Call Guidelines

Business Plan 2023 – 2025

Call for proposals
Innovation & Entrepreneurship –
Master & Doctoral School

Index

Abbreviations

BP	Business Plan
EC	European Commission
EITM	EIT Manufacturing
ESR	Evaluation Summary Report
EU	European Union
FSM	Financial Sustainability Mechanism
IC	Impact Centre
IER	Individual Evaluation Report
I&E	Innovation & Entrepreneurship
KIC	Knowledge and Innovation Community
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
MGA	Model Grant Agreement
MT	Management Team
OLO	Overarching Learning Outcome
PMO	Programme Management Office
RIS	Regional Innovation Scheme
SO	Strategic Objectives

Keywords

Activity	Everything that EIT Manufacturing does is organized into Activities. Each Activity belongs to one Segment, and each Segment to one Area. Each Activity should contribute to the integration of the knowledge triangle of innovation, education, and business creation.
Activity Leader	The Activity Leader is the person nominated for each activity as the main contact point between the entities involved in the activity and EIT Manufacturing. This person is affiliated with the Lead Partner of the activity. The Activity Leader can nominate or revoke an unlimited number of contacts from the entities involved in the activity.
Area	EIT defines several areas in which it operates: Education; Innovation and Research; Entrepreneurship; Communication, Dissemination, and Outreach; Regional Innovation Scheme; and Management and Coordination.
Business Plan	The document specifies 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.
Services Agreement	Previously "Financial Sustainability[1] Agreement". The Agreement which is signed with the aim of contributing to the Financial Sustainability of the KIC EIT Manufacturing and its community.
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).

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[1] Regulation (EU) 2021/819 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast), Article 2 Definitions p. 16: 'financial sustainability' means a capacity of a KIC to finance its knowledge triangle activities independently of contributions from the EIT.

Call Guidelines	Document where any call for proposals' terms, conditions, and criteria are defined and stated according to the principles of transparency, equal treatment, open competition, and sound procedural management.
Call Report	Document summarising the results of the call and its most important outputs, including the ranking list.
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, or a software release upon which the 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 under the Article of Association conditions)
Evaluation Process	The 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 proposal's strengths, weaknesses, risks, and commercial and social value. It is an expert deliverable drafted by the rapporteur and presents the consensus on a specific proposal.
Impact Centre	Impact Centre/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.
Key Marketable Innovation	Key Marketable Innovation (KMI) is an innovative concept, product, or solution that has been identified and prioritized due to its high potential to be commercialized and generate revenue in the marketplace. KMIs typically offer unique features or benefits that differentiate them from existing solutions and address unmet needs or opportunities in the market. KMIs are innovations that have a high potential for commercialization, as they offer a valuable solution or improvement to a market need, and can generate significant economic value for the organization that develops and markets them.

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 reflect 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.
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.
Model Grant Agreement	Model Grant Agreement is used in the Horizon Europe programme financed by the European Commission.
Panel consensus meeting	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 reaches a consensus about their scoring and ranking. The results of the panel consensus meeting are set out in the minutes and the call report.
Pillar	Used as a synonym for Area
Ranking list	Ranking of proposals selected for funding by the EIT Manufacturing Management Team.
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.

1 Call summary

Disclaimer: The information given in this document is subject to revision, according to new potential rules or requirements provided by EIT and/or by the EC

Call for Proposals main Features	
Dates [2]	**Call publication:** 22 April 2024 **Call opening:** 29 April 2024 at 10:00 CEST. **Call closing:** 8 July 2024 at 17:00 CEST. **Eligibility and admissibility check:** July 2024 **Evaluation of proposals:** July- October 2024 **Communication of results:** October 2024 **Stand-still period:** October- November 2024 **Start date of the projects:** January 2025
Introduction	EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School are two long term activities delivering entrepreneurship education for academic students and manufacturing professionals. The call for proposal focuses on the annual summer school for the EIT Manufacturing Master School and on the innovation aspects of the annual Innovation & Entrepreneurship (I&E) programme of the Doctoral School
Duration of the projects	12 Months
The total budget allocated to this call	560 000 EUR in 2025
Links to the submission tool	Coming soon on April 29th
List of documents to be submitted	• Application form to be completed on the submission tool. • Declaration of Honour duly signed by each member of the consortium
List of documents to take into consideration	• Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement • EIT Manufacturing Strategic Agenda • Appeal and redress procedure • Eligibility of expenditures • List of KPIs

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[2] 1 Please note that this calendar is indicative. Dates might be subject to slight changes.

	• Activities Monitoring Process Guidelines • Financial Support Agreement, including annexes • Annex A Master School programmes and Overarching Learning Outcome (OLOs) – annexed to this document • Annex B Doctoral School programmes and OLOs – annexed to this document
Evaluation criteria	*Evaluation criteria assessed by the independent experts*: • Excellence • Impact • Quality and efficiency of the implementation • Strategic fit • European dimension

2 General conditions

Proposals submitted to this Call must support EIT Manufacturing mission and directly contribute to tackling our strategic objectives. Proposals need to demonstrate how the proposal will actively contribute to the Strategic Agenda 2021-2027.

2.1 EIT Manufacturing mission and strategic objectives

Mission

EIT Manufacturing will put Europe at the centre of a global revolution and boost manufacturing innovation in Europe by connecting people with skills, technologies with markets, and innovators with investors. Technological progress is now exponential, and it is changing the industrial, social and competitive landscape faster than ever before. The aim of EIT Manufacturing is not only to adapt to this revolution but to lead it. To do so, EIT Manufacturing need to overcome value network fragmentation and bring stakeholders together, leverage knowledge and strengths to create value, and implement agile mechanisms to accelerate innovation. With the needs, concerns, and ideas of the economy and society at its core, the mission of EIT Manufacturing is to empower its partners and stakeholders to fundamentally transform the manufacturing system and meet the global demands for present and future generations.

Strategic objectives

EIT Manufacturing 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.

- Put people at the center of manufacturing.
- Accelerate green manufacturing.
- Foster sovereignty and competitiveness.

2.2 Knowledge triangle integration

EIT Manufacturing aims to promote solid consortia of European education, research, and business entities (the 3 sides of the Knowledge Triangle), either in the composition of the activities consortia or in the expected impact of the activities' results.

