EIT RawMaterials
Call for Proposals in Education

Digital Transformation Learning Portfolio

Amended Call Guidelines
December 2024

DISCLAIMER

These Guidelines might be subject to further development and modifications, depending on instructions received by EIT RawMaterials from EU bodies and/or further knowledge gained from the Call after the date hereof. Applicants are encouraged to regularly check the Call pages of the EIT RawMaterials website[1] for the latest version of the guidelines. EIT RM reserves the right to cancel the call without any award of Funding

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[1] Link: EIT RM Opportunities

Contents

I. Call Overview

1.1 About the Call

This document describes the process for preparation, submission, evaluation and selection of Proposals ("Proposals") in response to this Call for Proposals in Education – Digital Transformation Learning Portfolio – ("Call"; the project to be implemented under this Call and thereafter also the "Project") launched by EIT RawMaterials GmbH ("EIT RM" or "EIT RawMaterials").

Please, read and follow the below Guidelines carefully.

The Call is directed at consortia from the public and/or private sector (each a "Consortium" or "Proposer") as further set out below. **The Final Proposals must be submitted by Friday 24th January 2025, 13.00 hrs (date of receipt by EIT RM; "Call Deadline").**

Before submitting a Proposal you are required to register your intention to do so and register with the EIT RM under the SeedBook portal[2].

In case of doubt you are encouraged to contact the EIT RawMaterials Education Team before submitting the Proposal (see contact data below). The Education Team can offer further information. Any information given to one Proposer – whether actual or potential – will be made publicly available at the EIT RM web-site[3].

The Call comprises the following documents which Proposers should read carefully:
- The present Call Guidelines [B]
- EIT RawMaterials communication and dissemination guidance[4] [B]
- EIT RawMaterials Project Management guidance[5] [B]
- EIT RawMaterials General Conditions of Sub-Granting[6];
- The Strategic Agenda 2021-27 of EIT RawMaterials[7] [I]
- FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) that will be posted in the online Proposal submission platform "SeedBook", also containing explanations of the terminology used in these Guidelines;

Proposers should check the EIT RM website regularly to ensure that they are fully informed and updated on important matters such as eligibility and evaluation criteria, advice on the compilation of the Proposal, costs and cost allocation. [I]

It is important to note that the documents listed above will be referred to in the Project Agreement, i.e. the agreement to be signed on the Project between the Consortium and EIT RM, and be either binding on the parties to the Project Agreement or used for interpretation of the parties' obligations defined in the Project Agreement. Documents are

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[2] *Link: SeedBook Portal for Proposal Submission*
[3] *Link: EIT RawMaterials Website*
[4] *Link: Communication and Dissemination Guidance*

[5] *Link: Project Management Guidance*
[6] *Link: General Conditions of Sub-Granting*
[7] *Link: EIT RM Strategic Agenda*

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marked above with a letter in brackets after the name of the document between binding (B) and for interpretation (I).

Definitions and acronyms are in Annex II to this Call.

1.2 Objectives of the Call

EIT RawMaterials seeks a consortium of knowledge triangle representatives to support the development of the *Digital Transformation in Raw Materials Learning Portfolio.*
Digital transformation presents huge opportunities for growth and sustainability in the raw materials sector, making it important for students and professionals working in the industry to be well-versed in this topic. Data serves as the fundamental connector and enabler from smart mining to a truly circular economy. Advanced models and optimised processes based on smart algorithms, connectivity and autonomous designs are the future of the raw materials sector and one of the cornerstones of Europe's new Industrial Strategy. Furthermore, technologies such as 3D printing and smart materials offer new and exciting solutions for technical problems and provide new pathways toward a circular product lifetime from the early design stage.[1]

The table below expounds on the different categories of digital transformation relevant to the sector.

The six main pillars of the digital transformation in the raw materials sector to support the new Industrial Strategy for Europe (Table 1)

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning	Virtual and Augmented Reality	Automation and Autonomous Design	IOT and Digital Infrastructure	Data Security & Societal Impact	Digital Natives
(i) Advanced and more reliable exploration models	(i) Provision of safe and comprehensive training environments	(i) Robotics in exploration, mining and processing	(i) 5G	(i) Secure and reliable data	(i) Education – from schools and universities to wider society learning and lifelong learning
(ii) Optimised processes based on big data analysis and deep learning strategies (smart algorithms, Digital Twins, etc.)	(ii) Display and analysis of advanced exploration models	(ii) Enhanced safety	(ii) Reliable server infrastructure and software solutions	(ii) Impact of the digital transformation on society	(ii) Fostering of young talents
(iii) Enhanced safety and predictive solutions for monitoring and maintenance	(iii) Visualisation and optimisation of processes along the entire value chain to increase resource efficiency	(iii) Optimised efficiency and productivity	(iii) Cloud-based solutions and edge computing	(iii) Human-Technology interfaces	(iii) Knowledge creation and dissemination
(iv) Integration of single elements of the value chain into a truly circular model	(iv) Education 4.0	(iv) Unmanned Aerial-Ground-Underwater Vehicles	(iv) Unlocking of business2business and customer relations		
		(v) Reduced operational costs	(v) Blockchain		
			(vi) Certification - Trustworthy, secure and seamless tracking of raw materials from source to product		

The importance of digital transformation in the raw materials value chain gives rise to the necessity of the workforce to be highly skilled in this area. The Academy therefore aims to build its capacity to provide this needed upskilling through a portfolio of revenue-generating training programmes. This portfolio can consist of, but not be limited to:

1. A Digital Transformation in Raw Materials introductory course
2. Advanced courses on specific topics in the same
3. Incorporation of digital transformation topics, modules, and teaching tools in the Academy's existing programmes:
   a. Primary and secondary programmes – wider society learning
   b. Master degree programmes

c. PhD schools
4. Micro-Credentials and lifelong learning programmes

Therefore, the EIT RawMaterials is looking for a Consortium to design and develop the Digital Transformation Learning Portfolio. The portfolio should be designed to provide training services for company leaders, employees, specialist, entrepreneurs, regional and national governments, researchers, and educators on best practices for technological transformation and innovation in Raw Materials-related industries.

