



Business Plan 2023 – 2025

Open Call for Proposals

EIT Community Co-Create NEB: Local communities and public authorities building sustainable, beautiful and inclusive public space – 2025

Call Manual

EIT Community NEB:

EIT Urban Mobility

EIT Climate KIC

EIT Food

EIT Manufacturing

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History of changes

Version	Publication Date	Change
1.0	04.07.2024	Initial version

Any updates to this Call Manual are detailed in the table above. Amended versions of the Call Manual are published on the EIT Urban Mobility, EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Food and EIT Manufacturing websites.

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Abbreviations

BP	Business Plan
EEE	External Expert Evaluator
EIT Community NEB	EIT Urban Mobility, EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Food and EIT Manufacturing
EIT	European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
EU	European Union
FSA	Financial Support Agreement
FS	Financial sustainability
FSM	Financial Sustainability Mechanism
HE	Horizon Europe
KIC	Knowledge and Innovation Community
KPIs	Key performance indicators
KTI	Knowledge triangle integration
MGA	Model Grant Agreement
NEB	New European Bauhaus
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PIC	Participant Identification Code

Glossary

Lead Applicant	The entity/person who submitted the proposal and will coordinate the project if it is selected. If the proposal is successful, the Lead Applicant becomes the Project Leader.
Project Leader	The Project Leader is the main contact for EIT Urban Mobility, EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Food and EIT Manufacturing (EIT Community NEB) from the proposal submission stage to the end of project implementation. The Project Leader represents the project and the consortium partners (the other partners participating in the project, if any) to EIT Community NEB, and also has responsibility for creating and submitting a proposal. For mono-participant grants, the single legal entity involved in the project also has the role of Project Leader.
Call for proposals	The call for proposals is the instrument used by EIT Community NEB to allocate funding to third parties with a view to supporting the deployment and development of the Strategic Agenda (SA) through projects.
Call Manual	The Call Manual is the document that defines and states the terms, conditions and criteria for any call for proposals in accordance with the principles of transparency, equal treatment, open competition and sound procedural management.
Consensus meeting	The consensus meeting is convened so that all experts who assessed the proposals can discuss their individual evaluation reports and agree on the comments and scores reflected in the Summary Evaluation Reports (SERs). This remote meeting is led by the Rapporteur and supported by the Quality Controller, who seek a consensus and ensure that proposals are evaluated in a fair manner and in line with the established evaluation criteria.
Coordinating KIC	The KIC coordinating the grant for a project.
Deliverable	Deliverables capture the achievement of key outputs and take the form of analysis reports, feasibility studies, strategy documents, pilot action reports and training documents. The deliverables specified must fully demonstrate the project's achievements and the judicious use of public funds.
EIT KPIs	Set of key performance indicators (KPIs) defined by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) that reflect its operational objectives for education, entrepreneurship and innovation. These KPIs are used to measure how effectively a KIC/project is meeting the objectives of EIT.
Evaluation Panel	A group of EEs and a Rapporteur with specific expertise in a particular area/segment of the call with the aim of evaluating a set of eligible proposals submitted to a call.

Evaluation process	Process by which EIT Community NEB, supported by External Expert Evaluators (EEEs), examines the quality of a proposal to decide if it should be selected to receive EIT funding.
Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement	The Horizon Europe (HE) Model Grant Agreement (MGA) sets out the rights, obligations and terms and conditions applicable to the grant awarded.
KIC-specific KPIs	A set of indicators defined by EIT Community NEB that reflect the societal challenge that KIC is seeking to address.
Knowledge triangle integration	EIT Community NEB aims to create close-knit partnerships between European education, research and business entities (knowledge triangles) and also involves cities, either through the composition of project members or through the expected impact of the project results.
Milestones	Control points to chart the progress of project implementation. They may correspond to the completion of a key deliverable that allows the next phase of work to begin.
Outputs	Tangible results, e.g. the specific technology, product, service, method, design, patents, jobs, curricula, prototypes, concept, methodology, approach, skills or experience created by the project.
Ranking list	List of proposals ranked according to the score awarded by the Selection Committee.
Selection Committee	The Selection Committee is responsible for endorsing the selected proposals and defining the conditions for funding to include the selected proposals in EIT Community NEB's final project portfolio.
Summary Evaluation Report	The Rapporteur issues a single and final SER for each proposal after the consensus meeting. This document provides a concise overview of the proposal's final evaluation score, strengths, weaknesses, associated risks and any recommendations made.

Introduction

The New European Bauhaus (NEB) is currently one of the key European initiatives and translates the European Green Deal into tangible change on the ground by placing culture and citizens' needs at the core of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). EIT and its pan-European thematic KICs are well positioned to drive the change sought by NEB through innovation ecosystems and thematic expertise. NEB is utilising the experience and expertise of EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Digital, EIT Food, EIT Manufacturing and EIT Urban Mobility to advance the implementation phase of NEB through grassroots activities. The KICs involved are creating a new and unique set of NEB activities resulting from a combination of their ongoing, tried and tested programmes and new ideas.

Since 2021, we have had a growing portfolio of projects to support the implementation of New European Bauhaus in cities and rural and peri-urban areas across Europe. We work with innovators, city administrations, research organisations, educational institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and businesses to boost the transformation of their cities. A core summary of the projects conducted in 2023 can be found [here](#). The projects that are currently under way in 2024 can be found [here](#).

This Call for Proposals, EIT Community Co-CreatE NEB, aimed at consortia **with a minimum of two and a maximum of four partners**, one of which should be a city, a region or an affiliated entity with a city or region, and all of which should be located in a European Union Member State or a Third Country associated to Horizon Europe.

The Call focuses on demonstrating new solutions to boost the transformation of cities and rural and peri-urban areas by bringing individuals and communities closer to nature, bringing a sense of belonging, addressing the needs of territories, and communities that need specific attention, and transforming value chains and the life cycle of materials towards circularity. The Call will identify inspirational, beautiful, sustainable and inclusive project proposals.

Eight projects will be selected in this Call with a maximum funding of 45,000 EUR per project and a minimum co-funding rate of 25% across the project.

This Call for Proposals is also consistent with the KICs' portfolio strategic fit through its alignment with the activity plan approved by EIT. It responds to the EU dimension, as proposals' geographical spread within the EU will also be considered.

Applicants selected for this Call for Proposals will have the opportunity to interact with the New European Bauhaus Community, [NEBLab](#) and other relevant New European Bauhaus activities through sharing information, best practice, and, where relevant, results. Please visit the official [New European Bauhaus website](#) for more information.

