Call 2020

This document covers applications for funding under SGA2020

Key Dates

Call Announcement:	May 11, 2020
Call Opens:	Stage 1: Expression of Interest, May 11, 2020
Deadline	Stage 1: Expression of Interest, May 22, 2020 (17:00 CET)
	Stage 2: Full Proposal, June 12, 2020 (17:00 CET) (Only successful submissions from Stage One)

Document includes:

- Call description and guidelines

Publication Date: May 11, 2020

Version: 1.2

Contents

PART 1: CALL OVERVIEW

1. Introduction to the Call for Proposals

Rationale for EIT Post COVID-19 regeneration stimulus funding

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected society, the economy and millions of people around the globe, and this impact is felt in our EIT Community. The EIT provides unique support across Europe to students, entrepreneurs and innovators dedicated to developing innovative solutions to societal challenges.

EIT Climate-KIC is therefore issuing an extraordinary initiative in response to the pandemic crisis. Two streams of activities have been designed to: i) provide immediate and emergency support to selected green start-ups and small businesses impacted by COVID-19, and ii) to support selected activities needed to regenerate and reboot our economies in line EIT Climate-KIC's mission to build a prosperous, inclusive, climate-resilient society founded on a net-zero-carbon, circular economy.

The projects must deliver clear outputs by the end of 2020 – distinct products, services and solutions with well-defined market pathways. Studies, project plans, analyses or similar are not considered as products, services or solutions.

EIT Climate-KIC's priorities for the post-COVID-19 stimulus funding approach

Beyond the dramatic healthcare crisis caused by this pandemic, we are also facing another crisis: a shock to our economy tougher than any crisis since the 1930's Great Depression, according to IMF. The impacts of the pandemic on the economy, businesses and workers calls for a strong coordinated economic response. EIT Climate-KIC is therefore supporting the call for a European Green Recovery, asking for a reboot of the economy.

Massive investments are needed to simultaneously revive economies after the lockdown – i.e. emergency investments - and to address the longer-term needs to build resilience against future pandemics and other global threats including the threat of climate change. The abrupt halt to economic activities has, and is, causing great hardship. Addressing immediate health and economic needs is critical. However, longer-term investments to revive our economies must go beyond a recovery of what existed before the pandemic. This disruption could, in time, be understood as the single best opportunity to set in motion an aggressive transition toward new models aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

Longer-term stimulus investments have the potential to trigger a new European economic model: more resilient, more protective, more inclusive and operating according to green principles. Indeed, the transition to a carbon-neutral circular economy, the acceleration of the energy transition, advancing social and environmental infrastructure, and advancing sustainable finance have the potential to rapidly deliver jobs and growth, improve quality of lives for citizens worldwide, and contribute to building more resilient societies. To support this shift, innovation can and must serve as an effective hedge against future risks and as a mechanism for sensing, learning and responding rapidly in the face of radical uncertainty.

2. Details on types of projects and programs requested

2.1 Overview of categories of activities targeted by this call

EIT Climate-KIC will focus this Call on innovation programmes and projects which directly respond to and support emergence from the impact of COVID-19 and propose innovative solutions to address these impacts.

A separate but aligned Call will support start-ups through the crisis, to support the green companies affected by COVID-19 through the rest of 2020.

The common aim of both these Calls is to: rapidly test the models needed for COVID-19 response and regeneration in the green economy; create scaling and/or leverage mechanisms to support both the regeneration of economies and job creation aligned with net-zero-carbon emissions; and to strengthen resilience to future crises.

Activities, projects and programs submitted in response to this Call should align with our strategy 'Transformation, in Time' by contributing to the achievement of system transformation towards a low-carbon economy. We are in particular (but not exclusively) looking for innovation activities in the following priority areas due to their relationship with COVID-19 challenges, and their high potential impact on economic growth, and job creation and wellbeing:

- Circular economy, across policy, finance, education, entrepreneurship and innovation to change whole systems from linear to circular;

- Transformation of the built environment in cities requires innovation to explore the interactions between energy, water, clean mobility and distributed energy technologies as well as the appropriate supportive financing models and policy changes that also actively support communities and citizen engagement.

