



# EIT RawMaterials Regional Innovation Competition 2022

## Terms & Conditions

1 August 2022



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# 1. EIT RawMaterials Business Creation & Support

Minerals, metals and advanced materials are key enablers to achieve the objectives of the European Green Deal. Today, only a fraction of the most relevant raw materials is produced in Europe. This can be changed through a circular economy approach, through innovation in recycling, substitution, processing, mining, and exploration. It is the objective of EIT RawMaterials to secure a sustainable raw materials supply by driving innovation, education, and entrepreneurship across European industrial ecosystems.

EIT RawMaterials provides a collaborative environment for disruptive and breakthrough innovations by connecting more than 140 core and associate partners and 150+ project partners from business with academia, research, and investment. It also invests in future generation of innovators for the raw materials sector through initiatives ranging from education of school students to higher qualifications for industry professionals.

The company is committed to supporting Europe's transition towards a circular, green, and digital economy whilst strengthening its global competitiveness and securing employment. On this foundation, EIT RawMaterials has been mandated by the European Commission to lead and manage the European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA).

EIT RawMaterials is a Knowledge Innovation Community within the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

EIT RawMaterials aims to significantly enhance innovation in the raw materials sector by sharing knowledge, information and expertise: entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs receive funding and support through its partner network and collaboration activities. EIT RawMaterials aims to generate a significant impact on European industrial competitiveness and innovation capacity as well as to empower students, entrepreneurs and education partners to drive Europe towards a circular economy. This will result in introducing innovative and sustainable products, processes and services, as well as talented people who will deliver increased economic, environmental and socially sustainable impact on European society.

EIT RawMaterials has six Innovation Hubs that represent regional ecosystems connecting business, research and education. Innovation Hubs are located in Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, Poland and Sweden.

Business Creation and Support is one of three areas of activity through which EIT RawMaterials creates an impact on the raw materials value chain. Since 2016, our Booster grant funding for selected start-ups and SMEs has supported over 140 start-ups to accelerate their development from idea to market. Booster funded companies have gone on to provide value for EIT RawMaterials partners.

To increase and advance the support provided to innovative start-ups, EIT RawMaterials has launched a RawMaterials Accelerator programme. The aim of the RawMaterials Accelerator is to help selected start-ups to more rapidly develop innovative products/services that can generate



impact in the raw materials' sector.

In addition to customised support and funding, the selected start-ups will also gain access to the EIT RawMaterials partner network, participate in our networking events and gain visibility through EIT RawMaterials channels. In the long-term, supported start-ups and SMEs may join our network as members and continue working with our partners to fully benefit from the ecosystem.



## 2. EIT RawMaterials Regional Innovation Competition 2022

### 2.1. Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS)

Against the backdrop of persisting regional disparities in innovation performance in Europe, the EIT launched a Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) in 2014 to widen its regional outreach to modest and moderate innovator countries according to the European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS). Through the EIT RIS, steered by the EIT and implemented by its Knowledge Innovation Communities (KICs), the EIT has expanded its activities across Europe and offers opportunities for EIT RIS countries and territories to engage in EIT Community activities.

EIT RawMaterials RIS activities, among others, have a dedicated focus on Business Creation & Support and start-ups coming from the RIS countries with scope to provide them local support and connect them with the pan-European ecosystem. EIT RawMaterials main scope is to develop and enhance the Start-up Ecosystem in RIS countries with a sectorial focus around the Raw Materials value chain and with key target to enhance their innovativeness and materialise their potential in the global market scene.

EIT RawMaterials has initiated a set of local collaborations with established innovation companies in several RIS-eligible countries. As of 2022 there are 7 active EIT RawMaterials RIS Incubators and 6 RIS Hubs that can offer local-level support to entities based in the RIS eligible region and territories mentioned under 6.1 paragraph (Eligibility Criteria).

