



Raw Materials and Circular Societies Prize 2022

Rules of the Prize

DISCLAIMER

These guidelines might be subject to further development and modifications, depending on EIT instructions that will be provided to EIT RawMaterials in the coming months. Applicants are encouraged to regularly check the call pages of the EIT RawMaterials website for the latest version of the guidelines.

In collaboration with





Contents

1. RAW MATERIALS AND CIRCULAR SOCIETY PRIZE	3
1.1. Objectives	3
1.2. Topics of interest	3
2. PRIZE AMOUNT	4
The support scheme will be as follows:.....	4
3. DEADLINE & ADMISSIBILITY.....	4
4. ELIGIBILITY	4
4.1. Eligibility Criteria	5
4.2. Exclusion Criteria	5
5. AWARD CRITERIA	6
6. DOCUMENTS	7
7. PROCEDURE.....	7
8. OTHER CONDITIONS.....	8
8.1. Payment and arrangements	8
8.2. Publicity – Promoting the Prize – Visibility of the EU Funding.....	9
Publicity by the winner(s).....	9
Publicity by EIT RawMaterials.....	9
8.3. Dissemination and Exploitation of Results.....	10
8.4. Processing of personal data.....	10
Processing of personal data by EIT RawMaterials	10
Processing of personal data by the participants.....	11
8.5. Ethics	11
8.6. Security.....	11
8.7. Conflict of Interest.....	12
8.8. Liability for damages.....	12
8.9. Check, audit and investigations	12
8.10. Withdrawal of the Prize – Recovery of the undue amounts.....	12
8.11. Administrative sanctions.....	13
8.12. Cancellation of the contest.....	13
8.13. Terms and Conditions	13
8.14. Appeal and redress procedure	14
9. CONTACTS	15



1. RAW MATERIALS AND CIRCULAR SOCIETY PRIZE

1.1. Objectives

Raw materials are essential for the production of a broad range of goods and applications used in everyday life. They are intrinsically linked to all industries across all supply chain stages. They are crucial for a strong European industrial base, an essential building block of the EU's growth and competitiveness. The accelerating technological innovation cycles and the rapid growth of emerging economies have led to a steadily increasing demand for these highly sought after metals and minerals.

Critical and Strategic Raw Materials (CRMs and SRMs¹) are particularly important for high tech products and emerging innovations - technological progress and quality of life are reliant on access to a growing number of raw materials. For example, a smartphone might contain up to 50 different metals, all of which giving different properties such as light weight and user-friendly small size. CRMs and SRMs are irreplaceable in solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles, and energy efficient lighting and are therefore also very relevant for fighting climate change and for improving the environment.

1.2. Topics of interest

This call is specifically focused on new solutions supporting the efficient and sustainable supply of secondary Critical and Strategic Raw Materials from three different perspectives or topics:

- Supply of secondary CRMs and SRMs through the valorisation of mining tailings.
- Supply of secondary CRMs and SRMs through the valorisation of industrial wastes.
- Supply of secondary CRMs and SRMs through the recycling of end-of-life products.

¹ The main objective of the Raw Materials and Circular Society Prize will be to support the sustainable supply of secondary Critical and Strategic Raw Materials defined in the 2020 list (https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/raw-materials/areas-specific-interest/critical-raw-materials_en).



2. PRIZE AMOUNT

The support scheme will be as follows:

Financial award of 10.000 EUR for the awarded solution in each of the 3 topics.

Additionally, they will be offered support in one of the EIT RawMaterials support services (EIT Jumpstarter, RawMaterials Accelerator programme or EIT RawMaterials Booster).

3. DEADLINE & ADMISSIBILITY

- Deadline for submitting business ideas: **September 18th**
- Selection of ideas and notification of acceptance/rejection: by mid-October
- Pitching contest and Award ceremony: **October-November 2022** (exact date to be communicated in due course).

