Call Manual - Flagship Accelerator Open Call

Business Plan 2026 – 2028

V.1 – 10 December 2025

EIT Urban Mobility

eiturbanmobility.eu

History of changes

Version	Publication Date	Change
1.0	10.12.2025	Initial version

Disclaimers

- This Call Manual may be subject to corrections, modifications and clarifications. Applicants are encouraged to regularly check the call pages of the EIT Urban Mobility website for any updates.
- This Call Manual follows the main rules and principles of openness, transparency, equal treatment, non-discrimination, proportionality and efficacy established by the EU and EIT. All proposals submitted to the EIT Urban Mobility calls are evaluated based on these principles.
- This Call Manual has been drafted in accordance with the applicable rules and provisions established in the Horizon Europe General Model Grant Agreement, with particular reference to the obligations and procedures outlined in Annex 5 of the EIT Urban Mobility Grant Agreement. The content of the manual is intended to ensure consistency with these frameworks and to provide clear guidance to applicants and beneficiaries regarding the conditions for participation, evaluation, selection, and grant implementation.
- This Open Call falls under the Business Plan 2026-2028, which remains subject to formal approval by the EIT. Please be advised that the conditions and funding allocation for this Call may be subject to change.

Contents

1. Introduction

EIT Urban Mobility is the largest trusted ecosystem of urban mobility innovation in Europe. Our mission is to accelerate the transition to sustainable urban mobility[1]. In doing so, we partner with established businesses, startups, universities, research institutes and the public sector with access to markets, talent, funding and knowledge. Our work supports our vision for sustainable and decarbonised urban mobility and more liveable urban spaces for all.

EIT Urban Mobility is an initiative of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology ("EIT"). EIT Urban Mobility entered into a Partnership Agreement with the EIT, establishing a long-term cooperation laying down the general terms and conditions under which EIT Urban Mobility must operate as an institutionalized European partnership under the Horizon Europe Programme. Within the Partnership Agreement, EIT and EIT Urban Mobility are entering into Grant Agreements enabling the funding of activities included in the relevant Business Plans approved by EIT. Pursuant to the principles of the financial sustainability of KICs (Decisions 13/2021 and 35/2015 of EIT's Governing Board), EIT Urban Mobility is expected to and shall become financially sustainable in the long term. This Call includes the relevant provisions to ensure that ETI Urban Mobility meets the financial sustainability requirements of EIT.

As part of its mission to accelerate the transition to more sustainable and inclusive urban mobility, EIT Urban Mobility will continue to support early-stage ventures (pre-seed) through a dedicated accelerator programme running from 2026 to 2028, while reinforcing its position as a **leading impact investor in mobility ventures**. EIT Urban Mobility intends to stimulate the growth of innovative pre-seed companies while ensuring a steady pipeline of **de-risked, high-quality investment opportunities** aligned with [EIT Urban Mobility's Strategic Agenda 2021 - 2027](#).

EIT Urban Mobility accelerator programme is structured as blended finance for two main purposes: serve as the main support initiative for entrepreneurs to **maximise success of early-stage startups** and serve as **strategic investment catalysers of highly innovative, investment de-risked startups** feeding into the EIT Urban Mobility investment strategy.

Under the 2026-2028 framework, **one Flagship Accelerator Programme targeting early-stage startups (pre-seed)** is foreseen to be funded.

The programme is designed to identify and support the most promising startups shaping the future of urban mobility across Europe. It targets ventures developing **disruptive, deep-tech, and high-growth innovations** that address critical challenges in the mobility ecosystem, from autonomous systems and AI-powered mobility to electrification, smart infrastructure, accessibility, and sustainable transport solutions.

Selected startups will receive **tailored business and technical support**, including expert mentoring and coaching, technology strategic road mapping, product–market fit validation, and business model

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[1] For more information, please visit our website: https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/who-we-are/about-us/

refinement. Participants will gain privileged access to networks of industry partners, cities, investors, and public authorities, as well as high-level visibility opportunities across the European mobility landscape. By combining funding, mentorship, and ecosystem access, the programme systematically reduces risk, accelerates growth, and integrates ventures into EIT Urban Mobility's **equity portfolio**.

This accelerator is **fully aligned with EIT Urban Mobility's investment strategy**, serving as a key pipeline for high-potential ventures that demonstrate strong innovation capacity, market scalability, and environmental, societal and economic impact. Hence, this initiative also builds on the EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy by fostering European competitiveness and innovativeness of the wider urban mobility ecosystem, ensuring that public support effectively leverages funding with purpose for long-term impact.

2. About the Call

Proposals submitted to this Call for Proposals must support EIT Urban Mobility's vision and mission and directly contribute to tackling our strategic objectives (SOs). Applicants need to demonstrate how the proposal will actively contribute, not solely align, to the EIT Urban Mobility Strategic Agenda 2021-2027.

2.1 Who can apply

This Call for Proposals is open to all legal entities established in the Member States of the European Union, and/or in Third countries associated with Horizon Europe.

This Call is open to multi-participant proposals and mono-participant proposals.

Multi-participant proposals must be composed by a **minimum of two and a maximum of four independent legal entities**[2] established in, at least, **two different EU Member States and/or Third countries associated to Horizon Europe**.

Mono-participant proposals must be submitted by legal entities established in one **EU Member States and/or Third countries associated to Horizon Europe**. Proposals involving one partner only can be accepted exceptionally, under the condition that the applicant can demonstrate wide, consolidated European network and outreach.

Special cases

- **Temporary eligibility requirements for Hungarian universities:** Due to Council measures protecting the EU budget (effective December 15, 2022), Hungarian public interest trusts and their affiliated universities may face participation and funding restrictions in any EIT Urban Mobility Calls. For details and affected entities, see the document *Eligibility of Expenditure* also published on the Call webpage.

