



EIT HEI Initiative and CCSI Call

EIT Higher Education Institutions Initiative

Under Horizon Europe and as part of the [EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda](#) (2021-2027), the EIT and its KIC¹s (Knowledge and Innovation Communities) are expanding the entrepreneurship education activities of the EIT beyond dedicated education programmes, at all levels, by engaging with 500+ HEIs through the HEI initiative.

The [HEI initiative](#) is a 3-year pilot scheme (2021-2023) with a maximum budget of EUR 90m. The HEI Initiative is a cross KIC programme, co-designed and implemented by all 8 EIT KICs with projects selected through Open Calls for proposals. The **objectives** are to strengthen the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of HEIs at institutional level and strengthen their integration into innovation ecosystems and this way to contribute to EIT's mission of boosting sustainable, inclusive economic growth by reinforcing the innovation capacity of EU Member States. Through leveraging the innovation and entrepreneurial knowledge base built in the EIT KICs so far, the impact of EIT education can be extended past individual faculties and departments to at the institutional level. The aim is to empower HEIs to look at their own practices to create an entrepreneurial culture and mindset that inspires transformation into tangible social value.

[The first call](#) for proposals was launched by the EIT Community on 24th March 2021 and closed on 25 May 2021. Within phase 1, a maximum of EUR 9,2m will be available across 24 projects each with a maximum duration of 24 months and a maximum budget of EUR 1.2m. The project consortium structure consists of a minimum of three HEIs from three different countries. One HEI must be an EIT KIC partner but the majority of HEIs shall not be partners of an EIT KIC. Each must feature a minimum of one actor from another side of the Knowledge Triangle.

The first call received 64 applications from 748 organisations and 319 HEIs across 36 countries. 60% of all HEIs in the application process originate from RIS countries with 70% of the HEIs as non-partners of the EIT KICs. 65% of all organisational applications came from RIS countries signalling

¹ An EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) is a partnership that brings together partner organisations from the sectors and industries, including from business, education and research. They develop and offer a wide range of innovation and entrepreneurship activities across Europe: entrepreneurial education courses, business creation and acceleration services and innovation driven research projects. This results in: 1) training of a new generation of entrepreneurs, 2) development of innovative products and services for the sectors and industries, 3) Creation of new companies and acceleration of existing ones. Through its Knowledge and Innovation Communities, the EIT strengthens cooperation among businesses (including SMEs), higher education institutions and research organisations. Partners form dynamic pan-European partnerships and create favourable environments for creative thought processes and innovations to flourish. Real sustainable products, services, entrepreneurs, creators, innovators, scientists, companies, revenue, profit and jobs are emerging from the EIT Community, right here in Europe – concrete results and impact from Europe's, if not the world's, largest innovation ecosystem.



a broad, extensive reach for the pilot call. Among the 135 HEIs selected to participate across 24 projects, 62.5% are in RIS countries.

The second call for proposals will be launched on 18th November 2021. Information sessions on the second call are being held on the 7th, 8th and 10th of December 2021. These sessions will cover eligibility requirements, evaluation, administration and guidance on how HEIs can best design their Innovation Vision Action Plan.

EIT KIC in the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI): 2021 Call for Proposals

The CCSIs are an essential driving force for Europe's future and recovery, perfectly placed to catalyse Europe's twin transition to a sustainable, digital future. As such, the new EIT KIC will unite cultural and creative organisations from business, higher education organisations and research centres in a pan-European innovation ecosystem. The KIC will:

- ✓ Train the sector's future entrepreneurs, power its cutting-edge ventures, and deliver innovative solutions to the challenges facing the sectors.
- ✓ Bridge [regional innovation gaps](#) and harness the power of these sectors to support Europe's cultural leadership.
- ✓ Break down barriers to innovation between countries across sectors and industries. It will power new ventures, accelerate new technologies, and facilitate digital transformation and help solve societal challenges
- ✓ Connect innovation value chains at the local, regional, national, and EU levels. It will help regions innovate and increase their competitiveness
- ✓ Empower the next generation of creators and innovators by equipping them with sought-after entrepreneurial skills.

The call for proposals was published on 26th October 2021 and will remain open until 24th March 2022. The evaluation process will take place during spring 2022. The new EIT KIC on CCSI is due to be set up in June 2022. The EIT is facilitating connection between potential partners for the Call for Proposals with a [networking website](#) that will be available until March 2022.