Applications must be submitted via the registration link:

https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/Raw_Materials_and_Circular_Societies_Prize_2022_5920

Applications must be readable, accessible and printable. Incomplete applications may be considered inadmissible if essential elements are missing.

For more information, please get in touch with the EIT RawMaterials contacts listed on page 15 of this document.

4. ELIGIBILITY

All EIT RawMaterials activities are governed by the rules set out in the Partnership Agreement between the EIT and EIT RawMaterials, and more over in the Grant Agreement (see Contractual Models²) with the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation³.

² <https://eit.europa.eu/eit-and-innovation-community-contractual-relations>

³ Once adopted there might be further details included here.



4.1. Eligibility Criteria

The contest is open to any legal entity or group of legal entities established in an EU Member State or in a country associated to Horizon Europe⁴. However, entities that are a partner of EIT RawMaterials, may not receive a financial award (see chapter 2).

Typically, the following entities may apply:

1. **SMEs** (according to the European Commission's definitions) having innovation projects relevant to the prize topics defined above.
2. **Start-up or spin-off** companies at least registered at the time of the application.

In case of applications by a team, the participants must appoint a **contact person** to represent them before EIT RawMaterials. Applications must be submitted by the contact person.

4.2. Exclusion Criteria

Consulting service companies without tangible product will be excluded.

For participants already receiving funding from EIT RawMaterials in 2022, the following cumulated maximum funding limits apply:

- EIT RawMaterials Booster support: funding of maximum EUR 200,000 in 2022
- RawMaterials Accelerator programme: funding of maximum EUR 60,000 in 2022

These funding limits cannot be exceeded.

Participants will be excluded if they (or one of them) are/is:

- is subject to an administrative sanction (i.e., exclusion)
- is in one of the following situations:
 - bankrupt, being wound up, having their affairs administered by the courts, entered into an arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or subject to any other similar proceedings or procedures under national law (including persons with unlimited liability for the participant's debts)
 - declared in breach of social security or tax obligations by a final judgment or decision (including persons with unlimited liability for the participant's debts)

⁴ See the current list of associated countries here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-atom_en.pdf



- found guilty of grave professional misconduct by a final judgment or decision (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
- convicted of fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under a procurement contract, prize agreement or prize decision financed by the EU or Euratom budget (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
- found guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95 (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
- has misrepresented information required for participating in the contest or fails to submit such information
- was involved in the preparation of the prize documents and this entails a distortion of competition.

5. AWARD CRITERIA

Each application will be scored on the criteria listed in the following table, with the score in relation to each criterion being based on the following guidelines:

CRITERIA	EXPLANATIONS
1. TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE.	The innovation should be relevant to the topics mentioned in section 1.2.
2. MARKET NEEDS & REPLICABILITY / BUSINESS MODELS	Large market size and customers' willingness to buy are positively evaluated (e.g., initial discussion with potential customer(s)). The innovation should also be clearly replicable in different European regions.
3. QUALITY OF THE TEAM	Team capability is of the utmost importance since execution is key. Team members should demonstrate relevant expertise and track records.



4. QUALITY OF THE DEVELOPMENT ROADMAP	The quality of the roadmap, which should show clear milestones and estimate efforts, will be evaluated.
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6. DOCUMENTS

The mandatory supporting documents are set out in the two-page application form (downloadable from the registration web site : : <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/raw-materials-and-circular-societies-prize/>).

Participants may be asked at a later stage for further documents (for legal entity validation, bank account validation, ethics review, declaration of honour on exclusion grounds, etc.).

7. PROCEDURE

The application procedure is the following:

1. **Online application:** Applicants must submit an online application form and a two-page idea description in which they should illustrate: the problems they address (market needs), technological solution, novelty, team composition and expertise, estimated time to market.
2. **First screening phase performed by an expert panel composed of EIT RawMaterials, WEEE Forum, EYDE Cluster and EUROMINES** to assess the alignment of the application with the underlying objectives of the prize: the best **six** applications passing this screening will be invited to pitch their idea to the jury. Shortlisted candidates will be notified by mid-October.
3. **Pitching contest:** shortlisted candidates will pitch to the jury panel composed of experts from EIT RawMaterials, WEEE Forum, EYDE Cluster and EUROMINES. The jury panel will rank the pitched ideas according to the evaluation criteria described in the next section. The pitching ceremony will be held during October-November 2022 (venue and exact date to be communicated to selected candidates in due course).