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[2] Two legal entities shall be regarded as independent of each other when neither is under the direct or indirect control of the other or under the same direct or indirect control as the other. Please refer to the full definition in Article 8 of the Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)" and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal_basis/rules_participation/h2020-rules-participation_en.pdf

2.2   Exclusion Criteria

Entities participating in this Call for Proposals can be excluded **at any time** (during the assessment, the contracting phase, or the implementation phase) if they:

- Are in one of the following situations:
    a. Bankrupt, being wound up, having their affairs administered by the courts, entered 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)
    b. Declared in breach of employment, social security or tax obligations by a final judgment or decision (including persons with unlimited liability for the participant's debts).
- Are found guilty of grave professional misconduct by a final judgment or decision (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making, or control).
- Are subject to an administrative sanction (i.e., exclusion).
- Are 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).
- Show significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under a procurement contract, grant agreement or grant decision financed by the EU or Euratom budget (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making, or control).
- Have misrepresented information required for participating in the EIT Urban Mobility funding scheme or fail to submit such information.
- Were involved in the preparation of any documentation regarding this call or are involved in the evaluation process of this call and this entails a distortion of competition.
- Are found to be attempting to influence the decision-making process of the call during the process.
- Are found attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon its undue advantages in the call process.

If any consortium entity is excluded at any stage (e.g. evaluation, contracting, implementation), EIT Urban Mobility reserves the right to take appropriate action, such as rejecting or discontinuing the proposal or project.

2.3   Membership

EIT Urban Mobility is Europe's largest community for urban mobility innovation. If an application is selected for funding, then all applicants will be required to **become a member of our community and pay the corresponding membership fee**: https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/our-community/become-a-partner/. If you join the consortium as a commercial partner and sign a Commercial Agreement with EIT Urban Mobility, the community membership will be included, giving you access to exclusive partner benefits.

By partnering with EIT Urban Mobility, you will tap into a dynamic network and have the opportunity to collaborate with top innovators, enhance your visibility, access crucial funding opportunities, and test your ideas in real-world environments. Details on available membership categories and annual fees are available on the General Terms and Conditions for Partners for you to select the one that suits you best. Membership conditions and fees may be updated to align with EIT Urban Mobility 2026–2028 Business Plan and individual project timelines. Any changes will be communicated well in advance.

Some of the exclusive benefits you will receive as a partner of EIT Urban Mobility are:

- Shaping the future of cities: exchange on real-life solutions with city leaders to tackle today's urban mobility challenges.
- Building powerful partnerships: connecting top innovators across public and private sectors to drive systemic change.
- Backing bold innovation: helping you test, launch, and scale new mobility solutions faster than ever.
- Amplifying your impact: getting your projects in front of the right stakeholders—at EU, national, and local levels.
- Growing top talent: offering access to Europe's top urban mobility education and skills programmes.

Our mission is to support partners of EIT Urban Mobility by empowering an ecosystem of front-seat innovators from the public and private sector, driving forward the transition towards sustainable urban mobility.

2.4 Timeline

This call is open until 10 February 2026, at 17h00 CET.

Call opening	10 December 2025
Call closure	10 February 2026 (17h00 CET)
Eligibility and admissibility check	Up to 1 week post submission deadline
Evaluation and invitations to Panel hearings	Up to 3 weeks post submission deadline
Panel hearings and portfolio selection	Approximately 2 weeks post invitation to panel hearings, tentatively during the week 02 March to 6 March 2026
Communication of results	Approximately 2 weeks post panel hearings
Tentative start date of the projects	Approximately 2 weeks post communication of results. Expected project start date April/May 2026.

3. Call specific requirements

3.1   Type of proposal sought

The overall purpose of the Call is to seek proposals from leading organisations sharing EIT Urban Mobility mission to accelerate the transition sustainable urban mobility. The acceleration programme is expected to be implemented during the period 2026–2028.

Expertise in entrepreneurship growth-enablement support and investments in early-stage startups is a key aspect for the activities to be implemented. Proposals must demonstrate relevant experience and potential to **attract early-stage startups at pre-seed stage with highly innovative, disruptive and/or deep tech solutions**. Applicants must also demonstrate relevant experience and the potential to provide **structured, tailor-made, high-quality support and networking opportunities**. Proposals must demonstrate **deep alignment with EIT Urban Mobility impact investment focus by curating a de-risked investment deal flow of early-stage companies**. The deal flow funnelling mechanism is the result of scouting, evaluating and selecting the most promising early-stage companies fitting EIT Urban Mobility strategic investment thesis.

3.2   Flagship Accelerator Programme

The EIT Urban Mobility Accelerator is a flagship programme supporting **early-stage startups (pre-seed)** developing disruptive, deep-tech, and high-potential innovations across the urban mobility sector. It promotes technological excellence and market-driven innovations, acting as a launchpad for the next generation of sustainable and impact-oriented mobility ventures.

The programme aligns with the EIT Urban Mobility Strategic Agenda 2021–2027, its Financial Sustainability goals and its Investment Thesis. With this strategic alignment together with expert mentorship, tailored support and ecosystem access, the accelerator will **supports early stage growth while supplying a pipeline of de-risked, high-potential investees for EIT Urban Mobility**.

Flagship Accelerator: Support and grant components

The programme aims to **select and support a maximum of 40 startups** through two components:

Support component	Grant component
<u>Flagship Accelerator support</u>	<u>Grant 1: €10,000 per startup upon selection</u>
Fully delivered by the Flagship Accelerator awarded consortium. Each selected startup will receive tailored business support, including mentoring and coaching, technology development	**Grant 1 - Trigger**: Closure of the selection process, clearance of selection conditions and formal confirmation of selected startups for each cohort. The grant of €10,000 will be directly paid to each successfully selected startups by EIT Urban Mobility.

| road mapping, product–market-fit analysis and validation, and business model refinement. This support must be delivered by top-tier trainers and mentors from the investment and entrepreneurial landscapes. Selected startups must also benefit from access to the consortium network of partners and investors, along with targeted visibility opportunities. The consortium must also encourage peer community and knowledge exchange within the cohort.

The **Flagship Accelerator support is valued at €40,000 per startup**. | <u>Grant 2: €50,000 per startup upon graduation</u>

Graduated startups may receive an additional €50,000, subject to two triggers. The triggers will be assessed within a maximum of six months after graduation. The grant will be paid to the startups directly by EIT Urban Mobility in the form of lump-sum.

