

# Call for expression of interest:

A pool of experts to transform countries, regions and systems to Circular, Regenerative and Low-Carbon Economies

**Call Opens:** 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Deadline:** 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: A pool of experts to help decarbonising whole countries, regions and system

### Call Summary

EIT Climate-KIC is calling for expressions of interest for experts/organisations to join EIT Climate-KIC and other KIC Community experts to:

- In partnership and under the orchestration of EIT Climate-KIC, provide strategic advisory services in all aspects of circular economy transition to national Governments (Slovenia, Ireland), Regions (Cantabria), cities, industry players across value chains and systems
- Work with EIT Climate-KIC to develop detailed workplans and activities under identified programme streams; and
- Respond to future Calls for implementation of activities that result from the above, as/when opportunities present from either EIT Climate-KIC or from challenge owners engaged in Deep Demonstrations such as the Slovenian government.

### **Priority focus: Deep demonstration of transition to circular, regenerative and low carbon economy in Slovenia**

Working with EIT Climate-KIC and The Slovenian Government, proponents would be available and willing to take part in progressing towards a circular and regenerative transition of Slovenia as a country through the *Deep Demonstration of a circular, regenerative economy: Decarbonizing Slovenia*. Selected experts/expert organisations will be retained on an open list of EIT Climate-KIC Community members ready and willing to contribute, that will be presented to the Slovenian government.

Selected experts will assist the Slovenian Government to progress towards a circular and regenerative transition of Slovenia as a country through the *Deep Demonstration of a circular, regenerative economy: Decarbonizing Slovenia* program. Delivery will be in the shape of advisory time and content knowledge input relevant to the field (Areas A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H in the Call briefing below). Selected experts are expected to co-design and lead workshops, deep dives and trainings and take an active role in shaping specific outputs, based on the needs and requirements of the different ministries representing the Slovenian Government as the challenge owner in the *Deep Demonstration of a circular, regenerative economy: Decarbonizing Slovenia* program.

Please note that this is a call for expressions of interest to deliver the activities as described in the section '*Call for expression of interest: briefing*', to support the implementation of the *Deep Demonstration of a circular, regenerative economy: Decarbonizing Slovenia*, and for which contracting will be pending a separate selection process later in 2021, anticipated to be October. Contracting may be with EIT Climate-KIC or directly with Slovenia government/ministries.

For information on how to apply and the information to be provided, please see "How to apply" and sections on assessment and selection.

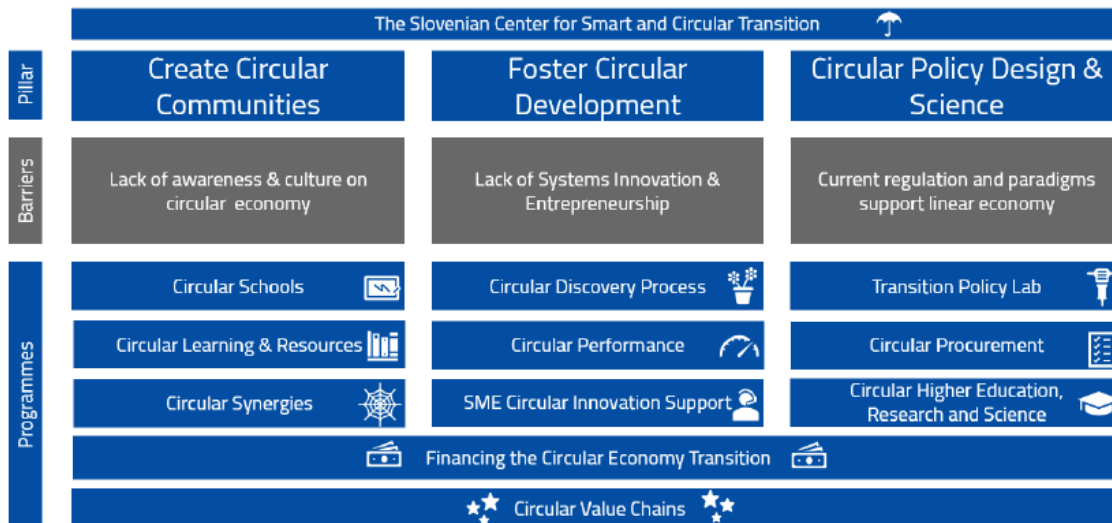
## Background

To pursue a sustainable future for Slovenia, EIT Climate-KIC and The Slovenian Climate Change Fund are starting a collaboration to prepare the ground through strategic implementation design for planning and rolling out a transition process to place Slovenia on the trajectory for a circular and sustainable future through the *Deep Demonstration of a circular, regenerative economy: Decarbonizing Slovenia*.