- Systems to deploy public and private capital in support of climate resilient, safe and sustainable communities. Well-designed financing structures can enable a modest amount of public capital to enable substantial private capital to participate in project financing that would be inaccessible otherwise.

To be aligned with our systemic approach, innovation activities are sought that have a clear focus on the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with clear objectives to support:

- A just or people-centred low carbon transition towards a 2050 zero carbon economy by resulting in mitigation or resilience and/or adaptation impacts, and;

- The regeneration of economies through new job creation and co-benefits that support a just transformation and/or the advancement of digitalisation.

Due to the need to allocate funding by the end of 2020, programs and projects that have the maturity level to grow and scale fast, create jobs, and that build and complement our existing portfolio of work are preferred.

2.2 Full description of each category of activity eligible in this call for proposals

What follows is a brief description of the rationale for the priority areas identified for this Call. Please note that additional activities may be also be submitted and will be judged on the strength of their potential impacts on:

- A just transition to a 2050 zero-carbon circular economy with advanced resilience and adaptation impacts, and;

- The regeneration of regional economies through new job creation, including new forms of jobs that support modernisation and a just transformation, as indicated above.

Initiatives promoting circular economy

The COVID-19 crisis has shown the importance of investing in the resilience of socio-economic systems. Investments made today will shape tomorrow and our ability to react to new global crises. Activities that contribute to the development of foundations for a green, circular economy will be essential for developing this much needed resilience. To achieve a fully circular economy, it is necessary to tailor actions across policy, finance, education, entrepreneurship and innovation to change whole systems from linear to circular.

Given the devastating impact of COVID-19 on jobs for many citizens, we are looking to support circular economy activities that will address some of the vulnerabilities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are interested in activities that address the vulnerability of global value chains (GVCs) which are characterised by high interdependencies between global lead firms and suppliers located across several continents.

Additional activities that both support the EU Circular Economy Action Plan and Industrial Strategy as well as contribute to regeneration and job creation are also encouraged. Preference will be given to those submissions that support the following areas of work:

- How can circular economy principles transform industrial value chains and the bioeconomy to increase resilience against future disruptions (e.g. pandemics, climate change impacts, supply chain breakdown, resource depletion)?

- What policy shifts are needed today to shape future low-carbon circular economic models and promote regional resilience? What capacity building tools will support the integration of CE into EU programme funding design?

- How can engagement be boosted in communities through increased Circular Economy (CE) business potential, CE awareness-raising and provision of CE-related information on products and services?

- Repurposing industry i.e. transform resource intensive manufacturing industries to fulfil basic human needs (as per Maslow's hierarchy of needs). How can we transform industries like the automotive, packaging, electronics, textile and construction industries to increase the resilience of our societies? How can factory layouts of manufacturing industries become more flexible for crisis response? How can we use resources/processes from industry for agricultural purposes during crisis response? How can we enable conceptual workers, engineers, etc. to switch temporarily to crisis response activities (e.g. to nursing and medical support services, to agri-food services, etc.)? What are the economic or regulatory incentives required for this transformation?

- Cities circular economy take up in cities (particularly within EIT Climate-KIC's Healthy Clean Cities Deep Demonstration).

Transforming the built environment – make communities healthy and climate resilient while restoring regional economies

The need to transform the built environment already existed before COVID-19 and the economic emergency we now face. The climate emergency and adaptation imperatives have been drivers of action by cities to update infrastructure, renovate buildings and deploy technologies for carbon-neutral, resilient communities. The current situation brings together two forces for change and could enable economic renewal and climate action to happen together. One of the best job-creating strategies is to modernise the urban built environment for the rest of the 21st Century, one in which cities must become carbon neutral, highly resilient with circular economies oriented toward community well-being.