Grant 2 - Trigger 1: Performance-based milestone: Startups must achieve a jointly defined, measurable, and time-bound milestone agreed during onboarding. Milestone achievement will be presented by the startup and reviewed by the accelerator partner and EIT Urban Mobility. Examples include verified commercial traction (e.g. new clients signed, increased revenue target, paid pilot signed), one Letter of Intent (LOI), a term sheet, or a verified expression of interest from a reputable, qualified investor (no older than 6 months and valid for at least 6 months).

<u>Only startups having completed Trigger 1 will be considered for Trigger 2.</u>

Grant 2 - Trigger 2: Portfolio assessment clearance: The EIT Urban Mobility's deal flow committee must validate the startup's readiness. The assessment will follow an internal due diligence based on predefined de-risking criteria covering contribution to EU policy goals, technology feasibility, IP position, customer validation, financial model, and go-to-market plan. |

Flagship Accelerator: SAFE

The Flagship Accelerator Programme Call, validated and co-financed by EIT, is addressed to cover European market gaps following the impact assessment for Horizon Europe, enabling supported startups to access to risk capital and promoting the Union's competitiveness. In line with Horizon Europe's blended financing schemes the program enables the supported startups to partner with EIT Urban Mobility, who would potentially become a shareholder after a Portfolio Assessment clearance phase. Such unique opportunity allows the supported startups to obtaining institutional shareholder support, contributing to its growth, while offering a financial return to EIT Urban Mobility to become financially sustainable, ultimately reverting any possible internal assigned revenue back to the EIT's KIC ecosystem, **contributing to the KIC's financial sustainability.**

By linking the non-dilutive support and cash components to structured performance-based and portfolio readiness milestones, the programme effectively de-risks the deal flow and enhances the quality and maturity of startups entering the portfolio pipeline. This approach allows EIT Urban Mobility to monetise its accelerator support through financial sustainability instruments (SAFE agreements), ensuring long-term
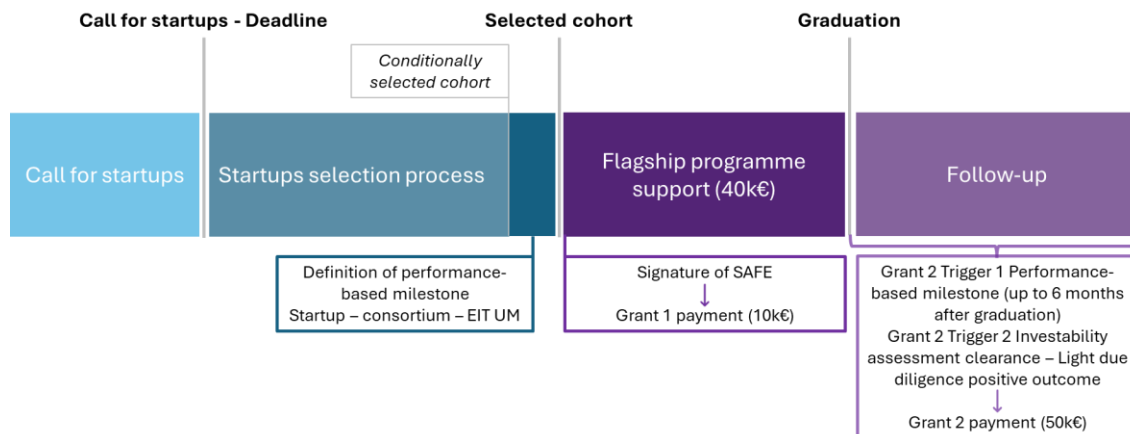
alignment with KIC Strategic Agenda, the KIC financial sustainability and the startups' growth trajectory while maintaining flexibility and transparency. In doing so, the accelerator transforms early-stage ventures into validated, investable opportunities, combining technological excellence, market traction, and impact potential, ultimately strengthening EIT Urban Mobility's capacity to generate a sustainable and high-quality portfolio of innovation-driven urban mobility companies at a European level.

Beyond the support and grant components, EIT Urban Mobility's vision is to back the startups as shareholders. This way, startups selected and supported by the Flagship Accelerator consortium fulfilling the criteria are invited to sign **Simple Agreement for Future Equity (SAFE)**.

Each selected startup will enter into **one single SAFE agreement** with EIT Urban Mobility for a **potential total amount of up to €100,000.** The SAFE agreement will be structured in two tranches reflecting the following:

1. **First tranche €50,000: €40,000 support + €10,000 financial support**
   SAFE first tranche covers the **Support component (valued at €40,000) and Grant 1 (€10,000).**
2. **Second tranche €50,000 financial support**

EIT Urban Mobility will provide the contract to be signed with the start-ups to formalise each lump-sum payments.

A full startup journey for the Flagship Accelerator Programme is included in **ANNEX 4**.

3.2.1 Expected outcomes & results

The awarded consortium will be responsible for delivering the full Flagship Accelerator Programme, from startups scouting and selection, to curriculum design and programme closure. The **expected outcomes** of the **Flagship Accelerator, per Business Plan 2026-2028,** include:

- A structured, high-quality, and tailor-made curriculum and timeline.
- A minimum of 160 fully submitted applications from eligible startups.
- **40 high-potential pre-seed startups selected and supported**.
- A minimum of 1/3 of supported startups being women-founded (or women co-founded) or with a women CEO.
- A minimum of 3 cohorts and a maximum of 4 cohorts.

The **expected outcomes** of the Flagship Accelerator, **per cohort of supported startups**, include:

- A minimum of 10 supported startups in one cohort during 2026
- A minimum of 20 supported startups in maximum 2 cohorts during 2027.
- A maximum of 10 supported startups for one cohort in 2028, graduated latest by 15 June 2028.
- Each cohort must **begin and end within the same calendar year**.
- A minimum of 2 in-person events per cohort.
- A full due diligence must be conducted for each supported startup, in line with the EIT Urban Mobility Investment Thesis. The due diligence must be performed by qualified experts—internal or external to the consortium. The due diligence must include an expert qualitative and evidence-based assessment covering at minimum team, business model, market, technology, legal, and financial aspects.
- An average satisfaction rating from the supported startups of, at least, 8/10 from each cohort.
- An analysis of programme performance per cohort with concrete improvement proposals for the next cohort.

