

Call for KIC proposals 2018 - Evaluation Criteria

Admissibility criteria

Prior to evaluation, proposals will be examined for compliance with the following admissibility criteria:

- the proposal must be submitted through the electronic proposal submission system;
- the proposal must be submitted by the Call deadline;
- the proposal must have completed all mandatory parts.

Eligibility criteria

After the admissibility check, a proposal will only be considered eligible if it complies with the following eligibility conditions:

- The proposed KIC must contain at least three independent partner organisations established in at least three different Member States;
- at least two third of the partner organisations forming the proposed KIC are established in Member States;
- the proposed KIC includes at least one higher education institution and one private company;
- the proposal must be submitted by a partnership containing a maximum of 50 partners;

Only proposals satisfying all of the eligibility criteria shall pass on to the evaluation stage.

Exclusion criteria

Applicants will be excluded from participation in the Call and from the award if they are in one of the situations referred to in Articles 106(1) and 107 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#)¹.

As evidence, the applicants will have to submit a declaration of honour on exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest. Following the designation decision, the winning consortia will be requested to submit

¹ Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002, as amended by Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 647/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 and by Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2015/1929 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 October 2015

recently issued evidence (e.g. registration and tax certificates, judicial records) in support of the declaration of honour, in accordance with Article 141 of the Rules of Application of the EU Financial Regulation².

Financial and operational capacity (selection) criteria

Only admissible and eligible proposals will be evaluated against the financial and operational capacity criteria.

Financial capacity criteria

The organisation of the Partnership's Coordinator (or Coordinator of the KIC start-up phase) will be subject to the financial capacity assessment if (and when) the KIC has been designated and the Coordinator is subject to a financial viability check. Financial capacity will be assessed on the basis of the financial viability check³.

At the proposal submission stage⁴, the Coordinator will be asked to confirm that he/she has carried out a self-check of the financial capacity of the organisation through the financial self-check tool⁵ or has been covered by a financial viability check for an EU project for the last closed financial year.

If the Coordinator's financial viability would be assessed as 'weak' or 'insufficient':

- the Coordinator will normally step down as Coordinator but can participate in any other role; in this case, the consortium must put forward a solution, including the appointment of a new Coordinator and reassignment of coordination tasks;
- the partnership's activities will be subject to additional monitoring and reporting based on an action plan;
- if no acceptable solution or action plan would be presented by the Coordinator, the KIC designation/start-up phase may be terminated and the designated KIC (partnership) cancelled.

Following the provisions of the EU Financial Regulation and Article 15(10) of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation⁶, public bodies, international organisations, higher or secondary education establishments or legal entities, whose viability is guaranteed by a Member State or an associated country, will be exempted from the financial capacity check.

² Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, as amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/2462 of 30 October 2015

³ The organisation's financial viability will be assessed by checking that: it has sufficient liquidity – it is able to cover its short-term commitments, it is financially autonomous, it is solvent - capable of covering its medium and long-term commitments, it is profitable – by generating profits, or at least with self-financing capacity.

⁴ This confirmation will be requested on the SEP system as part of the Proposal Submission Forms.

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/lfv.html>

⁶ Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in "Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)" and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006

Operational capacity criteria

1) The Partnership's Coordinator's familiarity with the Call's theme and experience of coordinating and/or participating in international projects related to the integration of the three sides of the Knowledge Triangle, as well as familiarity with the European Union's financial procedures, is proven through having:

- participated in at least one project with a total budget (allocated or coordinated) exceeding EUR 3 million;
- coordinated at least one project with at least two other partners (three in total) from at least three different European countries and from at least two sides of the Knowledge Triangle;
- participated in at least one project financed by EU funds.

The Coordinator should provide references for at least two projects as evidence of his/her operational capacity (one project may meet several of the above criteria). The projects should have been successfully completed, the final implementation date of the projects should not be earlier than 31 December 2012, and the minimum budget of the projects should be higher than EUR 100 000 to make the reference eligible. All reference projects should be related to the relevant thematic area.

2) The capability and necessary experience of the key members of the Interim Management Team, namely the CEO (Chief Executive Officer), COO (Chief Operational Officer), is evidenced through them having:

- at least 7 years' work experience relevant to the position (tasks in the Interim Management of a KIC);
- for the CEO, 7 years' and for the COO, 5 years' experience in the Call's thematic field;
- at least 3 years' work experience in an international environment (including implementation of international projects).

Detailed curriculum vitae in the Europass format⁷ covering relevant professional qualifications and experience shall be attached to the Coordinator's Motivation and Commitment Declaration.

