

# EIT HEI Initiative

## Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education

### HEI Call 3

This Call might be subject to further development and modifications, depending on instructions that will be provided to the EIT HEI Initiative in the coming months. Applicants are encouraged to regularly check the call pages of the EIT HEI Initiative website for updates.

## 0. Glossary of Terms

Actions

Deep Tech Talent Initiative

Domains

EIT KIC

EIT Knowledge Triangle Model

EIT KPI

EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) 2021-2027

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

HEI

HEI Application Portal

HEI Call 3

HEI Initiative Pilot Phase (2021-2023)

HEInnovate

HEI Resource Hub

Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC)

Regional Innovation Impact Assessment

Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS)

Smart Specialisation Strategies

Transferability Plan



# 1. Introduction to the EIT HEI Initiative: Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education

The EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) 2021-2027<sup>1</sup> sets the strategic direction, priorities and objectives of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and its Knowledge and Innovation Communities (EIT KICs).

One specific objective in the new EIT SIA 2021-2027 is to create systemic impact in higher education at the institutional level, by supporting higher education institutions (HEIs) to strengthen their innovation and entrepreneurial capacity and integrate into and engage with innovation ecosystems. By doing so, HEIs will be empowered to become engines of impact and support the realisation of a carbon-neutral, digital, circular and inclusive society.

Under the EIT SIA 2021-2027, the EIT and the EIT KICs will raise the bar and create systemic impact in higher education by strengthening innovation ecosystems. This will be achieved through the following:

- Increasing the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of higher education institutions across Europe by promoting and supporting institutional change in higher education institutions.
- Strengthening the integration and contribution of higher education institutions to innovation ecosystems.

To realise these ambitions, the EIT and EIT KICs have established the *EIT HEI Initiative: Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education*.

The *EIT HEI Initiative: Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education* (hereinafter referred to as the “HEI Initiative”) has been designed with the aim of increasing the innovation and entrepreneurial capacity in higher education by bringing together HEIs in innovation value chains and ecosystems across Europe.

A central philosophy of the EIT is the integration of the EIT Knowledge Triangle Model<sup>2</sup> into all its activities. HEIs selected to participate in the HEI Initiative will also leverage and use the Knowledge Triangle Model as an enabler, facilitating the creation of systemic, institutional change. Additionally, HEIs selected to participate in the HEI Initiative will contribute to and leverage Smart Specialisation Strategies<sup>3</sup>, the Regional Innovation Impact Assessment (RIIA) Framework<sup>4</sup>, as well as align to the goals of the EIT Regional Innovation

---

<sup>1</sup> Decision (EU) No 2021/820 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the Strategic Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) 2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe and repealing Decision No 1312/2013/EU, OJ L 189/3 of 28 May 2021, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021D0820&from=EN>

<sup>2</sup> The Knowledge Triangle refers to the interaction between business, education and innovation, which are key drivers of a knowledge-based society. [https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit\\_innovation\\_model.pdf](https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit_innovation_model.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

<sup>4</sup> <https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/regional-innovation-impact-assessment-riia->



Scheme (EIT RIS)<sup>5</sup>. This will strengthen the links between HEIs and their local and regional ecosystems and provide an impetus to leverage additional funding sources beyond the HEI project funding period of the selected HEI projects.

HEIs are encouraged to prepare applications which will support the development and implementation of six Actions in their institutions as listed in Section 2.1, cumulatively leading to institutional transformation, an increase in entrepreneurial and innovation capacity, and integration with innovation ecosystems.

As per the EIT SIA 2021-2027, the first three years (2021-2023) of the HEI Initiative have been designated as the pilot phase. After the pilot phase concludes, the EIT Governing Board shall determine if the HEI Initiative will be continued for the remainder of Horizon Europe (2024-2027).

Although the EIT SIA 2021-2027 sets out that the majority of funding under the HEI Initiative will go to HEIs which are not currently partners<sup>6</sup> of the EIT KICs at the start of the HEI Initiative project, the HEI Initiative will unite EIT KIC partners and non-partners to cultivate collaborative relationships and leverage the existing innovation and entrepreneurial knowledge base developed within EIT KICs thus far. Participation in an application selected for funding will not result in any obligation to become an EIT KIC partner or pay a membership fee. However, a non-partner may become a partner of an EIT KIC if deemed desirable by the non-partner organisation.

### 1.1. Aims and priorities of the HEI Initiative

The scope of the HEI Initiative is broad. It aims to address the need for HEI transformation and the role of HEIs in boosting sustainable, inclusive economic growth and competitiveness by reinforcing the innovation capacity of Europe. More specifically, the HEI Initiative aims to encourage HEIs to reflect on their own practices and the opportunities for increasing their impact in their ecosystem in Europe, and it provides support to HEIs to develop and undertake concrete Actions which are specifically tailored to achieve such enhanced impact. HEIs will, consequently, identify the potential to take a significant step forward in increasing their innovation and entrepreneurial capacity.

The overarching aims of the HEI Initiative are to empower HEIs across Europe to become innovative and entrepreneurial in general, and also in their approach to education, research, and engagement with businesses and the broader regional and local innovation ecosystem, including but not limited to civil society, public institutions, regional authorities and third sector organisations, in the most inclusive and gender-balanced way.

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://eit.europa.eu/our-activities/eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris>

<sup>6</sup> Any legal entity which is a member of an EIT KIC, and may include, in particular, HEIs, vocational education and training providers, research organisations, public institutions, public or private companies, financial institutions, regional and local authorities, foundations, and non-profit organisations. Unless otherwise specified, references to 'KIC partner' or 'KIC partners' include the KIC LE and the entities with the CLC role.



The activities shall address primarily the capacity development of HEIs, including:

- a) the exchange and implementation of best practices in knowledge triangle integration, including organisational learning, training for up-skilling and re-skilling, coaching and mentoring;
- b) the development of action plans on how to address identified needs in areas such as innovation management, start-up creation and development, technology transfer including intellectual property rights management, sustainability and climate neutrality by design, people and organisational management, the integration of gender approaches in innovation and engagement with local stakeholders and civil society; and
- c) the implementation of innovation capacity development action plans and follow-up actions.

While the Pilot and Second Calls for Proposals focussed primarily on points (b) and (c), this Call will add a significant focus on the development of skills (a); in specific terms, the Call will connect with and feed into the new flagship initiative launched under the New European Innovation Agenda, the Deep Tech Talent Initiative.<sup>7</sup>

## 1.2. EIT's contribution to the New European Innovation Agenda

On 5 July 2022, the European Commission adopted the new European Innovation Agenda to position Europe at the forefront of the new wave of deep tech innovation and start-ups. Under the flagship initiative to foster, attract and retain talents, the EIT will lead on the Deep Tech Talent Initiative.