Curriculum and Timeline

The awarded consortium is responsible for designing and delivering a structured, high-quality, and tailor-made accelerator curriculum and timeline.
The content must be **adapted to each cohort** and startup to make it as tailored and relevant as possible. It should cover key topics such as business development, impact validation, go-to-market strategies, scaling, and fundraising, and investment-readiness.

The curriculum must include:
- **At least two in-person events**, specifically a Kick-off event at the start of the programme and a Demo Day at the end, to foster stronger connections, visibility, and hands-on engagement with the supported startups.
- **Opportunities to interact with investors and stakeholders**, including pitch sessions, Q&As, and networking opportunities to prepare startups to raise capital and/or develop their business.
- **Group training sessions** on topics relevant to the startups.
- **A minimum of 50% of the support provided as one-to-one mentoring or coaching**, tailored to the individual needs of each startup (e.g., pricing, sales, product development, fundraising, go-to-market strategy) and aligned with the performance-based targets.
- **Activities that encourage peer-to-peer learning and collaboration**, such as facilitated cohort discussions, startup-led sessions, and informal community-building formats.

- **Validation of product-market fit** through structured engagement with relevant stakeholders and real-world contexts, including target customers, user groups, cities, corporates, and/or programme partners.
- One **due diligence report** for each supported startup, in line with EIT Urban Mobility investment thesis.

The timeline should clearly define the main phases of the programme and ensure a coherent pacing of scouting, evaluation, delivery, and reporting, including key activities such as events, mentoring, training, validation, and networking. The final overall curriculum timeline, based on the selected proposal, will be coordinated and aligned with EIT Urban Mobility.

Promotion and Visibility

To maximise visibility of the programme itself and the supported startups, the consortium must implement a strategic communications and promotion plan. This should include:
- A dedicated landing page with SEO-optimised content.
- A programme-one pager used for communication purposes towards startups and founders.
- Targeted social media campaigns (e.g. LinkedIn, X-Twitter, and/or Instagram), featuring, at least: the call for startups, announcement of the selected startups, the two in-person events.
- Media partnerships focusing on urban mobility, startups and/or impact investors. It should include coverage on, at least: the call for startups, the selected startups, the two in-person events. All promotion via media partnerships will be subject to EIT UM preliminary approval.

Open Call for Startups

The awarded consortium must coordinate with EIT Urban Mobility the preparation and launch of the call for startups, including timings for call opening date, call deadline, internal call cut-offs per cohort (in case of intending to have a permanently open call for startups until the last cohort) and timings for evaluation of applications. Specifically:

- The call for startups must comply with the applicable provisions outlined in the Annex 5 of the Horizon Europe's Model Grant Agreement (pages 119-126). In particular:
  - The call for startups must remain open for a **minimum of one month**. The call for startups can remain open for the full period 2026-2028 if clear cut-off dates for each cohort are defined.

- The applications received must be assessed with the support of at least one external evaluator[3]. During the evaluation phase, the external evaluator's score must constitute at least 55% of the total score.
- All applications must be assessed in accordance with the following pre-defined award criteria: (a) Excellence, (b) Impact, (c) Quality and efficiency of the implementation and, if appropriate, (d) KIC portfolio strategic fit and compliance with the financial sustainability principles and knowledge triangle integration.

- The consortium must coordinate with EIT UM at least one info session for startups during the open call period per cohort.
- The consortium must provide the software tool to gather and evaluate proposals. The consortium is requested to appoint a responsible person in charge of the full management of the Flagship Accelerator call at the provided software tool.

Scouting and Outreach

According to EIT UM experience in startup support programmes, **scouting and outreach is a critical aspect for a programme to attract high potential candidates**.

To ensure a competitive, high-quality, and inclusive selection process, the consortium must conduct targeted outreach and promotion activities across EU 27 and Horizon Europe associated countries. These efforts should aim to attract a diverse pipeline of high-potential pre-seed startups aligned with EIT Urban Mobility Startup Investment thesis, focus areas and strategic topics[4] (see also ANNEX 1 Admissibility and Eligibility criteria for startups).

For each cohort, the consortium is expected to attract and secure a **minimum number of fully submitted eligible applications equivalent to at least four times the number of startups to be selected for each cohort**. **At least one-third of these applications must come from startups that are either women-founded, co-founded and/or have a woman as CEO**, in line with EIT Urban Mobility's commitment to gender equity and inclusive innovation.

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[3] External expert evaluators must be independent; they cannot be employed by EIT UM or consortium members and they cannot have any link to/direct interest in the applying startups. External expert evaluators must have expertise in assessing startups and must be selected by consortiums following their own procedure. External expert evaluators can be paid by the consortium (when so, this must be foreseen in the project budget) or work pro bono.

[4] EIT Urban Mobility investment focus areas and strategic topics might be updated according to the information publicly available at Startup investment - EIT Urban Mobility. The scouting and outreach efforts must be updated accordingly.

The consortium should rely on both internal and external sourcing channels to attract startups. The consortium should rely on their experience and methodologies to source and filter high quality ventures with scalable business.

Outreach activities may include, but are not limited to:
- Engaging with relevant startup ecosystems, hubs, and accelerators.
- Participating in or hosting industry events, webinars, and info sessions.
- Leveraging networks of partners, investors, and alumni.
- Promoting the programme via dedicated online campaigns and communication channels.

The outreach strategy should demonstrate a clear approach to reach underrepresented groups, less-connected ecosystems, and innovators across a broad geographic range, including specific scouting actions for Regional Innovation Scheme countries according to European innovation scoreboard - European Commission.

Evaluation of Startup Applications

The consortium is responsible for designing and implementing a fair, inclusive, and transparent evaluation process of startup applications, in close coordination with EIT Urban Mobility and in line with the Annex 5 of the Horizon Europe's Model Grant Agreement (pages 119-126).

