Pioneers 2022 – Call for Action

Applications open: 8th November to 10th January 2022
About EIT and Climate-KIC

About EIT

The [European Institute of Innovation & Technology](https://www.eit.europa.eu) (EIT) is an independent body of the European Union set up in 2008 to deliver innovation across Europe. The EIT brings together leading business, education and research organisations to form dynamic cross-border partnerships. These are called Innovation Communities and each is dedicated to finding solutions to a specific global challenge.

About Climate-KIC

[EIT Climate-KIC](https://climate-kic.org) is a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC), working to accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon, climate-resilient society. Supported by the EIT, we identify and support innovation that helps society mitigate and adapt to climate change. We believe that a decarbonised, sustainable economy is not only necessary to prevent catastrophic climate change, but presents a wealth of opportunities for business and society.
The Pioneers programme equips organisations with the proven Pioneers methodology, Systems Innovation expertise, guidance, tools, and a network of partners connected by innovating to fight climate change.

Pioneers partners design and deliver place-based Systems Innovation learning experiences to professionals; while building a network of people with the mindset and competencies to drive the transition towards a zero-carbon, climate-resilient society.
The partners we are looking for

In 2022, the Pioneers programme seeks partners that **co-design, -prepare, -deliver, -evaluate and -fund a place-based Pioneers programme** to at least 150 participants across Europe.

We invite organisations such as **consultancies, networks and hubs (e.g. around climate change, sustainability, green technology, innovation and systems innovation), energy agencies, governmental institutions and universities** with a professional education portfolio to apply.

Your organisation brings **climate change education and professional education experience** as well as the respective network? That´s a plus!

Your organisation will propose a Pioneers programme targeting professionals working in **the systems „Cities“, „Value chains“, „Land use“, „Finance“ or „Maritime“**? That´s another plus!

Please note that the map represents 2021´s Pioneers partners. Visit [https://pioneers.climate-kic.org/](https://pioneers.climate-kic.org/) to learn more about this year´s Pioneers partners.
Partners benefit from...

- EIT grant
- Programme methodology & design – improved over 10 years
- Partner guide, toolkits and regular check ins with programme coordinator
- EIT Climate-KIC’s and Pioneers’ brand and reputation resulting in reach
- Digital environment (website, Salesforce, learning management system)
- Access to coaches from EIT Climate-KIC’s Network of Climate Coaches (if needed)
- Connection to a Europe-wide community of partners and changemakers
The Pioneers programme is a great opportunity to change your perspective, open your mind and experience new situations. For AESS, it is an opportunity to equip participants with the tools to tackle climate change and create new, positive relationships with people working all over Europe.

Click here to read more.

Lisa Sentimenti, AESS
Pioneers partner, Italy, 2019 and 2020
The Pioneers programme offers to cover a part of the partners’ costs with the allocated EIT grant (see maximum amounts and co-funding rates below) and creates the conditions for current and new partners to continue or join as a partner co-designing programmes with the power to unlock additional sources of financing.

### Available funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Partner</th>
<th>EIT funding, depends on total budget resulting from chosen programme design</th>
<th>Co-funding rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EIT partner, non-RIS</td>
<td>max. 9,000 Euros</td>
<td>At least 70 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>EIT partner, RIS</td>
<td>max. 10,000 Euros</td>
<td>At least 45 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-EIT partner, non-RIS</td>
<td>max. 9,000 Euros</td>
<td>On a voluntary basis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-EIT partner, RIS</td>
<td>max. 10,000 Euros</td>
<td>On a voluntary basis</td>
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</table>
Join the Pioneers programme without EIT funding

We convinced your organisation of the Pioneers programme and its impact and you want to bring the programme to your region or country but either don´t rely on the EIT grant or aren´t eligible to receive EIT funding because you´re based outside a Horizon Europe-associated country?

Express your interest in joining by submitting the MS Forms available on the Pioneers website and wait for the Pioneers team to contact you!

Why you should join without EIT funding?

• MS Form makes it easy to express interest
• Access to the proven Pioneers methodology, Systems Innovation expertise, guidance, tools and network
• Co-funding flexibility
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation or building block</th>
<th>Programme element</th>
<th>EIT Climate-KIC</th>
<th>Partner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building blocks</td>
<td>Workshop or workshop series</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Challenge-based projects and coaching</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Placements</td>
<td>Manages Europe-wide placement marketplace. Please note that EIT Climate-KIC will publish the placement marketplace at a pre-defined date and recommend to schedule the matchmaking and placement period accordingly.</td>
<td>Recruits host organisations and oversees matchmaking and placement period</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Additional competency-related coaching</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Networking and community building</td>
<td>European level</td>
<td>Regional or national level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>Systems Innovation Fundamentals e-learning</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Systems Innovation competency assessment</td>
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Examples of place-based Pioneers programmes

**Partner A**, targeting professionals from the business sector
- E-learning
- 5-day workshop
- Challenge-based projects
- 2-day workshop on the weekend

**Consortium A** (3 partners), targeting professionals employed at cities
- E-learning
- 2-day workshop
- Optional placements (job swap with another participant)
- Challenge-based projects across cities
- 5-day workshop
## Timeline for partners co-funded by EIT

Please note that partners co-design the timeline and that EIT Climate-KIC reserves the right to change the proposed timeline.

### 2021
- **Partner**: Prepare and submit proposal
- **Partner**: Assess and secure additional sources of funding
- **EIT Climate-KIC**: Assess proposals and select partners
- **Partner**: Recruit coach(es), if needed
- **Both**: Onboard and train partners
- **Partner**: Recruit participants
- **Both**: Recruit external challenge owners, if applicable
- **Both**: Recruit hosts, if applicable
- **Both**: Deliver foundation and building blocks according to the partner’s programme design

### 2022
- **Partner**: Match Pioneers to hosts, if applicable
- **Partner**: Oversee placements, if applicable
- **Both**: Report

### 2023
- **Partner**: Match Pioneers to hosts, if applicable
- **Partner**: Oversee placements, if applicable
- **Both**: Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who?</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
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<tr>
<td>Partner</td>
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Co-funded by the European Union
ANNEX 1
The Pioneers partners’ impact
Professionals benefit from...