### 2.2. Call Objectives

EIT RawMaterials Regional Innovation Competition 2022 is one of the EIT RawMaterials business creation instruments dedicated to supporting start-ups and/or teams from RIS countries. The main aim is to support pre-seed start-ups relevant to EIT RawMaterials strategic objectives in refining their business model and financials, as well as to make them investment ready, so as to be better prepared before submitting to EIT RawMaterials general offerings (RawMaterials Accelerator, Booster Call, etc.) and become equally competitive compared to other European regions start-ups.

The main objectives of the EIT RawMaterials Regional Innovation Competition 2022 are to provide RIS established start-ups with support to:

- connect with local RIS incubators and/or RIS Hubs of EIT RawMaterials
- connect with local and pan-European ecosystems and markets
- provide with dedicated mentoring and coaching opportunities
- prepare for entering the basic EIT RawMaterials business creation and support offerings
- realise their business



## 2.3. RIS Competition 2022 - Structure

EIT RawMaterials Regional Innovation Competition 2022 is an innovation programme with workshops, coaching vouchers, local support with RIS Incubators and/or RIS Hubs closing with a final pitching competition and prizes awards. In specific, EIT RawMaterials Regional Innovation Competition 2022 is divided into three phases:

### Phase 1: Submission of Ideas

To participate in the Regional Innovation Competition 2022, the applicants must present a full application on the predetermined online form. The deadline for submissions: 01 October 2022, 17:00 CET. The best start-ups will be selected to go to the next phase.

### Phase 2: Workshops and coaching vouchers

The applicants selected in Phase 1 will be invited to participate to Phase 2. In Phase 2, selected start-ups will:

- Receive **2,500 € funding** to cover travel, accommodation and business support during the programme implementation.
- Participate in 4 to 6 online Bootcamps on the themes of Design Thinking, Business Model Validation, Business Model Canvas & Value Proposition Canvas, Finance, Go-To-Market strategy, Pitch deck among other.
- Receive 4-6 hourly vouchers for mentoring sessions.
- Receive 4-6 hours of coaching and connection with assigned EIT RawMaterials RIS Incubators and/or RIS Hub for support.
- Receive a Certificate of Participation.

Phase 2 will be between October to December 2022 (actual dates will be announced in due course of the programme).

### Phase 3: Final Pitching

In Phase 3 selected start-ups will be invited to compete at the Final Pitching event. The start-ups will pitch their idea in front of a Jury, composed of EIT RawMaterials staff and external evaluators.

- The top 3 start-ups selected from the Jury will be awarded with:
  - **1<sup>st</sup> prize:** € 6,000
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> prize:** € 2,500
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> prize:** € 1,500



### 3. Thematic Scope for Targeted Start-ups

Europe is home to world-leading manufacturing industries, game-changing innovative technologies and an entrepreneurial infrastructure that can enable the transition to a resource efficient, sustainable society. A sustainable supply of mineral resources (metals, construction materials) is vital for the development of these core industrial activities and their long-term economic success. However, Europe has become highly dependent on imports of these mineral resources, particularly critical raw materials, which is a key threat to the future of European businesses.

The EIT RawMaterials Regional Innovation Competition 2022 supports new businesses from selected RIS countries<sup>1</sup> that contribute to our vision of developing raw materials into a major strength for Europe along the whole raw material's value chain, as follows:

1. **Exploration** and raw materials resource assessment
2. **Mining** in challenging environments
3. Increased resource efficiency in **mineral and metallurgical processes**
4. **Recycling** and material chain optimized for End-of-Life products
5. **Substitution** of critical and toxic materials in products and for optimized performance
6. Design of products and services for the **circular economy**

In particular, the supply of a **range of metals and minerals** is the main target of the EIT RawMaterials innovation community. Bio-based and polymer materials will be considered only in view of their substitution potential of critical and toxic materials and for optimized performance or for multi-material product recycling. **Petrochemical raw materials, food/agricultural raw materials and common minerals construction materials are excluded.**

The activities of EIT RawMaterials in the area of business creation and support seek to boost innovative start-ups and SMEs working within the following themes:

1. **Exploration:** Technologies and solutions for improved and new mineral exploration. As an example, solutions could include:
  - a. *New and improved geological models, better exploration model understanding and techniques for going 3D/4D, drones, etc.*
  - b. *New instrumentation, methods and technologies for more reliable, cheaper, faster and safer mineral exploration, including technologies and services for innovative data acquisition, big data analysis/handling and utilising existing/historical data sets for exploration and mining.*
  - c. *Application of new innovations, new geological models and rethinking/re-evaluation of geological settings/prospects to provide new exploration prospects and mining targets.*
2. **Intelligent Mining.** Technologies and solutions for more efficient, safer and sustainable modern mining. As an example, solutions could include:
  - a. *Application of new technologies/services for more efficient production, better safety, better utilisation of equipment and personnel for mining. Autonomous mining equipment, Internet of Things, virtual reality, UAVs/robotics, automation, real-time data that will improve planning, scheduling of operations and delivering better*

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<sup>1</sup> See section 6.1. for the list of eligible countries and territories



*efficiencies and cost savings. Self-aware and safe machines that are capable of ordering their own spare parts and service engineers and are connected to each other, control centres and back offices far away.*

- b. Innovative services, approaches and products which increase public understanding and awareness of the need for raw materials, exploration and mining, ensure corporate social responsibility and social license to operate as well as added values of mining including remediation.*
- 3. Mineral and metallurgical processes:** Technologies and solutions for mineral and metal processing and for improved materials production. As an example, solutions could include:
  - a. Optimised extraction and production processes for metals and alloys, improving the efficiency of the process, using less energy and water, reducing cost and the production of waste.*
  - b. Technology that addresses equipment-damage problems such as wall thinning, creep or corrosion.*
- 4. Recycling:** Technologies and solutions for materials supply from secondary sources and recycling. As an example, solutions could include:
  - a. Solutions for recycling of end-of-life products, extraction from industrial residues, tailings, urban and landfill mining (e.g., WEEE, batteries, magnets, solar cells etc.)*
  - b. Cost-efficient and clever collection, dismantling and sorting of waste.*
- 5. Substitution of critical and toxic materials and for optimised performance:** New technologies or services that make it possible to substitute or use lower quantities of critical or toxic materials in key industries. For example:
  - a. Substitution of critical and toxic metals in specific energy materials, such as platinum in fuel cells, cobalt in lithium-ion batteries, or Nd and Dy in Nd-Fe-B permanent magnets.*
  - b. Substitution of critical and toxic metals like Co and W in carbides, speciality metals in high strength steels and super alloys, including in design and manufacturing.*
  - c. New material systems that contain less or no critical and toxic materials, for instance, for use in batteries, permanent magnets, solar cells, and thermoelectric and magneto caloric applications.*
  - d. New or optimised materials for additive manufacturing, e.g., in printable electronics.*
  - e. New lightweight composites and designs as substitutes for critical materials containing high strength steels and for optimised performance.*
  - f. Solutions that integrate new materials into a circular economy, e.g., technology and business that enables and builds upon the reuse and recycling of newly developed, high-performance materials.*
  - g. New products, systems and services for optimised raw materials use, particularly with respect to mobility and energy technologies.*
- 6. Circular economy:** Solutions and business models implementing circular economy concepts, e.g., new business models for resource recovery, product life extension (repairing, re-manufacturing, etc.), product as a service, sharing platforms.

In this 2022 Regional Innovation Competition call, EIT RawMaterials is, in particular seeking start-ups from RIS countries developing solutions (products and services) covering the scope of the [EIT RawMaterials Lighthouse](#) programmes:

- 1. Circular Societies** (e.g., new circular business models such as reuse, repair, remanufacturing, sharing economy etc.)





2. **Sustainable Materials** (e.g., materials for electrification such as batteries, fuel cells, magnets; materials for lightweight designs such as steels, non-ferrous alloys, composites, multimaterials etc.)
3. **Responsible Sourcing** of primary and secondary resources (innovative solutions based for example on artificial intelligence, machine learning, virtual reality etc.) for securing and processing strategic mineral resources in a sustainable and safe way and with a social license to operate.

