



Call for applications: EIT Labelling support 2024

21 February 2024

1. Scope of this document

Through this Call for Applications, EIT RawMaterials seeks international master's programmes in Europe to apply for the EIT Label and to join the EIT RawMaterials Academy Master School. This document outlines the process by which European HEIs can apply to EIT RawMaterials for support in obtaining the EIT label for existing master's programmes in the current call for applications.

This Call for Applications should be read in conjunction with the document *"Quality for learning" EIT Quality Assurance and Learning Enhancement Model: EIT Label Handbook for planning, labelling and reviewing degree programmes, Revised Edition (June 2021)*, which is referred to in this document as the "EIT Label Handbook". Applicants should read both documents carefully before applying to this Call.

2. Introduction to EIT RawMaterials and the EIT Label

2.1 EIT RawMaterials

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 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.

EIT RawMaterials is an Innovation Community within the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union. For more information about EIT RawMaterials, its activities and its governance structure, visit <https://eitrawmaterials.eu>.

2.2 EIT RawMaterials Academy and Master School



The **RawMaterials Academy** is the overarching brand of all the education activities of the EIT RawMaterials. These range from innovative education projects launched via calls and run by the Innovation Community's partners to a number of centrally operated projects. Activities across the entire ecosystem of learners – PhD students, Masters' students, industrial partners, professionals within the raw materials sector, and wider society – foster new ways of learning and teaching by connecting academia, industry and research organisations. The aims of the RawMaterials Academy are:

- To introduce society as a whole to the importance and relevance of raw materials and incite interest in topics related to raw materials
- To train current and future stakeholders to the technical standards required by the raw materials industry today – contextually across the entire raw materials value chain
- To foster the entrepreneurial and innovation skills, knowledge and attitudes needed for the entre- and intrapreneurs of tomorrow

An important area of activity within the EIT RawMaterials Academy is the **Master School**. This brings together a range of master's programmes in the field of raw materials, innovation and entrepreneurship. These programmes are delivered by partner universities across Europe with significant input from organisations across the Knowledge Triangle, i.e. industry and research organisations in addition to HEIs.

All the master's programmes within the EIT RawMaterials Academy's Master School have been awarded the **EIT Label**. The nine existing master's programmes within the Master School are presented at <https://masters.eitrawmaterials.eu>. In addition to the academic programme, students on master's degrees within the EIT RawMaterials Academy Master School benefit from a range of funded, extra-curricular activities, summer schools and bootcamps to help support the development of their innovation and entrepreneurship skills. For more details on the benefits of EIT Labelling, see sections 3.2 and 3.3.

2.3 The EIT Label

The EIT Label is a quality seal awarded by the EIT to excellent educational programmes in the fields of degree education, fellowships and non-degree education and training. Programmes, modules and courses that have the EIT Label build on five groups of quality criteria:

- The EIT Overarching Learning Outcomes (EIT OLOs). For a summary of the EIT OLOs, visit <https://eit.europa.eu/our-activities/education/eit-learning-outcomes>.
- Robust entrepreneurship education.
- Highly integrated, innovative 'learning-by-doing' curricula.



- Mobility, the European dimension and openness to the world.
- Outreach strategy and access policy.

In these programmes, specialist knowledge is combined with skills that foster innovation and entrepreneurship through education and training. The programmes are based on partnerships between different higher education institutions, companies, research centres and public bodies who collaborate closely to offer a unique learning experience. Within the scope of this call, only the EIT Label for Master's Programmes will be addressed. To understand the requirements of the EIT Label for Master's Programmes, applicants to this call should consult the most recent version of the EIT Label Handbook (2021), which is available for download at <https://eit.europa.eu/library/eit-label-handbook-2021>.

3. Purpose of this call and benefits of participation

3.1 Call for applications

This call for applications seeks existing international master's programmes based in Europe to join the EIT RawMaterials Academy Master School. Master's programmes selected through this call will receive the following support from EIT RawMaterials:

- Support and guidance to facilitate the programme's application for the EIT Label in the 2024 call for EIT Label applications.
- On successful award of the EIT Label, integration into the EIT RawMaterials Master School, with attendant benefits as outlined in sections 3.2 and 3.3.

Master's programmes applying to become EIT Labelled through EIT RawMaterials should budget 60-120 person-hours to the preparation of the EIT Label application documents, in addition to work required to align the programme with the requirements of the Label. Should the EIT Label be successfully awarded to the programme, either conditionally or fully, in 2024, EIT RawMaterials will then offer to the programme full integration into the EIT RawMaterials Master School with the attendant benefits, which are outlined in the following section.

Please note that no direct funding to programmes, consortium members or students is offered through this call.