1.3 Financial Sustainability

The obligation for EIT RawMaterials to become financially sustainable is a unique feature of the European Union KIC model (Knowledge and Innovation Community; "KIC") that aims at being a business and result oriented innovation instrument. To this end, EIT RawMaterials is required and obligated by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology ("EIT") to more and more develop and implement, together with its partners and as a result of projects supported) revenue-creating strategies in order to maintain its innovation ecosystem and the knowledge triangle activities beyond the period in which the EIT provides financial support through grant agreements (current grant agreement in place between the EIT and EIT RawMaterials for the period 2023-2025 EIT; "GA2023-2025 EIT RM")[8] as per the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement <"MGA"> provided by the European

Commission/EIT[9]. In particular, EIT RawMaterials needs to ensure that successful innovation activities create a return to EIT RawMaterials and that all activities are designed to become sustainable over time and within the duration of the EIT support for the KIC EIT RawMaterials. This relates to all activities of EIT RawMaterials including education.

As part of its partnership model, EIT RawMaterials continues to offer both existing and new partners a highly attractive funding scheme under the GA2023-2025 EIT RM, fully in line with the EIT's increasing expectations on financial sustainability. It addresses resource efficiency at the partners' and EIT RawMaterials' organisation side whilst maintaining the topical focus in accordance with the set targets of the Strategic Agenda 2021-2027.

This Call for Proposals in Education – Digital Transformation Learning Portfolio – aims to expand EIT RawMaterials Academy's existing portfolio of Lifelong Learning courses to provide leading educational content on some of the most relevant topics in the Raw Materials sector related to technology. The portfolio will help address a major demand in the industry for such content, and will be sold to participants to help achieve the KIC's financial sustainability goals.

1.4 Call Target Audience

The Consortia participating in the Call must have representation from at least two of the EIT Knowledge Triangle pillars (1. Academia, 2.

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[8] EIT reference: Project: 101113034 — EIT RM BP23-25 — HORIZON-EIT-2023-2025-KIC

[9] Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement ("**MGA**") provided by the European Commission/EIT, available at general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf (europa.eu).

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Research, 3. Industry) and should be active in at least three countries being part of or associated to the Horizon Europe Program of the EU and/or RIS countries 10. Please note that the Project when implemented (Phase 2) should be accessible to participants from all countries being part of or associated to the Horizon Europe Program of the EU and/or RIS countries. Consortium members should have a broad background and experience in the development of training or L&D courses/content as well as access to subject matter expertise on digitization and technological transformation best practices as they relate to raw materials-related industries.

Any change in the Consortium members after the Project selection must not entail changes to the total budget allocated to the Project, and need to be approved by EIT RawMaterials in its discretion.

1.5 Fundamentals of the Project

The Project, when implemented, aims to provide learning and development courses for company leaders, employees, specialists, entrepreneurs, regional and national governments, researchers, and educators on topics related to digital and technological solutions to relevant challenges in the raw materials industry.

The Project will be implemented in two (2) Phases:

Phase 1: Ideation, development of the Course/Module contents including the teaching materials and proof of concept.

Duration: 12 months

Phase 2: Implementation of the Project

Duration: As part of the EIT RM RawMaterials Academy. Depending on several factors but conceptionally for an indefinite period of time. Phase 2 will not be a part of this call for proposals.

This Call is for Phase 1 only. Phase 2 will depend on several factors including the results of Phase 1 and availability of Funding from the EIT beyond 2025, and may be the subject of a separate Call. The Proposals must ensure that EIT RM may use the results of Phase 1 without any restriction. Nevertheless, Proposers are encouraged to outline, in the Proposal, their ideas for the implementation phase and their further involvement therein. Creators of teaching materials will be expressly named and identified in any use of the Project results by EIT RM.

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[10] *Link: List of RIS Countries*

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II. Further Details of the EIT RawMaterials Digital Transformation Portfolio

2.1 Course Content Requirements

Digital Transformation in Raw Materials Introductory Course

This short introductory course gives an overview of the 6 pillars of digital transformation changing the raw materials landscape. The course targets especially professionals in non-technical work or with non-technical background working in raw materials or raw materials-related companies.

The Course moreover:
- gathers top experts and speakers from the knowledge triangle: universities, research organisations, and companies, ensuring the Course offers the best in academic rigor, cutting-edge knowledge, and real-world applicability
- uses interactive and the best in digital methodologies and tools to produce an engaging and effective learning experience
- is practical, hands-on, and real-world based with plenty of applications, examples, and case studies (example: students can work on real cases of companies for the companies)
- includes a workshop for direct application to their workplace (example: making digital transformation plans for their companies)
- is a hub for networking and exchange among experts and participants

Advanced courses on specific topics in digital transformation in raw materials

This is a series of courses that deep dive into more specific topics in, and uses of, digital transformation. This series targets especially technical professionals working in raw materials or raw materials-related companies.