The evaluation process must follow **three evaluation phases**:
- **Phase 1. Eligibility check**: Covers at a minimum the criteria described in ANNEX 1 **Admissibility and Eligibility criteria for Startups**.
- **Phase 2. Proposal evaluation**: Each application will be evaluated by a minimum of one internal evaluator[5] and one external evaluator[6]. The consortium must provide EIT UM with a list of gender-balanced external expert evaluators no later than two weeks before the call for startups submission deadline.

  The consortium must coordinate with EIT UM, at least one info session for external expert evaluators to provide guidance on the online evaluation criteria and timings to conduct the evaluations, in synchronous or asynchronous format. If synchronous, the consortium will be responsible to check external expert evaluators availability to conduct the online evaluations in

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[5] Internal evaluators are directly employed by EIT UM or the consortium members. They are appointed based on their professional and thematic expertise in the field, and upon confirmation that they have no conflict of interest to evaluate a given proposal.

[6] External evaluators must be independent; they cannot be employed by EIT UM or consortium members and they cannot have any link to/direct interest in the applying startups. External evaluators must have expertise in assessing startups and must be selected by consortiums following their own procedure. External evaluators can be paid by the consortium (when so, this must be foreseen in the project budget) or work pro bono.

due time with the expected quality. At the end of the evaluation a consensus meeting must be organise, to allow the evaluators to agree on a final score.

Phase 2 should be conducted via the software tool provided by the consortium to gather and evaluate proposals.

- **Phase 3. Live pitch**: A number of top-scoring shortlisted applications should be invited to an online pitch, which must be evaluated by a jury of experts. The consortium must provide EIT UM with a list of gender-balanced expert jury members no later than two weeks before the live pitches.

  The jury must be composed by a minimum of one internal evaluator[7] and one external evaluator[8]. At least one member of EIT UM will participate in the assessment as internal evaluator.

  The consortium must coordinate with EIT UM one info session for external expert jury members to provide guidance on the evaluation criteria and timings to conduct the evaluations. The consortium will be responsible to check external expert jury members availability to participate at the live pitch sessions, conduct the evaluations in due time with the expected quality and participate at the consensus meeting for phase 3 scorings.

The overall weighting ratio between the scores assigned by external and internal evaluators shall be 55:45, with the external evaluators' scores accounting for at least 55% of the total assessment.

All evaluators and jury members must complete a Gender & Diversity Training, including a self-assessment[9]. Online evaluators and jury panels must ensure thematic expertise and gender balance.

The final application score for any given applicant will be determined by the sum of phase 2 score and phase 3 score. The final rank of startups, from higher score to lowest score, will determine the list of selected[10] startups.

Applicants will be notified via e-mail about the outcome of the evaluation.

The consortium must ensure the whole evaluation process is **well documented, consistent and transparent**.[11]

On boarding of selected startups and SAFE agreements

The awarded accelerator programme must support a **maximum of 40 startups**:

- A minimum of **10 startups in 2026, graduated latest by 31 December 2026**
- A minimum of **20 startups in 2027, graduated latest by 31 December 2027**

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[7] See previous clarification
[8] See previous clarification
[9] These materials will be provided by EIT Urban Mobility.
[10] Refer to ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTATION AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS.
[11] The consortium will be required to provide EITUM with a detailed report.

- A maximum of **10 startups in 2028, graduated latest by 15 June 2028**

Consortium will ensure that startups are invited to **sign a Simple Agreement for Future Equity (SAFE)** with EIT Urban Mobility.

Each selected startup will enter into one SAFE agreement with EIT Urban Mobility for a potential total amount of up to €100,000.

Further details on the support component, financial support component and SAFE can be found at Chapter 3.2 Flagship Accelerator Programme.

The awarded Accelerator Programme's **partner(s) will be responsible** for defining the specific performance-based milestones of each startup, in agreement with the startup and EIT Urban Mobility during the onboarding process.

Milestones must be **measurable, time-bound, and feasible** within the scope of support provided by the accelerator. Milestone achievement will be **submitted by the startup** and **reviewed by the accelerator partner and EIT Urban Mobility**. Examples include:

- Verified commercial traction (e.g., new clients signed, increased revenue target, paid pilot signed)
- One Letter of Intent (LOI) or term sheet from an accredited investor
- Verified expression of interest from a reputable, qualified investor (no older than 6 months, valid for at least 6 month).

The agreed performance-based milestones will be **included in the SAFE agreement** of each company.

Accelerator support to Selected Startups

Each startup must receive support for a minimum of 2 months. The support should be high-quality, hands-on, and combine online and in-person formats, with flexibility to adapt to each startup's pace, goals, and feedback.

The consortium must ensure that all support activities described in the curriculum are delivered effectively, consistently, and in a way that is responsive to the evolving needs of each cohort. For m**ulti-participant proposals**, delivery should be coordinated across consortium partners, with clearly defined roles, streamlined communication, and robust quality assurance mechanisms.

Expert mentors, coaches, and facilitators must be carefully selected and have a relevant track record in the entrepreneurial and investment ecosystem. Their involvement should be tailored to the specific needs of the cohort. To promote diversity and offer inclusive perspectives, the consortium must ensure that at least **50% of the mentor, coach, and trainer pool is composed of women**, providing participants with varied role models and insights.

To maximise impact, delivery must emphasise:

- **Tailored, purposeful support to achieve the performance-based milestones.**
- **Responsiveness and Customisation**: Ensuring each startup receives targeted, timely support aligned with their individual development plans.
- **Continuity and Engagement**: Maintaining momentum through regular check-ins, active cohort management, and close coordination between delivery partners.
- **Quality Assurance**: Establishing internal feedback loops to monitor the effectiveness of each activity and adapt in real time.
- **Inclusivity and Accessibility**: Ensuring all formats and interactions are accessible and inclusive, both in logistics and content.

Delivery should be approached as a dynamic, hands-on process, as it is the backbone of how value is created for the startups and how results are achieved.

Startup milestones achievements and Due Diligence

The consortium is expected to actively support each startup with the objective to facilitate the achievement of the agreed performance-based milestones (**Trigger 1 of Grant 2**).

In addition, the consortium must deliver one due diligence report for each supported startup, following EIT Urban Mobility investment thesis. The due diligence report will be the main resource used by EIT Urban Mobility to conduct the portfolio assessment clearance following the internal Dealflow Committee process (**Trigger 2 of Grant 2**).

