Business Plan 2023 – 2025
Call for proposals for new Higher Education Institutions' accession to Master and Doctoral Schools and new Master programmes

EIT MANUFACTURING- FINAL – Updated on 24/04/024

Index

History of changes

Version	Publication date	Changes
1.0	16/04/2024	Initial version
1.1	24/04/2024	Revised table in paragraph 3.8

Abbreviations

BP	Business Plan
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
HEI	Higher Education Institution
IC	Impact Centre
KIC	Knowledge and Innovation Community
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
MGA	Model Grant Agreement
PHD	Doctor of Philosophy
RIS	Regional Innovation Scheme
SO	Strategic Objectives

Key words

Affiliated entities	So-called "affiliated entities" (in Horizon 2020: "linked third parties") have a legal and/or a capital link to a partner (e.g. parent, daughter, associated companies). They are subject to the same conditions for participation and funding as the beneficiaries and the same rights and obligations of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement apply to them.
Business Plan	The document specifying the detailed plan of EIT Manufacturing for the upcoming years. Based on the draft Business Plan submitted in September (and some other criteria) EIT decides on the budget available to EIT Manufacturing in the following years. The Business Plan will then be adjusted to match the assigned budget and forms the basis for the internal activity agreements of EIT Manufacturing with its partners.
Call for Proposals	The call is the instrument used to allocate grant funding by EIT Manufacturing to consortia of organizations, individuals, or third parties to support the deployment and development of the Strategic Agenda through activities. EIT Manufacturing uses two types of calls: (1) general call aligned with the corresponding Business Plan (BP). This type of call involves the different Thematic Areas of EIT Manufacturing (before the year of BP implementation), and (2) ad-hoc call, normally involving only one Thematic Area, which aims to complete or balance the portfolio outlined in the respective BP, through the allocation of the non-committed budget of the BP or the allocation of additional funding not initially included in the respective BP (during the year of the BP implementation).
Call Guidelines	Document where the terms, conditions, and criteria of any call for proposals are defined and stated according to the principles of transparency, equal treatment, open competition, and sound procedural management.
Deliverable	Deliverables are documents encapsulating the outputs (e.g. building blocks of the proposal information or data mapping, a design report, a technical diagram, an infrastructure or component list, a software release upon which the end product/solution or service depends) that must be produced during the activity lifecycle.
EIT Manufacturing partner	A member of the EIT Manufacturing Association (Core or Associate Partner pursuant to the Article of Association conditions)
EIT Label	The EIT Label is a certificate of quality that is only awarded to excellent educational programmes that focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity and leadership, and are based on the knowledge triangle paradigm - the integration of business, education and research.

EIT Label Handbook	The EIT Label Handbook presents the key principles of the EIT Label model, as provided in the EIT Label Framework. This Handbook offers guidance and hands-on working tools for the design, development and review of EIT-labelled programmes.
Evaluation Process	Process by which EIT Manufacturing examines the quality of a proposal to decide if it should receive EIT funding.
Evaluation Panel	Group of normally 3 evaluators + 1 rapporteur with specific expertise in a specific area/segment of the call, aiming to evaluate a set of eligible proposals submitted to a call.
Evaluation results list	List of proposals in order of scoring, based on the evaluation process results.
Evaluation Summary Report	Following the completion of the evaluation process, a final Evaluation Summary Report is made for each proposal, summarising the strengths, weaknesses, risks, and commercial and social value of the proposal. It is an expert deliverable drafted by the rapporteur and reflecting the expert consensus on a specific proposal.
Higher Education Institution	Higher education institution' or 'HEI' means a university or any type of higher education institution which, in accordance with national law or practice, offers degrees and diplomas in particular at master's or doctoral level, regardless of its denomination in the national context.
Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement	The Horizon Europe Grant Agreement (HE GA) sets out the rights and obligations and terms and conditions applicable to the grant awarded.
Impact Centres	Impact Centres/affiliate of EIT Manufacturing
Individual Evaluation Report	Applications to the calls are assessed individually by external expert evaluators according to the terms and criteria stated in the call for proposals' text. Each evaluator issues individual reports for each eligible application.
I&E	Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Key performance indicators (KPIs)	Set of indicators used to measure how effectively a consortium is meeting the objectives. There are 2 sets of KPIs: the EIT Core KPIs defined by the EIT that reflects the EIT operational objectives for education, entrepreneurship, and innovation and the KIC specific KPIs defined by EIT Manufacturing that reflect the societal challenge that the KIC is addressing. KPIs need to be reported.
KIC	"Knowledge and Innovation Community" – EIT Manufacturing is one of the 9 KICs that operate under the regulations of EIT.
Knowledge triangle integration	EIT Manufacturing aims to gather partnerships of European education, research and business entities (knowledge triangles) either in the composition of the members of the projects or in the expected impact of the projects' results.

Milestone	Control points to chart progress. They may correspond to the completion of a key deliverable that allows the next phase of work to begin.
Panel review	All the written external evaluations are discussed in a consensus meeting where the points of scoring, convergence and divergence are discussed and debated. The evaluation panel reviews all the individual evaluations made on submitted proposals and reach a consensus about their scoring and ranking. The results of the panel review are set out in the minutes and the call report.
Ranking list	List of proposals in order of scoring after the Selection Committee assessment.
Rapporteur	Member of the evaluation panel who facilitates the discussion during the consensus meeting by synthesizing the individual evaluations of the panel experts and writing the minutes and the evaluation summary report including the evaluation results for each proposal as per the conclusions of the panel.
Selection Committee	The Selection Committee is responsible for the selection of shortlisted proposals and the definition of requirements for the inclusion of the selected proposals in the final EIT Manufacturing portfolio of projects.

1. Call summary

Disclaimer: this document provides detailed information on the EIT Manufacturing Call for proposals for new HEIs' accession to Master and Doctoral School and new Master programmes for the EIT Manufacturing Business Plan 2023-2025. The information given is subject to revision, according to new potential rules or requirements provided by EIT and/or by the EC.

Call for Proposals - Main Features

	Call opening	Cut-off dates	Eligibility and admissibility check	Evaluation of proposals	Communication of results	Tentative projects START[1]	Tentative projects END[2]
Key dates of the call calendar	16th April 2024 at 10.00 CEST	17th June 2024 at 17:00 CEST	20th June 2024	Mid-September 2024	End of September 2024	30th November 2024	Sub-topic 1 – 3: 30th May 2025
							Sub-topic 2: 28th February 2025
	18th June 2024 at 10:00 CEST	5th December 2024 at 17:00 CET	13th December 2024	January 2025	End of February 2025	30th March 2025	Sub-topic 1 – 3: 30th September 2025
							Sub-topic 2: 30th June 2025
Introduction	EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School engages students from different academic backgrounds in the manufacturing sector. Students are expected to become creative leaders and team builders capable of bringing distinctive points of view along with novel solutions for the manufacturing challenges of tomorrow. The EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School is coordinated by EITM in collaboration with designed European Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)						

[1] Start date of the alignment period

[2] End date of the alignment period. Please select the intended period in the application form under the field "Intended execution period":

For topics 1 and 3

New HEIs MSc & PhD schools 24-25 - **cut-off 1 MSc** for period 30th November 2024 - 30th May 2025

New HEIs MSc & PhD schools 24-25 - **cut-off 2 MSc** for period 30th March 2025 - 30th September 2025

For topic 2

New HEIs MSc & PhD schools 24-25 - **cut-off 1 PhD** for period 30th November 2024- 28th February 2025

New HEIs MSc & PhD schools 24-25 - **cut-off 2 PhD** for period 30th March 2025 - 30th June 2025