Only proposals that pass the operational capacity verification will be evaluated by the external experts.

⁷ <https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae/templates-instructions>



Technical evaluation criteria for the selection of KICs

Table 1 – Technical evaluation criteria for the selection of KICs

STRATEGY 40 points max.	OPERATIONS 20 points max.	IMPACT 40 points max.
TOTAL 100 points		
<p>1.1 STRATEGIC APPROACH</p> <p>Relevance, specificity and value-added of the strategic approach and proposed focus within the theme; applicability of the KIC model to tackle the societal challenge(s) of Horizon 2020 via a multidisciplinary approach by integrating the Knowledge Triangle and fostering entrepreneurship and innovation throughout Europe. <i>[15 points max]</i></p> <p>[0-5 points; weighting: 3]</p> <p>1.2 KIC PARTNERSHIP INNOVATION POTENTIAL</p> <p>Innovation potential of the partnership to implement the KIC's strategy, demonstrated by the combined strength and quality of the partners (including SMEs), forming a diverse, balanced, collaborative and world-class partnership. <i>[15 points max]</i></p> <p>[0- 5 points; weighting: 3]</p> <p>1.3 SYNERGIES</p> <p>Demonstrate value added and readiness to establish concrete synergies and complementarities, positioning of the KIC vis-à-vis other relevant public, private and third sector initiatives at EU and other levels. <i>[10 points max]</i></p> <p>[0- 5 points; weighting: 2]</p>	<p>2.1. OPERATIONS</p> <p>The quality of the KIC leadership team profiles (management and governance teams); effectiveness of the operational structure including selection and connectivity of co-location centres and demonstration how the Knowledge Triangle Integration approach will be implemented on the operational level <i>[10 points max]</i></p> <p>[0- 5 points; weighting: 2]</p> <p>2.2 KIC BUSINESS MODEL AND FINANCIAL PLAN</p> <p>Feasibility of the KIC's business model and financial plan (including EIT and non-EIT resources) for attracting financial resources and achieving financial sustainability in the long-term; a plan for the management and exploitation of intellectual property supporting the KIC's business model. <i>[10 points max]</i></p> <p>[0- 5 points; weighting: 2]</p>	<p>3.1 IMPACT AND KIC SCOREBOARD</p> <p>Planned pan-European impact on the societal challenge, human capital, job creation, economic growth demonstrated by the strategy; quality and relevance of the outreach (in particular EIT Regional Innovation Scheme); relevance and feasibility of the expected outcomes, outputs and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) included in a KIC Scoreboard and their contribution to the EIT Scoreboard. <i>[30 points max]</i></p> <p>[0-5 points; weighting: 6]</p> <p>3.2 DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS AND COMMUNICATION</p> <p>Dissemination plans for KIC results, including sharing good practices within, between and beyond the KICs, across EU Member States, regions and institutions to ensure a widening of the reach of the EIT and increase of its impact; quality and relevance of the KIC communication strategy including the contribution to building the EIT brand identity;</p> <p><i>[10 points max]</i></p> <p>[0- 5 points; weighting: 2]</p>

Hearings and designation of the KICs

The EIT GB will hold hearings with representatives of KIC proposals reaching or exceeding the threshold of 70% of points at the Panel of Experts evaluation stage.

At the evaluation stage of the Governing Board Hearing, the overall strategic rationality and consistency of the KIC model presented in the proposal will be assessed. This will be done by evaluating the proposals from a holistic perspective against the three main criteria: Strategy, Operations and Impact. In particular, the following aspects that are key to the effective implementation of the KIC model will be assessed:

- **Strategy** - adaptability and suitability of the KIC model for the proposed strategic approach by the applicant and potential contribution to the EIT's strategic objectives;
- **Operations** – feasibility of the proposed KIC operational model and its financial sustainability, taking into account lessons learnt from current KICs, suitability of the interim management team;
- **Impact** – consistency of the applicant's KIC model, its potential and feasibility to achieve a significant and sustainable systemic impact in line with the EIT's overall objectives;

Each criterion will be scored with a total of 10 points [0- 5 points; weighting: 2] by the Governing Board, therefore the maximum score that can be obtained in the hearing is 30 points. The Governing Board's score will be calculated as the average of the individual scores of the Governing Board members.

The sum of the points from the Governing Board Hearing will be added to the points obtained at the technical evaluation stage (Panel of Experts stage). The proposal receiving the highest number of points out of the maximum of 130 points can be designated by the EIT Governing Board. The EIT GB can designate one KIC per thematic area and may establish a reserve list with one KIC per thematic area.