The proposed initiative aims to develop and offer pan-European talent and skills development programmes to rapidly skill, re-skill and up-skill at least 1 million talents in the next three years (2023-2025) in order to broaden the labour force in Europe and encourage high-growth companies active in the deep tech fields, such as advanced materials and manufacturing, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, blockchain, robotics, aerospace, photonics, electronics, quantum computing, sustainable energy and cleantech, to maintain and expand their operations in Europe.

The Deep Tech Talent Initiative will include a Pledge to serve as a vehicle to form the EIT Deep Tech partnerships with public and private organisations, industry representatives and champions, academia partners and education providers, Member States and other EU programmes and Agencies, to support the development and roll out of associated training programmes committed to supporting the aim of the Deep Tech Talent Initiative. The Pledge will be a formal commitment and will support in identifying Deep Tech training needs and trainees; identifying training providers; identifying training courses; and identifying the financial resources to support the training. While this commitment is expected to start from the EIT KIC

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.eitdeeptechtalent.eu/>



ecosystem, it will include partners from the wider deep tech ecosystem to leverage participation and train 1 million Deep Tech Talents.

The Pledge is relevant for three key ecosystem stakeholders:

- The trainee or talents, who will gain relevant and useful knowledge in a rapidly changing sector. The distribution of knowledge between different levels, including the professional, vocational and the academic will be based on demand, with a focus on achieving entrepreneurial outcomes.
- The trainer and training institution, who are responsible for designing and delivering the training, as well as making sure it is tangible, state-of-the-art, and competitive.
- The future or current employer and innovative companies, who ultimately will provide the market acceptance of whether the EIT Deep Tech Talent Label is fit for purpose, and who will employ the deep tech talents.

Benefits for organisations that join the Deep Tech Talent Initiative Pledge include:

- Members will report on the deep tech talents trained and award recognition of participation in the Deep Tech Talent Initiative to trainees.
- Members will receive potential incentives if targets are reached (these can include wider access to the EIT community activities, KICs and their services, EIT alumni etc.)
- Members will have high visibility, including the chance to list their training courses and organisational profiles on the Deep Tech Initiative website. All content on the website will be subject to EIT editorial consent.
- Members can contribute news, testimonials, videos, invitations or other content adding to a vibrant community of tech talents.
- Annual conferences and networking events around the Deep Tech Talent Initiative are organised by the EIT as the focal point of the Initiative. This provides an added benefit for Pledge participants.

## 2. About HEI Call 3

This HEI Initiative Call 3 will select the third cohort of projects to be funded under the HEI Initiative pilot phase (2021-2023), as per the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027. As previously stated, Call 3 will incorporate a thematic focus on the capacity of HEIs to foster deep tech talent at HEIs in order to respond to the identified importance of deep tech talent development for the future of innovation in Europe.

This means that while the Call remains framed within the underlying HEI Initiative objective of boosting the innovation and entrepreneurship capacity of European HEIs, a significant portion of HEI Initiative-funded activities will be geared towards doing so within the Deep Tech talent development area.



Furthermore, all participating HEI organisations applying to the HEI Initiative Call 3 will be required to fill in a Deep Tech Talent Initiative expression of interest (EOI) prior to submitting an application.<sup>8</sup> At a later stage, these HEIs will be invited and strongly encouraged to sign a formal Pledge Agreement to contribute further to the fostering of deep tech talent via other programmes within their institutions. The EIT HEI Initiative portfolio of projects (funded via the coming three Calls for Proposals), commits to training a significant number of the deep tech talents in the Deep Tech Talent Initiative Pledge via its KPI requirements.

Call 3 provides an opportunity to fund up to 16 additional HEI Initiative projects, led by a lead HEI partner. There will be two implementation phases, namely:

<b>Phase 1:</b>	1 May 2023 – 31 November 2023
<b>Stop-Go decision period:</b>	1 December 2023 – 15 January 2024
<b>Phase 2:</b>	15 January 2024 – 31 July 2024

The projects activities implemented in Phase 1 in 2023 will incorporate evaluation, learning and improvements before entering Phase 2 and scaling up their activities.

Given the deep tech focus of the Third Call for Proposals, partners participating in the HEI Initiative Pilot and Second Cohorts are eligible to participate in Call 3. Consortia may therefore also be composed of a combination of ‘new’ partners who have never participated in the HEI Initiative before, and ‘old’ partners who have. However, all Call 3 consortia must include at least one ‘new’ partner (and preferably more) to ensure the expansion of the HEI Initiative partner network and its impact. Furthermore, existing HEI Initiative partners (from cohort 1 or 2) who join a Call 3 consortium must use their allocation of the Call 3 funding only for activities explicitly connected to deep tech; this includes using new Call 3 funding to leverage previously established innovation capacity building activities and apply them to the deep tech context within their organisation. Call 3 funding should not be considered follow-on funding to maintain activities already implemented through cohort 1 or 2 projects.

Specific criteria on consortia composition and funding distribution can be found in the eligibility criteria (Section 2.6 of this HEI Call 3).

For all Call 3 selected projects, special attention will be given to activities aimed at strengthening the involvement of the HEI leadership and the strategic level activities and how funding will be used to boost or accelerate innovation and entrepreneurship capacity building activities in HEIs so that they can become leading examples of institutional change and become deeply embedded in regional ecosystems. In addition, as previously discussed, the HEI Initiative Call 3 aligns and interlinks with the Deep Tech Talent Initiative, meaning applications must connect with and incorporate specific activities related to the deep tech talent objective into their bid for funding; in real terms, this refers to projects developing, scaling, improving or

---

<sup>8</sup> Online form for the EOI: <https://www.eitdeeptechtalent.eu/the-pledge/area-for-expression-of-interest-in-joining-the-initiative/>



creating training programmes in deep tech, and indeed the most significant KPI will be the number of students in such trainings. More details on this KPI can be found in Section 2.1.

### Deep Tech specific requirements

Call 3 applications are expected to demonstrate how the consortia will build innovation capacity through the integration of deep tech talent-fostering activities, given its importance for the future of innovation in Europe. The application must demonstrate how it aligns with Deep Tech Talent Initiative and contributes to deep tech innovation.

Deep technology or deep tech is a classification of an institution, an organisation or a start-up company, with the expressed objective of providing advanced and emerging technology solutions to deep societal challenges. They present scientific or engineering challenges requiring lengthy research and development, and large capital investment before successful commercialization. Their primary risk is technical risk, while market risk is often significantly lower due to the clear potential value of solution to society. The underlying scientific or engineering problems being solved by deep tech companies generate valuable intellectual property and are hard to reproduce. Moreover, the solutions provided by deep technology and applications are critical for solving the complex global challenges that humanity faces, including climate change, sustainable energy or health.