These due diligence reports must include, but are not limited to:

- Founders' background and team assessment
- Business model and market opportunity
- Product maturity and technology review
- Legal and corporate structure
- Financials, fundraising history, and projections
- Customer traction and feedback
- Competitive landscape and differentiation
- IP strategy assessment
- Risk assessment
- Tax assessment

The final scope and format of the due diligence reports must be agreed in advance with the EIT UM's Head of Investments. The due diligence reports must be externalised to an expert firm.[12]

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[12] If this task is outsourced, the consortium shall ensure that the associated costs are duly accounted for in the project budget.

Startup Satisfaction, Programme Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

To ensure continuous quality, relevance, and impact, the consortium must implement a comprehensive feedback and evaluation process throughout and at the conclusion of each accelerator cohort.

The consortium is responsible for collecting structured feedback from all participating startups using surveys, interviews, or focus groups. This feedback should capture startup perspectives on critical areas such as:

- The quality, relevance, and adaptability of the curriculum and training sessions.
- The effectiveness and responsiveness of mentoring and coaching support.
- The value and impact of networking and matchmaking opportunities with investors, corporates, and ecosystem partners.
- Overall programme management, communication, and logistics.

The consortium is expected to achieve an **average satisfaction score of at least 8 out of 10** across all supported startups.

Based on the startup feedback and programme's overall performance, the consortium must provide lessons learned and include concrete, actionable recommendations to refine and improve programme design, delivery, and outcomes for the following years. This **continuous improvement** approach ensures the accelerator remains agile and responsive to evolving startup needs, ecosystem dynamics, and strategic priorities of EIT Urban Mobility.

3.3   Project duration

The project duration is **expected to be maximum 33 months** (April 2026[13] – December 2028) and must be clearly justified based on the scope, complexity, and planned activities. The project is expected to be implemented over a three-year duration, comprising three successive rounds of activities, each covering a one-year cycle.[14] As indicated in the *Project Implementation Handbook* available also on the Call webpage, if during the project implementation, additional time is needed to achieve key results or KPIs, a no-cost extension may be requested and granted subject to approval. **The projects, including any extensions, must be completed by 31 December 2028.**

The project awarded under the present call will be subject to an annual review. During Q4 of each year (that is, 2026 and 2027), EIT UM will assess the activities carried out to date and confirm whether the project may continue in the following year.

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[13] The estimated commencement date is April 2026; however, it may be deferred to May 2026.
[14] Due to the starting date of the project, the activities corresponding to 2026 must be carried in 8/9 months.

The decision by EIT UM to discontinue a project may be based not only on its performance, but also on changes in the overall strategic priorities and areas of action of EIT UM.

3.4   Financial aspects

3.4.1 Funding allocation

Applicants are invited to submit **proposals for a maximum EIT funding of 1.5 million EUR**: the 2.4 million EUR of financial support to the (**maximum 40**) supported startups will be disbursed to them directly by EIT Urban Mobility.

Applicants are requested to provide a budget broken down by each of the three years of implementation, in accordance with the indications provided in the Guideline for Applicants and by using the Excel template provided (both available on the call webpage).

All consortium partners should have a justifiable core role with appropriate budget to perform their defined activities. Performative participation in projects or inclusion of partners without justifiable intrinsic value who are not demonstrably essential to project outcomes, will be questioned during the evaluation and portfolio selection.

3.4.2 Co-funding rate and eligibility of expenditure

All proposals must have a minimum **co-funding rate of 5%** across the project. Partners in a consortium may have different co-funding rates, as long as the overall project co-fund meets the required 5% minimum.

Any co-funding rate above 5% will be positively assessed during the panel hearing.

3.4.3 Eligibility of expenditure

All expenditure must comply with the Horizon Europe rules (see the *Annotated Model Grant Agreement*). For a summary of the most relevant information on the eligibility of costs, please refer to the *Eligibility of expenditure* document published also on the Call webpage.

3.4.4 Contribution to EIT Urban Mobility's financial sustainability

To enable the KIC to gradually become financially independent from EIT funding, EIT Urban Mobility has developed a Financial Sustainability (FS) Strategy following EIT's decisions and guidelines. This FS strategy is based on a mix of both active earned income and passive investment revenue (access rights to equity). These revenue streams will be complemented by financial contributions coming from activities funded by EIT Urban Mobility.

The Flagship Accelerator Programme is central to this strategy. In line with Horizon Europe's blended financing schemes the program enables the supported startups to partner with EIT Urban Mobility, potentially becoming shareholder after a Portfolio Assessment clearance phase. Such unique opportunity allows the startups to obtaining institutional shareholder support, contributing to its growth, while offering

a financial return to EIT Urban Mobility to become financially sustainable, ultimately reverting any possible internal assigned revenue back to the EIT's KIC ecosystem, as a long-lasting funding recycling mechanism.

By linking the non-dilutive support and cash components to structured performance-based and portfolio readiness milestones, the programme effectively de-risks the deal flow and enhances the quality and maturity of startups entering the portfolio pipeline. This approach allows EIT Urban Mobility to secure its accelerator support through financial sustainability instruments (SAFE agreements), ensuring long-term alignment with KIC Strategic Agenda, the KIC financial sustainability and the startups' growth trajectory while maintaining flexibility and transparency. In doing so, the accelerator transforms early-stage ventures into validated, investable opportunities, combining technological excellence, market traction, and impact potential, ultimately strengthening EIT Urban Mobility's capacity to generate a sustainable and high-quality portfolio of innovation-driven urban mobility companies at a European level.

Beyond the support and grant components, EIT Urban Mobility's vision is to back the supported startups as shareholders. This way, startups selected and supported by the Flagship Accelerator consortium fulfilling the criteria are invited to sign **Simple Agreement for Future Equity (SAFE)**.

3.5. Fast track provisions

The successful execution and completion of the activities financed under the framework of the present call may unlock the possibility of receiving additional EIT Urban Mobility funding for upscaling purposes after project completion. This process is regulated by the provisions included in EIT Urban Mobility's Guidance on the fast-track mechanism.