Some examples of advanced courses could be:
- Blockchain technology for supply chain due diligence and transparency
- AI, machine and deep learning in mineral exploration
- Autonomous design and robotics in mining
- IoT, cloud computing and advanced sensor technology in open pit mines and tailings dam monitoring
- Digital twins in mineral processing and recycling

These courses would also:
- provide micro-credentials or certification for skills achieved
- bring together top experts and speakers from the knowledge triangle

- use interactive and the best in digital methodologies and tools for a more engaging learning experience
- be practical, hands-on, and real-world based with plenty of applications, examples, and case studies
- include a workshop for direct application to their workplace (example: making digital transformation plans for their companies)
- be a hub for networking and exchange among experts and participants

Incorporation of digital transformation topics in existing courses

On-going projects run by the Academy such as primary and secondary programmes/wider society learning, Master degree programmes, PhD schools, and Lifelong learning programmes are to include DT topics as appropriate, as well as use DT tools such as Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality to enhance learner experience.

2.2 Deliverable Requirements – Phase 1

Commercial Targets by End of Phase 1

Within the 12-month period of Phase 1, the Consortium will be responsible for the full development of all learning content/blueprints for the learning portfolio courses **AND** must deliver pilot of the Program as "proof of concept" by meeting both of the following requirements by the end of the Phase 1 funding period:

1. Revenues of at least €10.000,00
2. At least 150 users/course participants

Intellectual Property and other Rights

All intellectual property and other rights in all materials developed during Phase 1 including all learning content/blueprints, organisational details and the pilot of the Program (collectively "Phase 1 Results") must be transferred in full and at full title to EIT RM. EIT RM plans to use the Phase 1 Results as part of its RawMaterials Academy but shall be free to use, exploit, alter or dispose of the Phase 1 Results in its sole discretion.

In the event Proposers wish to exploit the Phase 1 Results by themselves, this should be clearly indicated and specified in the Proposal. EIT RM may consider certain exploitation rights for Proposers; the need of the transfer of full title to EIT RM shall not be affected thereby.

Visibility of Consortium/Creators

Without prejudice to the preceding provisions on Intellectual Property and other Rights, the winning Proposal will benefit from visibility for the consortium and its members, and will be named as content creators within the EIT RawMaterials Academy, on the course content itself, or other use of the Phase 1 Results by EIT RM as agreed.

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2.3 Work required

The Consortium shall design and develop the following (without limitation)

- Manage the overall project coordination including project schedule, budgets, and resources
- Fine-tune the strategy and overall plan for the entire portfolio
- Develop all course content, methodology, and design
- Selection and coordination of speakers / subject matter experts
- DT learning tools selection, acquisition, and implementation
- Manage the production process and oversee the post-production activities
- Joint responsibility with EIT RawMaterials for promotional activities including marketing strategies, and promotional materials to ensure the success of the courses
- Determine the appropriate fee for participants to take courses, considering all costs and market research (benchmarks) for similar courses at other institutions

III. Funding

3.1 Amount of Funding for Winning Proposal

The maximum amount of funding ("Funding") provided by EIT RM in a capacity of Financial Support to Third Parties (Sub-Granting) from the funds made available to EIT RM by the EIT under the GA2023-2025 EIT RM, shall be as follows:

- up to EUR 1,500,000.00 for the Consortium,
- subject to the maximum amounts of Funding per individual Consortium member depending on the EIT RM Partner type as set out in Annex I hereto; Consortium members may qualify for higher amounts by changing their Partner status;
- Consortium members established in third countries not associated to Horizon Europe ("HE"), with the exception of RIS countries, may receive a maximum amount of EUR 60,000.00 only.

3.2 Funding on Costs accrued basis

Please note that all Funding will be provided **on a "actual costs accrued" basis** as further set out below.

3.3 Disbursement of Funding

The Funding will be disbursed to the selected Consortium in two tranches by bank transfer after conclusion of the Project Agreement:

Tranche 1: Pre-financing: 75% of the total Funding approved within 2 months of the date of signature of the Project Agreement and related documentation, if any.

Tranche 2: Up to 25% balance on approval of the final report

including proof of costs on costs incurred.

3.4 Eligibility of Costs Incurred

All costs reported by the Consortium for Funding must be allocated to the Project and meet the cost eligibility criteria as set out in the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement[11]. Further details may be agreed in the Project Agreement.

Please note that the cost eligibility criteria apply to the Funding disbursed as pre-financing as well. Amounts received under Tranche 1 may have to be reimbursed to EIT RM if not substantiated by sufficient proof of eligible costs as part of the Final Report.

Specific tasks may be attributed to subcontractors, as long as the necessity is clearly justified and follows the general Horizon Europe principles (see Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement for more information). Please note that only a limited part (in budget and scope) of a Project may be subcontracted; depending on the scope of the work to be provided, it may be necessary for the entity to become a EIT RawMaterials e.V. partner.

3.5 Co-Funding

There is no formal requirement of co-funding by the Consortium. However, Consortia are invited to submit their proposal for co-funding, if any.