## 4. Prize Amount & Rules

The support scheme will be as follows:

1. Prize **awards of € 6,000, of € 2,500 and of € 1,500** as a lump sum for each of the winners as described in 2.3.
2. Former participants of the Regional Innovation Competition cannot be selected to the programme and receive any financial support at any stage of the competition

## 5. Deadline & Admissibility

- Deadline for submitting applications: **01 October 2022 at 17:00 CET**
- Selection of start-ups and notification of acceptance/rejection: **early October 2022**
- Workshops and coaching vouchers: **between October and December 2022**
- Final Award Ceremony: **December 2022** (exact date to be communicated in due course)

Applications must be submitted by the contact person via the registration link:

<https://eitrawmaterials.mantisbi.io/call/62e27051ec478/>

Incomplete applications may be considered inadmissible if essential elements are missing. A full-fledged application with explicitly provided data on the requested sections, within length limitations and complete information. Pitch deck upload is mandatory, without any specific template request as long as it demonstrates the key business insights of the start-up.

For more information, please get in touch with the EIT RawMaterials contacts listed on Section 12 of this document.

## 6. Eligibility

All EIT RawMaterials activities are governed by the rules set out in the Partnership Agreement as well as the Grant Agreement with the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

### 6.1. Eligibility Criteria

The EIT RawMaterials Regional Innovation Competition 2022 is open to any legal entity established



in any country from the RIS region as defined by EIT<sup>2</sup>, i.e.

- **EU Member States:** Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain.
- **Horizon Europe Associated Countries:** Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine.
- **Outermost Regions:** Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain).

EIT RawMaterials is looking preferably for start-ups that meet the following maturity criteria, without excluding exceptional cases going beyond these, with the condition of high interest and full engagement in the Programme

- 1) Incorporated up to 24 months before submitting to the Programme
- 2) In pre-revenue or low revenue phase
- 3) In pre-seed phase
- 4) In TRL 2-5, CRL 2-5

Typically, the following entities may apply:

1. **SMEs** (according to the European Commission's definitions<sup>3</sup>) 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.

Prizes are eligible for:

- Start-ups that have been selected to participate in the EIT RawMaterials Regional Innovation Competition 2022 and have signed a Project Agreement with EIT RawMaterials
- Start-ups that have followed all provided milestones and services of EIT RawMaterials Regional Innovation Competition 2022, i.e., participation in Bootcamps, realisation of received vouchers, connection with local RIS Incubators/RIS Hubs
- Start-ups that will participate in the Final Ceremony during December and present their pitch as per provided guidelines of EIT RawMaterials (to be provided in due time before the event)

## 6.2. Exclusion Criteria

Consulting service companies without tangible product will be excluded.

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

- 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

<sup>2</sup> <https://eit.europa.eu/our-activities/eit-regional-innovation-scheme>

<sup>3</sup> See [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/sme-definition\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/sme-definition_en)



- decision (including persons with unlimited liability for the participant's debts)
- 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.

## 7. 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, IP STATUS.	The innovation should be relevant to the topics mentioned in section 3. Strong IP protection/potential protection will be positively evaluated as well as the stage of technology development.
2. EIT RAWMATERIALS IMPACT	The innovations should clearly demonstrate a connection to raw materials impact and how they contribute to EIT RawMaterials mission and vision. A demonstration of emission reduction through the innovations is evaluated positively.
3. MARKET POTENTIAL, CUSTOMER RELEVANCE, AND CUSTOMER READINESS LEVEL (CRL)	Large market size and customers' willingness to buy are positively evaluated (e.g., initial discussion with potential customer(s)).
4. QUALITY OF THE TEAM	Team capability is of the utmost importance since execution is key. Team members should demonstrate relevant expertise and track records.



5. BUSINESS MODEL, GO-TO-MARKET STRATEGY	The way innovation will create revenues and the quality of the plan and go-to-market strategy to accomplish that.
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Prizes will be awarded against the same criteria as described above:

- Awards are attached to the pitching of the selected start-ups during the Final Ceremony event of December 2022
- A jury of minimum 3 external evaluators will be the body of evaluation for the prizes
- Award criteria will be the same as described on the Call Guidelines Section 7 of the programme and on Section 9 the thresholds and jury formulation apply

## 8. Documents

The mandatory supporting documents are set out in the application online form and can be download from the registration web site: <https://eitrawmaterials.mantisbi.io/call/62e27051ec478/>

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.).