We call for urban transformation in city projects that can work fast on four dimensions of transformation in support of economic renewal, which will require a growing workforce and will fundamentally reshape the economy for better social outcomes. Therefore, projects submitted in response to this Call must contribute to at least one or a combination of the following four dimensions:

1. **Building improvements for energy efficiency and water conservation** are vital to our efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, as emissions from building stock in place in 2050 will need to be 80-90 per cent lower than now. All new buildings need to be carbon neutral and existing ones retrofitted at a minimum annual rate of 4per cent. Improvements in air circulation and ventilation are also critical to ensuring people are healthy and to avoid exposure to airborne pathogens. These interventions are well understood as job-creating actions with strong economic stimulus effects, and the scope of scale of work now needed can have immediate impacts and grow significantly in a short period of time.

2. We need to change our publics spaces to reduce pollution, support natural components and consider impacts on public health. **Changes to streetscapes, parks and plazas and retail spaces,** represent urgent actions with clear benefits in terms of job creation and economic stimulus. Of equal importance, these projects also enable synergies with other infrastructure needs for advanced energy and water performance, better data access for private and public uses, and reintroduction of natural environments throughout our urban communities.

3. Climate resilient, healthy communities will require **deployment of multiple, advanced technology systems** with the needed functional capabilities to make data serve collective goals while protecting individual privacy (e.g., contact tracing, interoperability gains for community-scale social innovation, individual behaviour changes, new forms of value exchange, etc.). To mitigate potential disruption caused by technological advancement, community-based approaches for delivering the functional value of the technologies in ways that are accessible, inclusive and value-enhancing for people are needed.

4. **New business and spatial models that account for social distancing will be needed to support economic revival and enhance resilience**, as commercial and retail businesses, local services, and cafés and restaurants all need to adapt to new urban realities with regard to physical space needs for healthy customer interactions, worker safety, and urban vitality. Projects are encouraged that combine on-the-ground experimentation with exploration of financing models that address basic economic security, business viability, and community/individual prosperity.

This accelerated transformation triggered by activities across these four areas can create massive near-term economic activity and job creation, while setting in motion replicable pathways to enable cities and communities to move as quickly as possible.

In addition to contributing to one or a combination of the four areas of transformation listed above it is vital that projects work at necessary scale and speed, and projects are requested to set clear impact goals: For example – for energy efficiency measures the scale of work to upgrade infrastructure and buildings while deploying high-performance technologies should aim to reach up to 20,000 homes in two years. From the perspective of job creation, this scale of work should aim to create 35,000 jobs (not including indirect job creation) and reach 100,000 people in urban households.

Accelerate sustainability in the financial system and economy

The first weeks of the COVID-19 crisis uncovered the fragility of capital markets. Market liquidity has deteriorated rapidly as the pandemic has spread, putting markets under strain in advanced economies and these strains are spreading fast to emerging markets. The situation in emerging markets is further exacerbated by their uneven access to stable foreign currency in the form of dollars. As a result, central banks have had to address aggregate demand shortage and provide stimulus packets of finance for many market segments to make them functional again, crossing into unchartered territory.

In the light of our experience with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is obvious how fragile the global financial system is, and how important it is to address this by working to make the global financial system resilient to future global risks. It is critical we learn from this global pandemic to improve complex risk management and develop tools that help us build greater resilience in our economy and society to prevent and prepare for future shocks.

To develop resilience to future health pandemics and climate change risks, we need to urgently address the need for better and more coherent climate risk reporting to develop realistic return optimisation assessments, support the development of disclosure processes that are the same for both users and suppliers of capital (i.e. banks, insurers,

re-insurers and asset managers), and ensure that financial governance frameworks address climate assessments from the board to the floor. Additionally, policy frameworks must support this change, and these policies need to be time constant, transparent with clear targets, pricing and costing and show the ambition needed to align with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

This combination of: i) the right information for all sectors, ii) proper risk management that does not purely rely on historic trends but includes emerging learning, combined with iii) credible and consistent policy frameworks, are essential for enabling a multi-trillion dollar shift in investment, adoption of new global regulatory frameworks, innovative business models and jobs created to deliver cutting edge tools and services. Both the development of the EU Adaptation Strategy and the forthcoming review of the EU Action Plan on sustainable finance is a major opportunity to change gears and accelerate the shift of financial flows towards a more resilient and sustainable economy.