IV.   Further Proposal Requirements

4.1 Consortium Member Experience and Expertise

Proposers are asked to detail:
- experience developing similar learning portfolio projects and the corresponding results
- level of subject matter expertise in digital transformation topics pertaining to raw materials-related industries
- what makes the consortium unique and the best partner to EIT RM for this Project

4.2 Market research

The final Proposals should include an assessment of the Project's intended audience/clients as well as competing products in the

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[11] *see Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement for more information*

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marketplace. Please also detail the measures to explore and validate the assessment during the Project Phase 1.

4.3 Project overall plan & strategy

Proposers are invited to present their vision, strategy, and plan for the DT Portfolio, including the rationale for each element or module of the Project proposed.

4.4 Project management

The Proposal should also contain a detailed set of deliverables, a timeline, and milestones with the corresponding resources as envisaged by the Consortium both in Phase 1 and Phase 2.

4.5 Entrepreneurial Education

The proposal should include an element of entrepreneurship education and address the role of digitization / technological transformation in the launching of new businesses in the Raw Materials sector. What are the specific topics, tools, and technologies that are critical for entrepreneurs in the Raw Materials industry to be familiar with? Please also outline exactly how the project will plan to support entrepreneurs and startups, and attract them as a target audience.

4.6 Marketing and communications

Proposers are to detail a marketing and communications plan to maximise the Project reach and enrol as many participants as possible.

4.7 Learning Content Results and EIT Label

Any training/learning content or courses developed for the proposed Project may be eligible to apply for the EIT Short Course Label. EIT RawMaterials holds the authority by the EIT to grant the EIT Label to education and training courses that are strategically oriented towards and address critical issues in the field of raw materials, and which meet the quality assurance threshold. This labelling will be applied for after the development of course content/material in Phase 2 of the project (not required for this Call).

4.8 Quality Assurance

Proposals should include the development of a robust framework for the Quality Assurance of the courses/programs including a pilot of this assessment framework during the proof of concept implementation of course materials in Phase 1. Please include a description as to how participant feedback will be collected and included in the process for program review/improvement.

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4.9 Project/Course design and Blueprinting

The Proposal should include for each of the stand-alone courses and the modules to be incorporated:

- Content outline
- Learning outcomes
- Target audience description
- Sources of speakers/facilitators
- Methodologies to be used
- Digital tools to be used
- Suggested format and duration
- Credential / Certification for course completion
- Evaluation methodologies

4.10 ESG Criteria

Proposals should outline how the Courses and other Project content, when implemented, comply with standard ESG criteria including gender mainstreaming.

4.11 Key performance indicators (KPIs)

Proposers are invited to submit a time-line and the key performance indicators they consider their Project should be gauged against. KPIs must include the Milestones referred to under section 2.3, Commercial Targets for Phase 2 above.

4.12 EIT RM Centralized Admission Platform

The Proposal must consider that participants in the Courses of the Project need to apply via the EIT RM Centralized Admission Platform ("CAP"), including for enrollment/registration pertaining to the "Proof of Concept" implementation during Phase 1 of this project. EIT RawMaterials will provide direct support in the use of this admissions platform.

V. Reporting

The selected Project will be tracked and required to report both their Project progress and the Funding spent ("Reporting"). The Reporting shall include at least a quarterly report and a final report. The Consortium shall allow onsite visits on short notice to control effective implementation of tangible milestones, and allow and support any checks, reviews, audits and investigations by EIT RawMaterials, the EIT, and/or any other competent EU body including the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Court of Auditors deemed necessary by the foregoing in their reasonable discretion to satisfy themselves of the proper use of the Funding. Further details will be set out in the Project Agreement.

Non-compliance with Milestones, or lack of Reporting, may result in various sanctions which can go up to Funding suspension or freezing, or the Consortium's obligation to repay the Funding.

VI. Confidentiality, data protection and ethical considerations

Access to the Proposals will be given to EIT RawMaterials Management Team and to the evaluation panel conducting the evaluations. Everyone with access to the Proposal texts will have signed a non-disclosure and confidentiality agreement before access is granted.

The title, scope, summary, name of partners in the Consortium, name of Project Coordinator and overall budget of the Project approved for Funding will be shared with the EIT and within the EIT RawMaterials community, and therefore will be made publicly available (e.g. on the EIT RawMaterials website, in presentations at conferences etc.). Public dissemination of the Project's main results and outcomes is a mandatory condition for Funding.

All data and information related to the Proposal and its evaluation will be handled and stored in the 'SeedBook' platform according to EIT RawMaterials' customary procedures. The EIT RawMaterials Code of Conduct will be followed throughout the evaluation process. External evaluators will receive specific instructions on the evaluation process, and access to the Proposals will be granted to each evaluator only after the upload of her/his 'Evaluator Agreement' with provisions on confidentiality, conflicts of interest and code of conduct.

VII. Proposal Submission, Evaluation and Selection

7.1 Proposal Preparation and Proposer Registration

The EIT RawMaterials Education Team will provide further information and guidance, upon request, in order to advise and support the Consortium with their Project Proposals to ensure they are in line with the evaluation and eligibility criteria

It is a recommendation to contact the Education Team before submitting the Proposal using the SeedBook platform.

Any information given to one Proposer – whether actual or potential – will be made publicly available at the EIT RM web-site.

The **EIT RM registration form** will become available through SeedBook by end of October 2024. Following registration, the Proposal will be assigned to an EIT RM Project Officer who will be the primary point of contact with the Consortium represented by its Project Coordinator throughout the submission process. Note that all Consortia must have one Lead partner who appoints the individual acting as the Project Coordinator and that Project Coordinators will be able to access the online Proposal submission template only after their Project has been registered and assigned to a Project Officer.

