

EIT Awards 2020

Call for Nominations for the EIT Innovators Award

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

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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 Community's achievements to stakeholders.

The **EIT Innovators Award** recognises KIC **innovation teams** composed of individuals from across the knowledge triangle that have developed a product, service or process with a high potential for societal and economic impact.

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 Form included in the Notification letters)

4 Prizes

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

- An increased European-wide promotion of its business and the prerogative to use the label “EIT Innovators Award Winner” in their profiling and marketing activities;
- A monetary prize of €50,000.

The **EIT Innovators 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 Innovators 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 Innovators Award Competition duly completed.

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

6 Eligibility Criteria

6.1 Criteria

In order to participate in the EIT Innovators Award competition, KIC innovation teams need to fulfil the following set of criteria:

- The team shall involve individuals from at least three KIC partners representing at least two sides of the Knowledge Triangle (a core team may be defined if the team is very large);
- KIC partners shall come from at least two different countries;
- The team has received funding for their project by a KIC between 01/01/2017 and 31/08/2020.

6.2 Required supporting documents

The evidence to be provided by the applicant teams as part of the application package consists of a description of the (core) team (included in the template for the EIT Innovators Award Competition).

7 Exclusion Criteria

7.1 Criteria

Applicants will be excluded from 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

The EIT will perform the check of the exclusion criteria by relying on the on previously submitted Declarations of Honour of applicants (i.e. KIC Partner organisations).

If, the EIT considers it justified, it may require the resubmission of the declaration on honour (available at <https://eit.europa.eu/our-activities/eit-awards/2020-awards>).

8 Selection Criteria

8.1 Criteria

Applications for the EIT Innovators Award will be assessed based on the following criterion:

- The team must have successfully achieved at least the pre-commercialization stage (a product or service is ready to be put on the market)².

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

² Pre-commercialization phase involves the transition from design and development, and validation, to the execution of the launch

8.2 Required supporting document

The evidence to be provided by the Innovators team as part of the application package consists of a document proving that the team has successfully achieved the pre-commercialisation stage.

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, the supporting documents and presentations/pitches based on the criteria described below (assessed on a scale from 1 to 5 with half points, where 1 is the lowest score and 5 is the highest score; maximum score to be obtained in total is 20 points³):

Criteria (equal weighting)	Explanation
1. Originality of the new product, process or service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Uniqueness and features of product/process/service✓ Degree to which product/process/service is disruptive
2. The efficiency and effectiveness of the team and conversion of the idea into the outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Resources (time and finances) used to transform the idea (i.e. starting point) into a product/process/service✓ The degree to which the intended innovation has been achieved✓ Innovation process – planning, goals, milestones, team
3. Social and potential and real economic impact of the outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Prospects to address a societal challenge tackled by the EIT and KICs✓ Profit potential✓ Plan/arrangements for commercialisation
4. Pitch/Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Quality and persuasiveness of the presentation✓ The clarity, demeanour, and professionalism of the presentation of the team and the business case✓ Quality of answers during the Q&A portion of the presentation

³ The overall score is calculated as an average of the individual scores of the jury members, rounded up to one decimal place

9.2 Required supporting documents

The evidence on which the jury evaluation is based comprises:

1. For award criterion 1-3: Description on how the above award criteria are met are to be presented in the Template for candidate teams and clarified during the presentation.
2. For award criterion 4: The applicants will have to present their application with respect to award criteria 1-3. Under this criterion the quality of the presentation in front of the jury will be assessed.

Following and based on the pitch/presentations 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

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 team for this purpose during the evaluation process.

10.1 Submission of applications

Applications must be submitted by the candidate teams to the KICs' Single Point of Contacts (SPOCs).

Applications shall be submitted by the candidate teams 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>.

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 Nominated Innovation Team for the EIT Innovators Award.

The KIC shall not submit the same nominees 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 Nominated Innovation Teams they put forward along with all required documentation by **31 August 2020⁴**. 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 Innovators Award nominee teams will be invited to deliver a pitch (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 nominee teams in their preparation for the event. The EIT will organise pitch/presentation training for the EIT Innovators Award Nominee Teams 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 Innovators Award. The jury will evaluate the nominated teams 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 Innovators 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 receive information about the next steps.

⁴ 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"⁵;
- a duly filled in and signed "Financial identification form"⁶ 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, the nominated teams 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 prizes, 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 name of the members of the nominee teams 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).

⁵ The Legal Entity Form which must be filled in and signed should be accompanied by (in case of private company/public law body) a copy of official document(s) (official gazette, company/public law body register etc.) showing the name of the legal entity, the address of the head office, and the registration number given to it by the national authorities. In case the official document mentioned does not contain information on your VAT number, a copy of the VAT registration document (if applicable).

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

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/financial-identification_en

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.

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 Programme⁷ regarding the dissemination of results.

Unless the EIT requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any communication activity related to the innovation (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 Innovators Award Winner 2020. This innovation has been awarded the EIT Innovators Award from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union”

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

“EIT Innovators Award Finalist 2020. This innovation has been recognised by 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.

⁷ 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 prize 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 2018/1725⁸ 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. the GDPR⁹).

⁸ 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

⁹ 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 Niedergrünewald

L-2925 Luxembourg

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

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

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