2.3 EIT Manufacturing membership

EIT Manufacturing is a KIC[3] of European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT). All entities of selected proposals need to be part of the KIC EIT Manufacturing community and will have to choose one of the following partnership models (and related annual fee) before signing the relevant agreements (See section 5.4) and initiating their projects:

Core partner (voting right, privileged access to services, representatives in the KIC governance)
- Large enterprises, research institutes, and universities   50,000 EUR
- Mid-sized companies (<2,000 FTE)   30,000 EUR
- SME (<250 FTE, turnover <50M EUR or balance sheet <43M EUR) 15,000 EUR

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

Both Core and Associate Partners are membership categories of the EIT Manufacturing Association. Consequently, they are required to pay annual membership fees as determined by the EIT Manufacturing Partner Assembly. Membership fees are due every year irrespectively of whether a Partner receives funding for the relevant year. For the avoidance of any doubt, as an example, an entity which has zero funding but is participating in a funded project will still have to pay membership fees.

More information on the partnership models is available on the website[4].

Please note that the total maximum EIT funding per year for all entities participating in the 2025 Calls is 1,500,000 EUR.

Under Horizon Europe, **Linked Third Parties/affiliated entities**[5] are eligible to participate in the proposal activities.

At most, the following number of Linked Third Parties/affiliated entities of a Core Partner may receive funding per year through the 2025 Calls:

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[3] Regulation (EU) 2021/819 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast), Article 2 Definitions p. 2: A large-scale Institutionalised European Partnership, as referred to in Regulation (EU) 2021/695, of higher education institutions, research organisations, companies and other stakeholders in the innovation process in the form of a strategic network, regardless of its legal form, based on joint mid- to long-term innovation planning to meet the EIT challenges and contribute to attaining the objectives established under Regulation (EU) 2021/695

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

[5] Linked Third Parties, called Affiliated Entities under Horizon Europe, are etiher:
- entities that together legally conform to the sole beneficiary (i.e. partner). Ex: Entities A and B form entity C. All three entities (A, B and C) are Affiliated Entities
- or eligible entities that have a legal or capital link to the beneficiary that is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation.

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

If an affiliated entity is involved in a proposal, it means that:
- the affiliated entity carrying out the work shall be included in the proposal as participant (not the Core Partner)
- according to the Financial Support Agreement, the Core Partner receives the EIT funding for the work to be carried out by the affiliated entity then disburses the appropriate amounts to the affiliated entity based on their internal agreements. The core partner is responsible for ensuring that the funds are used for the purposes outlined in the proposal and in accordance with the Financial Support Agreement.

Please take this into account when creating the proposals.

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. This requirement does not apply to other categories of

legal entities, such as private for-profit organisations, including SMEs, non-governmental, or civil society organisations.

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 e possible extent, a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the proposal, including at the supervisory and managerial levels.

2.5 EU taxonomy for sustainable activities

Proposals are expected to comply with the 'do no significant harm' principle as per Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 2020/852 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment (i.e. so-called EU Taxonomy Regulation.[6]).

2.6 Ethics

For all activities co-funded by the EU, the ethical dimension is an integral part of the work from beginning to end, and ethical compliance is seen as pivotal to achieving real excellence. When preparing a proposal, it is required to read through the EU Ethics Self-assessment guideto check the compliance of your activities.

In case ethical issues concern your proposal, you shall describe how you will address them.

2.7 Open science

Open science practices could be implemented as an integral part of the proposal. According to the Horizon Europe Programme Guide，Open science is an approach based on open cooperative work and systematic sharing of knowledge and tools as early and widely as possible in the process. Your proposal could be contributing to the **social sciences or/and the humanities dimension** of EIT Manufacturing. If you believe this dimension, as described in the Horizon Europe Programme Guide, is appropriate for your proposal please acknowledge it in the submission phase

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[6] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32020R0852

3 Call specific conditions

The Innovation & Entrepreneurship Call covers activities related to Master and Doctoral School, to develop the following programmes for students and professionals:

- Summer School 2025 for EIT Manufacturing Master School
- Doctoral I&E programme 2025

The focus for 2025 is to scale up the results of the Master and Doctoral School activities multiplying the impact of the same through commercialization and distribution within a wide number of learners. The proposals must make use of highly innovative education and training solutions; and exploit and build on available assets, resources, programs, networks and collaborations, even developed in the previous years (Please refer to Annex A and ANNEX B for further information on EITM Master and Doctoral School).

Innovative added value modules for EIT Manufacturing Master and Doctoral School programs, and open to selected external participants, mainly aiming at developing I&E and sustainability competences.

A short presentation of the Master School is provided in ANNEX A. A presentation of Doctoral School programme is provided in ANNEX B. These annexes allow the applicants to understand the context, where the selected Innovative added value modules will be delivered and to provide additional info, such as the expected Overarching Learning Outcomes (OLOs).

For the Master School one module is expected:

- Summer School for EIT Manufacturing Master School programmes

For Doctoral School the target of the call is the annual Innovation programme. This programme will be integrated with the annual entrepreneurship programme provided by EIT Manufacturing: Proposal must target specifically only one of the following sub-segments:

- Summer School for EIT Manufacturing Master School programmes
- Doctoral School Innovation programme

3.1 Summer School for EIT Manufacturing Master School programmes

Purpose

- The main purpose is to equip learners with Innovation and entrepreneurial skills and capabilities (see OLO table in ANNEX A)
- This Summer School is a mandatory activity of the EITM Master School programmes. It focuses on teaching innovation and entrepreneurship to the students in the context of

manufacturing and its related societal challenges, such as, but not limited to, the strategic initiatives of the EITM Strategic Agenda. It must include a strong usage of industrial challenges and innovative technologies to allow the students to practice on real business environment and to ideate new innovative product/services and startup concepts. The programme must include a social and networking programme as well, to develop professional network of students.

- For more info about the EITM Master School and its related OLOs, please have a look to Annex A.

NB Only 1 proposal is expected to be funded. The selection of the proposal will be based on the quality of the proposal as evaluated by External Experts (See Section 5).

Topic description

- Manufacturing focus: At least 2 EITM strategic initiatives for green and competitive manufacturing (see EITM Strategic Agenda), sustainability and digitalization.
- I&E focus: IPR, Ethics and Startup creation

Target

- Master of Science students and professionals

Expected outcomes & impacts

- Make engineering and ICT MSc students and manufacturing professionals to be able to gain soft skills and skills about innovation and also to get entrepreneurial concepts to start developing a business idea
- In terms of number of students, the summer school will train all EITM Master School students and must engage 20 external additional students, with a minimum of 7 RIS students.