	The scope of this call for proposal is twofold: 1- **Expand Partnerships**: Add new HEIs to the EITM Master and Doctoral School, including those from uncovered countries, to diversify partnerships and ensure multiple HEI combinations for each program. 2- **Enhance Program Portfolio:** Introduce new Master programs covering topics not currently addressed, aligning with EITM thematic areas and industry needs for skilled graduates.
Total budget allocated to this call[3]	<table><tr><th>Cut-off dates</th><th>Total estimated EIT Funding allocation</th></tr><tr><td>17th June 2024 at 17:00 CEST</td><td>120.000 EUR</td></tr><tr><td>5th December 2024 at 17:00 CEST</td><td>50.000 EUR</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL allocation to this call</td><td>170.000 EUR</td></tr></table>
Duration of the activity	Successful performance during the alignment phase may lead to continued funding in subsequent years, with durations specified in the cooperation agreements: 5 cohorts for the Master School and 5 years for the Doctoral School[4]
Link to the submission portal	New Organization? Register here New person?[5]Register here Log in to the submission tool
List of documents to be submitted on the submission portal	• Application form • National programme accreditation • Example of Diploma supplement • Syllabus of the programme • Innovation & Entrepreneurship local Ecosystem (i.e. campus brochures etc.) • Other relevant annexes (optional)
List of documents to take into consideration	• Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement • EIT Manufacturing Strategic Agenda • EIT Label Handbook for planning, labelling and reviewing degree programmes • Appeal procedure

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[3] The information above is provided for information only and does not constitute any kind of commitment on behalf of EIT Manufacturing. Final EIT funding allocated might vary significantly based on the number of proposals evaluated and selected and other factors. The exact number of activities to be funded will depend on the quality of the proposals received and the total funding available.

[4] The cooperation agreements are a follow-up of the multiannual EIT Manufacturing Business Plan. The durations mentioned begin on January 1, 2024, with proportional adjustments if the agreement is signed after that date. The activity will be included in the final EIT Manufacturing multiannual Business Plan. The activity will be funded for subsequent Business Plans under the condition of the signing of the Grant Agreement between EIT Manufacturing and EIT and the consequent availability of funding.

[5] It applies to new persons of registered organizations

	• Eligibility of expenditures • Financial Support Agreement • Extract of Annex D of EIT Manufacturing Cooperation Agreement • Declaration of Honour
Evaluation criteria	*Evaluation criteria assessed by the independent experts in first stage*: - Excellence, novelty, and innovation, - Impact and financial sustainability, and - Quality and efficiency of the implementation, including sound financial management. - Strategic fit *Criteria assessed by EITM Master and Doctoral School committee during the portfolio selection:* - Portfolio and EIT Label fit - Ecosystem and geographical fit (including RIS)

2. General conditions

2.1 EIT Manufacturing mission and strategic objectives

Mission

EIT Manufacturing is driving a global revolution in manufacturing innovation, connecting skills, technologies, and investors to put Europe at the forefront. With exponential technological progress reshaping industries faster than ever, our goal is to lead this revolution by overcoming fragmentation, leveraging knowledge, and accelerating innovation. Our activities align with the strategic objectives of the Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC), focusing on four key areas:

1   Flexible Production Systems: Leveraging emerging technologies for customizable manufacturing.
2   Low Environmental Footprint & Circular Economy: Minimizing resource use through circular business models.
3   Digital & Collaborative Solutions: Creating efficient value chains through digital platforms and collaboration.
4   Human-Machine Co-working: Enhancing workplaces and sustainability through smart automation.

The EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School further elaborates on these strategic focuses. Further details are given in Section 3.

Strategic objectives

Five strategic objectives (SOs), as set out in the Strategic Agenda 2021-2027, which steer our activities and ambitions, and will help respond to major challenges shared by the manufacturing industry and society.

- SO1 - Competitive Manufacturing Skills and Social Sustainability
- SO2 - Powerful Manufacturing Innovation Ecosystems
- SO3 - Globally competitive and resilient manufacturing
- SO4 - Environmentally sustainable manufacturing
- SO5 - Manufacturing fit for the Digital Age

2.2 EIT Manufacturing membership

All EIT Manufacturing partners are eligible to apply for funding, nevertheless, an entity does not need to be an EIT Manufacturing partner to apply for funding.
All entities of selected proposals will have to be part of the EIT Manufacturing community and to choose one of the following partnership models and related annual fee when initiating their projects:
Core partner (voting right, privileged access to services, representatives in the KIC governance)
- Large enterprises, research institutes and universities   50,000 €

- Mid-sized companies (< 2,000 FTE)   30,000 €
- SME (< 250 FTE, turnover < 50M€ or balance sheet < 43M€)   15,000 €

Associated partner (no voting right, restricted access to services)
- Large enterprises, research institutes and universities   35,000 €
- Mid-sized companies (< 2,000 FTE)   20,000 €
- SME (< 250 FTE, turnover < 50M€ or balance sheet < 43M€)   10,000 €

More information on the partnership models is available on the website[6].

Please note that the total maximum EIT funding per year for all entities participating in the Calls is € 1,500,000.

At most, the following number of affiliated entities of a Core Partner may receive funding per year through the calls:

- Partners being large enterprises, research institutes and universities: 5
- Partners being mid-sized companies: 2
- Partners being SMEs: 1

Please consider this when creating the proposals.

2.3 Applicants registration process

Before submitting a proposal, all applicants (must register on the EU Participant Portal and obtain a PIC number and on the submission tool[7]. If you have already participated in projects funded by the EU before and have your PIC number validated, you can proceed with the registration of your organization on the submission tool.

Please make sure that the information that you are providing on the submission tool is consistent with the legal information connected to your PIC (legal name, VAT, registration number, legal address, LEAR – legally appointed representative responsible for updating the organization's information on the EU participant portal). If this is your first time participating in an EU-funded project or your organization cannot access your already validated PIC and there are updates to the organisational data that need to be done, you need to register/re-register your organization. Primary registration of your PIC number takes about 10 minutes, and your PIC number is generated within another 10 minutes and will be sent to the email address that you have indicated during the registration. All new PIC numbers get assigned a status of "Declared", which means your organization has not been fully validated, but the new PIC number can already be used during your proposal submission.

Please note that, if your proposal is successful, the information provided when registering your organization will need to be validated. EIT Manufacturing will contact you to submit the needed supporting documents.

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[6] https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/partners/partnership-models/

[7] Links to the submission tool are provided on page 9.

2.4 Gender equality and inclusiveness

As per Horizon Europe Regulation, legal entities from Member States and Associated Countries **that are public bodies and public or private research organizations or higher education establishments must have a gender equality plan,** covering the following minimum process-related requirements:

- publication: a formal document published on the institution's website and signed by the top management.
- dedicated resources: commitment of resources and expertise in gender equality to implement the plan.
- data collection and monitoring: sex/gender-disaggregated data on personnel (and students, for the establishments concerned) and annual reporting based on indicators.
- training: awareness-raising/training on gender equality and unconscious gender biases for staff and decision-makers.

Content-wise, it is recommended that the gender equality plan addresses the following areas, using concrete measures and targets:

- work-life balance and organizational culture.
- gender balance in leadership and decision-making.
- gender equality in recruitment and career progression.
- integration of the gender dimension into research and teaching content.
- measures against gender-based violence, including sexual harassment.

A self-declaration will be requested at the proposal stage and the gender equality document will be requested if the activity is funded. If all the above-mentioned mandatory requirements are met through another strategic document, such as a development plan or an inclusion or diversity strategy, it can be considered equivalent.

Applicants must also take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in implementing the proposal and, where applicable, in line with their gender equality plan. They must aim to achieve, to the extent possible, a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the proposal, including at the supervisory and managerial levels.

3. Call specific conditions

3.1 Call topics

The EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School offers innovative programs aligned with manufacturing, societal challenges, and market demands, empowering graduates with entrepreneurial skills for potential startup ventures.

We're seeking to expand our partnerships and program offerings to graduate more students capable of driving innovation in manufacturing, creating jobs through startups, and addressing societal challenges sustainably. The goals of this call are:

- **Expand Partnerships**: Add new HEIs to the EITM Master and Doctoral School, including those from uncovered countries, to diversify partnerships and ensure multiple HEI combinations for each program.
- **Enhance Program Portfolio:** Introduce new Master programs covering topics not currently addressed, aligning with EITM thematic areas and industry needs for skilled graduates.