3.6. Key Performance indicators (KPIs)

To be eligible, all submitted proposals must comply with the **two mandatory KPIs listed below**, providing the expected minimum target value for each KPI.

KPI Code	KPI title	Minimum target value / year	Maximum target value / year
EITHE03.1	KIC Supported start-ups/scale-ups	10 in 2026 20 in 2027	10 in 2028
EITHE06.1	Investment attracted by KIC supported start-ups and scale-ups	1M€ in 2027 2M€ in 2028	-

Full KPIs description is available in **Annex 3** of the present call manual.

Proposals with higher KPI ambitions - particularly for EITHE06.1 - will be positively considered during evaluation as long as targets are realistic and clearly aligned with the project's objectives and scope. Unrealistic or misaligned KPI targets may negatively impact the proposal's assessment.

3.7. Deliverables

Proposals should include a list of deliverables that demonstrate the work performed and results achieved. Consortia are encouraged to limit the number of deliverables included in the proposal.

For both accelerators, **the following deliverables are mandatory**:

#	Deliverable	Description	Delivery date
DEL1	Curriculum, Timeline and One Pager	Detailed overview of the accelerator programme structure, including topics covered, delivery format, timeline, and allocation between group and 1:1 support. The content must be adapted to the specific needs and thematic focus of each cohort. The deliverable must also include a concise and visually engaging one-page summary of the accelerator programme, developed using a standard template provided by the EITUM programme responsible. The one-pager will be used for communication and dissemination purposes.	June 2026 February 2027 February 2028
DEL2	Scouting and Final Selection	This deliverable should include a comprehensive report on the scouting process, detailing the marketing efforts used to attract applications, call timings, evaluation process including breakdown of phases and criteria for evaluation, and the final selection of startups. The report should include an overview of applicant demographics, FTE team members, company valuation, next funding round target, Net Impact Ratios and startups with women founders or CEOs. Provide business intelligence on application metrics vs scouting efforts and results from each evaluation phase. Provide graphic evidence (screenshots, pictures, videos) when relevant.	1 deliverable per cohort. Latest 1 month after each cohort selection is closed.
DEL3	Events	This deliverable should provide details of the in-person events attendance as part of the curriculum including objective, the format, full list of attendees from consortium and supported startups, feedback and main takeaways. Provide graphic evidence (screenshots, pictures, videos).	December 2026 December 2027 December 2028
DEL4	Due Diligence	The consortium/partners are responsible for preparing and delivering **due diligence reports** for each startup, covering key aspects such as team, business model, technology, market, financials, and risks. These reports enable EIT Urban Mobility to internally evaluate and present the startups to the Dealflow Committee, fulfilling **Trigger 2 of the second grant**. The final scope	1 deliverable per cohort. Latest 1 months after each cohort graduation date.

		and format of the due diligence reports must be agreed in advance with the Head of Investments. Due diligence reports can be externalised to an expert firm.	
DEL5	Startup satisfaction and programme improvement	Analysis of structured feedback collected from supported startups, including satisfaction ratings, and concrete proposals for programme improvement in the following year.	December 2026 December 2027 December 2028

These deliverables are essential for programme accountability and continuous improvement. Failure to submit them in full and on time may affect future funding eligibility.

EIT Urban Mobility will provide templates for all required deliverables, specifying the minimum content and requirements.

3.8.   Project implementation, monitoring and reporting

All projects selected for funding are regularly monitored by EIT Urban Mobility in accordance with the Financial Support Agreement and Project Implementation Handbook, published also on the Call webpage. All Project Leaders and consortium partners will need to comply with the rules and procedures established in the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement during the project implementation, as well as with the branding, communication and dissemination rules outlined in the Project Implementation Handbook.

Given the nature of accelerator programme, monitoring will focus on tracking the progress and impact of supported startups throughout their development journey during the programme. This includes:

- Monthly recurrent meeting between the consortia's lead and EITUM programme responsible to check on the programme's milestones, startup development and feedback.
- In-person site visits by EIT Urban Mobility representatives in in-person events (e.g., Demo Days), enabling direct engagement with startups, mentors, and delivery teams.

A formal ex-post impact assessment may be conducted by EIT UM within up to five years after the project's completion.

3.9.   Intellectual Property

IP management actions within the programme must align with the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement, Annex 5, and the European Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/499 on the management of intellectual assets for knowledge valorisation. The program should foster responsible IP practices that encourage collaboration, fair access, and knowledge uptake - while supporting the commercial ambitions of the supported startups.

IP considerations must be a part of the startup application process, and an integral part of the overall startups support strategy, introducing a requirement for consortiums to conduct specific support on IP assessment and strategies for the selected startups. This assessment will help identify the startup's current IP status, awareness of protection needs, and alignment of IP strategy with their business and go-to-market plans. Consortiums are expected to support startups develop or refine an IP strategy, identifying which

elements of their innovation may require protection, evaluating freedom to operate, and outlining commercialisation routes.

3.10. Gender and diversity

Diversity drives innovation. At EIT Urban Mobility, we believe that solving global challenges and creating more liveable cities requires inclusive thinking and diverse perspectives. Ensuring that gender and diversity are embedded in how new mobility solutions are developed is essential to addressing the needs of all community groups.

We aim to support organisations that actively promote gender equality and embrace diversity in all forms. Therefore, proposals submitted to this call should include concrete actions to advance these principles, including:

- Ensure that **at least one-third of the** selected startups are companies with a **woman founder or CEO**.
- Introducing a requirement for **gender and biological sex analysis and consideration of diverse user needs** in both solution development and user profiling as part of the startup application process, to assess inclusive design.
- Including **Gender and Diversity guidance** and information materials for evaluators, which will be provided by EIT Urban Mobility, including a **self-assessment** to ensure evaluators understand and can apply these principles effectively during evaluation.
- Promote gender-balanced leadership by applying a **4-point cap (out of 5)** in the evaluation criteria for teams with **no women founders or CEOs**.
- Ensure **50% gender balance among the pool of mentors, coaches and trainers** involved in the accelerator to provide diverse role models and perspectives to participating startups.