1. Call summary

Call for Proposals Main Features	
Key dates in the Call calendar ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call opening: 4 July 2024 • Call closure: 10 October 2024 at 17:00 CET • Eligibility and admissibility check: October 2024 • Evaluation of proposals: October-November 2024 • Communication of results: December 2024 • Tentative start of the projects: 1 February 2025 • Finalisation of the projects: 31 December 2025 (at the latest)
Total estimated EIT Funding allocated to this Call	<p>€360,000</p> <p>Eight projects with up to € 45,000 of EIT Community NEB funding allocation for each project. All proposals must have a minimum co-funding rate of 25%.</p>
Link to the submission portal	The <u>new EIT UM NetSuite platform</u> will be available by mid-July 2024
List of documents to be submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form available on the NetSuite platform • Registration document/Declaration of affiliation if applicable • Project Gantt Chart (optional)
List of documents to take into consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call Manual • The New European Bauhaus Compass • Guidelines for Applicants • Eligibility of Expenditure • Appeal Procedure • Registration document/Declaration of affiliation template (if applicable) • EIT Community NEB Project Implementation Handbook • Financial Support Agreement (FSA) template • Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement • List of previously funded projects
Short summary of the topics to be addressed	<p>The EIT Community NEB Challenges cover four main thematic axes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconnecting with nature • Regaining a sense of belonging • Prioritising places and people who need them the most • The need for long-term, life cycle thinking in the industrial ecosystem
Evaluation criteria	<p>The proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria listed below, as stated in Section 5 "Evaluation and selection process":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellence and novelty • Impact and social, economic, financial, and general sustainability • Quality and efficiency of the implementation

¹ Please note that this calendar is indicative. Dates may be subject to slight changes.

2. General requirements

2.1 EIT Community NEB strategic vision and mission

Our mission is to build sustainable, beautiful and inclusive public space in line with the New European Bauhaus initiative. These citizen-centred engagement activities will serve to not only identify and prioritise challenges, but also to envisage an initial process to co-create solutions for the most pressing challenges in alignment with the New European Bauhaus core values and principles. All activities must serve the purpose of achieving the three inseparable core values of the New European Bauhaus:

- Sustainability from climate goals, to circularity, zero pollution, and biodiversity.
- Aesthetics quality of experience and style, beyond functionality.
- inclusion, from valuing diversity to equality for all, accessibility and affordability.

The following three key principles guide and integrate the New European Bauhaus dimensions' development:

- A multilevel approach: from global to local
- A participatory approach
- A transdisciplinary approach

In addition, the New European Bauhaus guided by the following four thematic axes that the Commission decided to follow during the implementation of the New European Bauhaus:

- Reconnecting with nature
- Regaining a sense of belonging
- prioritising places and the people who need them the most
- The need for long-term, life cycle thinking in the industrial ecosystem

These thematic axes are highly interconnected with the aim of delivering the New European Bauhaus approach. For example, having access to green spaces can also bring people together. Affordable houses need to be close to the labour market to create a healthy, functional living ecosystem. Local improvement to a place cannot be made without considering the DNA and communities of the place. Further details on the strategic focus of the Co-create NEB Call are provided in Section 3.

Applicants selected for this Call for Proposals will have the opportunity to interact with the New European Bauhaus Community, NEB Lab and other relevant New European Bauhaus activities through the exchange of information, best practices, and, where relevant, results. Please visit the [official NEB Lab website](#) for more information.

2.2 Who can apply

This Call for Proposals is open to all legal entities established in Member States of the European Union, and/or in Third countries associated to Horizon Europe. These legal entities may be, for example, public or private legal entities, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), educational institutions, research and technology organisations, consultancies, NGOs or social entities.

Applications from Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) countries are encouraged.

All proposals must be composed of a consortium **with a minimum of two and a maximum of four partners** located in an EU Member State or a Third Country associated to Horizon Europe. At least two of these partners must be independent of each other² and **one must be a city, region or an entity affiliated with a city or region**.

Important note

In the case no city or region is involved in the project, the entity affiliated with a city or region must upload together with the application form, either the legal registration/official document that proves the legal affiliation with said city/region or a declaration of affiliation signed by the legal representative of the affiliated entity that proves the legal affiliation with said city/region. Applicants can access the template for the Declaration on the Call webpage.

Proposals with fewer than two partners or more than four partners will be ineligible. Proposals without the participation of a city, a region, or an entity affiliated with a city or region will also be ineligible.

Specific cases

Entities established in Switzerland are eligible to participate but at their own cost. These entities will not receive EIT funding; instead, they will be funded by the Swiss government. Applicants from Switzerland are requested to contact the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) for further details.

Temporary eligibility requirements for Hungarian Universities

Following the Council's Decision on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary that entered into force on 15 December 2022, special participation and funding restrictions may affect Hungarian public interest trusts and their linked Universities participating in any EIT Community NEB Calls. For further information and the list of affected entities, please refer to the *Eligibility of Expenditure* document published on the Call webpage.

² Legal entities shall be regarded as independent of each other where neither is under the direct or indirect control of the other or under the same direct or indirect control as the other. Please refer to the entire definition in Article 8: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal_basis/rules_participation/h2020-rules-participation_en.pdf

This Call for Proposals adheres to the main rules and principles established by EIT Community NEB and general EU principles. The processes relating to the Call are aligned with the principles of openness, transparency, equal treatment and sound management.

3. Call specific requirements

3.1 Strategic focus of the Call

The overall purpose of this Co-create NEB Call for Proposals is to resolve challenges faced by cities and peri-urban and rural areas by focusing on innovation and action in public spaces through citizen engagement in their re-design. It aims to work on activities that engage citizens and end-users to identify relevant challenges and create citizen-generated transdisciplinary projects in their communities, aligned with the New European Bauhaus initiative. In addition, in accordance with the cities and peri-urban area and rural area cross-sectoral challenges, we encourage mapping challenges and the development of solutions in collaboration with citizens based on a demand-led approach.