The call is organized in cut-off dates. HEIs can apply to one, two, or all topics below at any available cut-off date[8]:

EXPAND: Sub-topic 1: Accession of new HEIs to EITM Master School

EXPAND Sub-topic 2 Accession of new HEIs to the EITM Doctoral School

ENHANCE Sub-topic 3: Introduction of New MSc Programs in the EITM Master School

EXPAND Sub-topic 1 Accession of new HEIs to EITM Master School

This activity topic is open to mono-participant proposals only.

EIT Manufacturing is looking to expand the number of HEIs in each programme of the existing portfolio of EIT-labelled Master Programmes. HEIs can choose to participate in one or multiple Master School programs listed in annex 1. They may opt to enter as an entry point (year 1), exit point (year 2), or both, depending on their capability to align with the EITM Master School curriculum and the EIT Label requirements.

All proposals submitted under this sub-segment should provide a clear and detailed overview on alignment with the EITM Master programme they wish to join, clearly indicating the local programme(s) they would like to incorporate into the EITM Master Programmes, including detailed curricula, admission requirements and awarded degree title.

Admission requirements must align with existing EITM Master School programs, as per annex 1.

Proposals will be granted up to €10,000 for program alignment costs.

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[8] For HEIs already participating in the Master and Doctoral School, please note, an application to this call is required in the following scenarios:

- A Master School partner not currently in the Doctoral School wishes to join the Doctoral School and receive funding as per the Doctoral School cooperation agreement.
- A Doctoral School partner not currently in the Master School wishes to join the Master School and receive funding as per the Master School cooperation agreement.

Proposals under this activity type will be approved to start alignment with the existing consortium delivering the EIT Manufacturing Master School programme, including whether they will be entry or exit HEI, ECTS and curricula equivalence, programme´s schedule, etc. After full alignment is agreed with the Master School leadership, the HEIs will be approved to formally join the programme for execution/ implementation. In this case, execution/ implementation budget based on the Master School Cooperation Agreement in place will be conditional to the HEI starting the programme.

Minimum Student Commitment: Partner HEIs are required to enrol a minimum of 10 students per program cohort, with promotions beginning immediately after signing the cooperation agreement.

EXPAND Sub-topic 2 Accession of new HEIs to the EITM Doctoral School
This activity topic is open to mono-participant proposals only.

This sub-topic seeks to incorporate new HEIs into the EITM Doctoral School consortium. Proposals should align with the scope of the Doctoral School program, focusing on turning research results into marketable solutions and targeting industrial doctorates.

All proposals should provide a clear and detailed overview of alignment with the scope of the Doctoral School programme:

- Turning research results into marketable solutions and start-ups
- Targeting Industrial Doctorates to enable exploitations of applied research

Proposals must clearly indicate their own PhD programme with which they would be participating, including detailed admission requirements, timeline of PhD studies, mandatory courses, if any, and alignment with manufacturing sector.

The HEI will benefit from the free access for its PhD students of the EITM I&E programme and from possible mobility scholarships for the admitted PhD students, according to the EIT available grant.

To access the Doctoral School, the new HEIs must be compliant with the following:

- The HEI has an active local PhD programme, with research areas focused on EIT Manufacturing flagships, market trends, societal challenges.
- The HEI can include the EIT label certificate mention into the PhD diploma supplement.
- The students' applications must be collected centrally by EITM as well as the tuition fees. In case of new industrial PhD setup, the selection of students will be jointly done with the Doctoral School. To allow the parallel enrolment to the local HEI and the Doctoral School programme
- The local marketing activities focus on gender balance and students' inclusion.
- The HEI provides to the student the local innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem (incubators, mentoring and coaching, etc.), if any, to support the student with the start-up incubation and acceleration.

Proposals should outline plans for student recruitment, engagement with stakeholders, and adherence to the EITM Doctoral School programme, described in annex 2.

Proposal will receive an annual budget up to €10,000 for the initial launch.

Once the HEIs are approved to formally join the programme, the execution/ implementation budget will be based on the Doctoral School Cooperation Agreement in place and will be conditional to the HEI starting the programme.

Minimum Student Commitment: HEIs are required to enrol a minimum of 3 local PhD students and 1 industrial doctorate positionper year..

ENHANCE Sub-topic 3 Introduction of New MSc Programs in the EITM Master School.

This activity topic is open to multi-participant proposals only.

This sub-topic aims to expand the portfolio of the EIT Manufacturing Master School with new MSc programs aligned with EITM focus areas and manufacturing market needs. Both new HEIs, not partners of the EIT Manufacturing Master School, and already partner HEIs of the Master School can participate to this sub-topic. A maximum of 2 new HEI per new master programme is allowed, while no threshold is set for HEI already partners of the Master School. New MSc programs should span two years and consist of 120 ECTS credits[9], with study periods in two countries - the first year at one HEI (entry) and the second year at another HEI (exit) in a different country. These programs must meet national accreditation standards to ensure diplomas are recognized throughout Europe and aligned with the Bologna process. Upon completion, students will earn a double degree, issued by the two HEI, along with the EIT Label Certificate, issued by EIT Manufacturing.

The proposed MSc curricula should integrate elements and requirements of the EIT Label and the EIT Overarching Learning Outcomes, available in annex 1. This includes:

1. Integrating knowledge from academia, industry, and research.
2. Providing robust education in innovation and entrepreneurship.
3. Incorporating practical, hands-on learning experiences.
4. Facilitating international exposure and engagement.
5. Promoting collaboration across different sectors and organizations.
6. Ensuring geographic diversity and inclusion.

Consortia can submit proposals for new EIT Manufacturing programmes based on variations of existing programmes or new programmes to be developed locally. Proposals must outline the curriculum and activities, demonstrating alignment with EIT Label requirements and the structure of the EIT Manufacturing Master School. Additionally, proposals should highlight how the new program differentiates from existing ones and addresses market needs in the manufacturing sector.

Proposals will be granted up to €10,000 for program alignment costs.

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[9] Minimum ECTS of the local MSc programme must be 90 ECTS, but HEI with 90 ECTS degrees can only create combinations with HEI providing 120 ECTS degrees. Combinations of 90ECTS (entry) + 90ECTS (exit) are not allowed withing the Master School programmes. For sake of clarity, the following HEI degrees combinations are allowed for EIT Manufacturing Master School programmes:

- 90ECTS (entry) + 120 ECTS (exit)

- 120 ECTS (entry) + 90 ECTS (exit)

> Proposals under this activity type will be approved to start alignment with the existing consortium delivering the EIT Manufacturing Master School programme, including whether they will be entry or exit HEI, ECTS and curricula equivalence, programme´s schedule, etc. After full alignment is agreed upon with the Master School leadership, the HEIs will be approved to formally join the programme for execution/ implementation. In this case, the execution/ implementation budget based on the Master School Cooperation Agreement in place will be conditional to the HEI starting the programme.
>
> Proposals should outline plans for student recruitment, engagement with stakeholders, and program differentiation from existing offerings.
>
> The programme is expected to engage with a variety of public and private stakeholders, including large industries, SMEs, start-ups, the public sector, as well as research institutes and civil society.
>
> Minimum Student Commitment: A minimum of 20 students is required for the first program cohort in 2026.

General requirements for all sub-topics

> EIT Label: Master and Doctoral School programmes financed by EIT Manufacturing are accredited of the EIT Label, according to the EIT Label Quality Framework. New HEIs joining the EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School, and the new proposed MSc programmes shall commit to follow the key principles of the EIT Label, as well as the EIT Overarching Learning Outcomes, as well as the expected outcomes & impacts. Please refer to the Annex EIT Label Handbook for planning, labelling and reviewing degree programmes

3.2 Applicants' profile

Eligible participating organisations - (Who can apply?)[10]

To be eligible for funding, the applicants must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) established in one of the eligible countries, :

  o the Member States of the European Union, including their outermost regions:
    o Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.
  o the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the Member States.
  o the countries associated to Horizon Europe and the low- and middle-income countries[11];

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[10] Based on the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506 on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary, effective as of 16th December *2022, no legal commitments shall be entered into with any public interest trust established on the basis of the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity maintained by such a public interest trust.* Please check also the related list of Frequently Asked Questions. It is progressively updated as soon as further guidance is available. You can find an indicative – non-exhaustive – list of affected entities (i.e. public interest trusts and entities maintained by them) under this link.