3.2 Benefits for programmes

Upon the successful award of the EIT Label, EIT RawMaterials will fully integrate the awarded programme into its Master School, meaning that the following benefits will be provided:



- Award of the EIT Label, demonstrating to prospective students, universities, and funding bodies the quality of the programme and its alignment with the EIT Overall Learning Outcomes.
- Increased visibility of the programme through EIT RawMaterials’ marketing and student recruitment activities.
- Participation of programme staff in bi-annual meetings with the opportunity to network with academic and administrative staff from international master’s programmes on raw materials related topics from across Europe. EIT RawMaterials will fund travel and accommodation for up to one administrative representative and one academic representative of successfully EIT-Labelled programmes to attend the meetings.

3.3 Benefits for students

Once the EIT Label is awarded, all enrolled students on the successful master’s programme will immediately become eligible for the following benefits:

- Upon graduation, award of the EIT Label Certificate to students of the programme who enrolled or graduated during the validity of the EIT Label. The EIT Label demonstrates that the holder has undertaken innovation and entrepreneurship training in addition to technical education.
- Eligibility to join EIT RawMaterials Alumni (<https://alumni.eitrawmaterials.eu>) and expand their network across industry professionals, entrepreneurs, and students from raw materials disciplines across Europe.
- Eligibility to take part in funded EIT Label activities to support their innovation and entrepreneurship training (see section 3.3). The activities currently offered are as follows:

| Study period | Activity name | Description |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Semester 1 | Label Induction Days | A member of the EIT RawMaterials Education Team will present the EIT Label to new students and the opportunities provided to Labelled students by EIT RawMaterials. |
| | Label Representatives election | Students can stand for election or vote for their representative on the Label Student Board. There is one Label Representative from each programme in the Master School. Label Representatives from each programme work together to help in planning the events and activities for Label |



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| | | students, and act as a conduit between EIT RawMaterials and their peers. |
| Semester 2 | Label Start-Up | The Label Start-Up event takes place alongside the RawMaterials Summit, EIT RawMaterials' largest annual event. At the Label Start-Up, students will have the opportunity to meet with a range of start-up entrepreneurs from the raw materials field, to undertake entrepreneurship training and to work on real business challenges provided by the participating start-ups. Accommodation, tuition, food and a contribution towards travel are provided by EIT RawMaterials. |
| Semester 3 | RACE | Taking place during the summer break before Semester 3, the 2-week Raw and Circular Economy Expedition is the flagship activity of the EIT RawMaterials Master School, giving participants the opportunity to visit a range of industrial partners while they work on business and technical challenges. Accommodation, tuition, food and internal travel are provided by EIT RawMaterials. Participation in RACE is competitive and not all students applying may be offered places. For more information, visit https://race.eitrawmaterials.eu . |
| Semester 4 | Label-Launch! | Label-Launch! is a pre-graduation event for Label students, which provides workshops to help them with the next steps in their career and networking with students from across the Master School. A video overview of Label-Launch! 2022 is available at https://youtu.be/6CM7ovWWJJE . |
| Post-graduation | Lab2Market | Launched in 2023, Lab2Market is a brand-new entrepreneurship support programme, designed exclusively for EIT Labelled students and graduates as well as PhD students from European universities. In this 3-stage programme, participants will develop their raw materials business idea, learn vital entrepreneurship skills and eventually launch their start-up with the support of experienced mentors. Teams |



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| | | <p>successfully launching a start-up will have the opportunity to pitch to investors and connect with potential customers and partners from across the EIT RawMaterials network. Cash prizes and grants are available to Lab2Market teams reaching Stage 3 of the programme.</p> |
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EIT RawMaterials reserves the right to adjust or cancel the Label activities offered to students in line with changes to funding, requirements set out by EIT or strategic priorities. Due to the varied academic timetables of Label students, it may not be possible for all students to attend all events, if their academic commitments do not allow for it.

4. Requirements for selected programmes

4.1 EIT Label application phase

Master’s programmes selected through this call for support in applying to the EIT Label will be expected work together with an external expert appointed and funded by EIT RawMaterials, to define and then follow a timeline for making the required changes to their programme in order to meet the requirements set out in the EIT Label handbook. Selected programmes should ensure that they make the necessary changes and produce the required documentation in line with the agreed timeline and thereby facilitate the submission of the programme’s application for EIT Labelling during 2024.

4.2 On receipt of the provisional EIT Label

If the programme is conditionally awarded the EIT Label, the programme team should work with the EIT RawMaterials provided external expert to follow the recommendations provided by the EIT, making the changes required and submitting the documents necessary to facilitate the awarding of the full EIT Label to the programme in the timeline set out by EIT.

4.3 On receipt of the full EIT Label

If the programme is awarded the full EIT Label, this is valid indefinitely. However, programmes will be required to provide periodic informational updates and evidence of compliance with the Label requirements, as and when requested by EIT, in order to maintain the EIT Label, for as long as EIT RawMaterials and the programme team agree that the programme should remain part of the EIT RawMaterials Academy Master School.