The indicate list of deep tech fields, in which EIT aims at mobilising the one million talents within include:

- advanced materials and manufacturing;
- aerospace, including drones;
- artificial intelligence and machine learning;
- biotechnology;
- blockchain;
- Web 3.0;
- electronics;
- photonics;
- quantum computing;
- robotics;
- semiconductors (microchips);
- sustainable green energy and clean technologies.

These deep tech sectors, sub-sectors, applications and definitions may change as technologies and markets change over time. What unites them is that they hold the key to the solution of complex societal challenges through innovation.

Deep Tech-related activities in HEI Initiative Call 3 projects should focus on the capacity building of HEIs to foster deep tech talent at universities; indeed, Call 3 requires the delivery and completion of deep tech





training/skills development programmes as its priority KPI. The specific minimum targets for this are outlined in Section 2.2 of this Text, and delivered via KPI EIT HE 08.1: *# Number of successful participants in EIT professional development courses, online training and other education/training activities delivered or in a process of delivery*. This KPI should be explicitly delivered in deep tech-related training programmes.

In addition, proposals may consider and are encouraged to incorporate additional deep-tech related capacity building activities such as (but not limited to):

- the integration of deep tech fields of study in course curricula
- the support of deep tech start-ups and spin-offs
- the facilitation of deep tech-related innovations going to market

The specific deep tech-focused activities should be designed, established and further elaborated by the consortia in the IVAP.

#### Smart Specialisation Strategies requirements

It is critical that consortia develop a link to their regional/national Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3), for example with plans to engage with their national/regional authorities in charge of smart specialisation and explain how they will explore any available S3-related funding in the Innovation Vision Action Plan (IVAP). Consider relevant thematic S3 platforms<sup>9</sup> such as Agri-food, Energy, Industrial Modernisation, especially with regards to education and skills for S3. The IVAP should demonstrate how the project partners plan to strengthen their connection with smart specialisation strategies (S3).

### **2.1. HEI Call 3 – Creation of an Innovation Vision Action Plan (IVAP)**

All HEI projects selected for funding under the HEI Initiative are required to create an Innovation Vision Action Plan (IVAP) as the core of their application. The IVAP will take a long-term view towards increasing the innovation and entrepreneurial capacity within the corresponding HEIs, at institutional level, with a view to 2030. The IVAP must clearly demonstrate how the consortium will apply capacity building activities for the enhancement of deep tech talent within participating HEIs.

The IVAP should be designed based on the completion of the HEInnovate<sup>10</sup> self-assessment tool, to be performed by each consortium member individually or as a group.

Organisations who have not participated in an HEI Initiative cohort 1 or 2 project should perform the HEInnovate self-assessment as an indication of the current state of the innovation and entrepreneurship

---

<sup>9</sup> <https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

<sup>10</sup> [www.heinnovate.eu](http://www.heinnovate.eu)



capacity and the results for such new partners should be used to inform the choice of Actions proposed for funding and institutional change within the corresponding HEIs.

Organisations who participate in a cohort 1 or 2 project should revisit the HEInnovate self-assessment tool and use it as an indicative exercise of both their change/success so far and their continued areas for improvement. The HEInnovate results for such existing partners should also be used to inform the choice of Actions proposed for funding and institutional change within the corresponding consortium.

The HEI consortium must also explain how the IVAP may fit with regional research and innovation priorities, specifically Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) as mentioned above, and how the IVAP may engage with other innovation actors in the territorial innovation ecosystem. Consequently, the IVAP will benefit from reflecting and building on capacities, strengths, opportunities and weaknesses of the local territory and innovation ecosystem.

The EIT KICs will provide funding and support to selected HEI projects from HEI Call 3 for up to 15 months of the IVAP, from 1 May 2023 – 31 July 2024. However, applicants must also illustrate how the IVAP will be continued beyond the HEI project funding period, demonstrating how the results will lead to systemic institutional change that brings carbon-neutral, digital, circular and inclusive solutions to societal challenges to the market. Specifically, by 2024 HEIs are expected to demonstrate improved innovation and entrepreneurial capacity and integration in innovation ecosystems; by 2027 HEIs must demonstrate how systemic institutional change will bring solutions to societal challenges to the market.

Within the HEI Initiative project funding period, applicants must use the EIT Impact Framework<sup>11</sup>, which includes EIT KPIs and EIT Core KPIs<sup>12</sup>, to quantify results achieved between May 2023 – July 2024 as well as the post funding period (August 2024-2030) in their IVAPs:

- Specific EIT KPIs indicated in Section 2.1 of this HEI Call 3 and further described in Annex 4.1, paying special attention to KPI EIT HE 08.1: # Number of successful participants in EIT professional development courses, online training courses and other education/training activities delivered or in a process of delivery, which will have a deep tech theme for the student category.
- Minimum one EIT Core KPI described in the EIT Impact Framework in Annex 4.2. If this Core KPI target is deep-tech focused, it will be positively evaluated.
- Outcomes described in the EIT Impact Framework in Annex 4.2.

The IVAP will provide a clear, step-by-step action plan consisting of work packages, milestones, deliverables, and beneficiaries, as well as other key indicators to track progress and impact. A risk management and intellectual property management approach must also be included. HEI projects selected for funding will

---

<sup>11</sup> EIT Impact Framework – [https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit\\_impact\\_framework\\_2022-2027.pdf](https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit_impact_framework_2022-2027.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> There are 3 relevant EIT Core KPIs available for selection; please see the below 'KPI criteria' sub-section to identify them.



participate in a mandatory face-to-face<sup>13</sup> IVAP Kick Off Workshop in May 2023 during which participants will be presented with the main objectives of the Call and co-learn and collaborate with projects around the core themes of their IVAP.

There is no IVAP template. The answers provided by applicants to the questions in the HEI Initiative Application Portal cumulatively generate the IVAP.<sup>14</sup> Therefore, applicants are invited to shape their answers to ensure the resulting IVAP addresses all criteria included in the text of this HEI Call 3.