Examples

Some examples of specific types of activities that can be addressed during the master summer school include:

- IPR labs
- T&L factories lab
- Startup bootcamps, where the students work to define an early-stage idea of possible startup
- Innovation labs, such as using programming for innovating manufacturing products/services, use art labs for creativity development etc.

Duration

The activity will last 1 year, with the summer school duration of minimum 16 days, with at least 10 working weekdays in presence (5 ECTS equivalent, where 1 ECTS=25 hours, including both study in classroom and study time outside classroom) to be delivered in summer 2025. The format can be in a raw of three weeks or inside a period of 6 weeks. More than one location is allowed for the activities on site. The on-site programme must be organized in self-containing modules of 1 week each, to allow external participants to join either for 1 or 2 weeks in presence. Anyway, participants need to develop and gain increasing skill levels along the programme, meaning it is not possible to repeat the same programme twice along the 2 weeks. The programme can include social and cultural activities in the evening and during the weekend as integral part of the learner experience. See additional information in the Logistic specific requirements section 3.2.4.

Applicants profile

Entities eligible to participate[7]

Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organisations is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation[8] have been met, along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call topic. A 'legal entity' means any legal person created and recognised as such under national law, EU law, or international law, which has legal personality, and which may, acting in its name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations.

Entities eligible for funding

To be eligible for funding, applicants must be established in one of the following countries at the time of proposal submission:

- the Member States of the European Union, including their outermost regions:

    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.

- the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the Member States.

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[7] 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*.

[8] 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)

- the countries associated with Horizon Europe and the low- and middle-income countries[9]. Following the recent developments regarding a political agreement reached between the European Commission and the UK on the association of the UK to Horizon Europe, UK entities may be considered as entities established in an associated country and therefore eligible for EU funding for activities starting from 2024. Official confirmation is pending from EIT and the European Commission.
- for applicants established in Switzerland their participation is not currently covered by an EU agreement and, as a matter of consequence, applicants established in Switzerland are not eligible for EU funding.

While all EIT Manufacturing partners are eligible to apply for funding, applicants do not need to be EIT Manufacturing partners at the submission stage. Successful applicants will be required to join the community and select a membership category from chapter 2.4 when initiating their projects.

<u>Consortium composition</u>

Only legal entities forming a consortium are eligible to participate in actions provided that the consortium includes <u>at least 3 legal entities independent from each other</u>[10] <u>and each established in a different country as follows</u>:

- at least 1 independent legal entity established in a Member State; and
- at least 2 other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or Associated Countries.

The following requirements apply to the proposal consortia:

- One organization participating in the proposal's consortium should undertake the role of the Activity Leader for the duration of the overall activity. The Activity Leader will be the direct contact with the EIT Manufacturing Education Pillar;
- The Activity Leader is responsible for the coordination of the activity, including the implementation of the workplan, the execution of the budget, the submission of the deliverables, and the impact achievements of the overall activity. The role of Activity Leader is open to any entity participating to the call for proposals;
- Consortia must include **5-10 entities, and at least one for each of the following categories: Universities, RTOs, Manufacturing companies,** geographically based in **at**

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[9] See the Horizon Europe List of Participating Countries on the Portal for an up-to-date list of these countries
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

[10] Two 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

least 2 different EIT Manufacturing ICs[11].

- Consortia must include **minimum 1 entity from EITM Master School** partner universities, able to provide ECTS to the EITM Master School students; and
- Consortia must include **Minimum 1 entity from RIS Countries.**

The role of each partner should be clearly described in the partners' role table.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Every proposal must contribute to one of the KPI accordingly to the target indicated below. 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 would be possible); it will remain as it is for the target to be achieved by the end of the activity.

KPI	Short title	Minimum Target
EITHE08.1	Number of participants in (non-degree) education and training	20
EITHE08.2	Number of EIT RIS Participants in (non- degree) education and training	7

- Minimum number of students:
  - expected 60 from EITM Master School (in 2025), with free access to all activities and paid accommodation. These students are counted into EITM Master School students, so they are not included into the KPIs above to avoid double counting.
  - Minimum 20 external students, with special attention to women and RIS (Minimum 7) students' involvement. A students recruitment plan and a selection committee must be proposed for the selection of the external students (while applications will be managed through a centralized SW provided by EITM). E**xternal students pay a participation fee and also travel and accommodation expenses.** The students recruitment plan must include specific actions to attract women and RIS students, besides fee discounts.

Specific requirements

Pedagogical Approach

Learning by Doing approach is required with strong focus on all OLOs (see ANNEX A), manufacturing societal challenge systemic view and business exploitation projects, based on real

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[11] https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/in-your-country/

industrial challenges, provided by industries. Novel pedagogical approaches (gaming, AI/VR, hackathons etc.) are encouraged, also for activities listed as seminars. Moreover, experts from different fields are welcome (science, art, game, sport, makers, press, influencers etc.), but the students must be able to contextualize their new skills and capabilities inside manufacturing sector and associated societal challenges. Inclusion of T&L factories and networking opportunities with industries are also strongly encouraged. Students must be allowed to get reflection tools and time about their new skills and capabilities.

Quality review

A specific quality review plan of the whole summer school organization and programme must be included into the proposal.
Evaluation of students OLOs achievement and activity quality review by the learners and teachers must be included. A students evaluation committee made of Scientific and Industrial representative experts must be appointed.

Partnership

Master School University partners are only those ones already members of the Master School consortium at the time of the opening of the first stage of this call in 2024. External organizations and professionals not associated to EITM can join either as external partners, willing to pay the affiliation fee to EIT Manufacturing for year 2025, or as subcontractors, in this case they will be selected by the winning consortium through public procurement.
Demonstrated **engagement and active participation** (teaching, networking, provide industrial challenges etc.) **of companies and I&E experts** (both professionals and companies are allowed). An **educational I&E expert must be appointed as supervisor** (Programme Coordinator) of the Summer School programme. This role can be done by a consortium partner or by an external expert, eventually through subcontracting. In this second case the consortium must present the criteria for the educational I&E supervisor selection. A students evaluation committee made of Scientific and Industrial representatives, expert in I&E, must be establish as well for students OLOs evaluation (see also Quality review specific requirements).