4.4 If the EIT Label application is rejected

If the programme’s application for the EIT Label is rejected, the programme will not be integrated into the EIT RawMaterials Master School. Support for a later re-application may be provided, at the sole discretion of EIT RawMaterials.



4.5 Reporting obligations

Programmes awarded the EIT Label on either a provisional or a full basis must report to EIT RawMaterials their achievements to against the following KPIs by 15 February each year for the previous calendar year:

| KPI code | KPI name | Definition / details | Supporting evidence required |
|-----------|---|---|--|
| EITHE05.1 | Start-ups created by students enrolled and graduates from EIT-labelled programmes | Number of start-ups established in year N by students enrolled and graduates from EIT labelled MSc and PhD programmes or by learners/participants in other EIT labelled activities. | <p>Structured data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year of reporting - Company name - Company registration number - Country of the company registration - Company website - Name of the student who created the company - Gender of the student who created the company - Was the labelled programme delivered through the HEI CBI? <p>Supporting evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registration certificate of a start-up established in year N - Description of the start-up and its core business - Document such as an invoice or an online sales record certifying the first financial transaction for a service/product sold to a customer |
| EITHE07.1 | Graduates from EIT-labelled programmes | Sum of graduates from EIT labelled master's, PhD programmes and other education activities awarded EIT Label (in year N). | <p>Structured data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year of reporting - Identification number - Gender - Country of origin - Country of residence - Education programme/activity - Education programme type - Name of the HEI/education provider |



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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year of starting the studies under the EIT label - Year of completing the studies under the EIT label <p>No supporting evidence is required.</p> |
| EITHE09.1 | Students enrolled in EIT-labelled programmes | Sum of students enrolled in EIT labelled master's, EIT labelled PhD programmes, participants in EIT labelled Fellowship schemes and other education activities awarded EIT Label (in year N). | <p>Structured data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year of reporting - Identification number - Gender - Country of origin - Country of residence - Education programme type - Education programme/activity and information whether the activity has been developed as part of the HEI CBI - Name of the HEI / education provider - Year of starting the studies under the EIT label <p>No supporting evidence is required.</p> |

Additional achievements which should be reported on can be found in the document [EIT Impact Framework 2021-27](#) which gives full details of the EIT KPI reporting requirements, and programmes should take note of those KPIs which mention achievements of students/graduates, and report on these regularly (on request or at least annually) to EIT RawMaterials. Specific data relating to students and graduates which should be recorded and made available to EIT RawMaterials on request includes:

- Students and graduates from EIT labelled programmes who joined start-ups
- EIT Label graduates employed
- Career growth of participants in EIT labelled education

Please refer to the [EIT Impact Framework 2021-27](#) for details on the data required.



Regular monitoring and reporting on the implementation of programmes is a requirement of the continued award of the EIT Label, in addition to longer-term monitoring and follow-up evaluation. Please refer to pages 24-26 and pages 41-43 or the EIT Label Handbook.

KPI reporting requirements may be subject to change in response to strategic priorities and requirements from the EIT.

4.6 Tracking of graduates

Selected programmes must ensure that adequate graduate tracking processes are in place in order that KPI EITHE05.1 (start-ups created by EIT Label students and graduates) can be accurately reported to EIT RawMaterials within the reporting period.

4.7 Visibility of the EIT Label and EIT Label activities

Master's programmes which are awarded the EIT Label will be required to highlight their EIT Label status and link to EIT RawMaterials Academy on all publicity materials, web pages, social media channels etc. which relate to the programme. This must be displayed with appropriate prominence. Furthermore, programmes which are integrated into the EIT RawMaterials Master School are required to publicise the Label activities and opportunities to their students.

5. Eligibility criteria

5.1 Thematic scope

Only master's programmes which focus on one or more of the following thematic areas, which are the scope of EIT RawMaterials, will be considered for this call:

- **Exploration** and raw materials resource assessment
- **Mining** in challenging environments
- Increased resource efficiency in **mineral and metallurgical processes**
- **Recycling** and material chain optimised on for End-of-Life products
- **Substitution** of critical and toxic materials in products and for optimised performance
- Design of products and services for the **circular economy**

Furthermore, selected programmes will be aligned with one or more of the following EIT RawMaterials Lighthouses:

- Responsible sourcing
- Sustainable materials



- Circular societies

For further information regarding the EIT RawMaterials Lighthouses, visit <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/lighthouses/>.

It is not necessarily expected that programmes applying to this Call should already offer entrepreneurship and innovation training as part of their curriculum. However, programmes selected for EIT Labelling support will need to be able to add entrepreneurship and innovation training to their curriculum in order to meet the requirements set out in the EIT Label Handbook.