If there are less than **six** applications, there will not be a pre-selection phase: all the applications will pass directly to the pitching contest (Phase 3).

The pre-selection panel and jury usually have different compositions, but jury members may participate in the pre-selection panel.



The pre-selection panel/jury will evaluate each application against the **five award criteria** and score them as follows (half marks are possible; decimals are not):

0: Non-existent, 1: Very poor, 2: Poor, 3: Fair, 4: Good, 5: Excellent.

The average of the evaluators will be used to produce the ranking. The jury's decisions are unappealable.

CRITERIA	THRESHOLD	MAXIMUM POINTS
1. TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE AND IP STATUS	4	5
2. PROBLEM DESCRIPTION, MARKET NEEDS & REPLICABILITY	4	5
3. QUALITY OF THE TEAM	3	5
4. QUALITY OF THE DEVELOPMENT ROADMAP	3	5
TOTAL	14	25

For applications with the same score, the pre-selection panel/jury will determine a priority order according to the following approach:

If two or more applications tie for the first rank, the prize could be equally divided and awarded to all.

On the basis of the evaluation by the jury, EIT RawMaterials will decide on the awarding of the prize.

All participants will be informed by our EIT Raw Materials team (circularsocieties@eitrawmaterials.eu) on the outcome of their application.

8. OTHER CONDITIONS

8.1. Payment and arrangements

The prize money will be paid to the selected applicant in one instalment by bank transfer after the announcement of the final selection, provided all the requested documents have been submitted, payment will be made within 30 days from the signature date of the Prize Agreement.



8.2. Publicity – Promoting the Prize – Visibility of the EU Funding

Publicity by the winner(s)

The winner(s) must promote the EIT RawMaterials Circular Society Prize and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner.

Unless EIT RawMaterials 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 RawMaterials logo with the EU emblem with the text ‘Supported by’** (equal width for the EIT RawMaterials brandmark and the EU flag) and
- b) include the following text:
“Co-funded by the European Union”

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

For the purposes of their obligations, the selected companies may use the EIT RawMaterials logo and the EU emblem without first obtaining approval from EIT RawMaterials.

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

Moreover, they may not appropriate the EU emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

Publicity by EIT RawMaterials

EIT RawMaterials may use, for its communications and publicity activities, information relating to the action as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material that it receives from the participants (including in electronic format).

EIT RawMaterials will publish the name(s) of the winner(s), their origin, the amount of the prize and its nature and purpose — unless they have requested to waive this publication (because disclosure risks threatening their security and safety or harm their commercial interests).

Photos and videos taken by EIT RawMaterials during the pitching ceremony where the selected applicants will feature are the sole property of EIT RawMaterials.



8.3. Dissemination and Exploitation of Results

Applicants retain full and exclusive ownership of their prior information and intellectual property rights. By submitting their application, applicants warrant that they hold ownership or have legally secured the right to use all elements of the innovative product or service and that the provided materials and information do not infringe any intellectual or other property rights, including patents, of any other persons, companies or other entities. Elements of the submission that are based on rights held by others, such as patents, shall be marked as such in the submission.

EIT RawMaterials and their authorised representatives in the programme undertake to ensure the confidentiality of the projects presented and developed with the support of EIT RawMaterials.

By submitting their application to the programme, applicants consent that EIT RawMaterials and its Innovation Hubs (also called Co-location Centres - CLCs) will collect, transfer, process, store and delete their data under aforementioned conditions.

