



EIT Awards 2020

Call for Nominations for the EIT CHANGE Award

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

Budapest | 15 June 2020

www.eit.europa.eu



The EIT is a body of the European Union

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1 Introduction - Background

In order to promote an entrepreneurial mind-set and a risk-taking culture within the EIT Community, the EIT introduced the EIT Entrepreneurship Award in 2012. Since then, the EIT further developed and gradually extended the concept of the EIT Awards covering the three main EIT-KIC activity pillars of business creation, education and innovation.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected the EIT Community event planning for 2020. Whenever possible, online formats were considered and thus, the 2020 EIT Awards will be held in an adapted online format suitable for its original purpose.

Moreover, having an online event also offers the opportunity to include a dissemination element to the EIT Awards and to target better specific stakeholder groups such as investors or potential business partners through a public online pitching session.

The 2020 EIT Awards will cover again five categories: EIT Venture, EIT CHANGE, EIT Innovators, EIT Woman Leadership & Entrepreneurship, and EIT Public (Citizen) Award.

Each KIC will nominate one candidate / team for the EIT Venture, EIT Innovators and EIT Woman Leadership & Entrepreneurship Awards and also one for the EIT CHANGE Award (in case the KIC has EIT labelled programmes).

The same nominees cannot compete in more than one category, to promote additional diversity, and give communication coverage, award and prize money winning opportunities to a maximum of nominees. For the same reason, applications of nominees proposed for any of the previous years' EIT Awards are not eligible.

Each KIC should ensure that their nominations have an appropriate balance regarding gender and nationality.

2 Objectives

The EIT Awards promote innovation and entrepreneurship in Europe and contribute to the branding of the EIT in Europe and globally. The EIT Awards cover the three sides of the Knowledge Triangle and put on the spotlight: high-potential entrepreneurial start-ups brought to maturity by KICs; innovation teams encompassing different Knowledge Triangle actors that deliver outstanding innovations; and EIT Alumni that excel in putting into practice the skills and competences acquired in EIT labelled educational programmes as the next generation of entrepreneurs and change agents in European societies. The EIT Awards are an essential instrument to demonstrate the EIT's and KICs' achievements to stakeholders.

The **EIT CHANGE Award** celebrates **graduates of EIT-labelled education programmes** who spur innovation and entrepreneurship and bring about a change in the areas of climate change, digitalisation, energy, health, food and raw materials addressed by the EIT and its innovation communities.

Within the EIT Community, the EIT Awards play an important role in celebrating achievements and success, identifying role models and increasing opportunities for the further development of the EIT Award winners.

3 Indicative timetable

Activity	Deadline
Deadline for the KICs to submit applications to the EIT	31 August 2020
Verification of admissibility, eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria by the EIT	1 September 2020-30 September 2020
Publication of eligible nominees on the EIT website	By 15 October 2020
Online pitch training	In the week of 19-23 October 2020
Online social media and media training	5 November 2020
Communication campaign	15 October 2020-31 December 2020
Public online voting	9 November 2020-8 December 2020
Virtual offline pitching/ presentations to juries	7 December 2020
Public online pitching/ presentations to juries	8 December 2020
EIT Awards online ceremony	9 December 2020
Online press briefing with EIT Award Winners	10 December 2020
Notification letters with results sent to winners and all applicants	Within 2 weeks after the EIT Awards online ceremony
Provision of prize	Within one month after the submission of documents necessary to process the payments (i.e. Financial Identification Form, Legal Entity

4 Prizes

The **EIT CHANGE Award winner** will benefit from:

- An increased European-wide promotion and the prerogative to use the label “EIT CHANGE Award Winner” in his/her profiling and marketing activities;
- A monetary prize of €50,000.

The **EIT CHANGE Award second and third-place winners** will receive a financial prize of €20,000 and €10,000 respectively. They will also benefit from European-wide promotion of their achievements and the prerogative to use the label “EIT CHANGE Award Finalist” in their marketing and communications activities.