The following criteria must be fulfilled by the content of the IVAP:

- The IVAP must be endorsed by the top leadership (Rector, Chancellor, Vice-Rector/Chancellor, or someone else in the senior management of the HEI) of each HEI in writing and thereby demonstrate commitment to institutional change.
- The IVAP must build on an HEInnovate self-assessment that identifies the main areas for action and will provide the basis for measuring progress over time.
- The IVAP must outline actions for innovation capacity building through the fostering of deep tech talent at participating HEIs.
- The IVAP must clearly demonstrate how any consortium members participating in cohort 1 or 2 will:
  - identify and transfer good practices and tested methodologies to the ‘new’ partners.
  - dedicate their full allocation of funding to deep-tech talent related activities.
- The IVAP must illustrate how HEIs and the areas for action will engage with and contribute to strengthening regional innovation ecosystems and regional innovation capacity.
- The IVAP must include six Actions from those listed in the five Domains further down in Section 2.1 of this HEI Call 3.
- The IVAP must demonstrate that it is able to contribute to the Strategic Agendas<sup>15</sup> of at least two EIT KICs.\*  
\*Please note that as of Call 3, EIT InnoEnergy will not actively participate in the HEI Initiative and therefore proposals should not connect to its Strategic Agenda.
- During the implementation of the IVAP, the HEI project consortium must develop a training course/module for at least one of the selected Actions. The training handbook and all associated materials must be made available in the HEI Initiative Resource Hub, accessible to all HEI Initiative consortia.
- The IVAP must include a transferability plan that demonstrates how the selected Actions will be transferred and scaled within the institution during and after the HEI project funding period. The transferability plan must distinguish between Phase 1 and Phase 2. The transferability plan must

---

<sup>13</sup> Applicants should plan for a face-to-face IVAP Kick Off Workshop, Covid-permitting.

<sup>14</sup> Application portal for Call 3 will open on 17 November 2022, available via the HEI Initiative Call 3 webpage: <https://eit-hei.eu/calls/call-for-proposals-november-2022>

<sup>15</sup> The Strategic Agendas of each EIT KIC can be accessed in the HEI Application Portal, which opens on 17 November.

also outline a detailed plan for further institutionalisation of the IVAP beyond the HEI project funding period toward 2030.

### KPI criteria

- The IVAP must demonstrate it is able to achieve a pre-defined minimum number of specific EIT KPIs in **Phase 1** in 2023, demonstrated below. Please see Annex 4.1 for the description of each EIT KPI and the supporting evidence required to substantiate the achievement of the corresponding EIT KPI:
  - Minimum 2 start-ups/scale-ups supported by the HEI Initiative (EIT KPI 3.1).
  - Minimum 350 students participating in EIT professional development courses, online training courses and other education/training activities delivered or in a process of delivery, deep tech related (EIT KPI 8.1).
    - Of these 350 students, minimum 35 students mentored in deep tech-related training programmes.
  - Minimum 50 academic staff<sup>16</sup> members successfully participating in EIT professional development courses, online training courses and other education/training activities delivered or in a process of delivery (EIT KPI 8.1).
    - Of which, minimum 15 academic staff members mentored.
  - Minimum 50 non-academic staff (e.g. professional staff, support staff) members successfully participating in EIT professional development courses, online training courses and other education/training activities delivered or in a process of delivery (EIT KPI 8.1).
    - Of which, minimum 15 non-academic staff mentored.
  - Minimum 1 new partnership established as a result of the HEI Capacity Building Initiative (EIT HE 20.1).
  - Minimum 1 new and/or improved support structures and mechanisms established within or mobilized by the HEIs participating in the HEI Capacity Building Initiative (EIT HE 19.1).

**These specific EIT KPIs must be increased in Phase 2 in 2024.**
- The IVAP must demonstrate it is able to achieve minimum one of the following EIT Core KPIs:
  - [EITHE04.4]: Minimum #1 start-up created:
    - Start-up established in year N as a result / based on the output(s) of the HEI Initiative funded project, or start-ups created for the purpose of an innovation project to organise and support the development of an asset (but not later than three years after the completion of HEI project) having financial transactions of at least 10 000 EUR for services/products (result of the HEI project) sold to customers
  - [EITHE02.4]: Minimum #1 innovations launched on the market:
    - during the HEI Initiative funding duration or within 3 years after completion, with a sales revenue of at least 10 000 EUR documented.

---

<sup>16</sup> Classification of “academic staff” and “non-academic” staff will depend on the classification within each HEI.

- [EITHE06.1]: Minimum 10,000 EUR Investment attracted by HEI Initiative-supported start-ups and scale-ups:
  - Total EUR amount of private and public capital attracted within year N by supported start-ups / scale-ups (per country) that have received HEI Initiative business creation services support or HEI CBI project support of total duration of at least two months, within a maximum of three years following the last received HEI Initiative project support activity.

### EIT KPI 8.1 explained: deep tech talents trained (students)

There are two angles which qualify for deep tech talent training with **students**:

1. Proven deep tech sub-sector focussed training programmes (as per the earlier definition of deep tech in section 1.2) delivered to students on any academic programme; for example, this could be business students who need training in a deep tech sub-sector to complement their entrepreneurial activities.
2. Innovation/entrepreneurship capacity building training programmes delivered to science/engineering/technology students who are working within deep tech fields, for the purpose of complimenting their deep tech expertise; for example, training on how to commercialise their research, soft skills for entrepreneurial success, how to secure funding for deep tech ventures, etc.

Training course criteria: training courses for students must correspond to at least 2 ECTS-equivalent credits, meaning 50-60 hours of workload including self-study.

### **HEI Call 3 – Actions supported as part of the projects**

The Actions funded under the HEI Initiative will be tied to the needs of the HEIs as set out in the IVAP and aligned to the objectives of the HEI Initiative. Applicant HEIs will choose from a set of Actions to be supported as part of this HEI Call 3. The range of supported activities include Actions thematically arranged across five Domains and should incorporate the new deep tech focus where appropriate.

The IVAPs are expected to generate institutional-level impact through the mix of Actions chosen and implemented. To ensure the HEI projects are addressing the needs of the participating HEIs, institutions will select and implement six Actions from the first four Domains in a constellation that best suits their needs, whilst ensuring the IVAP criteria from Section 2.1 are fulfilled. However, as a minimum, each institution must select at least one Action per Domain. The final two Actions selected may come from Domains 1 - 4. The Domain 5 action, 'Collect and share Success Stories and Lessons', should be implemented as an additional action, outside of the 6 selected actions across Domains 1 – 4.

For the HEI Call 3, the IVAP should reflect on the realistic progress that can be achieved within the available time during Phase 1, whilst also ensuring the IVAP sets out a plan that can be implemented fully upon successful completion of Phase 2 of the HEI projects. For further information see Section 2.3 on funding and duration of the projects.



## Funded Actions

Applicants must incorporate in their IVAP six Actions from Domains 1 – 4 (as well as the mandatory Domain 5 Action) and set out the vision and supporting implementation plan for achieving them during and beyond the HEI project funding period. Where appropriate, chosen actions should focus on fostering deep tech talent at the HEI partner organisations. It is imperative that the IVAP criteria from Section 2.1 are also fulfilled.

### Domain 1 – Fostering institutional engagement and change

- Secure and maintain institutional engagement for the implementation of the IVAP, including departments and other units of HEI(s) as well as the leadership of HEI(s).
- Enhance the scale and scope of student engagement activities, including improving student support offices to advise on innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Infrastructure development (incl. digital infrastructure).
- Develop inter- and multi-disciplinary support structures, testbeds and other structures to foster innovation.
- Set up or improve organisational units and/or entities, such as technology transfer offices, to develop collaborations for technology transfer.