Logistics

More than one location is allowed for the activities on site. EITM Master students accommodations paid by the grant; travels to/from summer school location(s) are excluded. External students must organize travel and accommodation by themselves. Organizer must organize EITM Master students accommodation and provide support to find accommodation to other external students. Travel expenses (not accommodation expenses) during summer school

(for instance for company visits and social activities) are under organizers responsibility and are covered by the grant for all students.

<u>Communication & dissemination plan</u>

A communication and dissemination plan must be provided for the programme, including the active participation of the participating students, I&E experts, industrial partners, teachers and other stakeholders. Participants success stories must be collected and highlighted during the communication campaign. A communication and dissemination <u>programme and content</u> for the EITM Social Media channels and the EITM communication other channels, such the EITM website, Agora etc. must be prepared by the consortium and provided to the EITM Master School office during the activity for the promotion and the dissemination of the activity through EITM channels, and overall through the EITM Master and Doctoral School LinckedIN profile. A preliminary programme of the summer school with the activity calendar must be provided by mid February 2025, in order to allow EITM to create the programme brochure and to promote the programme through its own channels. In any case it is consortium responsibility to engage the external students.

3.2 Doctoral School annual programme 2025

Purpose

The purpose is to equip learners with Innovation and Entrepreneurial skills and capabilities (see OLO table in ANNEX B). The call focuses on the delivery of the innovation aspects of the Doctoral School annual programme:
- Spring School
- Summer School
- Winter School
- Innovation online short courses
- Industrial and innovation challenges and mentorship

Topic description

- Manufacturing focus: <u>The innovation activities must focus on minimum 2 of the EITM strategic initiatives for green and competitive manufacturing</u> (see EITM Strategic Agenda)<u>.</u>
- ECTS: 1 ECTS=25 hours, including both study in classroom and study time outside classroom. Please note ECTS are considered toward student/group of students-class.

The programme must include a series of online short courses, a Spring School on site event involving a manufacturing company providing a business-hackathon, an on site summer school

and an on site winter school in relation to the Manufacturing focus above. The on site activities will host some of the entrepreneurship programme activities coordinated by EITM Doctoral School, already included into the ECTS of the programme. For this reason the proposal must consider logistic expenses and coordination for the entrepreneurship sessions as well.

The programme must focus on delivery of Innovation training in line with the Manufacturing focus listed above and covering all the OLOs listed in ANNEX B.

IMPORTANT: All the sessions are integrated into a wider Entrepreneurship Programme coordinated by the EITM Doctoral School. Each session delivers specific activities and host some of the Entrepreneurship Programme activities. For this reason, each proposal must include a co-creation session at the beginning of the activity, in January 2025, in order the full I&E programme can be successfully designed and the full year activities calendar communicated to the students by end of January 2025. **The proposal of this topic shouldn't include any entrepreneurship activity.**

General requirements

- Mentoring support by industrial company/research centres to students, in relation of their PhD topic and business idea:
    - during the onsite events (Spring, Summer and Winter School) the support can be provided either on site or online.
    - along the year the support can be provided online
- Industrial challenges:
  - Minimum two industrial business challenges for the Spring School, to be then selected by the entrepreneurial experts of EITM during the delivery, according to the following requirements:

    o One challenge related to strategic goals for a new business and market development, or strenghtening/expanding existing business lines
    o One challenge related to strategic goals for strenghtening and optimizing the internal organization (production, logistic, technology, etc.

  - Minimum one industrial challenge about innovation market opportunities (i.e. opportunities for sustainable packaging) for the Market Exploration Bootcamp during the Summer School.

Spring School

The Spring School delivers the Welcome Ceremony of the Doctoral School annual opening, an industrial business hackathon in collaboration with the entrepreneurship programme and networking and social activities.

- Delivery time and duration: Minimum 5 working weekdays in presence (2 ECTS equivalent) to be delivered by first half of April 2025. The social and cultural activities of the programme can be delivered in the evening and during the weekend(s).
- Delivery mode: either in presence or hybrid, meaning part in presence and part on line.
- Programme requirements:
    - Minimum 1 academic interactive lecture/lab experience
    - Minimum 1 social event
    - Minimum 1 company visit/company lecture/best practice
    - Networking activities with consortium and ecosystem of the hosting institution
    - Minimum 2 industrial business challenges to be provided to the students (see general requirements)

    - Hosting space and logistic coordination for the industrial business hackathon, coordinated by the entrepreneurship experts, for an average of 30 students, on average:
        - 1 intro session of 4 hours
        - 4 sessions of 6 hours per day
- Industrial business challenges requirements:
    - One challenge related to strategic goals for a new business and market development, or strengthening/expanding existing business lines
    - One challenge related to strategic goals for strengthening and optimizing the internal organization (production, logistic, technology, etc.

Summer School

- Delivery time and duration: Summer School duration is min 10 working days, with at least 10 working weekdays in presence in a row (5 ECTS equivalent) to be delivered in either in June or July 2025, in agreement with the EITM Master School requrements. More than one location is allowed. The social and cultural activities of the programme can be delivered in the evening and during the weekend(s).
- Delivery mode: either in presence or hybrid, meaning part in presence and part on line.
- Programme requirements:

    - Summer Symposium
    - One or more interactive and hands on technological Seminars/workshops;
    - Minimum one industrial challenge about innovation market opportunities (see

general requirements section above)

- Ecosystem connections (i.e. company visits), Mentorship & best practices by industrial partners & networking event: networking activity series
- Social and networking programme must be included, on top of mandatory networking activities with industries
- Hosting space and logistic coordination for the following entrepreneurship programme sessions, for an average of 30 students each:
  - Market Exploration Bootcamp (MEB)
  - Closure of the programme

Winter School

- Delivery time and duration: min 10 working days, with at least 10 working weekdays in presence in a row (5 ECTS equivalent) to be delivered within second half of November to 15th December 2025. More than one location is allowed for the activities on site. The social and cultural activities of the programme can be delivered in the evening and during the weekend(s).
- Delivery mode: either in presence or hybrid, meaning part in presence and part on line.
- Programme requirements:

  - One or more interactive and hands on technological seminars/workshops for a total of 1 ECTS (the topics can be complementary to the webinars and the Spring and Summer School ones)
  - Minimum one industrial challenge about innovation market opportunities (see general requirements section above)
  - Ecosystem connections, mentorship & best practices by industrial partners & networking event: networking activity series
    - Social and networking programme must be included, on top to mandatory networking activities with industries
    - Hosting space and logistic coordination for the following entrepreneurship programme sessions, for an average of a 30 students class:
      - "Business Design Bootcamp" (B D B) hosting space and logistic coordination support (2 ECTS)

Each seminar/workshop can include offline preparation and student reflection time. They must include student skills and knowledge assessment.