The Deep Demonstration program is a central part of Climate-KICs Transformation, in Time strategy. Deep Demonstrations are intended as a way of showing that a 1.5-degree future is both possible and desirable. They involve working with challenge owners, like City and Regional and National governments and major companies, to direct innovation towards multiple levers of change simultaneously and generate viable pathways to change through testing alternatives and identifying scalable options for decision makers, policy makers and investors. In the specific case of the Deep Demonstration of a circular, regenerative economy: Decarbonizing Slovenia, the challenge is the Slovenian Government under the Slovenian Climate Action Fund.

### Decarbonizing Slovenia: A Deep Demonstration of a Circular, Regenerative and Low-Carbon Economy

The program Deep Demonstration of a circular, regenerative economy: Decarbonizing Slovenia builds on a 'systems innovation as a service' model to help Slovenia deliver a transformative green economy and create options and pathways for radical decarbonization. Across three pillars and 17 programs, systemic innovation will tackle material production and waste flows across key economic systems and value chains; training, education and capacity building will create change agents and foster life-long learning as well as widely disseminate insights and good practices, while policy initiatives and experiments will ensure enabling conditions.



To help us plan for the decarbonization of Slovenia, EIT Climate-KIC is looking to summon a pool of experts for contracted work within a number of areas ranging from general expertise on Circular Economy to more context specific areas such as understanding of the legislative barriers and enablers when working with circular transition in other European countries similar to Slovenia.

## Call for expression of interest: briefing

The purpose of this call for expression of interest is to develop a pool of expert organisations and individuals within the EIT Climate-KIC Community to support the work on planning for and then mobilisation towards the decarbonization of Slovenia through the design and implementation of a circular economy. EIT Climate-KIC is looking to bring together pool of expertise in the Climate-KIC Community to be available to provide advisory expertise to the Slovenian government and collaborate with EIT Climate-KIC to design innovation activities and, when the opportunity arises, bid to implement these activities with EIT Climate-KIC, the Slovenia government, and other actors. The broad work streams and required areas of expertise are as follows:

Programme key	Stream of work	Desired of expertise	Expected availability
Area A	National deployment of Research, and Innovation (R&I) funding for a transition to a Circular Economy	<p>Expertise within R&amp;I funding with experience from a context similar to Slovenia (size of country, public administration setup, sources of funding, ...) , e.g., Baltic countries.</p> <p>Specific expertise on call design and delivery, including project impact monitoring, with focus on Circular Economy KPIs</p>	Mid October 21-January 2022
Area B	Curriculum design, process leadership and educational programme development	<p>State-of-the-art knowledge and understanding of related concepts and best practices in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), including the developments related to integration of topic related to climate change, circular economy, sustainability into primary and secondary education, as well as vocational training in lifelong learning</p> <p>Curriculum design and process leadership for primary school and secondary education on CE/sustainable development with the aim of facilitating the creation of educational programs for schools related to sustainable development, climate change and circular economy.</p>	
Area C	Transition Policy Lab Pilot on the national Research and Innovation System Governance	Expertise and practical experience with aligning multiple funders, funding sources (ESIF, RRF, JTF, ..) and instruments, in the context of national and regional innovation strategies (including the Smart Specialization strategy, National Recovery and Resilience Plans, the national Research and Innovation Strategy, the Rural Development Programme, etc.) to develop joint programming for Circular Economy Transition from lab to market (horizontally and within specific value chains – Forest-based industry, Food, and Manufacturing)	January-June 2022
Area D	Mainstreaming sustainability in Higher Education	Expertise in relation to (1) content (curricular renewal to develop key knowledge, competence and skills for a green, resilient,	