[11] See the Horizon Europe List of Participating Countries on the Portal for an up-to-date list of these countries.

- All HEIs must be able to deliver to the graduates a diploma supplement.
- For sub-topics 1 and 3: the HEIs must hold a national accreditation to deliver a Master of Science degree in line with the Bologna process and be recognized across the whole European Union.
- For sub-topic 2: the HEIs must hold a national accreditation to deliver a PhD degree, according to their national regulations, and valid across the whole European Union.

Any HEIs from non-associated third countries can participate provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation[12] have been met, along with the other conditions indicated above as eligibility conditions and in the specific call sub-topic. Although the HEIs from non-associated third countries are not directly eligible for EIT funding, they can still take part in the activity when providing their own funding.

Consortium composition

For sub-topics 1 and 2 (EXPAND), mono-participant proposals are expected.

For sub-topic 3 (ENHANCE), multi-participant proposals are expected. The consortium shall be composed of 2 different HEIs from 2 different countries, of which at least 1 from EU Member States and/or third countries associated to Horizon Europe.

3.3 Duration

The selected HEI will join the EITM Master and Doctoral School according to the cut-off date of application, signing the cooperation agreement, through the accession letter. The HEIs could stay into the EITM Master and Doctoral School programme along the whole validity of the cooperation agreement. Multiannual funding will be conditional on positive annual performance review and submission of deliverables in line with the Master and Doctoral School activity and the KPIs targets set by EIT Manufacturing.

3.4 Core KPIs

The new HEIs commit to contribute with its own students to the EIT Manufacturing KPIs according to the Master and Doctoral School activity and the EIT Manufacturing strategic agenda.

Proposing a higher target than the minimum required but still credible and justified, will be positively evaluated. Please, note that once the KPI value is submitted it will not be possible to amend it (only increase of the value possible); it will remain as it is for the target to be achieved by the end of the activity.

CORE KPIs for EIT Manufacturing Master School

Every application must contribute to the following KPIs:

KPI	Short title	Minimum target per programme cohort and	Minimum target per programme cohort

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[12] Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170 , 12.5.2021, p. 1)

		HEI admitted in first cut-off	and HEI admitted in second cut-off
EITHE05.1	Start-ups created by students enrolled and graduates from EIT-labelled MSc and PhD programmes To be eligible, a start-up should be created during EIT labelled programme (by students, participants) or within three years from the graduation (by graduates)	**Sub-topic 1:** Minimum 1 (a minimum target of 1 startup created by students and/or graduates per programme cohort, per new HEI) **Sub-topic 3:** Minimum 2 (a minimum target of 2 startup created by students and/or graduates per programme cohort)	**Sub-topic 1:** Minimum 2 (a minimum target of 2 startup created by students and/or graduates per programme cohort, per new HEI) **Sub-topic 3:** Minimum 3 (a minimum target of 3 startup created by students and/or graduates per programme cohort)
EITHE07.1	Sum of graduates from EIT labelled master's, PhD programmes and other education activities awarded EIT Label (in year N).	**Sub-topic 1:** Minimum 10 (a minimum target of 10 students graduating per programme cohort, per new HEI) **Sub-topic 3:** Minimum 20 (a minimum target of 20 students graduating per programme cohort)	**Sub-topic 1:** Minimum 10 (a minimum target of 10 students graduating per programme cohort, per new HEI) **Sub-topic 3:** Minimum 20 (a minimum target of 20 students graduating per programme cohort)

| EITHE09.1 | EIT labelled MSc/PhD students and graduates who joined start-ups | **Sub-topic 1:** Minimum 2 (a minimum target of 2 students, graduates joining start-ups , per new HEI)

Sub-topic 3: Minimum 2 (a minimum target of 2 students, graduates joining start-ups per programme cohort) | **Sub-topic 1:** Minimum 2 (a minimum target of 2 students , graduates joining start-ups, per new HEI)
Sub-topic 3: Minimum 2 (a minimum target of 2 students , graduates joining start-ups per programme cohort) |

In case the above KPI is met by an entity belonging to a RIS countries, the corresponding RIS KPIs EITHE05.2-EITRIS and EITHE07.2-EITRIS must be included as well. Please note that this is not a supplementary KPIs and only reflect the RIS aspect of the core KPI.

CORE KPIs to EIT Manufacturing Doctoral School

Every application has to contribute to the following KPIs:

KPI	Short title	Minimum target for HEIs joining in first cut-off	Minimum target for HEIs joining in second cut-off
EITHE05.1	Number of start-ups established in year N by students enrolled and graduates from EIT labelled MSc and PhD programmes or by learners / participants in other EIT labelled activities To be eligible, a start-up should be created during EIT labelled programme (by students, participants) or within three years from the graduation (by graduates)	Minimum 1 (a minimum target of 1 startup created by students and/or graduates per new HEI)	Minimum 2 (a minimum target of 2 startup created by students and/or graduates per new HEI)
EITHE07.1	Graduates from EIT labelled MSc/PhD programmes (in year N).	Minimum 3 (a minimum target of 3 students graduating per new HEI per programme cohort)	Minimum 3 (a minimum target of 3 students graduating per HEI per programme cohort)

EITHE09.1	EIT labelled MSc/PhD students and graduates who joined start-ups (in year N).	Minimum 1 (a minimum target of 1 student, graduate joining start-ups per new HEI per programme cohort)	Minimum 1 (a minimum target of 1 student, graduate joining start-ups per new HEI per programme cohort)

In case the above KPI is met by an entity belonging to a RIS country, the corresponding RIS KPIs EITHE05.2-EITRIS, EITHE07.2-EITRIS must be included as well. Please note that this is not a supplementary KPIs and only reflect the RIS aspect of the core KPI.

3.5 Additional KPIs

Every proposal could contribute to one or more additional KPI listed below.

EIT Manufacturing Master School

KIC	Short title of KPI	Minimum Target per year	
		Sub-topic 1 (new HEI)	Sub-topic 3 (new master programme)
KIC.E06	Number of Master/PhD students applications	10 per HEI	20 per Master programme
KIC.E07	Number of Master/Phd students enrolled	10 per HEI	20 per Master programme

EIT Manufacturing Doctoral School

KIC	Short title of KPI	Minimum Target per year
KIC.E06	Number of Master/PhD students applications	3 per HEI
KIC.E07	Number of Master/Phd students enrolled	3 per HEI

3.6 Dissemination, communication, and exploitation of the results of the activities

Applicants should engage in dissemination, communication and exploitation of the results of the activities.
EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School programmes are branded and promoted according to the EIT Brand Book and Communication guidelines and comply with the requirements of promoting the value of the EIT Label. The new joining HEIs commit to follow the same rules and to promote the programmes they will join and develop accordingly.

Applicants needs also to respect the provisions of Article 16 regarding the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) — Background and Results — Access Rights And Rights and Article 17 regarding Communication, dissemination and visibility of the (Model) Grant Agreement[13].