### Domain 2 – Strengthening partnerships (knowledge triangle integration)

- Establish new collaborations and enhance the nature, content and types of collaborations with external partners, including businesses, regional authorities, research organisations, governmental bodies, NGOs and other societal partners.
- Exchange good practices through enhanced networking and mutual learning.
- Collaborate with the EIT KICs, e.g. through peer-to-peer collaboration.

### Domain 3 – Contributing to developing innovations and businesses

- Develop structures, conditions and incentives for people to create or develop their businesses and start-ups.
- Create structures, conditions and incentives for innovation-driven research.
- Utilise testbeds and other types of platforms.

### Domain 4 – Enhancing the quality of innovation and entrepreneurial education

- Develop or improve innovation and entrepreneurial curricula.
- Assessment of teaching and learning practices.
- Develop innovation and entrepreneurial training programmes and mentoring schemes for staff and students.
- Organise internships in businesses.



## Domain 5 - Knowledge sharing

- Collect and share Success Stories and Lessons.

### 2.2. HEI Call 3 – What type of organisations can participate?

To be eligible for participation and funding, a participant must be a “legal entity”. A “legal entity” means any natural or 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 own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations, or an entity without legal personality<sup>17</sup>.

Funded entities must register in the EU Participant Register<sup>18</sup> before submitting their application, in order to obtain a Participant Identification Code (PIC).

To be eligible for participation and funding as a full partner, consortium members must be established in one of the Horizon Europe eligible countries<sup>19</sup>. Non-Horizon Europe eligible countries may participate as associated partners, but they are not eligible for HEI Initiative funding.

The types of organisations eligible for participation and funding can be:

- Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). These are institutions which offer recognised degrees or other tertiary level qualifications and other comparable institutions at tertiary level, if recognised by the national authorities. These institutions must be recognised as a higher education institution by the national authority of its country. Each HEI must submit proof of accreditation by the corresponding national authorities to offer recognized degrees. The applicant/coordinator must be an HEI.
- Public or private, small, medium or large enterprises (including social enterprises)
- Research institutes
- Public bodies at local, regional or national level
- Intermediary organisations or associations which represent Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

### Role of the different organisations in the project<sup>20</sup>

**Applicant/coordinator:** A participating organisation that submits the HEI application on behalf of all the partners. The applicant/coordinator must be an HEI. The applicant/coordinator has the full responsibility

---

<sup>17</sup> See Article 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation

<sup>18</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register>

<sup>19</sup> For list of countries eligible for funding and eligible for participation, please refer to the Horizon Europe (HORIZON) Programme Guide – [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide\\_horizon\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> The roles of organisations in an HEI project do not refer to partner types or partner categories of individual EIT KICs.



to ensure the HEI project is implemented in accordance with the agreement. Its coordination covers the following duties:

- Represents and acts on behalf of the consortium (as relevant) towards EIT and the EIT KICs.
- Bears the financial and legal responsibility for the proper operational, administrative and financial implementation of the entire project.
- Coordinates the activities of the HEI project partners.
- Reports to the respective EIT KIC.
- Communicates and disseminates HEI project results, outcomes and impacts.

**Full partners:** Those participating organisations which contribute actively to the achievement of the HEI project objectives. Each full partner must sign a mandate to confer to the coordinating organisation the responsibility of acting as main beneficiary and act in his/her name during the implementation of the project.

**Associated partners (optional):** The HEI projects can involve associated partners who contribute to the implementation of specific project tasks/activities or support the dissemination and sustainability of the results achieved. For contractual management issues, “associated partners” are not considered as part of the project partners, and they do not receive funding. However, their involvement and role in the HEI project and different activities must be clearly described.

## Participation

An organisation may participate as a full partner in only one Call 3 application. Multiple applications which include the same organisation as a full partner will result in only the first application submitted in the HEI Application Portal to be eligible for funding.

An organisation may participate as a full partner in one HEI application and as an associated partner in other HEI applications. Moreover, an organisation may participate as an associated partner in multiple applications.

## Existing HEI Initiative partners from the HEI Pilot Call for Proposals and HEI Call 2 for Proposals

An organisation involved as a full partner in a successful HEI project selected from the HEI Pilot Call<sup>21</sup> or Second Call<sup>22</sup> for Proposals **may** participate as a full partner in an HEI application submitted to HEI Call 3. An application submitted to HEI Call 3, which includes an organisation involved as a full partner in a successful HEI project from the HEI Pilot or Second Call for Proposals, **will be eligible for funding according**

---

<sup>21</sup> Full list of successful organisations from the HEI Pilot Call for Proposals – [www.eit-hei.eu/app/uploads/2021/10/HEI\\_Initiative\\_List\\_20210927.pdf](http://www.eit-hei.eu/app/uploads/2021/10/HEI_Initiative_List_20210927.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> Full list of successful organisations from the HEI Call 2 for Proposals – [https://eit-hei.eu/app/uploads/2022/06/hei\\_call\\_for\\_proposals\\_-\\_factsheet.pdf](https://eit-hei.eu/app/uploads/2022/06/hei_call_for_proposals_-_factsheet.pdf)





to the funding distribution criteria outlined in Section 2.6 of this HEI Call 3, provided the specific criteria related to the type of activities said partners are entitled to use funding for are followed (as outlined in Section 2 of this HEI Call 3).

### Number, type and geographical scope of participating organisations

An HEI Call 3 project consortium must consist of a minimum of four organisations. There is no maximum number of organisations within a HEI project consortium.

- Consortia must include a minimum of three HEIs from three different countries, as follows:
  - One HEI must be the applicant/coordinator
  - A minimum two other HEIs in the consortium must be full partners
  - Minimum one HEI shall be an existing partner of an EIT KIC<sup>23</sup>
  - Minimum one HEI shall be a 'new' partner (not participating in cohort 1 or 2)
  - The majority of HEIs shall not be partners of an EIT KIC.
- A minimum of one actor from another side of the Knowledge Triangle (e.g. regional/territorial authorities, VET organisations, RTOs, SMEs and start-ups). These actors may be full partners or associated partners.

A broad geographical scope, especially involving organisations established in RIS-eligible<sup>24</sup> countries, is strongly encouraged. Involving organisations from Ukraine is strongly encouraged as well and will be positively evaluated.

It is suggested that relevant regional/territorial authorities be consulted in the process of HEI application development.

Existing consortia of HEIs, such as the European University Alliances funded by the European University Initiative<sup>25</sup>, are encouraged to submit an application.

### 2.3. Duration and budget of the HEI projects

The duration of the HEI projects selected from this HEI Call 3 will be distributed across two phases. Only if certain criteria (see below) are fulfilled may an HEI project be extended from Phase 1 into Phase 2. The activities in the HEI application to be funded should be designed for a 15-month period but include a clear distinction between the activities and results in Phase 1 and those in Phase 2.