		sustainable and digital transition, integration also into lifelong learning models offered by universities), (2) normative (optimization and flexibility of the study process to allow for the content to be integrated within existing programmes), (3) infrastructural (in support of a changing study process with increased use of ICT and taking into account the environmental aspect of greening; e.g. development of sustainable and smart lecture halls, low-carbon ethical digitization using intelligent equipment, (4) training on role of CE in the decarbonisation process and importance of the systems approach to transition.	
Area E	Circular Economy Hub models; Inspiring a Slovenian Centre for Circular Economy	Expertise and practitioners as representatives of/for different hub-models – i.e. examples of other CE hubs in other (similar) European countries including legislative groundwork.	February- March 2022
Area F	Circular procurement	Expertise in green and circular public procurement (capacity building of public servants on aspects of circular procurement within green procurement, supporting a pilot project for Ministry of Environment through a preparation of guidelines)	January – March 2022
Area H	General Circular Economy expertise	General Expertise within Circular Economy to inform and assist the above processes	October 2021- June 2022

Please note that engagement to deliver work under these areas in future is pending successful selection from a relevant the Call and/or procurement process to programme the work via the identified pool of experts/expert organisations, and subsequently a signed contract between the Slovenian government and/or EIT Climate-KIC. Proponents being successful in this expression of interest will be retained in a pool of experts/expert organisations for the duration of the Slovenia Deep Demonstration programme during which the programming, commissioning and implementation of the work streams commences. However, please note that being retained in this pool of expertise following submission to the expression of interest herein does not guarantee future funding or contractual engagement, which will be subject to relevant Calls and/or procurement processes, as noted above.

Engagement will happen according to the workplan currently under negotiations between EIT Climate-KIC and the Slovenian government and specific time requirement and task definition will be negotiated between the selected proponents, via appropriate and compliant Call/procurement means, and EIT Climate-KIC and the Slovenian government.

The list of selected experts will be made available to Slovenian public bodies (i.e. Ministries involved in the Deep Demonstration) for potential ad hoc services to be arranged at request . Direct contracts for expertise requested outside the currently negotiated project plan are expected to be signed directly with the Ministry requesting support.

Proponents are expected to be able to dedicate time between October 2021 and June 2022.

## Special Notice and Requirements

- EIT Climate-KIC reserves the right to re-call/refresh the pool of expert organisations and individuals based on arising needs of the work programme throughout the life of the *Deep Demonstration of a circular, regenerative economy: Decarbonizing Slovenia*.
- EIT Climate-KIC reserves the right to contract experts of this pool of experts for other Circular economy initiatives part of the EIT Climate-KIC Deep Demonstrations programmes happening across Europe. As such, experts are expected to showcase their relevant circular economy expertise across Europe.

Please note: responding to and succeeding in being retained in the pool of expert organisations/individuals through this expression of interest does not guarantee funding or future opportunities for funding.



## PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

### Key Dates

This call for proposals covers funding applications for 2021 start dates only.

Date / Time (CET)	
10 September 2021	EOI Call launch <a href="#">CKIC Website page – Apply for a Grant</a>
10 October 2021	EOI Call deadline <a href="#">Microsoft Forms Link HERE</a>
22 October 2021	Decision communication

### Proposal Submission (Platform)

Proposals can be submitted at any time from the launch of the call **until 23.59 CET** on the day of closing as indicated in the timeline section of this document.

All applications must be submitted via [Microsoft Forms Link HERE](#) completing all relevant questions and submitting requested supporting and additional documentation.

If you experience difficulties with the system, please contact the EIT Climate-KIC Business Desk at [businessdesk@climate-kic.org](mailto:businessdesk@climate-kic.org).

Please be aware that the system does not support images or graphics (if required please submit these as a supporting / additional document – you will need to clearly name this document and reference it within the text information provided in the Microsoft Form.