The selected companies agree that their data, the receipt of prize, and non-confidential information about their project, may be used by EIT RawMaterials and their authorised representatives without compensation for the promotion of their activities. Non-confidential information related to the project will be only provided after authorisation of the applicants.

8.4. Processing of personal data

Processing of personal data by EIT RawMaterials

Any personal data will be processed by EIT RawMaterials in accordance with the EIT RawMaterials Privacy Policy⁵.

All selected applicants consent that the following information be published by EIT RawMaterials:

- Name
- Country of origin
- Their activities in relation to the award of the prize (via the summary for publication they provided)
- Prize amount

⁵ <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/privacy-policy/>



in whatever form and medium.

Processing of personal data by the participants

The participants must process personal data in compliance with applicable EU and national law on data protection (including authorisations or notification requirements, if any), see the GDPR⁶ recommendations.

8.5. Ethics

The activities must be carried out in compliance with:

- a) ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity) 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 States.

The participants must ensure that the activities have an exclusive focus on civil applications.

The participants must respect the highest standards of research integrity — as set out, for instance, in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity⁷.

8.6. Security

The activities must be carried out in compliance with Commission Decision 2015/444, i.e. security-sensitive information must be EU-classified if its unauthorised disclosure could adversely impact the interests of the EU or one (or more) of its Member States. Applications that are too security-sensitive cannot be awarded a prize.

⁶ <https://eugdpr.org/>

⁷ European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity of ALLEA (All European Academies) and ESF (European Science Foundation) of March 2017 https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/european-code-of-conduct-for-research-integrity_horizon_en.pdf



8.7. Conflict of Interest

The participants must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective award of the prize 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 interests and immediately take all the 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.

8.8. Liability for damages

EIT RawMaterials 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.

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

8.9. Check, audit and investigations

EIT RawMaterials, the EIT, the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the European Court of Auditors and any other competent EU body may carry out checks, audits and investigations in relation to the prize.

8.10. Withdrawal of the Prize – Recovery of the undue amounts

EIT RawMaterials may withdraw the prize after its award and recover all payments made if it finds out that:

- a. false information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain it
- b. a winner was not eligible or should have been excluded
- c. a winner is in serious breach of its obligations under these Terms & Conditions.



8.11. Administrative sanctions

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

- a. exclude the participant from all future contracts, prizes and contests financed from the EU or Euratom budget for a maximum of five years (or 10 years in case of repetition) and/or
- b. impose a financial penalty of between 2% and 10% of the value of the prize (or between 4% and 20% in case of repetition).

8.12. Cancellation of the contest

EIT RawMaterials may cancel the contest or decide not to award the prize, without any obligation to compensate participants, if:

- a. no applications are received
- b. the jury does not find a winner
- c. the winner is not eligible or must be excluded, or
- d. the objective of the contest has already been achieved.

8.13. Terms and Conditions

By submitting their application form, applicants agree to the Terms and Conditions, which form part of their submission. 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 applicants.

These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of Germany. Any disagreement or dispute which may arise in connection with these Terms and Conditions which cannot be settled amicably will be brought before the courts of Berlin, Germany.

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 and the CLC legal entities be liable for any special indirect, punitive, incidental or consequential damages, including loss of profit.

You may withdraw your application any time by informing us by email or withdrawing your registration any time.



8.14. Appeal and redress procedure

Requests for redress should be raised within one month of the receipt 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 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 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 OMT. If there is clear evidence of a shortcoming that could have affected the funding decision, 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 expert-evaluators, whose qualifications have already been 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 any other criterion.
- The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. It may be lower than the original score.
- Only one request for redress per proposal will be considered.



9. CONTACTS

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Call web page:	https://eitrawmaterials.eu/raw-materials-and-circular-societies-prize/
Online Application link:	https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/Raw_Materials_and_Circular_Societies_Prize_2022_5920
Partners of EIT RawMaterials Circular Societies Prize 2022:	EUROMINES, EYDE Cluster, WEEE Forum