---

<sup>23</sup> An up-to-date KIC partner list will be made available via the HEI Initiative Call 3 for Proposals webpage on 17 November 2022, which is when the application system opens for Call 3 applications.

<sup>24</sup> [www.eit.europa.eu/our-activities/eit-regional-innovation-scheme](http://www.eit.europa.eu/our-activities/eit-regional-innovation-scheme)

<sup>25</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area/european-universities-initiative\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area/european-universities-initiative_en)

The total maximum funding for each HEI project from this HEI Call 3 is EUR 750,000 (SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND EURO) and the maximum number of projects to be funded is 16.

The majority of the HEI Initiative Call 3 funding must go to HEI organisations that are not partnered with any EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC).<sup>26</sup>

### **Phase 1: 1 May 2023 - 1 December 2023**

The total maximum funding per HEI project for Phase 1 is EUR 350,000 (THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND EURO).

The majority of the Phase 1 funding must be allocated to HEI organisations in the consortium that are not already existing partners of any EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC).

Before continuing to Phase 2, HEI projects must satisfactorily complete Phase 1 by fulfilling the following criteria:

- Delivery and validation of the EIT KPIs included in the IVAP, described in Section 2.1 and Annex 4.1 of this HEI Call 3
- Achievement of key milestones in Phase 1 in the multi-annual HEI transferability plan to achieve institutional change in Phase 2
- Submission of an updated IVAP

### **Phase 2: 15 January 2024 - 31 July 2024**

Upon satisfactory completion of Phase 1, an HEI project may continue to Phase 2, which will consist of an additional 6.5 months and an additional maximum funding of EUR 400,000 (FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND EURO).

The majority of the Phase 2 funding must be allocated to HEI organisations in the consortium that are not already existing partners of any EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC).

The implementation of the HEI projects, comprising May 2023 – July 2024, will be subject to approval of the HEI Initiative budget for 2023 and 2024, respectively. Moreover, continuation of the HEI projects in 2024 will be subject to the EIT Governing Board decision to continue the HEI Initiative for 2024-2027, as per the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027.

---

<sup>26</sup> As above, an up-to-date KIC partner list will be made available via the [HEI Initiative Call 3 for Proposals webpage](#) on 17 November 2022, which is when the application system opens for Call 3 applications.



## 2.4. What are the funding rules?

Reimbursement of eligible costs follows Horizon Europe Rules for Participation<sup>27</sup> and respective eligibility criteria.<sup>28</sup> The funding rate that applies to the HEI projects selected for funding is up to 100%.

The budget of the selected HEI projects will be based on the estimated costs to be incurred by the HEI project activities; 100% of all eligible costs may be covered but co-funding is encouraged.

The funding requested must be justified in relation to the planned activities as described in the HEI application. All costs must be fully described and justified.

The costs should be reasonable, justified and directly related to the achievement of the objectives of the HEI Initiative and IVAP. Moreover, contracting must comply with EU public procurement rules.

## 2.5. The operational modality

From 2023 the EIT and KICs change their operational modality to the so-called cascading system. Therefore, selected HEI projects will be following cascading modalities to administer the funding. The practical implementation details are currently being developed between the KICs and the EIT and will be to ensure eligibility and compliance under the Grant Agreement(s) to be signed between the KICs and the EIT. However, based on the different operational models, details may vary between the KICs and will be presented to the selected projects through the FAQ section of the HEI Call 3, whenever available, or latest with the final funding decision. The HEI projects are part of Horizon Europe; general funding and cost eligibility regulations are governed by the Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement (AGA).

## 2.6. Eligibility criteria

The HEI projects will be reviewed through a competitive, external and independent evaluation process. To be considered for selection, the applicant/coordinator must submit an application on behalf of the consortium as a response to this HEI Call 3. Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria presented in this section and reviewed by independent evaluators against the evaluation criteria (Section 2.7 of this HEI Call 3).

HEIs must submit their applications in the HEI Initiative Application Portal (<https://eit-hei.eu>) by 28 February 2023, 17.00 CET.

---

<sup>27</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0695&qid=1621434634235&from=EN>

<sup>28</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf)

<p>Eligible participating organisations</p>	<p>To be eligible for participation and funding, a participant must be a ‘legal entity’. A ‘legal entity’ means any natural or 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 own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations, or an entity without legal personality<sup>29</sup>.</p> <p>Funded entities must register in the EU Participant Register<sup>30</sup> before submitting their application, in order to obtain a Participant Identification Code (PIC).</p> <p>To be eligible for participation and funding as a full partner, consortium members must be established in one of the Horizon Europe eligible countries. Non-Horizon Europe eligible countries may participate as associated partners, but they are not eligible for HEI Initiative funding. Organisations eligible for participation and funding can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). These are institutions which offer recognised degrees or other tertiary level qualifications and other comparable institutions at tertiary level, if recognised by the national authorities. These institutions must be recognised as higher education institution by the national authority of its country. Each HEI must provide proof of accreditation by the corresponding national authorities to offer recognised degrees. The applicant/coordinator must be an HEI.</li> <li>• Public or private, small, medium or large enterprises (including social enterprises)</li> <li>• Research institutes</li> <li>• Public bodies at local, regional or national level</li> <li>• Intermediary organisations or associations which represent Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)</li> </ul>
<p>Consortium composition</p>	<p>An HEI project consortium must consist of a minimum of four organisations. There is no maximum number of organisations within a HEI project consortium.</p> <p>Consortia must include a minimum of three HEIs from three different countries, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One HEI must be the applicant/coordinator</li> <li>• A minimum two other HEIs in the consortium must be full partners</li> <li>• Minimum one HEI must be an existing partner of an EIT KIC</li> <li>• The majority of HEIs must not be partners of an EIT KIC</li> <li>• Minimum one HEI must be a ‘new’ partner (not participating in a cohort 1 or 2 project)</li> </ul> <p>A minimum of one actor from another side of the Knowledge Triangle (e.g. regional authorities, VET organisations, RTOs, SMEs and start-ups). These actors may be full partners or associated partners.</p>

<sup>29</sup> See Article 197(2)(c) [EU Financial Regulation](#)