3.7 Budget and funding

The total maximum EIT funding allocated to this call is up to 170.000 EUR. The maximum EIT funding per applicant and sub-topic is detailed in the table below:

Cut-off dates	Maximum Budget allocated	IMax. EIT funding per applicant/programme	Indicative number of new HEIs/programmes to be funded
First cut-off date	120.000 EUR	10.000 EUR per new HEI for sub-topic 1. 10.000 EUR per new HEI for sub-topic 2. 10.000 EUR per new HEI as for programme contributor for sub-topic 3. 10.000 EUR for programme coordinator for sub-topic 3.	Max 2 new HEIs for sub-topic 1 Max 4 new HEIs for sub-topic 2 Max 3 new Master programmes for sub-topic 3
Second cut-off date	50.000 EUR,	10.000 EUR per new HEI for sub-topic 1 10.000 EUR per new HEI for sub-topic 2 10.000 per new HEI as programme contributor for sub-topic 3. 10.000 EUR for programme coordinator for sub-topic 3.	Max 1 new HEIs for sub-topic 1 Max 2 new HEIs for sub-topic 2 Max 1 new Master programmes for sub-topic 3

The funding takes the form of a lump sum contribution.

All applicants must provide at application stage a detailed cost estimation, which must be an approximation of the actual costs. The estimation provided must be:

- subject to the same eligibility rules as in actual costs grants, i.e. cost estimations can be included only if the same cost item/type of cost would be eligible in an actual cost grant. For this type of call, the subcontracting cost category is excluded from the eligible costs.
- must be in line with normal practices.
- must be reasonable/not excessive

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[13] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

- must be in line with and necessary for the activities proposed.

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

The lump sum grant will be transferred to the selected applicants in 2 instalments which will be paid upon acceptance by EIT Manufacturing of the deliverables presented in the paragraph below. The non-completion of the mandatory deliverables will block the payment.

In case of applicants subjected to EU administrative sanctions[14] or in one of the exclusion situations listed in the "Declaration of Honour" (available on this call webpage) that ban them from receiving European funding, **EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to withdraw the funding at any step.**

Please note:

- The budget allocated for sub-topics 1 and 3 is mutually exclusive, meaning a HEI applying to both sub-topics 1 and 3 will receive only one budget allocation, not both.
- This budget allocation is for the alignment of activities. Positive performance may qualify the HEIs for continued funding in subsequent years, with submissions of deliverables required annually, in line with the Cooperation Agreement and the KPIs targets set by EIT Manufacturing. The funding for the subsequent years is detailed in annex D of the Cooperation Agreement which is provided annexed to these guidelines.
- The information provided above serves for reference purposes only and does not imply any commitment from EIT Manufacturing. The total EIT funding and the funding per sub-topic may vary depending on the number and quality of proposals evaluated, among other factors. The final number of activities funded per sub-topic will be determined based on the quality of proposals received.

3.8 Mandatory deliverables

Deliverables	Value assigned to deliverables regarding the total funding to be received	Due date
DEL 1 Kick off report The report includes the signed Internal agreement and Financial support Agreement	20% of the funding	M1
DEL 2 Performance report for subtopic 1 and 3. The report includes the developed curriculum and the signed accession letter to the cooperation agreement.	80% of the funding	M6
DEL 3 Performance Report for sub-topic 2: The report includes the Marketing and Communication plan for industrial doctorate set-up (including students' recruitment)	80% of the funding	M3

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[14] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02018R1046-20221214

and the signed accession letter to the cooperation agreement.		

The templates for the deliverable are provided by EIT Manufacturing.

3.9 Activity reporting

Reporting periods and technical reporting follow to the rules and procedures established in the EIT Manufacturing Monitoring guide with the focus on successful completion and approval of the mandatory deliverables and the EIT Label Handbook for planning, labelling and reviewing degree programmes
If a mandatory deliverable is declared incomplete or needs to be improved, it will be rejected by the EIT Manufacturing, and the lump sum amount concerned will be not paid at that point in time. The entity will have to respond to the observation of EIT Manufacturing, complete/improve the mandatory deliverable later, and resubmit it for its approval and subsequent payment.
If the rejection of the mandatory deliverable is confirmed, the lump sum concerned linked to it is not paid.
Furthermore, EIT Manufacturing will monitor all activities up to 5 years after activity completion to track long-term impact and the status of commercialisation and to ensure the achievement of KPIs after the activity end.

3.10 Financial sustainability

Proposals must present a clear marketing and student recruitment plan addressing how they will be able to achieve the targets and expand the student intake in future years, outlining the expected revenue forecast. Proposals should also address if they benefit from other non-EIT funding, such as national and international public funding, private sponsorship, and/or other grants.
The Master School financial sustainability arises from participation fees collected from students, which are collected centrally by EIT Manufacturing. The EIT Manufacturing Master School has a common participation fee for all its master programmes. Participation fees for EIT Manufacturing Master programmes are set by the KIC and are published in the terms and conditions of the EIT Manufacturing Master School[15]: **HEIs agree not to charge students admitted to the EIT Manufacturing any local tuition fee, participation fee or application fee, or any other additional cost associated with the participation in EIT Manufacturing programmes.** HEIS can receive a participation fee reimbursement from EIT Manufacturing for duly registered students for the time of enrolment with a maximum of two semesters. Please note that for Master programme, a cap to the student tuition fee reimbursement for new joining HEIs applies. EIT Manufacturing will reimburse a max HEI's tuition fee amount per student as follow:

- 5000€ for EU/EFTA students
- 8000€ for NOT EU/EFTA students

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[15] https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/eitm-master-school-terms-and-conditions.pdf

In addition to this, HEIs receive financial support for the development, implementation and local management and coordination of EIT Manufacturing Master programmes. The financial conditions mentioned herewith are stated and regulated by Annex D of the Cooperation Agreement.

The initial proposed financial sustainability contribution will be revised during the programme curriculum development and the final values to be included in the Cooperation Agreement defined before the project start and during the project implementation.

4. Proposal preparation and submission

4.1 Guidance and support on proposal preparation

To guarantee the maximum support from EIT Manufacturing to both current and potential partners and stakeholders, two different support offers will be provided during the proposal preparation process: the call information events and the EIT Manufacturing call contact points.

Call information event

The EIT Manufacturing will carry out a series of events before and after the publication of the call to ensure open, free, and fair access to the wider mobility community. The overview for 2023 is provided in the table below.

Event type	Date
Online info day 1	April 24th, 2024 at 12:00 PM CEST
Online info day 2	October 10th, 2024 at 12:00 PM CEST

Call Contact points

All applicants may contact EIT Manufacturing to ask questions and clarify any points on general/technical aspects and call content by contacting support@eitmanufacturing.eu.
With a view to equal treatment, EIT Manufacturing staff cannot give prior opinion on the admissibility, eligibility, quality or any other relevant element of a specific proposal.

4.2 Proposal submission process

Applicants are strongly advised to carefully read the Annexes prior to submission.
All proposals must be submitted via the Submittable submission tool.
Applicants are requested to send their proposals no later than the given cut-off dates:

Cut-off date 1	Cut-off date 2
17th June 2024	5th December 2024

Any proposals submitted to a specific topic after the first cut-off date will be considered for the second cut-off date evaluation.

4.3 Proposal submission mandatory documentation

One joint proposal documentation package (in English) shall be prepared by the single applicant/consortium and must be submitted by only one applicant by uploading it on the electronic submission tool.
The following documentation must be submitted by the applicants through the Submittable submission tool by the cut-off date.

- Application form
- National programme accreditation

- Example of Diploma supplement
- Syllabus of the local programme in English, including the Innovation and Entrepreneurship courses that will be made available for the Master School programme
- Innovation&Entrepreneurship local Ecosystem (i.e. campus brochures etc.)
- Optional: Annexes to the application form (figures, graphics, photos etc.)

NB: Any documentation missing or considered incomplete, may be a reason for application rejection.

5. Proposal evaluation and selection process

5.1 Eligibility and admissibility check

In order to be considered admissible, applications must be:

- Submitted before the **call deadlines** (see section 4.2).
- Submitted in **English**.
- Submitted electronically **through the EIT Manufacturing submission tool**; and
- Complete and must contain all the mandatory information in the online application form and all mandatory documentation as per paragraph 4.3.