## 9. Procedure

The application procedure is the following:

1. **Online application:** Applicants must submit by **01 October 2022** an online application form, along with their pitch deck in which they should illustrate: the problems they address (market needs), technological solution, novelty, team composition and expertise, estimated time to market.
2. **The first evaluation phase is screening process performed by EIT RawMaterials** staff to assess the eligibility criteria and the degree of alignment of the application to the underlying objectives of EIT RawMaterials.
3. **The second evaluation phase and teams' selection.** Shortlisted applications will be evaluated by a jury of EIT RawMaterials staff and external experts according to the evaluation criteria described in the next section and select the projects to be part of the programme.
4. **Final Award Ceremony:** Selected teams will pitch to the jury panel composed of experts from EIT RawMaterials and externals. The jury panel will rank the pitching start-ups according to the evaluation criteria described in the next section.

The selected applicants will sign a Project Agreement (PA) with the Innovation Hub East legal entity to unlock the participation to the programme.

Minimum 3 external evaluators will apply at all stages of selection of start-ups to the programme and on the Final Competition event there will be a jury with minimum 3 external evaluators for the Prizes

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.

CRITERIA	THRESHOLD	MAXIMUM POINTS
1. TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE, IP STATUS.	3	5
2. EIT RAWMATERIALS IMPACT	3	5
3. MARKET POTENTIAL, CUSTOMER RELEVANCE, AND CUSTOMER READINESS LEVEL (CRL)	3	5
4. QUALITY OF THE TEAM	3	5
5. BUSINESS MODEL, GO-TO-MARKET STRATEGY	3	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>

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 will be equally divided and awarded to all. Based on the evaluation by the jury, EIT RawMaterials will decide on the awarding of the prize. All participants will be informed by October 2022 on the outcome of their application.

## 10. Payment and arrangements

There are two forms of funding:

Successful applicant start-ups will receive 2,500 € to cover their travel, accommodation, and other business development during the programme's execution. Basic eligibility criteria for funding is to sign the Project Agreement. Additional information and guidance will be provided during the programme on how to get and use this support.

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.

## 11. Other Conditions

### 11.1. Intellectual Property, Confidentiality and Publication Rights

Applicants retain full and exclusive ownership of their prior information and intellectual property



rights. By submitting their application, applicants confirm that they hold ownership of 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 throughout the programme.

By submitting their application, applicants consent that EIT RawMaterials and its Innovation Hubs will collect, transfer, process, store and delete their data under aforementioned conditions.

Applicants agree that if they are selected, their data, the receipt of their grant and non-confidential information about their project may be used by EIT RawMaterials and their authorised representatives without compensation for promotion of their activities. Non-confidential information related to the project will be only provided after authorisation of the applicants or the one marked with “public summary”.

By submitting the application for the EIT RawMaterials Accelerator Programme, applicants agree to the EIT RawMaterials [Privacy Policy](#).

## 11.2. Publicity – Visibility of the EU Funding

### Publicity by the selected start-ups

The selected companies must promote the EIT RawMaterials Accelerator Programme grant and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner. A communications package including guidelines will be provided to all selected companies.

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** (the EU emblem should be 1/3 of the size of the EIT RawMaterials logo and the minimum height of the EU flag to be used is 4.5mm) 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 separate 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 or seek any other intellectual property rights in relation thereto, whether by registration or by any other means. EIT RawMaterials reserves the right to revoke the above right of use at any time in its sole and unfettered discretion.

### Publicity by EIT RawMaterials

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

EIT RawMaterials will publish the names of the funded companies, their origin, the amount of the grant and its nature and purpose — unless they have requested to waive this publication (because of disclosure risks threatening their security and safety or harming their commercial interests).