7.2 Proposal submission

The Proposal submission will take place in one stage, with a FINAL Proposal.

Project Coordinators must submit, on behalf of the Consortium, the FINAL Proposal no later than Friday 24ᵗʰ January 2025 at 13.00 CET (Berlin time) using the SeedBook online platform.

7.3 Proposal evaluation and selection process overview

The **FINAL Proposals** will be evaluated according to two sets of criteria:

Eligibility criteria - mandatory requirements such as the Consortium composition, the Commercial Targets as per section 2.3 and other criteria as set out herein.

- The eligibility criteria will be assessed by EIT RM staff not involved in any advice to a Proposer and be submitted to the external evaluators referred to under the Evaluation criteria.

- Proposals that do not meet such eligibility criteria will not be considered for further evaluation, as described below.

Evaluation criteria - quality criteria against which the Proposals will be scored and ranked by external evaluators ("Evaluators"), according to the evaluation grid presented below.

7.4 Eligibility criteria:

Consortium Eligibility

Who can apply?
Requirements for applying Consortia:

1. Members must come from at least 3 different countries EU/HE associated/RIS
2. Members must come from at least two pillars of the Knowledge Triangle
3. Members must not be on a UN/EU sanctions list or incompatible with the EU Anti-Money Laundering Directive[12] as amended
4. Consortia must assign one Lead partner and a Project Coordinator representing the Consortium.

Proposal Eligibility

Eligibility will be checked at the time of Proposal submission and at the time of signing the Project Agreement, and apply throughout the Project's Funding period. In line with Horizon Europe rules, Proposals that do not meet all the eligibility criteria at the time of **FINAL Proposal** submission will be deemed ineligible and will not be evaluated. Proposals that do not meet all the eligibility criteria at the time of the signing of the Project Agreement will be deemed ineligible and will not be funded. After the signing of the Project Agreement, any significant changes that impact on eligibility criteria will require the express consent by EIT RawMaterials or else may result in the termination of the

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[12] *Directive - EU - 2024/1640 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)*

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Project if these are not met. The following criteria apply to Education Proposals:

- The Proposal must clearly explain

    o   the composition of the Consortium;

    o   the overall budget;

    o   the allocation of tasks and budgets (Funding) to the Consortium members;

    o   a work-plan for the achievement of the Project including intermediate Milestones (stage 1);

    o   how the Consortium intends to make sure the EIT RM DT Portfolio is potentially accessible to participants in the Courses (and clients for advisory services) from countries EU/HE associated/RIS (all countries clearly preferred)

- The Lead partner, i.e. the Consortium member leading the Consortium and appointing the Project Coordinator, must be a Core or Associate Partner (or Linked Third Party to a Core or Associate Partner) of EIT RawMaterials e.V. by the time the Project starts. Non-partners of EIT RawMaterials are still encouraged to submit proposals, but may need to become KIC partners by time of financing. This condition can be discussed during Project Agreement negotiations.

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7.5 Evaluation criteria:

Each application will be scored on the criteria listed in the following table, and the scoring in relation to each criterion will be based on the guidelines shown:

Weight	Description of criteria (bullet points refer to examples but these are not exhaustive, and not all the points must be addressed in each Project)
15%	1. **Project Excellence and Quality of the Consortium** • Relevant experience, expertise and resources, and demonstrated commitment of each of the partners • Demonstrated excellence in the development and implementation of learning and development courses/modules for adults • Leading subject matter expertise on the topic of digital transformation, especially related to the Raw Materials topics • Appropriate level of cooperation and interaction within the consortium • Active involvement of industrial and/or start-up/SME partners in the learning development, with a clear definition and description of their role and responsibility within the Project
15%	2. **Impact: Industry Value and Project Scope** • Innovation capacity compared with current practice • Demonstrates comprehensive market research to understand needs of target audience, and plan for how these needs will be met • Ambitiousness of project scope, including number of courses to develop within funding period and pedagogical techniques employed • Potential to deliver tangible results and usable, high-quality content • Demonstrated commitment to technological innovation and expertise within Raw Materials-related industries • Consideration of Project's added value in terms of entrepreneurship and innovation • Defining of challenges related to digitization in Europe and clear explanation of how Project will deliver robust solutions
30%	3. **Project Management and Reporting** • Detailed step-by-step Project work plan, broken down into Analysis, Design, Development, Implementation and Evaluation (ADDIE) • Details of how the funds are to be used in the form of a clear budget plan and timeline with justification for each line item • Project management plan including detailed set of deliverables, timelines, and milestones throughout funding period • Identification of key risks and success factors supplemented with a mitigation strategy to overcome those risks • Reporting of all required figures, including financials, KPIs, milestones, and deliverables, as required by EIT RM Reporting policy

25%	4. Implementation
	• Outline of portfolio that will be developed, including overview of all topic areas with justification
	• Design overview for courses that will be developed for the project including content outline, learning outcomes, target audience description, details/sources of speakers or facilitators, methodologies used, course format and duration, etc.
	• Methodology for evaluating the success of content and quality assurance measures
	• Proposed implementation plan to achieve "Proof of Concept" with €10k revenues and 150 users/course participants
10%	5. Financial Sustainability
	• Competitive advantage over existing offers in the European marketplace, including an overview of the existing offers and price-benchmarking against existing competitors
	• Well-defined financial deliverables: budget and cost breakdown, a pricing model, revenue projections, and an overall financial analysis to prove project feasibility are requested
5%	6. Marketing and Communications
	• Proposers are to detail their marketing strategy to maximize portfolio reach and enrol as many participants as possible
	• Please detail any communications tools and/or platforms that will be used