Proposals containing one or more inadmissible elements will be rejected and will receive an official communication from EIT Manufacturing setting out the outcome of the admissibility check.
A proposal will be eligible if it shows:

1.Consortia composition (only for sub-topic 3)	Proposals must be submitted by a consortium of 2 different HEIs from 2 different countries, of which at least 1 from EU Member States and/or third countries associated to Horizon Europe.
2.Applicants eligibility (for all topics)	o All HEIs must be able to deliver to the graduates a diploma supplement. o for sub-topics 1 and 3: the HEIs must hold a national accreditation to deliver a Master of Science degree in line with the Bologna process and be recognized across the whole European Union. o For sub-topic 2: the HEIs must hold a national accreditation to deliver a PhD degree, according to their national regulations and recognized within EU.
3. KPIs addressed	All proposals must comply with the core KPIs according to the specific subtopic they apply, see paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5

Proposals containing one or more ineligible elements will receive an official communication from EIT Manufacturing setting out the outcome of the eligibility check and explaining why the proposal failed to meet the criteria.
The Activity leader of any proposal deemed ineligible who disputes the ineligibility decision, may appeal. This appeal must be made within 5 working days from the official EIT Manufacturing notification of ineligibility (see paragraph 5.6 and the document Appeal procedure linked to the call).

5.2 Evaluation of proposals

The proposals which successfully pass the eligibility check are evaluated and scored against 4 criteria: Excellence, Impact, Implementation, Strategic Fit.
The evaluation process will be carried out by 2 external evaluators with the same weighting of score.
The evaluators will be supported in the evaluation process by one rapporteur.

External evaluators will assess each evaluation sub-criteria according to the following scores on a scale **from 1 to 5.**

Score	Description	
1	*Extremely poor or None*	The information provided is considered irrelevant or inadequate compared to the specific call provisions
2	*Bad*	The information provided lacks relevant quality and contains significant weaknesses, compared to the specific call provisions
3	*Average*	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

The scores shall be given at sub criterion level, and they are then averaged together to come with a final score per criteria.
Thresholds apply to individual criteria and to the total score. The maximum score for a proposal is 20. The default threshold for individual criteria is 3 and the default overall threshold is 12.
A weighting is then applied to the score per criteria to determine the final overall score for the ranking.

The detailed sub-criteria evaluation grid is provided here below.

Excellence	Max. scoring: 5 Threshold: 3/5
Coherence	
The education programme proposed demonstrates a Pan-European dimension beyond the implementation of activities and in the potential impact of the expected results.	1-5
The applicant(s) involved in the proposal has/have the capacity of successfully deliver programmes, in line with the requirements of the EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School.	1-5
Sub-topic 1 and 3: The proposed master programme demonstrates European scalability towards the implementation of activities and in relation to outcomes and results	1-5
Sub-topic 2: The proposed local PhD programmes topics demonstrate to contribute to manufacturing innovation at national, regional and European level in relation to the EIT Manufacturing Doctoral School mission	1-5
Novelty	
The local master and doctoral programme address manufacturing	1-5

market needs and societal challenges.	
Sub-topic 1 and 3: the Master programme's has a novel and valuable pedagogical approach and content.	1-5
Impact: social, economic, financial, and sustainability	**Max. scoring: 5 Threshold: 3/5**
Ambition and contribution to expected impact	
The social, economic and innovation impacts of the proposal are covered.	1-5
Sub-topic 1 and 3: The proposal presents a clear plan to support students in developing their business potential	1-5
Sub-topic 1 and 3: The proposed master programme identifies measures to attract students from across the EU and has the potential to reach a high number of students enrolled.	1-5
Sub-topic 2: The proposal presents a clear plan towards the creation of industrial doctorate positions in line with the Doctoral School admission requirements	1-5
Competitiveness and growth	
The proposal is addressed to specific target group/s and/or market sector/s and includes a gender perspective and the proposal demonstrates a competitive advantage over existing offers in the market	1-5
Sub-topic 1 and 3: The proposal presents a clear and appropriate marketing and student recruitment plan addressing how they will be able to expand the student intake in future years and contribute to the Master School financial sustainability.	1-5
Sub-topic 2: The proposal presents a clear programme promotion to support the Doctoral School sustainability towards existing and prospect PhD students	1-5
The proposal presents a dissemination and communication plan to specific target audiences and aligned to the challenge area	1-5
Implementation and sound financial management	**Max. scoring: 5 Threshold: 3/5**
The proposal includes an appropriate timeline for the programme developments in alignment with the Master and Doctoral School calendar and the call requirements.	1-5
The proposal identifies an academic referent (Local Programme	1-5

Coordinator).	
Sub-topic 1 and 3: The proposal identifies the the Local Administrative Coordinator and the Local Marketing Coordinator.	1-5
The proposal identifies risks and mitigation measures.	1-5
The applicants represent the right competencies, skills and expertise in accordance with the proposal scope.	1-5
Strategic fit evaluation criteria	**Max. scoring: 5 Threshold: 3/5**
The proposed master's programme/ PhD programme addresses the EIT Manufacturing thematic focus areas (flagships).	1-5
The proposals address the concept of Knowledge Triangle integration	1-5

	Max score
Excellence	5
Impact	5
Implementation	5
Strategic Fit	5
TOTAL POINTS	20
OVERALL THRESHOLD	12/20

The evaluators will assess each application by use of the evaluation tool included in the Submission Management Platform "Submittable" (each application is evaluated 2 times) The tool will automatically create an average score per application based on the individual scorings of the evaluators.

An internal rapporteur will prepare a Summary Evaluation Report for each application, based on the evaluations of the (2) evaluators provided in the Individual Evaluation Reports. The evaluators will meet in a consensus meeting to discuss and build an agreement. The internal rapporteur will address any notable divergences between their evaluations and will develop the final Evaluation Summary Reports of the evaluation of applications.

Once the quality evaluation is finalised, all the Evaluation Summary Reports are provided to the EIT Manufacturing Selection Committee for the portfolio selection.

5.3 EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School portfolio selection

The EIT Manufacturing Selection Committee will carry out to a strategic portfolio selection of the proposals after the evaluation phase.

The EIT Manufacturing Selection Committees are composed of the following members with the same weight of score:

Topic 1 & Topic 3	Topic 2

6 members: 5 programme coordinators of the existing EIT Manufacturing Master programmes and 1 EIT Manufacturing Head of Master and Doctoral School (or their deputies)	3 members: Chair and Co-chair of the Scientific and Industrial Committee of the EIT Manufacturing Doctoral School and 1 EIT Manufacturing Head of Master and Doctoral School (or their deputies)

Only proposals assessed from the independent evaluators (results of consensus meetings) as eligible for funding (above the threshold in all the 5 criteria and overall) will be passed to EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School evaluation committee.

Within the EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School evaluation committee, a maximum of 5 additional points (top-up) will be assigned by assessing the following 2 high level criteria with the same weight.

Criteria	Description	Scoring methodology
Portfolio and EIT Label fit	Degree of alignment with the scope and coverage of the EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School portfolio and EIT Label, focusing on partnerships and program offerings.	5: Full alignment with the scope, coverage and complementary, demonstrating diverse partnerships and program combinations. 4: Potential for full alignment after development, with feasible implementation. 3: Alignment issues causing delays in expected implementation. 2: Serious alignment issues challenging to overcome. 1: Proposal not aligned with EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School portfolio and EIT Label.

	Relevance of proposed partner(s) for the EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School, including alignment with the Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) and coverage of uncovered countries.	5: Proposal presents relevant partner(s) for the EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School aligned with RIS and encompasses partnerships from uncovered countries. 4: Potential for relevance, with opportunities for further alignment. 3: Relevance issues, requiring adjustments for better alignment. 2: Serious relevance issues hindering alignment. 1: Proposal lacks relevant partner(s) or alignment with RIS and uncovered countries.
Ecosystem and geographical fit (including RIS)		

The scores will be given at criterion level and then averaged together to come with a EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School selection committee top-up.

The final overall score assigned to a project proposal will be calculated as follows:

Final Overall Score = Evaluation Summary Report final score + EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School selection committee top-up.

The final overall score cannot be lower than the consensus meeting final score and it can reach a maximum of 25 points.