Photos and videos taken by EIT RawMaterials during EIT RawMaterials events where the selected companies will feature are the sole property of EIT RawMaterials.

## 11.3. 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 Policy<sup>4</sup>.

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

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 GDPR<sup>5</sup> recommendations. Consulting service companies without tangible product will be excluded.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/privacy-policy/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://eugdpr.org/>



## 11.4. 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 Integrity<sup>6</sup>.

## 11.5. 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. Consulting service companies without tangible product will be excluded.

## 11.6. Conflict of Interest

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

## 11.7. 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

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<sup>6</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/european-code-of-conduct-for-research-integrity_horizon_en.pdf)





context of the prize.

## 11.8. Check, audit, and investigations

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

## 11.9. 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.

## 11.10. 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). Consulting service companies without tangible product will be excluded.

## 11.11. 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.

## 11.12. Complaints

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.

### 11.13. Appeal and Redress Procedure

Upon receipt 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 expert-evaluators. It will consider only procedural shortcomings and factual errors.

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](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 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 (Operational Management Team). 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 by the committee.
- All requests for redress will be treated confidentially.

## 12. Contacts

The Regional Innovation Competition 2022 is organised by EIT RawMaterials and its regional Innovation Hub East, which act as managing partner in coordinating the collection, evaluation, award, and follow-up process at regional level of the selected RIS countries.

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Online Application link:	<a href="https://eitrawmaterials.mantisbi.io/call/62e27051ec478/">https://eitrawmaterials.mantisbi.io/call/62e27051ec478/</a>
Partners of EIT RawMaterials:	<a href="https://eitrawmaterials.eu/about-us/partners/">https://eitrawmaterials.eu/about-us/partners/</a>
EIT RawMaterials Alumni:	<a href="https://alumni.eitrawmaterials.eu/">https://alumni.eitrawmaterials.eu/</a>



## 13. TRL and CRL

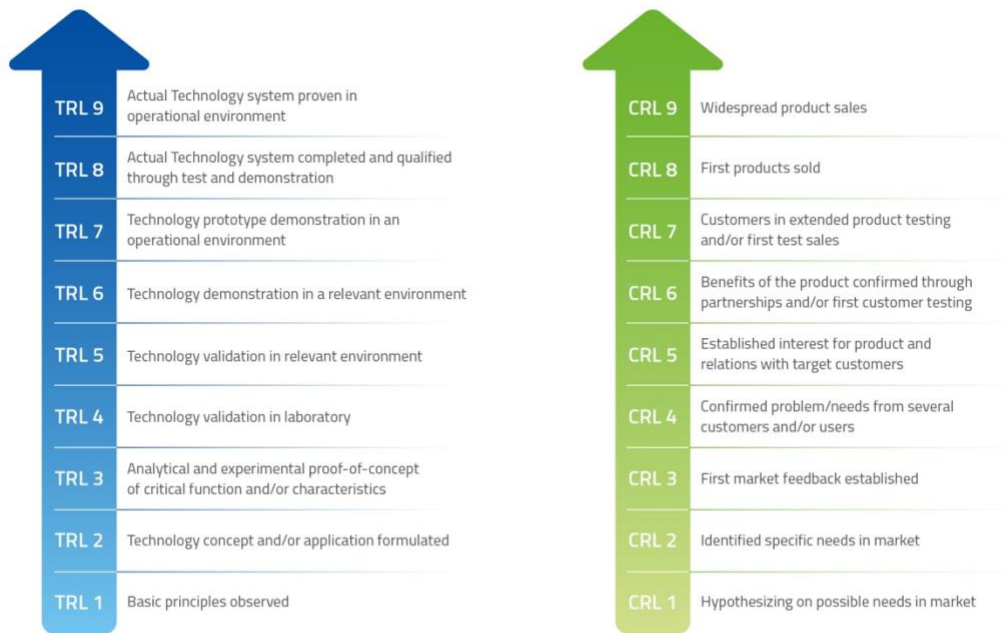


Figure 1. Technology Readiness Level (TRL) and Commercial Readiness Level (CRL)