- Building and strengthening competencies (to initiate and sustain multidisciplinary innovation initiatives)
- Developing the mindset (of a Systems Thinker and Intra-/Entrepreneur)
- Toolboxes, e.g. for Systems Innovation
- Practicing collaborating and leading – on- & offline
- Interdisciplinary and international networking & community building
- Connections
The Pioneers programme is guided by a... 

(Systems Innovation) Competency Framework

Competencies are the fusion of knowledge, skills and mindsets/attitudes/personal values. They are all about doing things; hence the EIT Climate-KIC systems innovation competency framework focuses on actions. The competencies are grouped into five clusters. The programmes’ foundation and building blocks build and strengthen competencies in the systems innovation processes’ five clusters. Visit slide 15 for further details.

Blended learning approach

Combining asynchronous online and in person modules (e.g. e-learning or project) and synchronous online and in person modules (e.g. workshop) results in Pioneers programmes meeting the learners’ circumstances and needs. Visit EIT Climate-KIC’s free Digital Learning Toolkit to learn more about blended learning.

Experiential learning approach

Experiential learning focuses on learners reflecting on their experience of doing something. David A. Kolb’s Experiential Learning Theory is an important foundational concept that can underpin all forms of learning, development and change. Pioneers provides concrete experiences in the form of workshops, projects and placements that enable the experiential learning cycle four-step learning process to be applied multiple times in every interaction and experience: Experience – Reflect – Think – Act.
...resulting in varying blended learning journeys consisting of:

- Systems Innovation e-learning
- Additional online courses
- Bespoke workshop or workshop series
- Challenge-based projects – on individual or group level
- Placements
- Local and Europe-wide community events & workshops
References: Achieved impact from group projects and placements

Kadri-Mai, Karl, Mariel and Triin – **The Green Mythbusters** – tackled sustainability misconceptions

Visit [https://pioneers.climate-kic.org/stories/?_sft_category=group-projects](https://pioneers.climate-kic.org/stories/?_sft_category=group-projects) to discover more stories about Pioneers’ group projects.

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**Satu Turula** paused her job in a Finnish municipality to work in a start up

Visit [https://pioneers.climate-kic.org/stories/?_sft_category=placements](https://pioneers.climate-kic.org/stories/?_sft_category=placements) to discover more stories resulting from Pioneers’ placements.
More stories from the Pioneers community

Melanie Amato helped Soria, Spain, to become climate-neutral through systems innovation

Péter Vigh became a climate entrepreneur himself

Visit https://pioneers.climate-kic.org/stories/ to discover more stories from the Pioneers community.
ANNEX 2
Deep dive into the Pioneers programme’s methodology
EIT Climate-KIC’s **systems innovation approach** functions as the basis for Pioneers. The programmes’ elements build and strengthen competencies in the systems innovation processes’ five areas “Exploring”, “Framing”, “Designing”, “Implementing” and “Strengthening”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Exploring: Making sense of the system and its interconnectedness</th>
<th>B. Framing: Envisioning system innovation and its potential pathways</th>
<th>C. Designing: From Ideas to Strategies</th>
<th>D. Implementing: From experimenting to make things happen</th>
<th>E. Strengthening: Learning from, adapting and deepening innovations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Short description of Pioneers foundation and building blocks

**E-learning**
- Learning Management System `Brightspace`-based e-learning
- 2.5 hour Systems Innovation Fundamentals course
- Resource module with blank visual tool canvases

**Workshops**
- Partner-designed, -prepared, -delivered and -evaluated workshop or workshop series add on the e-learning
- Workshops prepare and support participants with completing other programme elements, e.g. the challenge-based projects
- Workshops enable participants to reflect on and make sense of their individual and the collective learning process and create an opportunity to give and receive feedback

**Challenge-based projects**
- Partners define the length, depth, and pace of the challenge-based project element.
- Projects are based on real cases or challenges that reflect the regional climate change context and call for a systemic approach
- Self-selected or delivery partner-formed multi-disciplinary teams of 3 to 5 participants per challenge
- Teams work on- and/or offline. Coaches consult teams but shouldn’t lead the process.

**Placements**
- Partners define the length (4 to 6 weeks in the past) and format (national or international) of their programme’s placements and oversee the matchmaking and placement process
- Placements enable the creation of new working relationships, best practice exchange and require participants to leave their comfort-zone
ANNEX 3
Pioneers partner’s team and responsibilities
Pioneers partner’s team and responsibilities

Partner brings a project manager and recruits at least one coach.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Manager with blended learning design experience</th>
<th>Coach(es) trained in facilitating System Innovation</th>
<th>Additional experts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Recruit and manage coach(es) (on demand)</td>
<td>• Adjust Learning Management System Brightspace</td>
<td>• Add content / knowledge, e.g. around climate change mitigation and adaptation or sustainability management, to the partner’s programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Co-design of a place-adjusted blended Pioneers programme</td>
<td>• Design and deliver workshop or workshop series</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Secure co-funding and/or -financing</td>
<td>• Coach challenge-based project process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Promote, recruit and manage participants, challenge owners and placement hosts (if applicable)</td>
<td>• Provide additional competency-related coaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prepare, co-deliver and evaluate the programme’s foundation and building blocks</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Report</td>
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</table>
Thank you!

For more information you are welcome to join the Pioneers programme’s information sessions in November and December 2021.