The Head of Master and Doctoral School proposes the commented new ranking, which will be discussed within a final consensus meeting, where an agreement will be reached. After the agreement, proposals will be selected based on ranking and available budget. High-quality proposals not selected will be put on the reserve list.

5.3 Communication of results and negotiation period

EIT Manufacturing will inform by email all proposals leaders once the evaluation is completed.

The applicants might receive 4 types of evaluation feedback:

1. The proposal is accepted for funding. The proposal has got a high evaluation score and is selected for funding based on available budget assumptions.
2. The proposal is accepted for funding with conditions. The proposal has got a high evaluation score and is selected for funding based on available budget assumptions. Conditions for changes will be provided from EIT Manufacturing. Changes shall be done and re-submitted on time.

a. If the applicant fails to comply with the requested conditions or does not respond by the time allocated, the proposal will be rejected and the next proposal on the ranking list will be then proposed for funding.
3. The proposal is rejected. The proposal has failed to reach the threshold of an individual evaluation criterion or the overall threshold and is therefore not considered for funding.
4. The proposal is retained in the reserve list: the proposal has passed all thresholds but due to budget constraints it cannot be funded. In case of finally unused budget, the proposal might become eligible for funding, e.g in case a proposal accepted with conditions is not funded. The duration of the reserve list is up to end of next cut-off date selection procedure.

The evaluation results will be provided to all HEIs. The changes will need to be implemented in the proposals within 10 calendar days.

As soon as the communication of results is done, the successful participants will receive contractual documents to be signed with EIT Manufacturing, including:

- Internal Agreement – long term partnership within Horizon Europe Framework
- Financial Support Agreement (including Declaration of Honour) - specific agreement regarding financial support to third parties under Horizon Europe

In parallel, each participant will need to provide additional documents to EIT Manufacturing, such as:

- Signed letter of accession to the Cooperation Agreement in case of successful curriculum development
- Legal and financial documents (depending on the legal form of the participant and if requested by EIT Manufacturing)

5.4 Procedure for complaints and appeal

The Activity Leader of a rejected proposal who disagrees with the decision may request an evaluation review. Only procedural aspects of an evaluation may be the subject of a request for an evaluation review, for example process errors or technical problems. The evaluation of the merits of a proposal shall not be the subject of an evaluation review. In this case, the Activity leader will have 5 working days after receipt of the final evaluation results to submit an appeal to the Evaluation (see document Appeal procedure)

6. Other Terms and Conditions

6.1 Exclusion Criteria

HEIs will be excluded from participating in the call if they are in any of the situations of exclusion defined in Article 136 of the EU Financial Regulation[16]. HEIs shall sign a Declaration of Honour in order to confirm that they respect the above-mentioned criteria at the application stage. Successful HEIs shall provide relevant recent documentation substantiating the Declaration of Honour at the latest before signing the agreements mentioned under point 5.3. Failure to provide adequate documentation will result in the exclusion of the HEIs and the proposal concerned.

6.2 Logos and Trademarks of the HEIs

The entities participating in the Call for Proposal grant EIT Manufacturing and its subsidiaries (e.g., ICs) a free and non-exclusive license to use their brand solely for the promotion, dissemination of information, organisation, management and implementation of the Call for Proposal. The HEIs and EIT Manufacturing mutually acknowledge and accept that the respective trademarks are, and remain, the exclusive property of their respective owners and that no provision of these guidelines is intended to confer any rights on such trademarks, outside the provisions of the previous paragraph. Therefore, the participating entities and EIT Manufacturing will not be able to assign, sublicense or otherwise dispose of the trademarks of others, without prior written consent.

Participating entities will send their brand related information (logos, brand guidelines and any other relevant communication material) as requested from EIT Manufacturing, to support@eitmanufacturing.eu in vector format or in image format with at least 300 dpi.

6.3 Confidentiality

EIT Manufacturing undertakes to use any Confidential Information shared by the entities solely for the purposes of the Call for Proposals. Confidential information shall mean data and/or information that is proprietary to, or possessed by the entities and not generally known to the public, or that has not yet been revealed whether in tangible or intangible form, whenever and however disclosed and might also be included in the application form. Confidential information must be expressly labelled as such in the application form.

HEIs agree that EIT Manufacturing and its subsidiaries can disseminate, publish, and make use of non-confidential information regarding the call, to promote the activities of EIT Manufacturing or establish reports or other necessary documents for EIT.

The HEIs agree that data and information in the application form not labelled as confidential may be disclosed in connection with the activities of EIT Manufacturing.

Considering the confidential nature of the data and information referred to above, EIT Manufacturing also undertakes to (i) not disclose them in any way and in any form, without prior written authorization of the entity concerned; and (ii) not to use them for purposes other than those strictly necessary for the purposes of this Call for Proposals.

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[16] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32018R1046&from=EN

Confidential Information may be shared among EIT Manufacturing and its subsidiaries (e.g. ICs) solely for the purposes of the call. EIT Manufacturing undertakes to impose this confidentiality obligation on its employees and the employees of its subsidiaries and its collaborators, as well as on Rapporteurs and independent experts and all subjects who, by virtue of participating in the call for proposal as members of the Selection Committees or Jury, will take knowledge of or may have access to such confidential data and information.

6.4 Intellectual Property

Participating entities agree to respect IPR Rules (Article 16) of the (Model) Grant Agreement[17]. Participating entities also agree to respect the EIT Manufacturing IP Policy available on this link.

6.5 Disclaimers

EIT Manufacturing denies all liability from an applicant participation to the call for proposal. Submitting application does not establish a grantor-grantee relationship between applicant and the EIT Manufacturing as final decision will be made after the evaluation process and the final confirmation of acceptance of the application and all other procedure mentioned herein.
These call for proposals guidelines may be subject to changes/update. In such a case, the changes will be communicated publicly (published) in a transparent and clear manner. HEIs having already applied will also be informed.

6.6 Processing of Personal Data

EIT Manufacturing ensures that any processing of personal data shall be performed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and in accordance with Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). As a data subject you have the right of access, the right to rectification, the right to erasure, the right to restrict processing, the right to data portability, the right to object and the right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing. If you have a question about personal data processing or want to exercise your data subject rights, you can contact our Data Protection Officer on dpo@eitmanufacturing.eu . In the case of complaints, you can address them to the French regulator CNIL.
The collected personal data will be used solely for the procedure and assessment of the call applications and the management, completion, organisation, dissemination of information and publicity of the call. The data controller is EIT Manufacturing and/or its subsidiaries.
By submitting your application for this call you consent that EIT Manufacturing will collect, transfer, process, store and delete your data in accordance with the aforementioned conditions.
Details concerning the processing of your personal data are available in the privacy statement in the submission tool.

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[17] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

6.7 Applicable Law

The present call is governed by the applicable European Union laws (i.e. the EIT Regulation, the EU Financial Regulation and the Horizon Europe Regulation) and is complemented, where necessary, by the law of France. The HEIs agree to observe the obligations set forth in the (Model) Grant Agreement[18] signed between the EIT and EIT Manufacturing and particularly Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping). These obligations will also be mentioned in contracts to be signed if the application is successful.

6.8 Rights to activate audits

EIT Manufacturing retains the right to activate an audit on the funded activities and partners in case of alerts and/or to confirm governance and proper usage of the grant.
EIT Manufacturing keeps the right to request any data related to the activity for 5 years after completion to ensure transparency and allow monitoring from EIT.

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[18] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

Annex 1 - EITM Master School outlook

The EIT Manufacturing Master School offers a unique and excellent high education programme, with international and inclusion mindset, to graduate the next generation of Manufacturing Innovators and Entrepreneurs. The Master School programmes merge manufacturing technical and technological aspects with innovation and entrepreneurship teaching, in the context of the global societal challenges, such as circular economy, industrial innovation, sustainability, and so on. The EIT Manufacturing Master School adopts a practical learning by doing approach, through activities at Teaching and Learning Factories, through internships, projects and thesis at industrial premises, and through Innovation and entrepreneurship focused Summer Schools, in order the students to put immediately in practice the new knowledge, gathered in the class, in a real work and research context. The international studies at two different HEIs and the interaction with the EIT Manufacturing community complement and complete the educational offer.