EIT Community NEB aims to support activities in which cities and peri-urban and rural areas can act to deliver on their commitments and public realm development plans laid out in their strategic plans and are empowered to co-create potential solutions that incorporate the New European Bauhaus approach into process of reflection aligned with the initiative. It is expected to lead the co-creation of new solutions, products and services with citizens, thereby empowering them to implement innovations in their communities and to trigger change by actively influencing local policies. Citizen engagement that reflects the diversity of voices in the community is essential to developing successful long-term solutions that meet the needs of the wider community. Working together in a shared endeavour for a common higher goal will result in a true synergy of innovation, creativity, and design, thus improving citizens' quality of life in cities and driving green and digital transformations. For citizens, this can increase their engagement with and social acceptance of change and encourage a shift towards more sustainable behaviours and mindsets. Successful citizen engagement will increase the ability to create, experiment, demonstrate, scale and deploy innovative solutions for a just, equitable and prosperous future.

3.2 Objective of the Call

The primary focus of the Co-create NEB Call for Proposals is to co-create and build sustainable, beautiful and inclusive public space and demonstrate new solutions to boost the transformation of our cities and peri-urban and rural areas.

All proposals must comply with the following requirements to ensure that the project scope is appropriate:

- Proposals must involve the development of activities to **improve selected public spaces and/or complement local policy/strategy** whilst **integrating all three core New European Bauhaus values** (*sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion*) and all **three New European Bauhaus key principles** (*multilevel, participatory and transdisciplinary approach*) into their projects.

- The activities must be tailored towards **at least two specific and clearly identified target groups** (can be defined by age, profession, neighbourhoods of the same city, etc.). The proposal needs to include a communication and dissemination plan to engage with target groups in the given period.
- The proposed solution must have the **potential to be implemented on a broader scale and/or replicated** in accordance with a context-based approach. Proposals should **aim for long-term sustainable impact**.
- The proposal must demonstrate an **in-depth understanding of the local ecosystem**, including stakeholders, culture and social dynamics, and the **role of the city / local authorities** must be well defined.
- The proposed solution must use **existing knowledge, innovative methodologies, tools or processes relating to target group behaviour** with regard to the selected topic, **promote real behavioural change and influence policymaking**.

All activities should leverage and use the **knowledge triangle integration (KTI)** principle to promote and facilitate collaboration with cities, as well as with educational, research and business entities. To this end, proposals must include a joint workshop with the aforementioned stakeholders, in which impact assessment data will be discussed and potential opportunities for further research and exploitation identified.

3.3 EIT Community New European Bauhaus Challenge Areas

For this Co-create NEB Call for Proposals, the EIT Community NEB defines four Challenge Areas based on the New European Bauhaus four thematic axes:

- Reconnecting with nature
- Regaining a sense of belonging
- Prioritising places and the people who need them the most
- The need for long-term, life cycle thinking in the industrial ecosystem

All proposals must address at least one of the EIT Community New European Bauhaus challenges described below.

Specific examples of projects that have previously been funded through the Co-create NEB call and have addressed one of the challenge areas are detailed below:

3.3.1 *Re-connecting with nature*

Specific Challenge

The New European Bauhaus movement aims to create greater opportunities for contact with green public spaces that translate into better health and reduce income-related health inequalities. Nature-based solutions in cities can help address floods and other extreme weather events, whilst making the built environment more attractive. Climate action can improve air, water and soil quality and overall living conditions. The COVID-19 pandemic underlined the direct link between nature protection and physical and

mental health for citizens. There is a need to go beyond a human-centred to a life-centred perspective, seeking inspiration from nature and learning from it.

Keywords related to the challenge area:

Urban greening, urban green corridors, active mobility, green transportation, nature-integrated transit routes, Nature Based Solutions (NBS), green jobs and skills, crop resilience, sustainable soil and/or crop management, (re)naturalisation, biophilic design, green infrastructure, urban agriculture, community gardens, green roofs, vertical farming, urban wildlife, sustainable tourism, nature playgrounds, nature connected public spaces, urban nature walks

Examples

Some examples of the types of projects that address this challenge are included in the following non-exhaustive list:

- Urban greening, such as urban green corridors for active mobility.
- Rethinking of transport infrastructure.
- Interaction with citizens to encourage the take-up of green mobility solutions.
- co-creation of green public spaces to exploit their potential, such as better refreshing/cooling for urban areas.
- (Re)naturalisation of degraded public areas, green areas, biodiversity, green and blue infrastructure, and urban furniture as assets that promote active mobility.
- Nature-based solutions for industrial sites and processes or old post-industrial sites, including the regeneration of degraded soils and wastewater streams.
- Support and promotion of green jobs and skills and futures literacy, including life-long learning through nature-based solutions.
- Solutions to enhance crop yield and resilience through the use of more sustainable soil and/or crop management and other practices to increase plant tolerance to stress (abiotic, biotic), including climate change.
- Solutions with credible potential to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or mitigate biodiversity loss from the agrifood production chain, including solutions that target livestock, human diets and resource stewardship.

3.3.2 *Re-gaining sense of community and belonging*

Specific Challenge

The New European Bauhaus movement is about collective and private experience. Building bridges between people involves encouraging intergenerational solidarity, developing links between education and the arts in local environments, and improving common spaces and meeting places.

Keywords related to the challenge area:

Degraded public space transformation, community engagement, social cohesion, inter-generational, cultural exchange, proximity economy, accessible public spaces, urban revitalisation, participatory design, co-creation, local heritage preservation, public art, walkable communities, urban gardens, human-centric design, food culture, local identity, food-waste initiatives.

Examples

Some examples of specific projects that can be addressed are included in the following non-exhaustive list:

- Enhancement of degraded public areas.
- Increased accessibility and interconnection of public spaces via more sustainable means of transport;
- Promotion of multiple uses of public spaces by citizens to create the conditions for enhanced cultural exchange.
- Promotion of proximity economy activities to allow citizens to access key services and amenities within walking distance, thus strengthening connections and fostering healthy, sustainable and active mobility.
- Repurposing and/or refurbishment of public spaces to serve as catalysts to rediscover local communities and integrate newcomers.
Demonstration of the interconnectedness of sustainability, resilience and community through multifunctional activities that address all three concepts in a mutually reinforcing manner.
- Manufacture of solutions to help build more human-centric, sustainable and resilient industry that places the well-being of workers at the centre of production processes.
- Enrichment of food culture with local identity and food authenticity as a means of reducing food fraud and boosting consumer confidence in sources and quality.
- Promotion of food supply-chain optimisation, minimisation of food loss and waste and modification of the demand curve by setting up innovative systems that promote value-chain relationships.