7.6 Evaluation scale:

In relation to each of the criteria above, each Project will be scored from 0 to 5 according to the following scale:

0	**Non-existent:** no relevant information provided in the application file or cannot be judged because out of range
1	**Very poor:** The criterion is addressed in a very incomplete and unsatisfactory manner
2	**Poor:** There are serious inherent weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question
3	**Fair:** While the Proposal addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses that would need correction
4	**Strong:** The Proposal addresses the criterion well, although some improvements are possible
5	**Excellent:** The Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor only

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7.7 Evaluators/Evaluation Panel

The quality of Proposals will be evaluated by a panel of external expert Evaluators ("Evaluation Panel") appointed by the EIT RawMaterials Management Team. EIT RawMaterials will strive to achieve balance in the evaluators' gender and geographic provenance.

- All members of the Evaluation Panel will sign a non-disclosure and conflict of interest agreements.

- A minimum of three expert Evaluators will be assigned to the evaluation of each Proposal.

- In the first step, these assigned expert Evaluators evaluate each Proposal remotely using the criteria set out in the Evaluation criteria grid below.

- A final evaluation of all Proposals is conducted by the entire Evaluation Panel (with the exclusion of any member with a conflict of interest). The strengths and weaknesses of each Proposal as perceived by the Evaluation Panel will be documented and communicated to the Project Coordinator once the evaluation process is completed.

- EIT Raw materials staff and management will act as the secretaries of the Evaluation Panel and facilitate the discussion during Evaluation Panel meetings but will otherwise not take part in the evaluation process.

The final selection of the winning Proposal as resulting from the Evaluation Panel will be confirmed by the EIT RawMaterials Managing Board. However, the EIT RawMaterials Managing Board will not have the capacity to overrule the Evaluation Panel assessment. In case of any discrepancy, the Evaluation Panel and the EIT RawMaterials Managing Board shall align jointly on the final selection of the winning Proposal.

The Project Coordinator of the Project that is selected for Funding will be informed after approval by the EIT RM Management Board/the Evaluation Panel and also receive feedback from the Evaluation Panel. The feedback may include a list of requested changes that must be made by the Project Coordinator before the Project can be given the final approval.

Also following approval by the EIT RM Management Board/the Evaluation Panel, Project Coordinators of Proposals that were not selected for Funding will be informed.

7.8 Fair Competition

Selection of successful Proposal is built on:
1. Fair competition
2. Openness and transparency
3. Integrity of external evaluation
4. Open 2-month window for proposal submission

To ensure fairness and transparency during all stages of the Proposal (registration, support, and submission), we are happy to provide Proposal support to Proposers, but only to the extent that fair competition is not distorted. Therefore:

- Support will be limited to the factual basis of the Call

- Information given to any one Proposer will be shared publicly via webinars, FAQs, on the EIT RM website, or other public forums as necessary
- Individuals involved in providing Proposal support will be excluded from the process of Proposal evaluation/selection to the extent that this is possible.

general rules and principles governing the HORIZON EUROPE Program, such as ethical principles, anti-fraud, non-corruption, diversity and gender mainstreaming, non-discrimination, sound financial management and avoidance of conflicts of interest, shall apply.

7.9 HORIZON EUROPE Principles to apply

The Funding will be provided from funds made available by the European Union under its HORIZON EUROPE Program. As a result, the

VIII. Call timeline and Submission Tool:

8.1 Timeline

Monday 7th October 2024	Launch of Call and SeedBook platform goes online
Friday 24th January 2025 at 13.00 CET	FINAL Proposal SUBMISSION deadline
Monday 27th January to Friday 14th February 2025	Evaluation by panel of external experts
Monday 17th February 2025	Response to changes requested by the Selection Panel ('Change requests')
Monday 24th February 2025	Earliest starting date for approved Projects (to be confirmed)

8.2 Registration and Proposal submission using SeedBook

Registrations and Proposals can **only** be submitted using the IT tool SeedBook. Project Coordinators are invited to register via this link

https://seedbook.eitrawmaterials.eu from October 2024 to get the access to the tool, register their Proposal and commence the Proposal submission process.

IX. Legal Conditions

Processing of personal data

Any personal data will be processed by EIT RawMaterials in accordance with the EIT RawMaterials privacy policy[13].

The selected Consortium consents that EIT RawMaterials publishes, in whatever form or medium, the following information:

- Name(s) of Consortium members,
- Their activities in relation to the award of the Funding (Consortium may submit a summary for publication)
- Funding amount

The Proposers must process personal data in compliance with applicable EU and national law on data protection (including authorisations or notification requirements, if any); see the GDPR guidelines[14].

Ethics

The Consortium and Consortium member activities must be carried out in compliance with:

a. ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity, if involving research), and
b. applicable international, EU and national law

No funding will be awarded for activities carried out outside the EU, if they are prohibited in all member countries. Proposers must ensure that the activities have an exclusive focus on civil applications.

Security

The activities must be carried out in compliance with Commission Decision 2015/444, i.e. security-sensitive in- formation must be EU-classified, if its unauthorized disclosure could adversely impact the interests of the EU or of one (or more) of its member countries. Proposals that are too security-sensitive cannot be awarded Funding.