Priorities for innovation activities in this category include:

- Long term-oriented interventions and learning mechanisms for the financial sector and economy fit for a post-COVID-19 world including innovation that can help shift investment cultures to longer-term value cycles.

- Building anti-fragility and preparedness for systemic shocks into our economy and financial markets – co-create and embed better stress test tools for financial sector, economic stimuli and rapid response vehicles with integrated transparency, standards, and reporting, in order to build normative processes/routines and data infrastructure to help us prepare for non-routine events (i.e. shocks).

PART 2: CALL PROCESS DESIGN

Overview: Call for Proposals design

This Call for Proposals is designed in two stages:

Stage 1 is an Expression of Interest. If the proposal is successful, proponents will be invited to submit a full proposal in Stage 2. Each stage has a set of evaluation criteria (see Annex 1 and Annex 2). For avoidance of doubt, only successful proposals in Stage 1 will be invited to submit a full proposal in Stage 2.

Important:

1. Before submitting to Stage 1, proponents should review the Call schedule. If invited to submit a full proposal in Stage 2, two weeks has been allowed for preparation. Please take time to review the schedule in section 2, Key Dates.

2. EIT Climate-KIC is currently preparing a proposal to secure the funds for this Call for Proposals. Proposals that are selected in the Expression of Interest (Stage 1) will be included in EIT Climate-KIC's proposal submission at the end of May. The intention is to provide an indicative list of the proposals that have been submitted. Inclusion in EIT Climate-KIC's proposal does not mean those proposals are approved for funding. The amount of funding available the Call for Proposals, described herein, is subject to the amount of funding approved by the funder to EIT Climate-KIC for this initiative.

3. Please refer to the schedule of key dates relevant to this Call for Proposals.

Things to be aware of

To increase your chances of being successful, please:

Engage with someone from EIT Climate-KIC. Contacts can be found on website:
https://www.climate-kic.org/in-your-country/

Read the eligibility, and assessment criteria and the portfolio design principles annexes enclosed within this document. These will be used by EIT Climate-KIC and, where relevant, external assessors to assess proposals.

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

- EIT Climate-KIC will use a portfolio approach and reserves the right to redistribute funding between areas depending on the quality of incoming applications and portfolio needs. This is to make sure that the criteria described in the call documentation is met for all projects considered to be above the quality threshold.

2. Key Dates

This Call for Proposals covers funding applications for 2020 only.

Timeline for Crisis Response Projects

Stage 1: Expression of Interest

- Call opening: 11 May 2020

- Call closing: 22 May 2020 (17:00 CET)

- Notification of results: 12 June 2020

Stage 2: Full proposal submission

- Invitation to submit a full proposal: 29 May 2020

- Call closing: 12 June 2020 (17:00 CET)

- Notification of results: 3 July 2020

Proponents must submit Expressions of Interest and Full Proposals in Plaza.

NB: The Full Submission should be submitted **using the same Plaza record as the Expression of Interest**, where successful. When the Expression of Interest (EOI) proposal is unlocked for those invited to submit a Full Proposal, the proponent should select "Full Proposal" in the "START HERE" section, and immediately save the record. This will convert the record from EOI to Full Proposal.

Please note that a separate Call for Proposals for start-ups and SMEs will be made available under the Venture Support Instrument. Please see the EIT Climate-KIC website for information.

Proposal submission

Proposals can be submitted at any time from the **opening of the Plaza grant management system on 18 May 2020 for Stage 1.** The Plaza system will close at 17:00 CET on the date of the submission deadline for each stage and reopen for Stage 2 proponents when invitations are extended – as indicated in the schedule of key dates in the preceding paragraph.

We strongly recommend that you liaise with your local EIT Climate-KIC office prior to submitting a proposal to receive support and guidance on completing your application.

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 allowed.