3.3.3 Prioritising places and the people that need them the most

Specific Challenge

The New European Bauhaus movement promotes the inclusion of all citizens, as well as of the places where they live. Beautiful and sustainable solutions have to be affordable and accessible for all. Special attention should be paid to the specific circumstances of the most vulnerable groups and individuals, such as those at risk of exclusion or poverty and those experiencing homelessness. Disadvantaged groups are at greater risk of energy poverty and of suffering the effects of air pollution and have poorer access to public transport. Inclusion also requires that all approaches be designed in such a way that accessibility barriers to the built and virtual environments and to goods and services are removed. NEB transcends major city centres to encompass places in all their diversity, including small villages, rural areas, shrinking cities, neglected neighbourhoods, suburbs and de-industrialised areas. This calls for planning to avoid the spatial segregation of social groups and to create a sense of togetherness. It is crucial to connect the various parts of cities, villages and neighbourhoods.

Keywords related to the challenge area:

Social inclusion, vulnerable groups, rural-urban connectivity, inclusive public spaces, integrated public safety neighbourhoods, neighbourhood revitalisation, community-led solutions, participatory processes, social housing, social manufacturing, social integration, co-design, human-centred design.

Examples

Some examples of specific projects that can be addressed included in the following non-exhaustive list:

- Solutions that address poor transport links between rural and urban areas.
- Solutions aimed at universal mobility as a key enabler of social inclusion so that everyone can move freely within cities, regardless of gender, race, beliefs or disability.
- Climate justice initiatives that focus on equitable distribution of housing and living conditions;
- Green solutions that address social issues, in line with the 'build back better' principle.
- Proposals that encompass social manufacturing, including those that involve less favoured groups or groups at risk of social exclusion in product manufacturing.
- Co-design and testing, together with citizens, of affordable food products and/or ingredients customised for vulnerable target groups (older people, children, etc.), including data standardisation for targeted nutrition.

3.3.4 Prioritising the need for long-term, life cycle and integrated thinking in the industrial ecosystem

Specific Challenge

The New European Bauhaus movement promotes an economy based on circularity to tackle unsustainable practices, including resource uses for obsolete buildings or infrastructures. Addressing these challenges concerns the entire industrial ecosystem, from production to delivery and consumption, with a circular economy mindset. Recovered and renewable materials should be better recognised by all relevant disciplines and become part of design paradigms. The use of sustainably produced and procured nature-based building materials, such as wood, bamboo, straw, cork, or stone should be improved. New production technologies should help reduce the carbon footprint of steel or cement, recycle otherwise wasted textiles and accelerate the green transition of energy intensive industries. New business models, bioeconomy, social economy approaches, and Design for Sustainability can support the transformation of sectors such as textiles, tourism, waste management or energy production. The digital transition will play a systematic role in the development and implementation of the New European Bauhaus.

Keywords related to the challenge area:

Circular economy, long-term use, reduce by design, maintenance, reuse, refurbish, remanufacturing, repurpose, recycling, waste rethinking, product life extension, second life, resource management, (un)sustainable mindsets and/or behaviours, decentralised manufacturing, circular mobility, cleantech, sustainable packaging, green economy, local production, shared mobility, durability, food waste, circular mobility, local crafts

Examples

Some examples of specific projects that can be addressed are included in the following non-exhaustive list:

- Activities to promote products and services for long-term use

- Reduce by design, as well as, maintenance, reusing, refurbishing, remanufacturing, repurpose and recycling of resources and waste, including digital and monitoring tools
- Improvement of current state-of-the-art of the manufacturing industries
- Public and multi-stakeholder activities fostering circular economy actions, namely with regards to resources, waste, product life extension and second life of products, and more efficient management of sources.
- Activities targeting unsustainable mindsets or behaviours in specific social groups to maximize the potential impact.
- Activities of decentralised, local and urban manufacturing designing and/or demonstrating symbiotic and sustainable factories closer to the customer including integrating new and traditional techniques, local crafts, and knowledge to foster innovation in manufacturing
- Circular mobility including shared mobility, satisfying user needs without transferring ownership of physical products through shared solutions
- Solutions for the sensibilities and aesthetics of the circularity concept as user experience; combining circular and cleantech solutions for long-term effect
- Leveraging existing innovations promoting circularity and market opportunities in the agri-food systems and a circular model maintaining the value of food in the economy for as long as possible
- Co-creation of innovative, sustainable packaging concepts to reduce food spoilage

3.4 Expected outcomes, outputs and impacts

All proposals submitted are expected to co-create and, build sustainable, beautiful and inclusive public space in line with NEB.

In terms of the public realm development strategy, **projects must comply with at least one of the expected outcome targets:**

- **Outcome A:** Improved quality of a defined public space by implementing the NEB approach. The proposal must have a clear explanation of how and at what level the project contributes to achieve the selected NEB challenge, including a realistic and achievable plan.
- **Outcome B:** Improved quality of a public space through complementarity with a local policy/strategy and implementation of the NEB approach. The proposal must have a clear explanation of how and at what level the project will contribute to achieve the targets of the selected local policy/strategy, including a realistic and achievable plan. The project must provide clear evidence of implementation of the NEB approach. Some examples of specific types of local-level official policies/strategies are included in the following non-exhaustive list:
 - Public realm infrastructure plan or/and urban development plan or/and public realm improvement strategy
 - Statement of the commitment from city/region on the relevant segment/area targeted by the project
 - Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs)
 - Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs)
 - Zero Pollution Action Plan for 2030

- Waste management plans and/or waste prevention programmes
- Circular Economy Strategy or Action Plan
- Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change
- Local Action Plan on Green urban areas and green infrastructure Sustainable Land Use & Soil strategy
- Nature Restoration Plan
- Farm to Fork strategy
- Biodiversity strategy for 2030
- Any action plans that can be supported by the project
- Net-Zero Industry Act
- EU industrial strategy
- Critical Raw Materials Act

Any of the above listed outcomes or a combination would be eligible to boost the desired collaboration within the local community.

