

# **EIT Raw Materials**

## **2020 FAST-TRACK Call**

### **Instructions and process description**

May 2020

This document describes the process for preparation, submission, evaluation and selection of proposals in response to the 2020 Fast-Track call launched by EIT RawMaterials for the following KAVA segments:

- Education (PhD Education, Master Education, Lifelong Education, Wider Society Learning)
- Upscaling
- Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS)
- Internationalization

As a rule, the maximum amount of EIT funding allocated to each project will not exceed € 200,000. Project funding in excess of € 200,000 may be considered in exceptional circumstances. The total amount of funding to be distributed in this call depends on the amount of unspent 2020 funds declared by the Consortia by 12 June 2020. Any underspending declared by the Consortia after 12 June 2020 may be allocated to support other proposals in this call on a merit basis, however, the 31 December 2020 deadline for project completion will still apply. Therefore, to facilitate the re-distribution of the largest possible amount of unspent funds, Consortia are strongly encouraged to provide their best and most accurate estimate of their project's underspending (by making the necessary changes in BlueBook via 'change request') by 12 June 2020.

Any funds received through this call will be counted in the maximum yearly funding available to the different Partner categories.

In line with current EIT and EIT RawMaterials strategy, financial backflow to the KIC will be an important factor in the selection process.

## 1. Eligibility criteria

Eligibility to apply for this call is restricted to:

- a) ongoing KAVAs, i.e., projects that have been allocated EIT funding in 2020;
- b) KAVAs completed in 2019, i.e., projects that have been allocated EIT funding in 2019.

The following activities are eligible for support:

1. Increase in scope of the project (hereafter referred to 'XXX.PLUS' projects, where 'XXX' refers to the acronym of the existing project): activities that will lead to a demonstrated and quantifiable increased impact of the project (e.g., additional/higher KPIs, creation of a success story, etc.; see Appendix 1).
2. Speed-up the launch of a product to the market (hereafter referred to 'XXX.SPEED' projects, where 'XXX' refers to the acronym of the existing project): activities that will accelerate the launch of a product/service to the market (see Appendix 2). These activities are specifically aimed at recently finished or ongoing Upscaling and LLL projects with good performance (to be demonstrated by the consortium in the proposal), but in need of 1) additional funding to launch their products/services to the market, or 2) a commercialization partner.
3. Development of a Go-To-Market strategy (hereafter referred to 'XXX.GTM' projects, where 'XXX' refers to the acronym of the existing project). This activity applies only to projects that, at the time of selection, did not have a mandatory Go-To-Market work package and that, therefore, had not budgeted for this activity (see Appendix 3).
4. Applications to COVID-19 (hereafter referred to 'XXX.COVID' projects, where 'XXX' refers to the acronym of the existing project): activities that, within the context of the existing project, will lead to demonstrated, immediate and quantifiable positive outcomes in the fight against the current COVID-19 pandemic (see Appendix 4).

As a general rule, the same principles described in the KAVA 7 Calls apply, including provisions for financial backflow to the KIC. Note the following:

- i) The Lead partner must be the same Lead partner of the current related KAVA project.
- ii) Consortia must provide enough KCAs to maintain the EIT/non-EIT funding ratio applicable to the original project.
- iii) Minimum 30% co-funding applies to Upscaling and RIS Acceleration projects.
- iv) Minimum 10% co-funding applies to Education and Internationalization projects.
- v) No co-funding is required for RIS Education RIS M&N projects, however any co-funding contributed by the consortium will be evaluated positively.
- vi) Only the costs of existing (at the time of proposal submission) EIT RawMaterials Core, Associate and Project Partners will be considered. Non-members (entities that are not current Partners of EIT RawMaterials) are eligible to apply, however, they must become Project Partners of EIT RawMaterials by 1 July 2020<sup>1</sup>. RIS Task Partners will be considered

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<sup>1</sup> Membership fees will be charged pro-rata (six months only). Upgrade to EIT RawMaterials Associate or Core Partner, while technically possible, may not be feasible, as applications must be lodged by 1 July 2020 and must be approved in the autumn General Assembly.

only if they are based in the RIS region and the project is in the RIS category.