3: Application, assessment and what to expect

How to participate

To participate in this Call, you should ensure:

- That you have read this document carefully and considered how your idea responds to the focus areas described in this document and how the output could become a solution (product/service/business model) that makes a significant impact on the COVID-19 crisis.

- You have reviewed and familiarised yourself with EIT Climate-KIC's portfolio using our online tool Exaptive.

- You have spoken to people at EIT Climate-KIC about your idea to see if it reflects the ambitions of the focus areas described in this document and connects to the EIT Climate-KIC portfolio before submitting a proposal.

- You have registered both your organisation and your individual account in our grant management system **Plaza early**. Registration processes can take 48 hours to approve – please do not leave it until the last minute! We encourage proponents to register in Plaza as soon as possible. Please ensure you have registered more than five days in advance of any deadline.

If you have done all the above and wish to proceed, you should then complete each stage of the Call for Proposals in Plaza by the specified deadline. EIT Climate-KIC will not proceed with any late applications. Plaza is available via: https://plaza.climate-kic.org/SITE/PRIVATE/GO/login.aspx

Please note that **we will not accept any applications outside of the system**. If you experience difficulties with the system please consult the guidance within the Systems Manuals section of Plaza; if you are still unable to resolve your issue then please: for technical issues raise a support ticket in the system, for all other queries contact your local EIT Climate-KIC team for support. **We will not accept late submissions and please note the system will be locked after the deadline**.

The information requested in Plaza is required to verify that projects are constructed and planned effectively by the organisations receiving funding and to meet our reporting obligations from EIT. Please ensure that all required information is provided. Without the availability of the relevant information the application will not be progressed. Based on experience, EIT Climate-KIC would like to **request attention to detail in the cost category descriptions** – please consult the help-notes that you will find alongside each field in the system for guidance and examples where offered.

All applications should be written in English. Exceptions can be made for supporting documents, such as letters of intent, which you may wish to attach in the 'Files' tab in Plaza. – these documents could be written in one of the official languages spoken in the country from which the application is submitted. To be assessed by all reviewers, you may choose to provide a short summary in English. EIT Climate-KIC reserves the right to request a translation at any time. EIT Climate-KIC also reserves the right not to pass additional information to reviewers if not provided in English or supported by a translation.

Please be aware that the system does not support images or graphics (if required please submit these as a PDF under the 'Files' tab – you will need to clearly name this document and reference it within the workplan/work package information provided. Any tables, graphs, or images inserted into other sections of the Proposal will not be provided to independent reviewers for evaluation.

Lodging a complaint about a failed submission

If you think that the submission of your proposal was not entirely successful due to a technical error on the side of EIT Climate-KIC, you may lodge a complaint through the IT Support page on Plaza, available from the 'Support' tab on the homepage. For the complaint to be admissible it must be filed within 24 hours following that of the Call closure,

ideally as soon as the issue arises to enable submission prior to the deadline. You will receive an automatic acknowledgement.

What else to do?

You should secure a PDF version of all the parts of your proposal holding a time stamp (file attributes listing the date and time of creation and last modification) that is prior to the call deadline 22 May 2020, 17:00 CET, as well as any proof of the alleged failure (e.g. screenshots). Later in the procedure you may be requested by the operations team reviewing the case to provide these items. Please note that any information regarding the proposal will be treated in a strictly confidential manner.

To consider your complaint is upheld, the audit trail (application log files and access log files of the IT systems involved) must show that there was indeed a technical problem on EIT Climate-KIC's side which prevented you from submitting (or resubmitting) the proposal using the Plaza.

Outcome: You will receive a notification about the outcome of the treatment of your complaint within 48 hours of all evidence being provided. If a decision cannot be reached in this timeframe, you will receive a holding reply. If your complaint is upheld, the files submitted, for which the investigation has demonstrated that technical problems on the EIT Climate-KIC's side prevented (re)submitting, will be used as a reference for accepting the proposal for subsequent evaluation. In absence of such documents, the version present in Plaza will be evaluated.