In addition, all submitted proposals must meet **at least one of the following expected outputs**:

- **OUTPUT 1: Products and services (including rapid product prototypes):**
 - enhancement of nature-based-solutions, promotion of green spaces and support for urban greening;
 - responses to citizens' real needs in urban and regional spaces, as well as improved accessibility and quality of experience for citizens in their daily lives, e.g. leisure, work, mobility and commuting;
 - delivery of both online and offline (face-to-face) support, as well as public and private realm infrastructure and facilities with a focus on specific vulnerable populations, e.g. older people, children, ethnic minorities and marginalised groups; promotion of long-term use and thinking, and reduce by design, maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, repurposing and recycling of resources and waste, including digital and monitoring tools, and improvement of current state-of-the-art industrial manufacturing processes.
- **OUTPUT 2: Co-design and co-stewardship of:**
 - green spaces and nature-based solutions through public-private partnerships and social participation;
 - access to nature-based solutions and expansion of green spaces, as well as their collective stewardship;
 - public realm and commons with civil society and other stakeholders to favour diversity, while strengthening inclusivity and equitability, as well as promotion of co-ownership and care of public and private spaces;
 - urban regeneration in less favoured areas, including the most polluted zones, neglected or dangerous neighbourhoods, remote areas with poor communication and districts with limited services;
 - transformation of the public space embedded in the urban ecosystem towards a circularity model, with consideration for sustainability, aesthetic and social aspects. For

example, harvesting ambient water or energy for use on site or cycling nutrients locally to create an environment that supports biodiversity, human health and well-being.

3.5 Gender and diversity

Diversity powers us to offer the best solutions to pressing global challenges and enables us to make innovation happen. At the same time, we are aware that making our cities more liveable and addressing the needs of all community groups requires a more diverse workforce and that gender and diversity must be considered when new mobility products and services are developed.

EIT Community NEB aims to support organisations that also value diversity and gender equality. To this end, projects submitted to this call should:

- demonstrate how gender and diversity are considered in the design/development of the project outputs (product/services, pilots and marketing material) and how these considerations interact with other identity traits (age, race, class, sexual orientation and physical ability, among others);
- offer a mixed team consisting of women and/or underrepresented groups who will take an active role in project implementation.

3.6 Key Performance indicators (KPIs)

Each proposal must address a **minimum of two mandatory KPIs** from the list provided below and specify the minimum target value expected for each chosen KPI. The selected KPIs might be subject to amendment depending on the scope of the project and the coordinating KIC designated during the conditions-clearing phase.

KPI Code	KPI name	KPI description	Minimum Target expected
KSN03	Public realm improvements	<p>Public realm is a platform for life with a diversity of urban functions to live, work, shop, relax, encounter and play, commonly defined as all areas between buildings including streets, boulevards and open squares that are accessible to the public.</p> <p>This KPI includes both: a) small-scale and temporary changes, using low-cost and scalable interventions, as the first step in informing long-term systemic change, and b) permanent investment as part of a public realm action plan and/or a walking and cycling strategy, and/or parking interventions</p> <p>Reporting requirement in the final performance report as structured data on: List incl. the type, title and short description</p>	1
KSN02	Demonstrations/pilots/ living labs within a project that actively involve citizens and/or local associations	<p>Actively engaged an appropriate amount of citizens/community representatives of various age and social groups in running a demonstration/successful pilot/living lab* to encourage experimentation, research and the development of solutions to city challenges and issues; and, where relevant: mobilised local citizen associations and community groups to help maximise reach out to citizens. The aim is to ensure acceptance of measures, raise awareness for opportunities or restrictions that come with measure implementation, and enhance ownership of measures.</p> <p><i>*Living labs are defined as user-centred, open innovation ecosystems based on a systematic user co-creation approach integrating research and innovation processes in real life communities and settings. Living labs place the citizen at the centre of innovation.</i></p> <p>Reporting requirement in the final performance report as structured data on:</p>	1

		List incl. the type, title, number of engaged participants and short description. In Annex the signed and dated participant lists are mandatory with family names and signatures according to GDPR.	
CL01	Strengthened resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change	People with strengthened climate resilience Reach of activities with awareness and capability building effects for climate change mitigation, adaptation, green skills and futures literacy. Reporting requirement in the final performance report as structured data on: List of activities/events incl. the type, title and short description and number of participants	50
CL02	Climate-friendly jobs created or sustained	Combined 1 new jobs created in start-ups/scale-ups, and 1 jobs/employment in existing businesses, partners sustained through innovations	2
KIC.I10	Events organised (adjusted for the purposes of the given Call as MO1)	Number of events organised to engage with citizens in the co-creation. EIT Community NEB beneficiaries report at proposal submission (CFP), whether their proposed activities engage citizens in a variety of co-creation approaches, methods and processes.	2
KIC.B05.1	Transition towards greater circularity EITM KPI KIC.B05.1 (adjusted for the purposes of the given Call as MO2)	Activities that lead to a reduction of material consumption (related to the process and/or product targeted) in the Connect NEB programme. Innovation activities will be required to report at the end of the activity (programme) if the results of the innovation activity that enables the activity partners to transition towards greater circularity have been implemented and the process or product in question has become (more) circular. Start-ups supported will be required to report if respective products or services have been brought to the market and material consumption rates are or, could be, lowered at the level of clients. By the end of the EIT Community Programme, EIT Community NEB beneficiaries are asked to report on to which degree has their activity met its overall objective of becoming (more) circular.	1
FD01	Increased public engagement in food system	People taking part in EIT Food co-creation activities	50
FD02	New skills and professions developed in the food sector	New skills and profession developed through the activity proposed.	1

The selected KPIs must be delivered during project implementation and **no later than 31 December 2025**.

3.7 Project duration

Projects selected for this Call for Proposals will have a maximum duration of **11 months** (tentative start date: 1 February 2025 up to 31 December 2025).

As indicated in the EIT Community NEB Project Implementation Handbook, if the project requires additional time to complete its work plan and/or achieve the KPIs, the Project Leader may request a project extension from their coordinating KIC. If the extension is approved, project implementation will be allowed to continue and KPIs may be attained without any additional EIT funding.

3.8 Financial aspects

3.8.1 EIT funding allocation, co-funding rate and cost eligibility

The total maximum **estimated EIT funding** allocated to this Call for Proposals is € 360,000. Eight projects will be selected with the maximum funding of € 45,000 per project.

Additionally, all proposals must have a minimum co-funding rate³ of 25% across the project. Partners in the consortium may have different co-funding rates as long as the overall project co-funding meets the required 25% minimum.

A co-funding rate above 25% might be positively considered during the evaluation.

For information on the eligibility of your project's budget costs, please refer to the *Eligibility of Expenditure* document published on the Call webpage.

3.8.2 Contribution to Financial sustainability

Within EIT Community NEB, the KICs have developed a financial sustainability (FS) strategy to enable them to gradually become financially independent from EIT funding. These FS plans are based on a combination of different mechanisms, such as revenue share and equity stakes. The FS strategy aims to create a permanent innovation fund that will sustain innovation beyond the predefined cycles of European Commission block grants. This financial independence will be based on a combination of both active earned income and passive investment revenue.