## How to Apply

### Before preparing a proposal

To Participate in this call, you should ensure:

Checklist	
You have read this document carefully, and started to think about what contribution you could make with respect to the Call to Action brief;	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please ensure that all required information is provided. Without the availability of the relevant information the application will not be progressed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
All applications should be written in English. Exceptions can be made for supporting documents, such as letters of intent/evidence of work completed – these documents could be written in one of the official languages spoken in the country from which the document originated. You should provide a short summary in English <sup>1</sup> in accompaniment.	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Preparing a proposal

When completing your full proposal application, you will need to pay attention to provide specific examples on how/where you have acquired your experience/expertise within the area that you are intending to express an interest.

**Important:** Please note that proponents are responsible to check the EIT Climate-KIC website for updated information related to this Call. Amendments to the Guidelines and Frequently-Asked-Questions may be issued from time to time.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

## Who Can Apply

This call for proposals is open for applications to both EIT Climate-KIC partners and non-partner organisations.

Organisations that have not KIC Community Members are encouraged to become part of the community. Please reach out to the EIT Climate-KIC Community Desk at [communitydesk@climate-kic.org](mailto:communitydesk@climate-kic.org) for further information.

## Your Data

In submitting to this Call via the provided platform/documentation, all registrants are required 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 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.

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

## System errors and complaints

### 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 Community Desk ([communitydesk@climate-kic.org](mailto:communitydesk@climate-kic.org)).

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 should also 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, as well as any proof of the alleged failure (e.g. screenshots). Later in the procedure you may be requested by the 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-KICs side which prevented you from submitting (or resubmitting) the proposal.

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-KICs 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 the relevant system will be evaluated.

### 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](mailto:CommunityDesk@climate-kic.org)) for information about the Complaints and Appeals processes.



## Review Mechanism & Decision-making

### Proposal Submissions Assessment

Proposals will be screened by EIT Climate-KIC teams. A representative from the coordinating body of the Deep Demonstration in Slovenia (i.e. Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning or Governmental Office for Development and Cohesion Policy) may be involved in the assessment.

All submissions will be assessed fairly and transparently.

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 as detailed in this document.

Please read the accompanying *Eligibility and Assessment Criteria* below for full details on assessment for this Call.

## Eligibility and Assessment Criteria

This call will follow a **one-stage Expression of Interest submission scheme** with one-phase assessment process.

### Eligibility

- To be eligible applicants must be a private or public 'legal entity'/or registered sole trader
- 5 years of relevant professional experience
- Able to perform deliverables in English
- Be able to travel to location of activities if and when needed

### Assessment Criteria

All expressions of interest will be reviewed against the expertise, knowledge and experience required to deliver and/or advise on the activities described under the programme workstreams.

EIT Climate-KIC will take into account:

- **Experience:** Experience of similar work
- **Knowledge and expertise:** Expertise and knowledge – as evidence in CVs of individuals put forward to the EOI
- **Motivation:** Clear motivation to contribute to the delivery of this pioneering programme of work
- **Availability:** Have the availability requested from late 2021 until 2025 (see last point of the Microsoft form)

A final decision will be rendered on the basis of how well the expressions of interest meet these needs and whether in the reviewers' judgement the proponents are able to deliver on the work required.

#### STAGE 1 – Expression of Interest

Criterion 1, Area a	● Proof of experience within RDI funding with experience from a context similar to Slovenia.
Criterion 2, Area b	● Proof of experience within for curriculum design and process leadership for primary school and secondary education on CE/sustainable development.
Criterion 3, Area c	● Proof of experience and practical experience with circular public procurement. Preferably from national context from European countries similar to Slovenia.
Criterion 1, Area d	● Proof of experience with designing for sustainability in the Higher Education process – this could be capacity building, design of extra-curricular activities, investments and procurement.
Criterion 2, Area e	● Proof of experience with working with different hub-models from other Circular Economy hubs in other (similar) European countries including legislative groundwork - as inspiration for the Slovenian Centre for Circular Economy
Criterion 3, Area f	● Proof of expert knowledge and/or practical experience with Circular Economy



## Timeline

- The deadline for submitting a proposal is **23.59 CEST 10 October 2021**.
- The final outcomes and feedback will be communicated latest by 22 October 2021.