Preparing a proposal

Stage 1: Expression of Interest (EOI)

Include an overall summary of the following:

- A clear articulation of the need, problem or challenge the proposal will address and a description of the proposed solution and expected impact on the COVID-19 crisis;

- A strong strategic argument about how the innovation will contribute to EIT Climate-KIC's portfolio, with its emphasis on systems change;

- The description should specifically summarise the level in which the project addresses the COVID-19 crisis, the project readiness, and maturity for the market uptake by the end of 2020;

- The elements to be addressed in the evaluation process: excellence/relevance, impact, and implementation. These should specifically include the knowledge triangle integration;

- The geographical focus of any activities, the organisations involved in the proposal, the project start and end date, and proposed budget. Please note that one of the selection criterion includes an EU dimension wherein there is an expectation that at least two entities from two different countries are included in the consortium

- Provide an estimated budget (a full detailed budget is requested in Stage 2)

Please refer to the Expression of Interest criteria for additional guidance, along with the expected Outputs and Deliverables.

Stage 2: Full proposals (by invitation)

At the full proposal stage, proponents will be required to detail the role of each organisation involved, budget breakdowns, key performance indicators, and several other components. This is not required at the Expression of Interest stage.

When completing your full proposal application, please ensure the following:

- The proposal clearly addresses the impact of COVID-19;

- The proposal addresses one of the priority areas identified in the call description (other focus areas will be considered on an exceptional basis) and has an impact on job creation, economic growth and well-being;

- The workplan succinctly describes how the project is expected to achieve the required outputs: a commercialisation strategy, communication and dissemination plan, and plan for a product, service and/or solution, that is ready to be put on the market by the end of 2020. Please note that studies, project plans, analysis or similar are not considered a product, service or solution.

- Projects should have an EU dimension, meaning that at least two entities from two different countries are engaged in the project.

- Is a financial participation opportunity for EIT Climate-KIC applicable?

Other things to consider in Stage 2:

- How you detail the activities that will be conducted (the workplan) to achieve the objectives of the project/activity.

- The outputs of your work. EIT use the format of Outputs, Deliverables, and KPIs.

- Outputs should be considered substantial pieces of work done to achieve the objectives – a typical formulation might see one output per work package.

- Deliverables are supporting documentary evidence that evidence the work has taken place to the standard planned and they should always be high quality and two or three deliverables might typically underpin one major output. Suggested deliverable types can be found **here**.

- KPIs are Key Performance Indicators and there are two sets of KPIs – EIT Climate-KIC KPIs and EIT KPIs – both can be found **here.**

In addition to EIT Climate-KIC reviewers, external, independent experts will assess the quality your full proposal application. We will select the projects to fund that will build a portfolio of projects that are high quality and clearly address thematic areas described in the call documentation. Subject to meeting the quality threshold, we reserve the right to manage the portfolio to achieve the correct balance of projects and funding.

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 100per cent within a consortium providing the maximum EIT Reimbursement Rate for the programme is not exceeded by the project overall. 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 per cent is set out as follows:

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

- Partner A: 70 per cent EIT Reimbursement + 30 per cent co-funding

- Partner B: 100 per cent EIT Reimbursement + 0 per cent co-funding

- Partner C: 70 per cent EIT Reimbursement + 30 per cent co-funding

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

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. 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 call 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 the Community Desk (CommunityDesk@Climate-KIC.org) before starting their application.

Your data

In Plaza, all registrants will have to accept EIT Climate-KIC's General Terms and Conditions which also includes in particular, our Privacy Policy, Acceptable Use Policy and Cookie Policy and warrant and represent that they have the authority to agree and accept these on behalf of the named organisation. 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.

Confidentiality

EIT Climate-KIC will treat your proposal confidentially, as well as any related information, data and documents received in accordance with our Privacy Policy or as otherwise indicated throughout the proposal form (i.e. public summary, Climate Impact Assessments). Independent expert reviewers or evaluators are also bound by an obligation of confidentiality, as our Partners completing Climate Impact Assessments as a part of the evaluation process.

Please pay attention not to attempt to discuss your proposal with persons you believe may act as an independent expert for EIT Climate-KIC.