5 Admissibility Criteria

Applications must be submitted:

- no later than by **31 August 2020 to the EIT by KICs’ Single Point of Contacts (SPOCs)**;
- using the template for the EIT CHANGE Award Competition duly completed.

Failure to comply with those requirements will lead to the rejection of the application.

6 Eligibility Criteria

6.1 Criteria

The call is open to all natural persons having graduated from an EIT labelled education programme.

6.2 Required supporting documents

The applicant shall submit a copy of her/his University diploma and the EIT labelled degree/certificate, or a confirmation (declaration of honour) from the KIC Education Director. If not yet handed out, a confirmation by the KIC Education Director shall be submitted that the nominee will receive a diploma and the EIT labelled degree/certificate prior to the EIT Awards event (see also under section 3 above).

7 Exclusion Criteria

7.1 Criteria

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the call for nomination if they are in any of the situations of exclusion defined in Article 136 of the EU Financial Regulation¹.

Applicants will be excluded from award if, in the course of the award procedure, they fall under any of the situations defined in Article 141 of the EU Financial Regulation.

7.2 Required supporting document

Applicants must sign a declaration of honour, filling in the template accompanying the call for nominations and available at <https://eit.europa.eu/our-activities/eit-awards/2020-awards>.

8 Selection Criteria

8.1 Criteria

Applications for the EIT CHANGE Award will be selected based on the following criterion:

The applicant

- has demonstrated innovation and entrepreneurship capacity, facilitated by the EIT labelled education programme.

8.2 Required supporting documents

The evidence to be provided by the nominee as part of the application package consists of:

- CV of the applicant (EU CV format);
- the copy of the EIT labelled degree/certificate of the applicant or a confirmation (declaration of honour) from the KIC Education Director. If not yet handed out, the degree can be replaced by a confirmation by the KIC Education Director that the applicant will receive a diploma and the EIT labelled degree prior to the EIT Awards event (see also under section 6.2 above).

¹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014 and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

9 Award Criteria

9.1 Criteria

An international jury composed of three experts, with a balanced composition including higher education, business (creation), innovation and the investor community, will evaluate the applications, supporting documents (innovation stories) and presentations based on the following criteria (assessed on a scale from 1-5 with half points, where 1 is the lowest score, 5 is the highest score; maximum score to be obtained in total is 20 points²):

Criteria (equal weighting)	Explanation
1. Pro-active attitude and entrepreneurial drive	✓ Display of pro-active attitude and initiative ✓ Degree of thinking outside boundaries and (systematic) exploration and generation of new ideas
2. Quality of innovative achievement	✓ Degree to which the achievement is innovative and entrepreneurial and in line with the KIC's societal impact
3. Link to EIT labelled education programmes	✓ Quality of the description of how EIT labelled education programmes have supported and facilitated the nominee in obtaining and implementing the initiative
4. Pitch/ Presentation	✓ Quality, creativity and persuasiveness of the innovation story presented ✓ Quality of answers during the Q&A portion of the presentation

9.2 Required supporting documents

The evidence on which the jury evaluation is based comprises:

1. For award criteria 1-3: the template for the EIT CHANGE Award Competition completed by the nominees, which includes a description on how the award criteria are met. It is imperative that the "innovation story" provides information on all criteria so as to enable a proper assessment. As a minimum, the innovation story should describe:
 - The innovativeness and entrepreneurial/intrapreneurial nature of the nominee's achievement: ("How do you spur innovation and entrepreneurship?")
 - The (potential) societal and economic impact of the achievement: ("How does your achievement/activity create societal and economic impact?")

² The overall score is calculated as an average of the individual scores of the jury members, rounded up to one decimal place

- How the achievement has been facilitated by the EIT labelled education programme: (“How has the EIT labelled education programme of the KIC concerned facilitated your achievement/enhanced your ability to spur innovation and entrepreneurship?”)
2. For award criterion 4: The applicants will have to present their application illustrating how award criteria 1-3 are met. Under this criterion the quality of the presentation in front of the jury will be assessed.