For Co-Create NEB projects, even if the provision of a Financial Stability Mechanism (FSM) for EIT Community NEB is not a mandatory element, it will be assessed as part of the evaluation criteria (see Section 5.2). Accordingly, each applicant should have a credible operational strategy for their own product, service or solution, evidenced by a credible operational forecast for their specific product, service or solution, to be scaled/replicated during project implementation. We are aiming for long-lasting project effects and sustainability to ensure that the activities continue after completion of the EIT Community NEB project. Proposals are encouraged to outline the potential economic impact, the period for which the project is expected to continue (e.g. one, two, three or more years), and the plan for how this will be achieved (e.g. based on a viable operational model or fresh funding from other grants). Measures for exploiting the data obtained should be described (in line with Article 16 of MGA on Intellectual Property Rights), including how this could potentially be used as a project's marketing and/or sales plan.

³ Co-funding refers to financial contributions such as partners' own resources and/or other non-EIT Community NEB funding sources.

3.9 Project implementation, monitoring and reporting

EIT Community NEB will manage all projects according to the general rules and procedures outlined in the EIT Community NEB Project Implementation Handbook.

All Project Leaders will need to comply with the rules and procedures defined in the Horizon Europe MGA during the project implementation. In particular, they will have to comply with the rules and procedures defined in the EIT Community NEB Project Implementation Handbook published on the Call webpage and the Financial Support Agreement that each partner will have to sign with each coordinating KIC.

In addition, all Project Leaders and consortium partners will need to comply with the rules and procedures defined in the Horizon Europe MGA, with special attention to Article 16 (Intellectual Property Rights) and Article 17 (Communication, Dissemination and Visibility). Most particularly, all project activities must follow the branding guidelines and obligations as set out in MGA Article 17. All communication and dissemination activities funded by the grant must display the special logo of the EIT Community New European Bauhaus with the following text: “EIT Community New European Bauhaus [project name] is supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union”) and related communication materials must include the official logo of both: New European Bauhaus and EIT Community New European Bauhaus logos.

EIT Community NEB will offer mentoring to the selected projects to enhance the impact of the activity through NEB’s values/principles and to assist in designing business models/scale-ups in accordance with NEB’s values/principles.

3.9.1 Mandatory deliverables

To prove the successful implementation of the project, and consequently to have the right to receive EIT Community NEB funding according to its defined value, the following minimum mandatory deliverables are expected to be submitted:

Deliverable	Description	Tentative Date
Intermediate report	Report presenting activities implemented during the first half of the project, including a description of challenges, initial outputs according to the submitted work plan, progress so far, methodology applied, stakeholder involvement, identification of potential risks and mitigation measures, if required, etc.	30 June 2025
Final performance report, including report on KPIs	Report presenting activities implemented during the whole project period and final conclusions. - overall progress of the activity: brief description, methodology, work plan and achievement; - KTI workshop results for future exploitation and research (including proof of compliance with branding requirements); - outputs and outcomes; - potential impact on local policies: feedback from local authorities and impact on their strategy;	End December 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conclusions: overall management and recommendations for further replication and/or scale-up of the activity carried out; - evidence of KPIs; - publications, dissemination/communication events (title, description, views/participants, event pages, agenda, pictures, signed and dated consent forms with anonymised family names and signatures, signed and dated participant lists with anonymised family names and signatures, pictures, videos, graphics, images, infographics) that were achieved according to the predefined targets of the application. 	
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Minor additional deliverables may be needed (e.g. slide decks and presentations) during project implementation, depending on the projects' scope, and/or the product/service solution.

4. General proposal preparation and submission

4.1 Support for proposal preparation

To improve their chances of success, applicants are encouraged to read the Guidelines for Applicants document thoroughly, attend the call information session and direct any questions to contact people during the proposal preparation process.

Guidelines for Applicants

The *Guidelines for Applicants* document is published on the Call webpage and provides comprehensive information and instructions on preparing and submitting a proposal for this Call.

Call information session

To help applicants prepare and submit their proposals, EIT Community NEB will host an online information session after the Call is published. This online information event will cover the Call content, scope and challenges, requirements, timeline, evaluation process and criteria, financial aspects, and online submission steps related to the Call.

Please find details below to register for the webinar, please fill in the registration form: <https://forms.office.com/e/eHXPgFyMKk>

To register for the online matchmaking event, please fill in the registration form: <https://forms.office.com/e/kXBQSy6YD>

Type of event	Topic covered	Date and time (CET)	Access to platform
Online Webinar	<p>Co-create NEB Call Information session</p> <p>Introduction to the Call, strategic focus, scope and Call requirements, the evaluation process and the steps for the submission of proposals through the online platform.</p>	30 July 2024, at 11:00 CET	MS Teams (LIVE) (Recording is available later on the Call website)
Online matchmaking event	<p>Matchmaking event</p> <p>Registered participants will present their organisation, strengths and requirements to form a consortium in</p>	10 September 2024 at 11:00 CET	MS Teams (LIVE)

	four minutes. A template will be sent after registration.		
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Call contact points

In addition to attending Call information sessions, all applicants can reach out to EIT Community NEB with any concerns or doubts they may have in relation to the content, rules of participation, evaluation process and criteria, online submission steps, etc., of the Call. Below are the key contact details for the EIT Community NEB team:

Type of contact	Team	Email
Call timeline, evaluation process and criteria, financial aspects, and online submission steps.	Programme Management Office (PMO) – Call Coordinator	pmo@eiturbanmobility.eu
Call content, scope and challenges, requirements	EIT Urban Mobility	maria.marrugat@eiturbanmobility.eu
	EIT Climate KIC	Natalia.vera@climate-kic.org
	EIT FOOD	Marianne.lemberger@eitfood.eu
	EIT Manufacturing	blanca.chocarro@eitmanufacturing.eu

In the email subject please write the title of the Call and the acronym/ID of your proposal if any.

4.2 Proposal submission

4.2.1 How and when to apply

Before starting a proposal, **all applicants (Project Leader and consortium partners)** must follow the following steps:

- **STEP 1:** register in the [EU Funding & tender opportunities portal](#) to obtain the nine-digit Participant Identification Code (**PIC number**). If an organisation has already a PIC number, there is no need to register again.
- **STEP 2:** access the new EIT UM NetSuite platform, by submitting the [Partner Information Form \(PIF\)](#). NB: For organisations that previously participated in an EIT Urban Mobility project, and therefore are already registered in the PLAZA platform, do not submit the PIF form but **contact the EIT UM Service Desk servicedesk@eiturbanmobility.eu**: you will be provided with the credentials to access the new NetSuite platform.
- **STEP 3:** access the [EIT UM NetSuite platform](#) and find the open calls under *menu --> Call for Proposals --> Open Calls*.