Conflict of Interest

The selected Consortium and Consortium members must avoid any conflict of interest and comply with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and sound financial management.
The participants must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective award of the Funding is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interest').
They must inform EIT RawMaterials without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interest, and immediately take all necessary steps to rectify this situation.
EIT RawMaterials may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

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[13] https://eitrawmaterials.eu/privacy-policy/

[14] https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/data-protection_en

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Liability for damages

EIT RawMaterials cannot be held liable for any damages caused to the participants or to third parties as a consequence of the Funding, including for gross negligence.

EIT RawMaterials cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the Consortia or Consortia members in the context of the Call and/or the Funding received.

To the maximum extent permitted by law, under no circumstances and under no legal theory whether in tort (including negligence) contract or otherwise shall EIT RawMaterials be liable for any special indirect, punitive, incidental or consequential damages, including loss of profit.

Withdrawal of the Funding – Recovery of the undue amounts

EIT RawMaterials may withdraw the Funding after its award and recover all payments made, if it discovers that:

a. false information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain it, or

b. the selected Consortium was not eligible or should have been excluded, or

c. the selected Consortium is in serious breach of its obligations under the Project Agreement to be signed.

Administrative sanctions

If a Consortium or Consortium member has committed irregularities or fraud or has made false declarations, EIT RawMaterials may also:

a. exclude the Consortium or Consortium member from all future contracts, grants and contests financed from the EU or Euratom budget for a maximum of five years (or ten years in case of repetition), and/or

b. impose a financial penalty of between 2% and 10% of the value of the Funding (or between 4% and 20% in case of repetition).

Cancellation of the Call

EIT RawMaterials may cancel the Call or decide not to award the Funding, without any obligation to compensate Proposers, including if:

a. no Proposals are received

b. the Evaluation Panel does not find a winner

c. the winner (selected Consortium) does not provide the solution which cover the EIT RawMaterials expectations to the DT Portfolio design and potential implementation;

d. the selected Consortium is not eligible or must be excluded

e. the objective of the Call has already been achieved.

EIT RM General Conditions of Financial Support to Third Parties Sub-Granting)

By submitting their Proposal, Proposers agree to the EIT RM General Conditions of Financial Support to Third Parties Sub-Granting)[15] which shall be deemed incorporated by reference in and apply to the Project Agreement to be signed. EIT RawMaterials reserves the right to make reasonable amendments to these Terms and Conditions. Amendments and additions to these Terms and Conditions shall be valid if communicated in writing on the EIT RawMaterials website or otherwise made available to the Proposers.

Applicable law and venue

This Call and the Project Agreement are governed by the laws of Germany. The venue for any court proceedings shall be the courts of Berlin, Germany. The Appeal and redress procedure set out below shall prevail.

Appeal and redress procedure

Upon reception of the feedback, the Proposers not selected 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, or if the results of the eligibility checks are incorrect. The redress procedure is not meant to call into question the judgement made by the expert-Evaluators and/or the EIT RM management. It will consider only procedural shortcomings and factual errors.

Requests for redress should be raised within one month of the reception of the evaluation feedback sent by EIT RawMaterials, and should be sent to compliance@eitrawmaterials.eu. Requests must:

- be related to the evaluation process, or eligibility checks;
- 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 is expected to be provided. A redress committee of EIT RawMaterials may be convened to examine the evaluation process for the case under consideration. The committee's role is to ensure a coherent interpretation of Proposals, and equal treatment of Proposers. The redress committee itself, however, does not re-evaluate the Proposal. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the committee may review the evaluation report, the individual comments and examine the CVs of the evaluation experts. Following its review, the committee will recommend a course of action to the EIT RawMaterials Operational Management Team (OMT). If there is clear evidence of a shortcoming that could affect the Funding decision, it is possible that all or part of the Proposals may be re-evaluated. Unless there is clear evidence of a shortcoming there will be no follow-up or re-evaluation. The Executive Board of EIT RawMaterials will be informed of any redress procedures in due course.

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[15] *available at Microsoft Word - 6936353-EIT-RM-General-Terms-and-Conditions-of-Subgranting-as-at-19042023-cl (1).docx (eitrawmaterials.eu) or from EIT RawMaterials at the address indicated in the heading of this Agreement >*

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Please note:

- This procedure is concerned with the evaluation and/or eligibility checking process.
- The committee will not call into question the judgment of the individual expert-evaluators, whose qualifications have been already 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 anyhow failed on other criteria.
- The evaluation score following any re-evaluation, if any, will be regarded as definitive. It may be lower than the original score.
- Only one request for redress per Proposal will be considered by the committee.
- All requests for redress will be treated confidentially.

- EIT RawMaterials or the redress committee may order a standstill period for the Call, the selection or implementation procedure when expressly requested by the complainant or resolved by EIT RawMaterials or the redress committee in its sole discretion. Please, note that in the interest of the Project implementation and the efficiency of the HORIZON EUROPE Program, a standstill period will only be considered where there is clear evidence of the selection decision being wrong in the terms set out above.

- The above Appeal and redress procedure is final and binding on all parties involved and operating to the exclusion of the ordinary courts.