Appeals and complaints:

Should proponents be dissatisfied with the outcome of the proposal review process please reach out to EIT Climate-KIC's Community Desk (CommunityDesk@climate-kic.org) for information about the Complaints and Appeals processes.

4. Review mechanism and decision-making

Expression of Interest Assessment: Stage 1

Proponents must submit the first stage of their submission (Expression of Interest) by the deadline specified in this document, without exception.

EIT Climate-KIC reserves the right to declare applications as out of scope based on the parameters set out in this Call for Proposals. Proposals that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be informed that they will not progress to the next stage of assessment.

Full Proposal Submissions Assessment: Stage 2

Full proposals will be assessed by EIT Climate-KIC teams and additionally, applications may be assessed by up to three independent assessors. All submissions will be assessed fairly and transparently in relation to EIT Climate-KIC's Innovation Impact Goals, the scope of the call, the eligibility and assessment criteria, and the current portfolio.

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.

Conflicts of interest are mitigated through a disclosure process and follow a full recusal from the decision process in such instances. Decisions as to whether a proposal is accepted or rejected will be communicated to all proponents.

Please read the Call for Proposals for full details on assessment.

5. Eligibility criteria

Proposals that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be informed that they will not progress to the next stage of assessment. The eligibility criteria will be applied in both Stage 1 and Stage 2.

Project Type	MAX. DURATION	EIT REQUEST Per annum	MAX. EIT REIMBURSEMENT RATE	MIN. CO-FUNDING (total project costs)	OTHER
Crisis Response Projects: RIS	Completed by end of 2020	Minimum: 100,000 EIT request	100%	0%	Applicable to consortia led by partners located in EIT RIS countries*
Crisis Response Projects	Completed by end of 2020	Minimum: 200,000 EIT Request	80%	20%	

*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

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

Annex 1: 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.

Portfolio, in the case of EIT Climate-KIC, refers to a portfolio of initiatives designed to unlock systemic change for decarbonisation and resilience. The portfolio is deliberately composed of initiatives that offer a range of learning 'positions' managed as complementary and connected to one another. Each 'position' or initiative is chosen because it offers a means of developing or testing a solution to achieve an element of decarbonisation and/or resilience relevant to our impact goals, or because it represents an opportunity to learn about how complex man-made and human systems change. None of these initiatives are likely to be able to achieve systemic change on their own (although multi-dimensional experiments are preferable), but the experiences and learnings across many or all of them can: by generating the insights, the strategic arguments and policy arguments and the pathways for whole systems change. The intention of a portfolio is to test multiple hypotheses about how we can effect change in our economic, social and physical systems and create new momentum and choices that make adoption and acceleration easier.

There are five design principles that are considered in the portfolio approach: spread, diversity, scale, speed, and connectivity.

Spread

How are the initiatives in the portfolio spread by:

- Impact goal – look for concentrations and gaps

- Levers of change – this is the most critical. Here we recognise that systemic change will most likely be achieved through a combination of interrelated effects caused by working on multiple levers of change simultaneously

- Riskiness (of failure) – high | medium | low

- Optimisation of the current systems vs 'leading edge' transformation potential

- Location – consider impact on place-specific and relevant learning

- Funding source (e.g. EIT vs other named funders)

- Initiative types (e.g. innovation, entrepreneurship, education, ecosystems, outreach/dissemination)

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?

- What percentage of initiatives in the portfolio involve (i) Partners cf. (ii) non-partners?

- How many of the initiatives in the portfolio have the 'problem owner' at the heart of the project?

- 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?

- What percentage of initiatives in the portfolio are configured to produce hyperlocal solutions leveraging specific contexts vs solutions that have multi-contextual applications?

- What component of the portfolio as a percentage is wildcard or random solutions?

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?

- How are the initiatives in the portfolio distributed by financial value – total project costs? Define financial value categories.

- How are 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?

- How quickly is the initiative/portfolio 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).

- How integrated is the initiative/portfolio with 'networks of networks', which can offer a multiplier effect?