<sup>30</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register>

	An organisation may not participate in more than one Call 3 application as a full partner.
Budget allocation within the consortium	The majority of the Phase 1, the Phase 2 and the TOTAL funding for Call 3 must be allocated to HEI organisations in the consortium that are not existing partners of an EIT KIC at the stage of the Call 3 launch. The relevant KIC partner list to be used as a reference for this will be published on the <a href="#">HEI Initiative Call 3 for Proposals webpage</a> on 17 November, the day the application system officially opens.
Proof of Commitment – Top Management	A “Commitment Letter” <sup>31</sup> must be signed by top management of the HEIs (Rector, Chancellor, Vice-Rector/Vice-Chancellor, or another representative in the senior management of the HEI).
Proof of Commitment – Faculties and Departments	A minimum of two faculties or two departments within each of the HEIs must be involved in the submission of the application and implementation of the selected HEI projects.  A “Commitment Letter” <sup>32</sup> must be signed by each Faculty Dean or Department Head within each of the HEIs.
Verification of an evidence-based approach taken to the creation of the IVAP	HEIs must provide supporting documents which illustrate HEInnovate was used.  HEIs must download their results in a pdf or excel format and upload them with the application.
Deep Tech Talent Initiative expression of interest form completion	All HEI partners in the consortium must complete the expression of interest form for the Deep Tech Talent Initiative Pledge and confirm they have done so by checking a declaration box in a dedicated field within the ‘Applicant Information’ tab of the HEI Initiative Call 3 application form. The link to the expression of interest form is found here: <a href="https://www.eitdeeptechtalent.eu/the-pledge/area-for-expression-of-interest-in-joining-the-initiative/">https://www.eitdeeptechtalent.eu/the-pledge/area-for-expression-of-interest-in-joining-the-initiative/</a>

## 2.7. Evaluation process and criteria

A quality assessment to evaluate the extent to which the applications fulfil the evaluation criteria will be carried out with the support of at least three independent experts per application. The independent experts will be supported by guidelines developed by the HEI Evaluation Committee and provide a ranking list following the scoring agreed by the experts.

The HEI Evaluation Committee will oversee the entire evaluation and selection process. Using the ranking list resulting from the external, independent evaluation, the HEI Evaluation Committee will make the final selection.

Evaluation criteria are adopted from the Horizon Europe Coordination and Support Actions (CSA) award criteria.

<sup>31</sup> There is no “Commitment Letter” template; the “Commitment Letter” must be signed by the top management of each HEI on official HEI letterhead.

<sup>32</sup> There is no “Commitment Letter” template; the “Commitment Letter” must be signed by each Faculty Dean or Department Head on official HEI letterhead.

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives.</li> <li>• Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures, including soundness of methodology.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project.</li> <li>• Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.</li> <li>• Capacity and role of each participant, and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.</li> </ul>

Scores will be awarded for the evaluation criteria, and not for the different aspects listed within the individual evaluation criteria.

For submitted applications, each evaluation criterion – Excellence, Impact, Quality and efficiency of the implementation – will be scored out of 5, respectively. The threshold for individual evaluation criteria will be 3.

The total maximum evaluation score awarded to an application is 15. The overall threshold to guarantee funding, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be 11. Those proposals awarded a total score of 10 will be considered for funding by the HEI Initiative Selection Committee.

Scores must pass the threshold for individual evaluation criteria and the overall threshold if an application is to be considered for funding. Reaching the threshold for being considered for funding does not guarantee being selected for funding.

Evaluation criteria are not weighted.

The following rubric will be used to award scores to an application.

Score	Description
0	The application fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	Fair. The application broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3	Good. The application addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
4	Very good. The application addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5	Excellent. The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

A redress and complaints procedure is in place. Please see Annex 4.3 for more information and the procedure.

### 3. Information on key dates and how to apply

Key dates	Timeline
Launch of HEI Call 3	8 November 2022
Opening of the Call 3 application portal	17 November 2022
Deadline for submitting applications to HEI Call 3	28 February 2023, 17.00 CET
HEI Call 3 Online Info Sessions	17 November: Call 3 General Overview 5 December 2022: Quality expectations and the Deep Tech focus 10 January 2023: Open Q&A session #1 7 February 2023: Open Q&A session #2
HEI Call 3 Online Info Sessions Registration Links	17 November 2022: <a href="https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/Call3infosession1">https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/Call3infosession1</a> 5 December 2022: <a href="https://www.lyyti.in/Call3infosession2">https://www.lyyti.in/Call3infosession2</a> 10 January 2023: <a href="https://www.lyyti.in/Call3infosession3">https://www.lyyti.in/Call3infosession3</a> 7 February 2023: <a href="https://www.lyyti.in/Call3infosession4">https://www.lyyti.in/Call3infosession4</a>
Introduction Webinar to HEInnovate	TBC. Will be communicated via the HEI webpage, <a href="#">newsletter</a> and social media channels when announced



Evaluation period	1 March – mid-April 2023
Announcement of evaluation results to all applicants *accompanied by request for the preparation of partner information templates for the Project Agreements	End of April 2023
Official announcement and start date of HEI Initiative Cohort 3 projects	1 May 2023
Face-to-Face Kick Off IVAP Workshop for selected projects (participation mandatory)	May 2023
<b>Where to apply</b>	<a href="https://eit-hei.eu/calls/call-for-proposals-november-2022">https://eit-hei.eu/calls/call-for-proposals-november-2022</a>
<b>How to stay informed</b>	Sign up to newsletter <a href="#">HERE</a>
<b>For enquiries</b>	<a href="mailto:hei@eitrawmaterials.eu">hei@eitrawmaterials.eu</a>



## 4. Annexes

### 4.1 EIT KPIs

<p>Supported Start-ups/Scale-ups</p> <p>(EIT KPI Code 3.1)</p>	<p>Supported start-ups/scale-ups:</p> <p>Number of start-ups and scale-ups supported by the HEI Initiative funding for at least 2 months in year N, provided the services contribute to the company's growth (including potential growth).</p> <p>HEI Initiative projects should justify that the provided services contribute to the company's growth (including potential growth). Examples of such services are mentoring, consultancy on access to finance and markets, product / service marketing, legal advice, internationalisation, match-making, etc.</p> <p>The services should be provided for a total period of at least two months. Start-ups and scale-ups will be reported by country of registration of the venture.</p> <p>The following aspects related to EIT RIS countries will be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of start-ups and scale-ups registered in EIT RIS country supported by KICs for at least 2 months in year N.</li> <li>• Number of EIT RIS countries where start-ups/scale-ups supported by KICs are registered.</li> </ul>	<p>Structured data to be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year of reporting</li> <li>• Company name</li> <li>• Company registration number</li> <li>• Country of registration</li> <li>• Gender of the CEO</li> <li>• Reference to a specific KIC KAVA</li> <li>• Was the company supported through the HEI CBI?</li> <li>• Was the company supported through the a cross-KIC project?</li> </ul> <p>No supporting evidence.</p>
--	---	--