Following and based on the pitch/presentation of the applicants, the jury members may amend their initial scoring for the award criteria 1-3 taking into consideration clarifications/information provided.

10 Procedure

10.1 Submission of applications

Applications must be submitted by the candidates to the KICs’ Single Point of Contacts (SPOCs).

Applications shall be submitted by the candidates on the correct form(s), duly completed, with all required supporting documents, dated, and by the deadline.

Application forms are available at <https://eit.europa.eu/our-activities/eit-awards/2020-awards>.

No modification to the application is allowed once the deadline for submission has elapsed. However, if there is a need to clarify certain aspects or for the correction of clerical mistakes, the KIC and/or the EIT may contact the applicant for this purpose during the evaluation process.

10.2 Nomination process

Each KIC shall organise its own selection process following the Admissibility, Eligibility, Exclusion and Selection Criteria set out in sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this Call for Nominations and appoints one nominee for the EIT CHANGE Award.

The KIC shall not submit the same nominee in more than one category. The KIC shall not submit a nominee that took part in any of previous editions of the EIT Awards. The KIC shall ensure that their nominations have an appropriate balance regarding gender and nationality.

The KICs should provide the EIT with the names of the nominees they put forward along with all required documentation by **31 August 2020**³. The EIT will check if the Admissibility, Eligibility, Exclusion and Selection criteria are met.

10.3 Award process

The 2020 edition of the EIT Awards will be organised virtual/ online over three days:

Non-public	Public	
Day 0	Day 1 (a.m.)	Day 2 (p.m.)
Max 3h50	Max 3 hours	Max 45 min
Detailed pitching/ presentations 7 min/13 min Q&A	Public pitching/ presentations 3 min (recorded)/2 min Q&A (live)	Online awards ceremony

EIT CHANGE Award nominees will be invited to deliver a presentation of their achievement/innovation story (non-public and public) to a high-level jury. The jury will evaluate the presentation, the material provided and will have the opportunity to ask for clarifications of the presentation and/or documentation.

KICs are expected to support their nominees in their preparation for the event. The EIT will organise a pitch/presentation training for the EIT CHANGE Award Nominees prior to the event. In addition, the EIT will organise online media and social media trainings for the nominees. Participation is mandatory, non-attendance may lead to the exclusion of nominees from the Award.

The responsible EIT Authorising Officer will appoint the jury for the EIT CHANGE Award. The jury will evaluate the nominees based on the documentation, presentation/pitch and responses to questions following the Award criteria set out in section 9 of this document.

The award decision will be made by the responsible EIT Authorising Officer based on the recommendation made by the jury. The EIT CHANGE Award winner will be announced at the EIT Awards online ceremony on Day 2.

Following the announcement, all nominees will be notified in writing of the results of the award process. The finalists will also receive information about the next steps.

³ Nominations shall be sent by email to the EIT Strategy Officer Sylvia Jahn (Sylvia.Jahn@eit.europa.eu)

10.4 Payment of the prizes

The prizes will be paid in one instalment after the EIT Awards 2020 winners' ceremony by bank transfer, provided that all the requested documents, outlined in the notification informing about the results, have been submitted.

For the purpose of the payments, the prize-winners will be asked to provide:

- a duly filled in and signed "Legal Entity Form"⁴ accompanied by a photocopy of ID card or passport;
- a duly filled in and signed "Financial identification form"⁵ stamped by the bank or accompanied by a recent bank statement.

11 Promotion

11.1 Promotion prior to the EIT Awards ceremony

Following the publication in October 2020, nominees and the presentation at the EIT Awards 2020 ceremony will be promoted by the EIT via different communications channels and tools. The EIT will work with the nominees to produce different promotional materials, including factsheets, videos, interviews etc.

11.2 Publication by the EIT

All information relating to the nominations, the prize-winners and the prizes awarded will be published on the EIT website.