X. Annexes

Annex I: Partner Categories At-a-Glance

	Core Partner	Associate Partner	Project Partner	Task Partner (for RIS)
KIC (e.V.) Member	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Governance • KIC Level	GA Attendance, right of speech, ask questions	GA Attendance, right of speech, ask questions	GA Attendance, right of speech, ask questions	No
	Full vote in GA	One delegate per CLC in GA	One of their number for all Project Partners in case of AoA amendm./ modific.	No
• CLC Level	In CLC Steering Committee	In CLC Steering Committee	Part of a respective regional CLC (CLC internal rules to apply)	No
Number of annual activities / Leading a KAVA	Unlimited / Yes	Unlimited / Yes	Unlimited / No	Dedicated events and activities / No
Annual KIC funding ceiling*	Unlimited	EUR 300.000	EUR 100.000 (as in proposal)	60K, selected via open call
Annual Cash contribution	EUR 100.000 as membership fee	EUR 30.000 as membership fee	EUR 10.000 as membership fee	None
Horizon Europe treatment	Third Party	Third Party	Third Party	Third Party dependent on TP Patron

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Annex II: Definitions and Acronyms

Definitions:

KPI(s): Key performance indicators – quantifiable indicators of the key project results, used for reporting and controlling how successful the project is in producing the desired results.

Milestones: Significant scheduled events in the project lifecycle occurring upon achieving a key planned result.

Project: the future activity described in a Proposal. It comes into existence only once the Proposal is selected and becomes a Selected proposal.

Proposal: a written document describing a future project which a number of participants (the consortium) wish to implement after receiving funding by the KIC.

Proposal submission: the act of officially submitting a Proposal for evaluation by the KIC.

Selected proposal: a Proposal which is officially confirmed to be funded by the KIC.

Candidate: a legal entity (LE) working on or having completed a Proposal submission.

Project participant: a legal entity (LE) taking part in a Project; can be a former Candidate, or can enter the Project at a later stage; can be funded by KIC. Must become a KIC Partner in order to be eligible to receive EIT funding. Sub-contractors are not considered participants, and KIC Partners cannot be sub-contractors in a Project, they must be a participant.

Consortium: all Project participants together form the Consortium. A Project Agreement is not valid unless all Project participants – forming the Consortium have signed it.

Lead partner: a Project participant responsible to lead and coordinate the Consortium; the Lead partner appoints the Project coordinator.

Commercialising partner(s) - the Project participant(s) responsible for bringing the project results to the market. Depending on the situation, that might be one or more Candidates, a newly entered Project participant, or a newly created startup/joint venture.

Partner (or 'Partner organisation') means a legal entity which is a member of a KIC and may include, in particular, higher education institutions, vocational education and training providers, research organisations, public institutions, public or private companies, financial institutions, regional and local authorities, foundations and not-for-profit organisations.

Member: Legal Entity **(**LE) (ies) who have applied and been accepted as members of the e.V. KIC LE. Depending on the membership tier, their voting rights and funding thresholds vary.

Linked Third Party (LTP), also called an Affiliated Entity, is a legal entity which has a close relationship with a Member through shared ownership, control, or influence.
They are not a Member but can participate in a Project and then share the benefits and obligations of the Member they are linked to.

Project Coordinator: A person appointed by the Lead Partner, who acts on behalf of the Consortium and steers the project activities, has overall responsibility for the Project; is the first point of contact between EIT RawMaterials and the Consortium; is responsible for entering and updating data and information in SeedBook and BlueBook on behalf of the Consortium, for submitting the proposal in SeedBook and for coordinating the smooth transition into BlueBook (response to feedback, change requests, project reviews, etc.). The Project Coordinator is also responsible for 1) defining the mechanisms for the generation of the financial backflow to the KIC and 2) the clear identification of the total amount and the entity/ies that will provide this backflow.

Deputy: An employee of any Project Participant who has been appointed by the Project Coordinator to have extended access rights to the BlueBook tool (or other digital system replacing it) and who receives certain important communications from KIC LE on par with the PC. The PC is free to appoint or remove as many Deputies as they see fit and is fully responsible for the actions of the Deputies related to the project administration and management.

Controller: An employee of a Recipient who is responsible for compiling, submitting, resubmitting the Financial reports and Financial statements of their respective LE and is the main contact in case of an audit. Each Recipient can have many but must have at least one Controller, who is then appointed as a Head Controller. The Controller cannot simultaneously be fulfilling a PC or a Deputy role.

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Head Controller: The lead Controller of a Recipient who receives all relevant communications from KIC LE on behalf of all appointed Controllers and is responsible for coordinating the latter. Each Recipient must have exactly one Head Controller.

Project Officer: a person assigned by KIC LE to accompany the Consortium throughout the project implementation. The PO is the main contact person for the PC regarding all matters concerning the Project Agreements, reporting, and other implementation topics.

Inno/Sas: Technology experts: specialise in the technological content perspective of the projects. Accountable for evaluating the technological aspect of the proposal and project development with the use of the market as a benchmark.

'include', 'includes' and 'including': Whenever used in this Call, the words 'include', 'includes' and 'including' shall be deemed to be followed by the phrase 'without limitation'.

Acronyms:
-FSM: Financial sustainability mechanism.
-KIC: Knowledge and Innovation Community
-DT Portfolio: Digital Transformation Portfolio

Contact us

The Education Call 2024 – Digital Transformation Learning Portfolio – is organized by EIT RawMaterials GmbH for the EIT RawMaterials Academy. For more information, please refer to the website for FAQ or directly contact our team and talk to one of our key team members from Education.

EIT RawMaterials Academy | join-education@eitrawmaterials.eu
Call web page: https://eitrawmaterials.eu/category/opportunities/

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