5.2 Further mandatory eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible for support in EIT Labelling under this call, programmes must meet the following criteria:

- Be a master's degree programme which will be recruiting students in 2024 and 2025.
- Be aligned with the European guidelines on European Higher Education Area (EHEA) requirements and be accredited or recognised in all the countries of the awarding universities.
- Be delivered by universities established in EU or other Horizon Europe eligible countries.
- Include mandatory international mobility providing a learning experience for students in at least two different European countries.
- Include a mandatory master thesis project.
- Be taught and assessed in English.
- Already feature the involvement of non-academic partners, e.g. from industry or research bodies.
- Be in a financially sustainable position, e.g. through institutional, national or European funds and/or student tuition fees.
- Be in a position to successfully integrate all further requirements of the EIT Label for degree programmes, as set out in the EIT Label Handbook, within the defined timeframe.

6. Selection criteria

Master's programmes applying to this Call for Applications will be assessed using the following criteria (Yes/No criteria must be assessed as Yes in order for the programme to be considered):



| Criterion | Assessment |
|---|------------|
| Programme is aligned with EIT RawMaterials thematic scope as outlined in section 5.1 of this document | Yes/No |
| Programme meets the mandatory eligibility criteria as outlined in section 5.2 of this document | Yes/No |
| Thematic complementarity to existing EIT RawMaterials Master School portfolio | 0-5 points |
| Current level of alignment with EIT Label requirements | 0-5 points |
| Expected achievement of EIT Core KPIs (as outlined in section 4.5 of this document) | 0-5 points |
| Quality and completeness of application | 0-5 points |

The assessment of the applications received according to the above criteria will be undertaken by a panel of EIT RawMaterials staff. Programme meeting the Yes/No gateway criteria and scoring at least 12/20 overall with a minimum of 3/5 in each criterion will be selected for support in applying for the EIT Label.

7. Timeline

7.1 Timeline for this call

The timeline for this call will be as follows:

22 February 2024: Launch of the call

22 March 2024, 23:59 CET: Deadline for applications

29 March 2024: Communication of results

7.2 EIT Label application timeline for selected programmes (indicative)

Programmes which are selected in this call and are in a position to apply for the EIT Label in 2024 will do so under the following timeline:

| | |
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| 2024-Q2 | Preparation of documentation for EIT Label application with external support |
| 2024-Q3 | Submission of EIT Label application; hearings with evaluators |
| 2024-Q4 | Results of EIT Label application received. For programmes awarded the full or provisional EIT Label, integration into the EIT RawMaterials Master School. |

The above timelines may change in line with the requirements of the EIT Labelling process.



8. How to apply to this call

Applications to this Call should be submitted by the lead university of the relevant master's programme. One separate application must be submitted for each master's programme to be considered for EIT Labelling support.

Before submitting their application, applicants should ensure that they have read and understood the EIT Label requirements as set out in the EIT Label Handbook for Full Degree Programmes. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Education Manager at EIT RawMaterials, Steffen Robert, at steffen.robert@eitrawmaterials.eu, to discuss their application informally.

Applications can be submitted using the online form available at <https://eitrm.eu/LabellingSupport2024>.

9. Terms and Conditions

By submitting their application form, applicants to this Call agree to the Terms and Conditions, as set out in this Call for Applications. 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 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 at any time.

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

Applicants agree that if they are selected, their data and non-confidential information about their project may be used by EIT RawMaterials and their authorised representatives without compensation for promotion of their activities.



By submitting their application to this Call, applicants agree to the EIT RawMaterials Privacy Policy available at <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/privacy-policy/>.

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, conflict of interest and confidentiality agreement before access is granted. The title, scope, summary, name of partners in the selected consortia, name of coordinator will be shared 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 this call, and will be arranged jointly by the consortium and EIT RawMaterials staff taking into account the consortium's legitimate confidentiality requirements. The EIT RawMaterials Code of Conduct will be followed throughout the evaluation process. Evaluators will receive specific instructions on the evaluation process, and evaluators will be required to make provisions on confidentiality, conflicts of interest and code of conduct.

10. 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. 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

11. Accompanying documents and further information

This Call for Applications should be read in conjunction with the document *“Quality for learning” EIT Quality Assurance and Learning Enhancement Model: EIT Label Handbook for planning, labelling and reviewing degree programmes, Revised Edition (June 2021)*, which is referred to in this document as the “EIT Label Handbook” and provides full information on the requirements of EIT Labelling. Applicants to this Call should be aware that the EIT may periodically update the EIT Label Handbook and adjust the requirements therein.

For further information regarding this Call for Applications, please contact Jan Eggert, Head of Education at EIT RawMaterials: jan.eggert@eitrawmaterials.eu.