- vii) Funding eligibility is subject to the same rules and conditions applied by EIT and EIT RawMaterials in the KAVA 7 calls. Within these rules, the decision to fund specific costs will be to the sole discretion of EIT RawMaterials.
- viii) Funding will not be awarded to compensate for funding reductions requested in 2020 or in previous years.
- ix) All proposals linked to a KAVA that does not have a dedicated ‘Communication and Dissemination’ work package must include a ‘Communication and Dissemination’ work package in line with the requirements of the KAVA 7 calls.

## 2. Other conditions and information

- i) Note that due to time constraints, no-pre-financing from EIT RawMaterials can be guaranteed, therefore Consortia must be able and willing to cover their costs until EIT RawMaterials funds are received.
- ii) Project Agreements (PA) cannot be issued unless the Amended Business Plan 2020 is signed by EIT and EIT RawMaterials. Therefore, Consortia need to be able to start projects without having PAs in place.
- iii) The changes will be made in BlueBook in the existing related KAVAs.
- iv) All the funds awarded in this call must be fully expended by 31 December 2020.
- v) All the activities supported in this call must be fully completed by 31 December 2020.

## 3. Selection criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by EIT RawMaterials using the criteria listed below. Based on the evaluations and the overall available funding, the EIT RawMaterials Management Team (OMT) will rank the proposals and select the project portfolio. The total maximum score for a project is 75 (3 criteria, each with a maximum score of 5, and weights of 7, 4 and 4, respectively).

In addition to the eligibility criteria listed in Section 1, the following criteria will apply:

Weight	Description of criteria
7	<p>1. Strategic importance to the KIC, including impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic importance of the targeted theme/market</li> <li>• Contribution to the overall EIT RawMaterials strategic objectives</li> <li>• Financial backflow to EIT RawMaterials (for Upscaling and Lifelong Learning Education)</li> <li>• Contribution to core EIT KPIs</li> </ul>
4	<p>2. Performance and compliance with EIT RawMaterials feedback</p> <p>Overall performance of the related existing project to date and compliance with EIT and EIT RawMaterials requests and guidelines</p>

4	<p>3. Quality and impact of the specific activities to be carried out in 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of aims, objectives and deliverables and their relevance to EIT RawMaterials</li> <li>• Demonstration of the project's added value in terms of promoting entrepreneurship and innovation</li> <li>• Details of how the funds are to be used for in the form of a clear budget plan and timeline with justification</li> <li>• Realistic assessment of the expected contribution that the project will make to the impact of the KIC in relation to the requested budget</li> </ul>
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Evaluation scale: In relation to each of the criteria above, the score ranges 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 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	Good: 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.

Coordinators of projects that are selected for funding will be informed after approval by the OMT. Project Coordinators will be responsible for making the relevant changes and updates in BlueBook. Feedback on the proposals will be verbal only and will be given by the respective Innovation Hubs.

#### *4. Confidentiality*

Access to the project proposals will be given to EIT RawMaterials Innovation Hubs, Innovation Team and Management Team for evaluation, management and reporting reasons. Public dissemination will be arranged in agreement with partners of the project consortium and the EIT RawMaterials staff.

#### *5. Proposal submission and funding announcement*

**Proposals must be submitted via SeedBook no later than Monday June 15, 2020 at 13:00 CEST.**

Evaluation will commence immediately after submission, and the outcomes of the evaluation will be communicated to the Partners at the end of June 2020. Projects can start on or after 1 July 2020. All costs must be incurred, and all activities must be completed by 31 December 2020.

The level of any available pre-financing of a project will be announced together with the notification of acceptance of the project.

## *6. Appeal and redress procedure*

Upon reception of the feedback, the applicant may wish to lodge a request for redress, if there is a concern that there might have been a shortcoming in the way a proposal was evaluated, 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 evaluators. 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](mailto: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 will 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 requests, and equal treatment of applicants. The redress committee itself, however, does not re-evaluate the proposal. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the committee may review the evaluation report and the individual comments made by the evaluators. Following its review, the committee will recommend a course of action to the EIT RawMaterials OMT. If there is clear evidence of a shortcoming that could affect the funding decision, it is possible that all or part of the proposal may be re-evaluated. Unless there is clear evidence of a shortcoming there will be no follow-up or re-evaluation. The Executive Board of EIT RawMaterials will be informed of any redress procedures in due course.

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 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 failed anyway on the other criteria.