The EIT may use, for its communication and publicising activities, information relating to the prize, documents notably summaries for publication as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material that it receives from the participants (including in electronic form).

The EIT will publish the names of the nominees and of the prize-winners, their origin (country and region), their achievement and the amount awarded, as well as the nature and purpose of the prize – unless they have requested to waive this publication (because disclosure risks threatening their security and safety or harm its commercial interest).

Photos, videos and recordings taken by the EIT either in preparation of the EIT Awards event or during the EIT Awards event are the sole property of the EIT.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/legal-entities_en

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/financial-identification_en

11.3 Publicity by the prize-winners

The prize-winners must promote the action and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner.

The prize-winners shall follow Title III of the Rules for participation in the H2020 Programme⁶ regarding the dissemination of results.

Unless the EIT requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.) must:

- a) display the EIT logo;
- b) display the EU emblem and
- c) include the following text:

- for the winner:

“EIT CHANGE Award Winner 2020. This graduate has been awarded the EIT Change Award from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union.”

- for the finalists (2nd and 3rd place):

“EIT CHANGE Award Finalist 2020. This graduate has been recognised by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union.”

When displayed together with another logo, the EIT logo and the EU emblem must have appropriate prominence.

For the purposes of his/her obligations, the prize-winners may use the EIT logo and the EU emblem without first obtaining approval from the EIT.

This does not, however, give it the right to exclusive use.

Moreover, the prize-winners may not appropriate the EIT logo and the EU emblem (or any similar trademark or logo), either by registration or by any other means.

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

12 Other conditions

12.1 Conditions concerning liability; checks, audits and investigations; sanctions

The EIT cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the participants or to third parties as a consequence of the prize, including for gross negligence.

The EIT cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the participants in the context of the prize.

The EIT or the Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the Court of Auditors may carry out checks, audits and investigations in relation to the prize.

The EIT may impose financial penalties and exclusion decisions in accordance with Article 136 of the EU Financial Regulation.

12.2 Cancellation of the contest

The EIT may cancel the contest or decide not to award the prizes without any obligation to compensate participants, in particular where its objectives cannot be fulfilled.

12.3 Data protection

The participation in this call involves the recording and processing of personal data.

All personal data will be processed by the EIT pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725⁷ and in accordance with the privacy statement available at:

<https://eit.europa.eu/data-protection>

The KICs must process personal data in compliance with applicable EU law on data protection (i.e. GDPR⁸).

⁷ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002

⁸ 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 repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation)

12.4 Applicable law

The present call is governed by the applicable Union law (i.e. the EU Financial Regulation) and is complemented, where necessary, by the law of Belgium.

12.5 Procedure for complaints and appeal

Applicants or participants who believe that there was a maladministration regarding the evaluation of their application may lodge a complaint to the European Ombudsman within two years of the date on which they became aware of the facts on which the complaint is based:

European Ombudsman

1 avenue du Président Robert Schuman

CS 30403 F-67001 Strasbourg Cedex, France

Tel.: (+33) 3 88 17 23 13 Fax: (+33) 3 88 17 90 62

Website: www.ombudsman.europa.eu

Contact form (for general inquiries):

<http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/shortcuts/contacts.faces>

Complaint form (for launching a complaint):

<https://secure.ombudsman.europa.eu/atyourservice/secured/complaintform.faces>

Complaints against decisions negatively affecting the rights of a participant or a winner can be brought before the General Court - or on appeal, the Court of Justice of the European Union – under Article 263 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU): applicants may lodge an action for annulment against the award decision. This must be done within two months of receipt of the notification letter. Any request for redress or any complaint for maladministration will have neither the purpose nor the effect of suspending the time-limit for lodging an action for annulment. The court responsible for hearing actions for annulment is the General Court:

General Court

Rue du Fort Niedergrünwald

L-2925 Luxembourg

Tel.: (352) 4303-1 Fax: (352) 4303 2100

E-mail: GeneralCourt.Registry@curia.europa.eu

URL: <http://curia.europa.eu>