All EIT Manufacturing Master School programmes allow the students to develop:

- Capability to implement engineering expertise and advanced technologies to create new or improved methods, techniques, products and services in the manufacturing field, in line with the customer target sector and the global societal challenges.
- Transversal skills and capabilities, such as constructive communication, leadership, complex problem setting, problem solving and decision making, to collaborate in international and diverse contexts, to manage projects and teams, to find new solutions and innovate the manufacturing offer.
- Business understanding and entrepreneurship to boost their future careers and to create innovative start-ups.

These capabilities are defined for the Master School programmes directly by the EIT through specific Overarching Learning Outcomes (OLOs), defined in the next section of this annex.

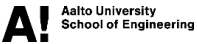The EIT Manufacturing Master School Programmes are:

- Human-Robot Interaction for Sustainable Manufacturing Additive Manufacture for Full Flexibility
- Zero-Defect Manufacture for a Circular Economy
- Digital Manufacturing for Innovative Ecosystems

Data Science ad AI for Competitive ManufacturingAt the end of their studies the students receive two degrees directly by the HEIs (double degree) and the EIT label certificate from EIT Manufacturing, as an international recognition of their high-quality education curriculum.

Master School partner HEIs

In case partnership requires to include one or more of the EITM Master School partner HEIs, you can find their public contacts at EIT Manufacturing partners web page: Master School - EIT Manufacturing

List of those partners is available here below.

	Aalto University (Aalto), Finland
	Ecole Centrale de Nantes (ECN), France
	Mondragon Unibertsitatea (MU), Spain
	University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI), Switzerland
	Technische Universität Wien (TU Wien), Austria
	University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland
	Grenoble Institute of Technology and Management (G INP), France
	University of Trento, Italy
	Tartu University, Estonia

Overarching Learning Outcome (OLO) for EITM Master School Programmes

EIT Overarching Learning Outcome (OLOs): see table below

EIT OLOs
EIT OLO 1 - Entrepreneurship skills and competencies
The capacity to identify and act upon opportunities and ideas to create social, cultural and financial value for others, including translating innovations into feasible business solutions, with sustainability at their core.
EIT OLO 2 - Innovation skills and competencies
The ability to formulate knowledge, ideas and technology to create new or significantly improved products, services, processes, policies, new business models or jobs, and to mobilise system innovation to contribute to broader societal change, while evaluating the unintended consequences of innovation and technology.
EIT OLO 3 - Creativity skills and competencies
The ability to think beyond boundaries and systematically explore and generate new ideas.
EIT OLO 4 – Intercultural skills and competencies
The ability to engage and act internationally and to function effectively across cultures, sectors and/or organisations, to think and act appropriately and to communicate and work with people from different cultural and organisational backgrounds.
EIT OLO 5 - Making value judgments and sustainability competencies
The ability to identify short- and long-term future consequences of plans and decisions from an integrated scientific, ethical and intergenerational perspective and to merge this into a solution-focused approach, moving towards a sustainable and green society.
EIT OLO 6 - Leadership skills and competencies
The ability of decision-making and leadership based on a holistic understanding of the contributions of Higher Education research and business to value creation, in limited sized teams and contexts.

Annex 2 - EITM Doctoral School outlook

The EIT Manufacturing Doctoral School (DS) is a one of the multi-year activity of the Education Empower Programme and targets PhD students interested in adding to their PhD engineering studies a strong education in innovation and entrepreneurship, in order to be able to turn their research studies in new and innovative products and services and new business. The EITM DS is regulated by a cooperation agreement signed by EITM and HEIs (currently 6) and supervised by a Scientific and industrial Committee (SIC) to take into consideration the industrial aspects in its activities. The DS programme is organized on top of PhD studies, but along their length, covering in total 60 ECTS (1 ECTS=25 hours). 30 ECTS are dedicated to international and cross-organizational mobility, in order the students can have academic exchanges and industrial "placement", to experience different environments and better develop their innovation capabilities. The remaining 30 ECTS are dedicated to the Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) programme. The programme is EIT label accredited, meaning that the students get the EIT label certificate within their PhD diploma supplement. Only students belonging to the HEIs of the Doctoral School consortium can fulfill the full programme and get the EIT label. HEIs belonging to the consortium get also an annual financial support of 10 000€ to review and further develop the programme.

More information about the Doctoral School is available at: Doctoral School - EIT Manufacturing

More information about the Doctoral School I&E programme is available at: I&E Programmes - EIT Manufacturing

EITM Doctoral School Programme structure

The structure of the Doctoral School annual programme is reported here more in details to provide info to the HEIs. These are the I&E elements the PhD students go through once enrolled into the EITM Doctoral School programme:

- Welcome ceremony (on-boarding of new students, , Network-wide activities in collaboration with industries, startup and research centers.
- Seminars/webinars and hackathons, given through either on-line or face to face courses etc.
- Summer school: including a doctoral symposium where students can present their ongoing research activities and get feedback from peers.
- Winter school: students can get advanced knowledge and practice and present results of their work about Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- Awareness & Orientation programme: dedicated to those Doctoral School students interested to develop innovative product/services, but not towards a business venture.
- Business Creation Venture programme: dedicated sessions offering to doctoral students working on manufacturing challenges across Europe and their own ideas of start-up from the results of their PhD studies. The goal of this programme is to help these doctoral students to strengthen their entrepreneurial spirit, to improve their creativity and system innovation skills. The programme includes training boot camps, company visits, business coaching, global networking events, and online resources.

The I&E programme must be fulfilled by the PhD students in two years, completing 15 ECTS per year. The mobility of the programme includes 15 ECTS of international mobility and 15 ECTS of cross-organizational mobility. The mobility can be done whenever during the PhD studies, even in parallel with the I&E programme.

Doctoral School partner HEIs

EITM Doctoral School partner HEIs are listed in the following table only for HEIs info. This call doesn't request to partner with any of the Doctoral School HEIss.
If you belong to any of the following HEIs, your PhD students can already apply to the Doctoral School programme. List of those partners is available here below.

	Czech Technical University of Prague (CTUP)
	Grenoble Institute of Technology and Management (G INP)
	Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (STUBA)
	Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto (FEUP)
	University of Tartu – Institute of technology (TARTU)
	Mondragon University, Spain

Doctoral School Overarching Learning Outcomes (OLOs)

EIT Overarching Learning Outcome (OLOs): see table below

EIT OLOs
EIT OLO 1 - Entrepreneurship skills and competencies
The capacity to identify, synthesize and act upon opportunities and ideas to create social, cultural and financial value for others, including translating innovations into feasible business solutions, with sustainability at their core, and to lead and support others in this process.
EIT OLO 2 - Innovation skills and competencies
The ability to evaluate the research experiences combined with the knowledge, ideas and technology of others to create, test and implement new or significantly improved products, services, processes, policies, new business models or jobs, and to mobilise system innovation to contribute to broader societal change, while evaluating the unintended consequences of innovation and technology.
EIT OLO 3 - Creativity skills and competencies
The ability to extend boundaries and systematically explore and generate new ideas and to inspire and support others in this process and contribute to the further development of those ideas.
EIT OLO 4 – Intercultural skills and competencies
The ability to engage and act internationally and to function effectively – in research and other activities – across cultures, sectors and/or organisations, to think and act appropriately and to communicate and work with people from different cultural and organisational backgrounds.
EIT OLO 5 - Making value judgments and sustainability competencies
The ability to identify short- and long-term future consequences of plans and decisions from an integrated scientific, ethical and intergenerational perspective and to merge this into their professional activities, moving towards a sustainable and green society.
EIT OLO 6 - Leadership skills and competencies
The ability of decision-making and leadership based on a holistic understanding of the contributions of Higher Education, research and business to value creation.