Online Short Courses

A series of six online short courses in collaboration with industries of min 12,5 hours and max 16 hours each about:

- Manufacturing and Industrial Insights and Tendencies – on 22nd and 23rd May 2025

- Prototyping Design constraints and Industrial Feasibility – 29th and 30th May 2025
- Challenges of the Supply Chain in Manufacturing – 26th and 27th June 2025
- Technology as a Driver for Solution Design – 18th and 19th September 2025
- The issues and developments of Digital Manufacturing – 16th and 17th October 2025
- Sustainable, Social, and Ethical Manufacturing – 6th and 7th November 2025

Each online short course must include:

- eventual preparation material and homework, online session training, student reflection time, student skills assessment.

Each online short course must involve:

- Manufacturing Industrial/startup involvement
- Research centers and other organization types (policy, social science, etc.), if appropriate

Pedagogical approach: learning-by-doing (use cases, best practices, testimonies, serious games, etc.)

Target

PhD students, researchers and professionals

Expected outcomes & impacts

- Make PhD students, researchers and manufacturing professionals to be able to gain soft skills and skills about innovation and also to get entrepreneurial concepts to start developing a business idea
- In terms of n. of students the proposal will train all EITM Doctoral School students and we expect the consortium to engage 10 external additional students per activity or group of activity

Examples

A Good example for summer/winter school is the Doctoral Summer School programme of 2023: https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/education/education-programmes/empower-programme/pioneering-learning-journeys/summer-school/

Important: please read the main structure of the Doctoral I&E bi-annual programme to understand the specific included activities per year:

https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/education/education-programmes/empower-programme/pioneering-learning-journeys/winter-school/

Duration

The activity will last 1 year, with each activity duration and delivery time as reported in their description in previous section.

Applicants profile

Entities eligible to participate[12]

Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organisations <u>is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not),</u> provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation.[13] have been met, along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call topic.

A 'legal entity' means any legal person created and recognised as such under national law, EU law, or international law, which has legal personality, and which may, acting in its name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations.

Entities eligible for funding

To be eligible for funding, applicants must be established in one of the following countries at the time of proposal submission:

- the Member States of the European Union, including their outermost regions:

    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.

- the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the Member States.
- the countries associated with Horizon Europe and the low- and middle-income countries[14]. Following the recent developments regarding a political agreement reached between the European Commission and the UK on the association of the UK to Horizon Europe, UK entities may be considered as entities established in an associated country and therefore eligible for EU funding for activities starting from 2024. Official confirmation is pending from EIT and the European Commission.
- for applicants established in Switzerland their participation is not currently covered by an EU agreement and, as a matter of consequence, applicants established in Switzerland are not eligible for EU funding.

While all EIT Manufacturing partners are eligible to apply for funding, applicants do not need to be EIT Manufacturing partners at the submission stage. Successful applicants will be required to

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[12] 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*.

[13] 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)

[14] See the Horizon Europe List of Participating Countries on the Portal for an up-to-date list of these countries https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

<u>Consortium composition</u>

Only legal entities forming a consortium are eligible to participate in actions provided that the consortium includes <u>at least 3 legal entities independent from each other</u>[15] <u>and each established in a different country as follows</u>:

- at least 1 independent legal entity established in a Member State; and
- at least 2 other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or Associated Countries.

The following requirements apply to the proposal consortia:

- One organization participating in the proposal's consortium should undertake the role of the Activity Leader for the duration of the overall activity. The Activity Leader will be the direct contact for the EIT Manufacturing Thematic Pillar
- The Activity Leader is responsible for the coordination of the activity, including the implementation of the workplan, the execution of the budget, the submission of the deliverables, and the impact achievements of the overall activity. The role of Activity Leader is open to any entity participating to the call for proposals.
- Consortia must include 3- 8 entities (Universities and RTOs and Manufacturing companies)
- Consortia must include Minimum 1 entity from the EITM Doctoral School consortium
- Consortia must include Minimum 1 entity from RIS Countries
- The role of each partner should be clearly described in the partners' role table.

List of EITM Doctoral School partner universities is available at Doctoral School web page: EIT Manufacturing Doctoral School - EIT Labelled Programme

Key performance Indicators (KPIs)

Every proposal must contribute to one of the KPI accordingly to the target indicated below. 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.

KPI	Short title	Minimum Target

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[15] Two 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

EITHE08.1	Number of participants in (non-degree) education and training	20
EITHE08.2	Number of EIT RIS Participants in (non- degree) education and training	10

- Min number of students:
  - expected 15 from EITM Doctoral School, with free access to all activities. These students are counted into EITM Doctoral School students, so they are not included into the KPIs above to avoid double counting.
  - Minimum 20 external students, with special attention to women and RIS students' involvement. A students recruitment plan and a selection committee must be proposed for the selection of the external students (while applications will be managed through a centralized SW provided by EITM). External students pay a participation fee and also travel and accommodation expenses. The students recruitment plan must include specific actions to attract women and RIS students, besides fee discounts.

Specific requirements

Pedagogical Approach

Learning by Doing approach is required with strong focus on all OLOs (see ANNEX B), manufacturing societal challenge systemic view and business exploitation projects, based on real industrial challenges, provided by industries. Novel pedagogical approaches (gaming, AI/VR, hackathons etc.) are encouraged, also for activities listed as seminars. Moreover, experts from different fields are welcome (science, art, game, sport, makers, press, influencers etc.), but the students must be able to contextualize their new skills and capabilities inside manufacturing sector and associated societal challenges. Inclusion of T&L factories and networking opportunities with industries are also strongly encouraged. Students must be allowed to get reflection tools and time about their new skills and capabilities.

Quality review

A specific quality review plan of each programme section and the whole spring & summer/winter school organization and programme must be included into the proposal.
Evaluation of students OLOs achievement and activity quality review by the learners and teachers must be included. A students evaluation committee made of Scientific and Industrial representative experts must be appointed.