The following documentation must be submitted by the Lead Applicant through **NetSuite no later than 10 October 2024 at 17:00 CET**.

- Application Form (**mandatory**)
- Annexes to the Application form: Registration document/Declaration of affiliation (mandatory only if applicable), Project Gantt Chart (optional)

Carefully read the registration and submission process which is outlined in the *Guidelines for Applicants* document. Be aware that registration of a new entity in the EIT Urban Mobility NetSuite platform can take two working days. Therefore, please ensure that **all project partners** are correctly registered in NetSuite few days before the deadline.

Proposals submitted after the set deadline will not be considered.

5. Evaluation and selection process

Once applicants have submitted their proposals, EIT Community NEB will proceed to:

- check the eligibility and admissibility of proposals and, if they are successful;
- initiate the content evaluation process, which is performed by independent experts.

5.1 Eligibility and admissibility check

A proposal will be admissible if it fulfils the below criterion:

1. Completeness	The proposal is complete, and has been submitted in time, by the Lead Applicant via the NetSuite platform, in English, with all mandatory sections and annexes.
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If a proposal is not admissible, it will not proceed to the eligibility check stage. A proposal will be eligible if it fulfils the below criteria:

2. Applicants registration	All applicants (including Lead Applicant and consortium partners) have registered in the NETSUITE submission tool and their PIF has been completed in full, including their PIC.
3. Applicants' eligibility	Applicants (including the Project Leader and consortium partners) are entities based in an EU Member State, and/or in <u>Third countries associated to Horizon Europe</u> , as defined in Section 2.2.
4. Consortium composition	As defined in Section 2.2., the consortium has a minimum of two and a maximum of four partners and meets the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least two partners must be independent of each other • One partner must be a city, region or an entity affiliated with a city or region

5. Registration document/Declaration of affiliation (if applicable)	<p>In the case no city or region is involved in the project, the entity affiliated with a city or region has uploaded together with the application form, either the legal registration/official document that proves the legal affiliation with said city/region or a declaration of affiliation signed by the legal representative of the affiliated entity that proves the legal affiliation with said city/region.</p>																											
6. Co-funding rate	<p>The submitted proposal must have a minimum co-funding rate of 25% across the project.</p>																											
7. KPIs addressed	<p>The submitted proposal must identify and address a minimum of two mandatory KPIs:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="548 625 1401 1409"> <thead> <tr> <th>KPI Code</th> <th>KPI title</th> <th>Minimum Target value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>KSN03</td> <td>Public realm improvements</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KSN02</td> <td>Demonstrations/ pilots/ living labs within a project that actively involve citizens and/or local associations</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CL01</td> <td>Strengthened resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CL02</td> <td>Climate-friendly jobs created or sustained</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KIC.I10</td> <td>Events organised (adjusted for the purposes of the given Call as MO1)</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KIC.B05.1</td> <td>Transition towards greater circularity EITM KPI KIC.B05.1 (adjusted for the purposes of the given Call as MO2)</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FD01</td> <td>Increased public engagement in food system</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FD02</td> <td>New skills and professions developed in the food sector</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	KPI Code	KPI title	Minimum Target value	KSN03	Public realm improvements	1	KSN02	Demonstrations/ pilots/ living labs within a project that actively involve citizens and/or local associations	1	CL01	Strengthened resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change	50	CL02	Climate-friendly jobs created or sustained	2	KIC.I10	Events organised (adjusted for the purposes of the given Call as MO1)	2	KIC.B05.1	Transition towards greater circularity EITM KPI KIC.B05.1 (adjusted for the purposes of the given Call as MO2)	1	FD01	Increased public engagement in food system	50	FD02	New skills and professions developed in the food sector	1
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8. Mandatory deliverables	<p>The proposal submitted includes the two mandatory deliverables identified in section 3.9.1: Intermediate report and Final performance report.</p>																											

Proposals that fail to meet one or more admissibility and eligibility criteria will receive an official communication from EIT Urban Mobility informing the Lead Applicants of the outcome of the admissibility and eligibility check and explaining why the proposal failed to meet the criteria.

In the case of missing or incorrect information linked to the applicant's registration, declaration, co-funding, KPI or deliverables, the applicant will be given five calendar days after receipt of the official communication to complete or correct the proposal and resubmit it. If the applicant responds positively to this requirement

within the time limit, the proposal will progress to the next stage of the evaluation process (see Section 5.2 below). If the applicant fails to respond or responds after the deadline, the proposal will be ineligible and will not be processed any further.

In the event that a single consortium partner is ineligible, this partner will withdraw. EIT Community NEB will then check whether the proposal is still eligible. The Lead Applicant will be informed accordingly.

Lead Applicants may appeal if they disagree with the decision to reject a proposal on the grounds that it is inadmissible or ineligible. An appeal must be made within five calendar days of the official notification of ineligibility from EIT Community NEB (see the Appeal Procedure document on the call webpage).

5.2 Quality evaluation of proposals

The purpose of the quality evaluation is to assess the excellence, impact, implementation, and overall quality of each proposal that successfully passes the eligibility and admissibility check.

This evaluation comprises different groups of criteria and sub-criteria that will be assessed in accordance with the following scores:

Score	Description	
0	None	The information requested is missing or incomplete
1	Very poor	The information provided is considered irrelevant or inadequate compared to the specific Call provisions
2	Poor	The information provided lacks relevant quality and contains significant weaknesses, compared to the specific Call provisions
3	Fair	The overall information provided is adequate, however, some aspects are unclearly or insufficiently detailed, compared to the specific Call provisions
4	Good	The information provided is adequate with sufficiently outlined details, compared to the specific Call provisions
5	Excellent	The information provided is outstanding in its details, clarity and coherence, compared to the specific Call provisions

During this phase, each proposal will be evaluated by an Evaluation Panel consisting of three independent expert evaluators from the four coordinating KICs.

Initially, the KIC evaluators will conduct a quality evaluation of all eligible proposals, which will involve assessing them based on the evaluation criteria listed in the table below and producing an individual evaluation report for each proposal.