- What level of engagement does Climate-KIC Holding have with the initiative/portfolio? (low, medium, high)

Annex 2: Assessment Criteria

Assessment Criteria- Pandemic Responses Projects

Stage 1: Expression of Interest: Assessment Criteria

The first phase assessment will be based on the following sections of Plaza and associated criteria:

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION
Portfolio Fit and Impact on COVID-19	▪ Does the expression of interest provide a clear narrative substantiating how and why the project contributes to addressing COVID-19? Does the description provide a strong portfolio rationale with respect to the EIT Climate-KIC principles?
	▪ Is the expression of interest aligned with our 'Transformation, in Time' strategy, and seeks to effect change through innovation?
	▪ To what extent does the expression of interest generate economic growth and job creation?
	▪ Does it address one of the priority areas outlined in this call?
Systems Innovation Potential	▪ Does the expression of interest show how it will innovate around policies or regulations, or behavioural change, community engagement, digitisation, or new ways of developing skills and learning?
	▪ Does the idea address climate change but also 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	▪ Are there at least two entities in two European countries that are part of the proposal?
	▪ To what extent are demand side representatives expressing interest in the innovation?
	▪ 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.
Commercialisation Strategy	▪ Does the project plan present a feasible argument that the project will deliver clear outputs by the end of 2020, which includes a clear product, service, or solution that will ready to be put on the market?
	▪ Does the project offer an opportunity for financial participation to EIT Climate-KIC in future years in the event of a successful project outcome?

Stage 2: Assessment Criteria

Submissions that pass the Stage 1 assessment phase will be assessed on the following criteria:

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION
Project Consortium/ Partnership	▪ 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? (at least two entities in two European countries)
	▪ Does the proposal convey how it aims to identify or address the challenges and needs of the challenge owners (business, society, policy community, etc.) of the innovation?
	▪ To what extent are demand side representatives expressing interest in the innovation?
Project Plan and Clarity of Outputs	▪ 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 EIT KPI-N03 selected as one of the KPI's (products and services)?
	▪ Is the work plan, work packages, outputs, deliverables and KPIs targeted reasonable for the duration of the project and the grant amount requested?
	▪ Is a financial participation opportunity for EIT Climate-KIC applicable?
	▪ Is consideration given to how the results and learnings inform further action?
	▪ Is the communication and decimation plan clearly thought out and impactful?
	▪ Are key assumptions and risks presented clearly?
Value for Money	▪ 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: the EIT Reimbursement rate is 80 per cent, except for RIS projects – see Eligibility section)
	▪ How high is the potential for the innovation to attract further capital/ investment (beyond EIT-funding)? Proposals with high leverage capability will be favoured.
Portfolio fit and Contribution to mitigate impact of COVID-19	▪ Does the Proposal provide a clear narrative substantiating how and why the project contributes to addressing the consequences of COVID-19? Does the description provide a strong portfolio rationale with respect to the EIT Climate-KIC principles?
	▪ Is the proposal aligned with our 'Transformation, in Time' strategy, and seeks to effect change through innovation?
	▪ To what extent does the proposal generate economic growth and job creation?
	▪ Does it explicitly address one of the priority areas outlined in this call?
Demand Assessment	▪ Does the proposal convey how it aims to identify or address the challenges and needs of the challenge owners (business, society, policy community, etc.) affected by COVID-19 of the innovation? (Note: For projects exploring the supply side only, the proposal must clearly describe the already established challenges and needs.)

- To what extent are demand side representatives expressing interest in the innovation?
- Are challenge owners representatives part of the project consortium and/or expressing concrete interest in the innovation? (Note: Formal commitments will be favoured.)

Climate Impact

- Has the climate impact of the project been classified as either mitigation, enabling mitigation, adaptation or enabling adaptation?

- For mitigation/enabling mitigation projects: Has the estimated climate impact been specified in tCO2eq, including with a brief explanation of how the number was calculated.

- For adaptation/enabling adaptation projects: Has a brief explanation of how the project seeks to improve resilience and enable adaptation to climate change been provided?