<u>Partnership</u>

Doctoral School University partners are only those ones already members of the Doctoral School consortium at the time of the opening of this call in 2024. External organizations and professional not associated to EITM can participate to the consortium under the requirements of section 2.4.2.4 EIT Manufacturing membership.

<u>Logistics</u>

Organizers are not responsible for providing travel arrangements. Participants will arrange their own travel to/from the location and the accommodation expenses. Only travels for the on site activities execution are eligible by the grant, including travels for networking sessions, company visits and social programme. The same rules are valid for other kind of programme activities along the year round, such as seminars, etc. In any case, for onsite activities, such as Summer/Winter school/, the consortium must provide logistic coordination, including supportfor finding accommodation, on site working space for courses, projects and hands-on activities, site visits, social programme etc. More than one location is allowed for the activities on site.

<u>Marketing, Communication & Dissemination</u>

A communication and dissemination plan must be provided for the programme. The consortia will execute the marketing, communication and dissemination activity during the programme providing the content description of the activities, the content for the communication to EITM Doctoral School for the publication on EITM SoMe channels, website and other communication tools such as newsletter etc. Participants success stories must be collected by the consortia and highlighted during the communication campaign. The communication and dissemination will be supported by the EITM Doctoral School office for the publication on EITM SoMe channels, website and other communication tools such as newsletter etc. The communication and dissemination activities will be integrated with the entrepreneurship part of the programme coordinated by the EITM Doctoral School office.

3.3 Dissemination, communication, and exploitation

Applicants must engage in dissemination, communication and exploitation of the results of the activities. Applicants needs 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 rules of the (Model) Grant Agreement.[16] including branding guidelines and obligations. ommunication activities and infrastructure, equipment of major results funded by the grant must display the KIC's logo with the following text:

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

"KIC [name] is supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union").

3.4 Budget and funding

The total maximum EIT funding allocated to this call is up to 560 000 EUR in 2025. The amounts will be allocated according to the below estimation.

Call Thematic	Indicative Budget	Maximum EIT funding per proposal
Summer School for EIT Manufacturing Master School programmes – 2025	300 000 EUR	Up to 300 000 EUR
Doctoral School annual programme 2025	260 000 EUR	Up to 260 000 EUR

All consortia partners should have a justifiable core role with appropriate budget to perform their defined activities. Performative participation in projects or inclusion of partners without justifiable intrinsic value who are not demonstrably essential to project outcomes, will be questioned during the evaluation and portfolio selection.

Please note that 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 total funding available.

3.5 Payment scheme and Certified Financial Statement

EIT Manufacturing will transfer funding in instalments. A proportion of the activity budget will be prefinanced. The second instalment is linked to the interim activity monitoring as explained in paragraph 3.10. The last instalment will be transferred at the end of the activity, once eligible costs have been determined and following the completion of final activity monitoring assessment and the fulfilment of all obligations specified in the Financial Support Agreement:

• First instalment, corresponding to 35% of annual EIT funding

• Second instalment, corresponding to 25% of annual EIT funding

• Last payment corresponding to the 40% of annual EIT funding

Funding will be allocated to successful applicants provided that the relevant (Model) Grant Agreement between EIT Manufacturing and EIT is in place.

Prior to the payment, the cumulative funding received by an individual entity in the Business Plan 2023- 2025 for all the EIT Manufacturing projects they participate in will be checked. Whenever an entity reaches a cumulative EIT funding of 430,000 EUR, a Certified Financial Statement (CFS) audit will be requested prior to the payment[17]. The CFS audit will be performed by an external auditor. EIT Manufacturing will provide the reference of the appointed auditor.

The CFS review is independent from the Activity monitoring described in paragraph 3.10.

The scope of the CFS audit is to check the eligibility of the costs reported so far by a specific entity for all projects where they participate, altogether. The first CFS audit will check costs reported up to a specific date "D". A second CFS audit (meaning an entity reaches again a cumulative EIT funding of 430,000 EUR) would check the costs reported from date "D+1 day" to date "D2", and so on. The result of each CFS audit can be either:

1. No findings are detected. All costs are paid according.
2. The auditor report lists findings: EIT Manufacturing Finance department will decide if the findings correspond to ineligible costs. The decision will be based on conditions for cost eligibility set out in the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement and transposed in the document "Eligibility of Expenditure", which is part of EIT Manufacturing Call for Proposals documentation. In the case that EIT Manufacturing determines that the CFS findings are ineligible costs, these costs are excluded from the amount to be paid to the partner.

3.6 Eligibility of expenditures

For more information about the eligibility of the costs, you can refer to the Horizon Europe (Model) Grant Agreement and in particular Article 6 and the document "Eligibility of expenditures" attached to this call.

3.7 Financial sustainability – Services Agreement

To enable EIT Manufacturing to gradually become financially independent from EIT funding, a Financial Sustainability (FS) Strategy has been defined. This FS strategy is based on a mix of both active earned income and passive investment revenue.

For this call, the suitable Financial Sustainability Mechanism that the applicants can select are the:

- Participation Fee,
- Revenue Sharing with a minimum of 50% for EIT Manufacturing.

The selected project shall lead to the commercialization of the proposed trainings and/or service (such as consulting and maintenance).

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[17] According to Art 24.2 of the Horizon Europe MGA

The initial proposed financial sustainability contribution will be revised prior to the project start and during the project implementation.

3.8 Activity monitoring

All activities selected for funding undergo continuous monitoring by EIT Manufacturing to ensure effective progress and implementation and to trigger payments (the latter only at interim and final stage).

The monitoring at the end of each quarter will cover several aspects relating to the activity implementation including, but not limited to:

- achievement of deliverables and KPIs;
- risk management;
- financial management;
- quality assurance;
- progress against KPI achievement and impact delivery;
- communication and dissemination;
- co-branding; and
- progress towards commercialisation and exploitation of results.

EIT Manufacturing will request regular reporting of actual costs incurred with the subgrant, as well as regular reporting of KPIs and deliverables, together with the supporting documentation.

The monitoring process may result in an amendment to the Activity workplan and/or budget, however the Services Agreement (please refer to Section 3.7) and the KPIs targets (please refer to Section 3.1 and 3.2) cannot be renegotiated/reduced after the start of the activity.

In the case of under-performance, significant delay of implementation, misconduct of the consortium, or any other reason jeopardizing the timely implementation of the activity identified during the monitoring process, EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to discontinue or restructure the funding of the activity at any point during its duration.