Furthermore, the 20 best-ranked proposals⁴, evaluated by the KICs during the initial phase, will undergo an additional evaluation conducted by one external independent expert evaluator, using the same evaluation criteria. This external expert will also serve as The Rapporteur.

Finally, the Rapporteur will produce an SER for each proposal assessed. The SERs will be discussed and finalised in a consensus meeting attended by the Evaluation Panel and Quality Controller. The result of each SER, along with the list of evaluation results for all proposals assessed and the conditions for funding, will be sent to the Selection Committee.

Proposals are evaluated and scored against the criteria listed below:

Excellence: novelty and innovation	Max. scoring 25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal objectives are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time Bound) and in line with the NEB challenges. 	5 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal demonstrates the social demand, its need and relevance for the city/region and society, with at least two target groups identified. 	5 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed solution, methodology, and/or the engagement strategy is innovative: it uses creative and stimulating formats to co-create public space, thus boosting the transformation of their cities, peri-urban and rural areas. 	5 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal integrates the three NEB values (sustainability, inclusivity and aesthetics) from the challenge definition to the proposed solution. 	5 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender and diversity are considered in the design/development of the project and its outputs/solutions. 	5 points

Impact: social, economic, financial, and general sustainability	Max. scoring 25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal's expected outcomes, outputs and impacts are measurable at a quantitative and a qualitative level. Adequate performance metrics of the proposed solution are provided to objectively evaluate the sustainability, inclusivity and aesthetic value. 	5 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal demonstrates the relevance of the benefits of the project to improve the selected public space or to a local strategic plan/policy [city's public realm infrastructure or and urban development plan, see further info in section 3.4]. 	5 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal presents a detailed outreach, dissemination and end-user engagement plan that targets specific audiences and stakeholders in the local context and is aligned with the challenge area (in line with Article 17 of MGA). 	5 points

⁴ To determine the top 20 proposals in the event of tied scores, priority will be given to proposals with the greatest divergence in scores as reflected in the individual evaluation reports, thus indicating the need for an additional assessment by an external expert.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal has the potential to be implemented on a broader scale or replicable in various cities (the outcomes are repeatable and/or scalable). 	5 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal's potential economic impact is outlined to ensure potential future durability and transferability. Measures on exploiting the obtained data should be described, including how this could potentially be used as a project's marketing and/or sales plan 	5 points

Implementation: planning and sound financial management	Max. scoring 20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal provides effective and professional management structures to attain the defined outcomes. 	5 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A clear risk and mitigation plan is provided. 	5 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work plan and budget including the identified deliverables and milestones, are aligned with the proposed objectives, KPIs and expected outcomes, impact projections. 	5 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consortium represents the correct competencies and roles in accordance with the scope of the proposal. The role of and resources made available by the city/local authority are well defined. 	5 points

The total score of **70 points** is distributed as follows:

	Max score
Excellence	<i>25 points</i>
Impact	<i>25 points</i>
Implementation	<i>20 points</i>
Total points	<i>70 points</i>

Only proposals that receive a **score of at least 45 points (threshold)** are eligible to be funded.

If as a result of the quality evaluation, two or more proposals receive the same scoring, funding prioritisation will be based on the following scoring order:

- Geographical spread within the EIT Community NEB Portfolio
- Long-term sustainability to ensure the activities continue after completion of the EIT Community NEB project (Section 3.8.2, intellectual property rights and exploitation results);
- Co-funding rate higher than 20%.

This will be specifically brought to the attention of the EIT Community NEB Selection Committee.

5.3 Portfolio selection

Portfolio selection is the final step in the evaluation and selection process. It is carried out by the EIT Community NEB Selection Committee, which is composed of the EU Affairs and RIS Director of EIT Manufacturing, the Strategic Projects Director of EIT Urban Mobility, the Performance Developer of Climate-KIC and the Director of EIT Community of EIT Food.

The EIT Community NEB Selection Committee will receive the result of each SER together with the evaluation results and the list of all proposals assessed. This Committee will endorse the final ranking list of projects put forward for funding, those put forward for inclusion in the reserve list (if any), and those put forward for rejection. In addition, the EIT Community NEB Selection Committee will endorse the list of conditions and recommendations (if any) to be addressed by the applicants of the selected projects to improve their proposals.

EIT Community NEB reserves the right to contact applicants of proposals included on the reserve list if additional EIT funds become available; moreover, in justified cases, EIT Community NEB can use the reserve list in the next Business Plan.

5.4 Communication of results to applicants

The Lead Applicant will receive a communication from EIT Community NEB with the results of the evaluation (SER).

If the proposal is pre-selected, the evaluation results may include a set of conditions to improve the proposals, within a defined non-negotiable period. The Lead Applicant of a conditionally preselected proposal must respond and update the proposal according to these conditions within this timeframe. If the Lead Applicant fails to comply with the conditions or does not respond before the deadline, EIT Community NEB reserves the right to withdraw the conditional notification. Should this occur, the applicant of the next proposal on the ranking list will be contacted.

5.5 Appealing against evaluation results

If the Lead Applicant disagrees with the decision, they may appeal only in the event that a comment in the SER clear contradicts the information provided in the proposal. In this case, the Project Leader will have five calendar days after receipt of the final SER to submit an appeal. See the Appeal Procedure document published on the call webpage.

5.6 Onboarding and contracting phase

Should all conditions be met within the indicated timeframe, each KIC will initiate the onboarding and contracting process. The contract will be signed only when 30 days have elapsed since the preselection decision.

As outlined in the EIT Community NEB Project Implementation Handbook, entities receiving EIT funding for the implementation of projects will become subgrantees of the Business Plan 2023-2025, and will thus commit themselves to work towards achieving the related targets. Entities that have never been part of projects funded by KICs and do not have a PIC validated by the Research Executive Agency (REA) of the European Commission will be subject to a PIC validation process managed by the EIT Community Onboarding Service. All validated entities will proceed upon the signing of the FSA.

Additionally, each KIC reserves the right to request that the EIT Community Onboarding Service carry out a financial capacity assessment to check the financial capacity of any entity of a selected proposal. In such cases, the coordinating KIC may require the following:

- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several liability for all subgrantees or joint and several liability for affiliated entities, if any;
- prefinancing paid in instalments (multiple/additional prefinancing);
- (one or more) prefinancing guarantees.

Otherwise, it might:

- propose no prefinancing;
- request that the entity be replaced or, if necessary, reject the entire proposal.

In other words, if the assessment results are not satisfactory, the coordinating KIC might reject the participation of this entity and then check whether or not the proposal is still eligible.