<p>Participants in (non-labelled) education and training  (EIT KPI Code 8.1)</p>	<p>Participants in (non-labelled) education and training:</p> <p>Number of successful participants in EIT professional development courses, online training courses and other education/training activities delivered or in a process of delivery (by country and type of programme), including data on country of citizenship and gender.</p> <p>Only participants, who successfully finished the programme, will be counted.</p> <p>For this KPI, only those education and training activities which have clearly defined learning outcomes, and which carries out competency assessment method are applicable.</p>	<p>Structured data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year of reporting</li> <li>• Title of course/training/education activity delivered</li> <li>• Type of the programme</li> <li>• Key learning outcomes, competencies and results of the programme</li> <li>• Number of participants enrolled in the reporting year (and breakdown of participants by country of origin)</li> <li>• Number of participants who successfully finished the course in the reporting year</li> <li>• Is the training/education delivered through the HEI CBI?</li> </ul> <p>The following aspects related to EIT RIS countries will be provided: number of successful participants in EIT professional development courses, online training courses and other education/training activity delivered or in a process of delivery with citizenship in EIT RIS countries.</p> <p>No supporting evidence.</p>
--	---	---

<p>Number of new partnerships established as a result of the HEI Initiative</p> <p>(EIT KPI Code 20.1)</p>	<p>This indicator will have two sub-indicators, for which only one sub-indicator needs to be fulfilled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # New partnerships established by participating HEIs and businesses, research organisations, other actors</li> <li>• # and % of HEIs which participate in other activities of the KICs</li> </ul> <p>The provided data will include information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisations involved in these partnerships</li> <li>• Nature of the partnership (contract, agreement, informal cooperation, etc.)</li> <li>• Countries of the organisations involved. Of them: RIS countries</li> <li>• Number of organisations from RIS countries</li> </ul>	<p>Structured data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year of reporting</li> <li>• Organisations involved in these partnerships</li> <li>• Nature of the new partnership (contract, agreement, informal cooperation, etc.), including roles of different partners</li> <li>• Countries of the organisations involved. Of them: RIS countries.</li> <li>• Number of organisations from RIS countries</li> <li>• If the organisation participates in other KICs activities: yes/no.</li> </ul> <p>No supporting evidence.</p>
<p>Number of new and/or improved support structures and mechanisms established within or mobilized by the HEIs participating in the HEI Capacity Building Initiative</p> <p>(EIT KPI Code 19.1)</p>	<p>Number of new and/or improved structures and mechanisms established in or mobilized by HEIs participating in the HEI Capacity Building Initiative with an objective to support innovation and / or entrepreneurship.</p> <p>For example, the following structures and mechanisms will be considered: innovation testbeds, units, programmes, spaces, infrastructures, etc.</p> <p>KICs will need to gather the lists of structures and mechanisms from the participating institutions and provide them to EIT together with explanations as to how the HEI Capacity Building</p>	<p>For each reported structure or mechanism, the data provided will also include information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year of reporting</li> <li>• Higher education institutions involved</li> <li>• Countries where these structures were established incl. RIS countries</li> </ul> <p>No supporting evidence.</p>



	Initiative has contributed to establishing, improving and/or mobilizing these structures.	
--	---	--

## 4.2 EIT Impact Framework

Together with excellence, impact has been one of the guiding principles of the EIT since its creation. In a context of economic frailty, demonstrating a tangible and measurable impact is essential. The EIT Community is characterised by a focus on results and on achieving long-lasting impact in the way Europe approaches and manages innovation. It is therefore critical that the selected projects demonstrate their ambition to create in a longer-term educational impact by strengthening human capital in research and innovation, enhancing innovative and entrepreneurial skills both at individual and organisational levels and fostering the creation and diffusion of knowledge and innovation openly within society.

The HEI projects are expected to demonstrate how the implementation of the IVAPs will contribute to achievement of outcomes within the HEI project funding period and toward 2030.

In the IVAP applicants must address the specific EIT KPIs found in Section 2.1 and at least one EIT Core KPI<sup>33</sup> found in the EIT Impact Framework<sup>34</sup>.

Applicants should include the following in the “Impact” section of the HEI application:

- Specific EIT KPIs from Section 2.1 of this HEI Call 3 shall be used to measure progress during the post-HEI project funding period, August 2024 – 2030.
- Focus on deep tech talent training should be described in detail with specific reference to the 8.1 EIT KPI.
- Minimum one EIT Core KPI shall be used to measure progress during the HEI funding period and post-HEI project funding period, January 2023 – 2030. Applicants must specify which Core KPI they select and the related target as per Section 2.1 of this HEI Call 3.

Applicants shall not use in their IVAPs the KIC-specific KPIs found in the EIT Impact Framework.

<sup>33</sup> There are 3 EIT Core KPIs found in the EIT Impact Framework table available to HEI Initiative Call 3 projects, as listed in Section 2.1.

<sup>34</sup> EIT Impact Framework – [https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit\\_impact\\_framework\\_2022-2027.pdf](https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit_impact_framework_2022-2027.pdf)



Additional indicators may be used to monitor and track progress, results, outcomes and impacts, notably the [EIT HEI Initiative MEL Framework](#).

### 4.3 Redress and Complaint Procedure

Upon receipt of the evaluation results, the applicant may wish to lodge a request for redress, if there is a concern that there might have been a shortcoming in the way a proposal was evaluated.

The redress procedure is not meant to call into question the judgement made by the independent experts who evaluated the proposals. The redress procedure will only consider procedural shortcomings and factual errors.

Requests for redress should be raised within 30 days of the receipt of the evaluation report and should be sent to [hei@eitrawmaterials.eu](mailto:hei@eitrawmaterials.eu).

Requests must:

- Be related to the evaluation process
- Include a clear description of the grounds for the complaint
- Be received within the time limit specified above

An initial reply will be sent to complainants no later than two weeks after the deadline for redress requests. This initial reply will indicate when a definitive reply will be provided. A Redress Committee including the EIT HEI Evaluation Committee may be convened to examine the evaluation process for the case under consideration.

The role of the Redress Committee is to ensure a coherent interpretation of requests and equal treatment of applicants. The Redress Committee itself, however, does not re-evaluate the proposal. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the Redress Committee may review the evaluation report and individual comments and examine the CVs of the evaluation experts.

Following its review, the Redress Committee will recommend a course of action to the EIT HEI Evaluation Committee. If there is clear evidence of a shortcoming that could have affected the funding decision, all or part of the proposal may be re-evaluated. Unless there is clear evidence of a shortcoming there will be no follow-up or re-evaluation. The EIT HEI Evaluation Committee will be informed of any redress procedures in due course.

Please note:

- This redress procedure is concerned with the evaluation process.



- The Redress Committee will not call into question the judgment of the individual expert evaluators whose qualifications have already been assessed and validated.
- A re-evaluation will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that affects the quality assessment of a proposal. This means, for example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if a proposal has failed anyway on any other criterion.
- The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive.
- May be lower than the original score.
- Only one request for redress per proposal will be considered.