At final stage, in the case of underperformance, the overall grant awarded can be decreased up to 100% of the eligible costs based on the following table:

Type of underperformance	Funding reduction [18]
Missing Core EIT KPI	20%
Missing DEL	10%
Missing EITM KIC KPI	5%

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.

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[18] % of funding reduction is calculated on the granted amount and it can be cumulative

The successful execution and completion of the activities financed under the framework of the present call may unlock the possibility to receive additional funding. Only projects assessed as "green" according to the "Activities Monitoring Process Guidelines" may be eligible for fast-track opportunity via a subsequent dedicated call or direct award.

For more information about the monitoring process, you can refer to the document "Activities Monitoring Process Guidelines" attached as an annex to this call.

3.9 Mandatory deliverables

The minimum core deliverables expected from an activity are shown below in the table. This provides the minimum requirements on compliance.

Deliverable name	Delivery date (in months)
Plan for dissemination and exploitation including communication activities	Within the first 6 months of the activity
Financial Sustainability Agreement	Within the first 6 months of the activity
Gender equality plan	Within the first 6 months of the activity. Only public or private research organizations or higher education establishment.
Sustainability report	Month 11
Result Report	By the end of the activity
Publishable summary of achievements to be used as dissemination material by EIT Manufacturing	By the end of the activity

All mandatory deliverables have to be reported by the due time for the proper monitoring of the activity.

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 manufacturing community. The overview is provided in the table below.

Event type	Date
Info day and MatchMaking event	29-30 April 2024
Q&A Sessions on the call topic	13th May 2024 at XX:XX (TBC)
Q&A Session and live demo on the application form	4th June 2024 at 11:30 CEST

Call Contacts

Access to Agora, our online community platform, is open to all entities to have access to the most updated information on the call and to help them build up proposal consortia.

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. Applicants are strongly discouraged from approaching any member of the Selection Committee to seek for specific advice or support regarding their application.

4.2 Registration and submission process

Before submitting a proposal, all applicants (Activity Leader and consortium members) must register on the:

1. EU Participant Portal to obtain a PIC number.[19] 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 organisation on the submission tool. If this is your first time participating in an EU-funded project or your organisation 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 organisation. Primary registration of your PIC number

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[19] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register

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 organisation has not been fully validated, but the new PIC number can already be used during your proposal submission

2. Submission tool[20] expression of interests to participate to the call. Please note that the expression of interests processing is not automatic and needs to be reviewed and approved by the EIT Manufacturing team after the registration by the applicants. If you have already participated in calls of EIT Manufacturing before, you can proceed with the next steps and the proposal creation. 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 organisation's information on the EU participant portal).

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All entities participating in this call for proposals must be registered in the submission tool as early as possible and no later than 3 working days before the call closes, 03 July at 17:00 CEST otherwise they may not be eligible for funding.

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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.

4.3   Proposal submission mandatory documentation

The following documentation must be submitted by the applicants through the **submission tool no later than the call deadline**:

- Online application form;
- Declaration of Honour duly signed by each member of the consortium;

NB: Any documentation missing, incomplete or sent after the deadline, will be inadmissible.

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[20] Links to the submission tool are provided on the page 8.

5 Proposal evaluation and selection

5.1 Admissibility check

Applications must be

- submitted before the **call deadline** *(see Call Summary)*;
- submitted in **English;**
- submitted **electronically** via the submission tool. Paper submissions are NOT possible; and
- **complete** and contain all the mandatory information in the online application form and all mandatory documentation.

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.

5.2 Eligibility check

A proposal will be eligible if it shows:

Consortia composition	The consortium shall be composed by at least 3 legal entities independent from each other and each established in a different country as follows:
	- at least 1 independent legal entity established in a Member State; and
	- at least 2 other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or Associated Countries.
	Additional call specific conditions apply according to paragraph 3.1 and 3.2 of this document.

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 by sending an email to support@eitmanufacturing.eu according to the Appeal procedure document linked to the Call (see paragraph 5.6).

5.3 External evaluation

The proposals which successfully pass the eligibility check are evaluated and scored against 5 criteria: Excellence, Impact, Implementation and Strategic Fit and EU Dimension.

The evaluation process will be carried out by three independent external evaluators supported by one independent external rapporteur.

External evaluators will assess each evaluation sub-criteria will be assessed 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 are then summed 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 at evaluation stage is 100. The default overall threshold is 60/100.

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

Excellence	Max. scoring: 20 Threshold: 12/25
Coherence	
The aim and the objectives of the proposals are clearly related to outcomes and results.	5 points
The proposal outcomes/outputs have been specified in relation to the expected trainings/service/solution.	5 points
The applicant(s) involved in the proposal demonstrate capacity in successfully delivering the programme, within collaboration frameworks, in line with the requirements of the call.	5 points

Novelty	
The proposal demonstrates its need and relevance for target group or market.	5 points
Impact: social, economic, financial, and sustainability	Max. scoring: 30 Threshold: 18/30
Ambition and contribution to expected impact	
The proposal's expected impacts are measurable at a quantitative and a qualitative level.	5 points
The education programme proposed identifies measures to support students to develop their innovation and/or entrepreneurship potential	5 points
The proposal presents a strong marketing and student recruitment plan targeting students from across the EU, with potential to enhance the financial sustainability of the Master School	5 points
Competitiveness and growth	
The proposal defines measures towards inclusiveness, such as gender balance	5 points
Effectiveness of the proposed measures to disseminate the results (including IPR management), to communicate the results and to manage data (if applicable)	5 points
The proposal describes a clear exploitation strategy (keeping into consideration measures for IPR management according to MGA Art.16 if necessary) of the results, such as training material, challenges, methodologies, etc.	5 points
Implementation and sound financial management	Max. scoring: 20 Threshold: 12/20
Workplan, including allocation of budget, tasks, and resources	
The workplan is aligned to the achievement of proposal objectives, KPIs and expected results.	5 points
The proposal properly identifies deliverables, milestones including respective timelines	5 points
Management structures and procedures, including quality management and risk management	
The proposal identifies management structures to guarantee an effective management of the proposal resources and applicants, risks and mitigation measures.	5 points
Consortium fit for purpose	

The applicants represent the right competencies, skills and expertise per the proposal scope.	5 points
Strategic fit evaluation criteria	**Max. scoring: 20 Threshold 12/20**
Contribution to EIT Manufacturing strategic objectives (EIT Manufacturing Strategic Agenda), to the EIT Core and EIT Manufacturing specific KPIs	5 points
Fitting with Call scope and EIT Manufacturing challenges at which the activity proposal has been submitted (section 3)	5 points
The proposal leverages on the multiple sides of the Knowledge Triangle integration in the programme implementation.	5 points
The proposal clearly describes what the EIT Overarching Learning Outcomes are covered and how	5 points
European Dimension	**Max. scoring 10**
	Threshold 6/10
The consortium demonstrates pan-European outreach	5 points
The proposal meaningfully addresses the RIS aspects (engagement of RIS countries in the activity and impact generated in RIS countries by the result(s))	5 points

The total scoring of 80 points is distributed as follows:

Excellence	Max. scoring: 20 Threshold: 12/20
Impact	Max. scoring: 30 Threshold: 18/30
Implementation	Max score *20* Threshold: 12/20
Strategic Fit	Max score *20* Threshold: 12/20
European Dimension	Max score *10* Threshold: 6/10
Total	*100 points*

The three independent external evaluators will evaluate each proposal and produce an Individual Evaluation Report (IER). Each proposal is evaluated 3 times. The independent external evaluators

will meet in a consensus meeting chaired by a rapporteur to discuss and build an agreement. The rapporteur will address any notable divergences between them and will develop the final Summary Evaluation Reports (ESRs).

5.4 Call Report and Stand-still period

At the end of the evaluation process, EIT Manufacturing sends the Call Report & the Final ranking list to the granting authority (EIT) and applies a stand-still period of 30 days before signing agreements with the selected recipients, in order to allow the granting authority to verify compliance with the procedural requirements.[21]

5.5 Communication of results and negotiation period

EIT Manufacturing will inform by email all proposals leaders within 5 working days after the evaluation is completed.

The applicants might receive 4 types of evaluation feedback:

- The proposal is accepted for funding. The proposal has got a high evaluation score and is selected for funding based on available budget assumptions.
- 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.
  If the Proposal Leader 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.
- 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.
- 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 March 2025.

The evaluation results will be provided to all applicants. The changes will need to be implemented in the proposals within 10 working 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

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[21] According to Rules on page 127-129 of the Horizon Europe MGA (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)

- Financial Support Agreement - long term 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:

- Legal and financial documents (depending on the legal form of the participant and if requested by EIT Manufacturing)

5.6 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 EIT Manufacturing by sending an email to support@eitmanufacturing.eu according to the Appeal procedure document linked to the Call (see document Appeal procedure).

6 Other Terms and Conditions

6.1 Exclusion Criteria

Applicants 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.[22]. All members of a consortium shall sign a Declaration of Honour in order to confirm that they respect the above-mentioned criteria at the application stage. Successful applicants shall provide, if requested by EIT Manufacturing, relevant recent documentation substantiating the Declaration of Honour at the latest before signing the agreements mentioned under point 5.5. Failure to provide adequate documentation may result in the exclusion of the applicants and the proposal concerned.

6.2 Logos and Trademarks of the Applicants

The entities participating in the Call for Proposal grant EIT Manufacturing and its subsidiaries (e.g., CLCs) 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 applicants 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 by 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.

Applicants 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.

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

The applicants 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.

Confidential Information may be shared among EIT Manufacturing and its subsidiaries (e.g. CLCs) 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.[23].
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. Applicants having already applied will also be informed in writing.

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

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

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 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.

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 laws of France. The applicants agree to observe the obligations set forth in the (Model) Grant Agreement.[24] 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 the 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 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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[24] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

ANNEX A

Master School programmes and Overarching Learning Outcome (OLOs)

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 universities 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.

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 Manufacturing

At the end of their studies the students receive two degrees directly by the universities (double degree) and the EIT label certificate from EIT Manufacturing, as an international recognition of their high-quality education curriculum.

The current call focuses on collecting proposals that will deliver:

- The mandatory Summer School (focused on I&E), that EITM Master School students must attend between first and second year, in 2025

EITM Master School have free access to all those I&E modules. They are open to external students under a specific fee to be proposed during the proposal preparation by the consortium. Early birds and special discounts are possible and eventually to be agreed with the Head of the Master and Doctoral School.

Master School partner Universities

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

List of those partners is available here below.

A! Aalto University School of Engineering	Aalto University (Aalto), Finland
CENTRALE NANTES	Ecole Centrale de Nantes (ECN), France
Mondragon Unibertsitatea Goi Eskola Politeknikoa Faculty of Engineering	Mondragon Unibertsitatea (MU), Spain
University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland SUPSI	University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI), Switzerland
TU WIEN TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT WIEN	Technische Universität Wien (TU Wien), Austria
UCD DUBLIN	University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland
GRENOBLE INP UGA	Grenoble Institute of Technology and Management (G INP), France
UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO	University of Trento (UNITN), Italy

University of TARTU (TARTU), 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 B

Doctoral School programmes and OLOs

The EITM Doctoral School (DS) offers an annual innovation & entrepreneurship programme to Ph.D. students, to prepare them to create start-ups, to be leaders of innovation within manufacturing companies and ecosystem, and to contribute to European competitiveness and environmental sustainability. This call relates to the organization of this specific annual programme for 2025.

EITM Doctoral School Programme structure

The structure of the Doctoral School annual programme about Innovation and Entrepreneurship include a series of on line and on site activities, including:

- Welcome ceremony (on-boarding of new students, included into the Spring School), Network-wide activities in collaboration with industries, startup and research centers.
- Seminars/webinars and hackathons, given through either on-line (using Skill.move) 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 full annual programme must provide 30 ECTS equivalent in total, where 1 ECTS corresponds to 25 hours of training/activities in classroom and study time outside the classroom. The programme mainly focuses on , but is not limited to, the EIT Manufacturing thematic areas and Manufacturing main societal challenges objectives.

Doctoral School partner Universities

Partnership must include at least one of the EITM Doctoral School partner Universities
You can find their public contacts   at EIT   Manufacturing partners web page:
https://eitmanufacturing.eu/partners/
*Please note: For FEUP, contact is Gil Gonçalves: gil@fe.up.pt (being FEUP a LTP, the contact is not available at the partners web page).
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 Unibertsitatea (MU), 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.