By implementing these measures, we aim to foster a more inclusive innovation ecosystem that reflects and responds to the diversity of urban communities.

4. Preparing and submitting a proposal

4.1 Support given to applicants preparing a proposal

Applicants are encouraged to thoroughly read the *Application Form Guidance*, attend the Call information sessions, and direct any questions to the contact persons during the proposal preparation process to improve chances of successful applications.

Application Form Guidance

The *Application Form Guidance* is published on the Call webpage (together with the template of the mandatory attachment) and provides comprehensive information and instructions on how to prepare and submit a proposal for this Call.

Call information sessions

To help applicants prepare and submit their proposals, EIT Urban Mobility will host information sessions after the publication of the Call. These online information events will focus on the Call content, the challenges, and requirements, as well as on the general procedures, such as the submission and evaluation process, the financial aspects and the monitoring and reporting activities.

Type of event	Topic covered	Date and time (CET)	Access to platform
Webinar	Introduction to the Call, strategic focus, scope and Call requirements, evaluation process and submission steps.	December 16, 2025, 14.00 - 15.00 CET	Zoom meeting – Webinar registration

Call contact points

All applicants may contact the Impact Ventures Team at EIT Urban Mobility to answer any questions or address any concerns about the Call: impact.ventures@eiturbanmobility.eu

4.2 Submission of a proposal

4.2.1 Proposal submission

Before starting to draft a proposal, **all applicants** (Project Leader and consortium partners) must follow the following steps:

- **Step 1 (all consortium partners):** register your organisation in the **EU Funding & tender opportunities portal** to obtain the nine-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC number). If you

don't know if your organisation already has a PIC number, you can verify directly on the EU Portal (click here) whether your organisation is already registered.

- **Step 2 (all consortium partners):**
  - o   If you never registered in NetSuite, please complete the **Partner Information Form (PIF)**[15]. If the system denies your registration because your email address is associated with an existing entity, please contact servicedesk@eiturbanmobility.eu.
  - o   If you are already registered in the **EIT Urban Mobility NetSuite platform** (NetSuite) please log in by going to step 3.

EIT Urban Mobility may take **up to two working days** to process your registration in NetSuite and cannot guarantee last-minute registration requests, especially during peak periods close to the call deadline. Therefore, all project partners are strongly advised to **complete their registration several days before the submission deadline** to ensure successful and timely submission.

- **Step 3 (for the Project Leader only):**
  Access the **EIT Urban Mobility NetSuite platform** and find the call under Menu --> Call for Proposals --> Open Calls. **Fill-in and submit your application form within the given deadline**, including the following supporting documentation:
  - -   Application form (fully compiled in English language)
  Other supporting documents:
  - -   Excel with the budget breakdown for 2027 and 2028 (**mandatory**). **The template to be used in provided on the call webpage: no other templates will be accepted**.
  - -   Letter of commitment/support from non-consortium members willing to get involved in the implementation of activities (optional, only if available)

Applications missing any of the mandatory supporting documents or submitting blank or wrong documents will be automatically rejected during the admissibility and eligibility check.

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[15] If in a few hours, after submitting the PIF form, you don't receive an automatic e-mail with the log-in credentials, please contact the EIT Urban Mobility Service Desk servicedesk@eiturbanmobility.eu.

5. Evaluation and selection process

Once the applicants have submitted their proposals and the call is officially closed, EIT Urban Mobility will proceed to:

- Check eligibility and admissibility of those proposals and, if successful,

- Evaluate the content of the proposals with the support of independent expert evaluators.

Proposals that pass the minimum threshold set for the quality evaluation stage will be invited to a Hearing for a final portfolio selection.

5.1. Admissibility and eligibility check

A proposal will be admissible if it fulfils the criteria detailed below:

1. Completeness	- The proposal is submitted before the indicated deadline.[16] - The proposal is submitted via the NetSuite submission tool. - The proposal is complete, all mandatory fields are filled in, and mandatory supporting documents are submitted (blank or wrong documents will not be admissible). - The proposal and all its supporting documents are written in English.

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[16] If you believe that the submission of your proposal failed due to a technical error exclusively attributable to the EIT Urban Mobility Grant Management Tool (the submission platform), you may submit a complaint by sending an email to the PMO team (pmo@eiturbanmobility.eu). The email must include the **proposal ID number** and a **clear description of the issue, together with objective evidence** (time-stamped screenshots) of the assumed platform malfunction. You may be requested by the PMO team to provide additional information if necessary. The complaint must be submitted **within 3 calendar days after the call closure**. Complaints submitted after this period and/or without sufficient evidence will not be considered.
 EIT Urban Mobility will verify the incident by checking internal IT logs to determine whether a technical malfunction of the EIT Urban Mobility Grant Management Tool occurred during your submission attempt. Complaints will not be accepted if the issue is related to the applicant's own equipment, internet connection, computer configuration, or any misinterpretation, misunderstanding, or disregard of any rules and/or instructions outlined in the Call Manual and/or in the Guidelines for Applicants. You will be informed of the outcome as soon as possible. If the complaint is accepted, the PMO team will provide guidance on the next steps and will give you **24 hours to proceed**.

If a proposal is not admissible, it will not go to the eligibility check.

A proposal will be eligible if it fulfils the below criteria:

2. Applicant eligibility	Each applicant must be located in an **EU Member State or a** [Third Country associated with Horizon Europe]().
3. Applicants registration	All consortium partners must have fully completed the **Partner Information Form (PIF)** in the NetSuite online submission tool, including their **correct PIC number**.
4. Consortium composition	The proposal is submitted by a mono-beneficiary or, for multi-participant proposals, the consortium is composed of **minimum 2 and maximum 4 independent legal entities from at least two different countries** from EU Members States or [Third countries associated to Horizon Europe]().
5. Co-funding rate	All proposals must have a **minimum co-funding rate of 5%** at project level.
6. KPIs addressed	All proposals must address these mandatory KPIs:

KPI Code	KPI title	Min. Target	Max. Target
EITHE03.1	Start-ups and scaleups supported by KICs	10 in 2026 20 in 2027	10 in 2028
EITHE06.1	Investment attracted by KIC supported start-ups and scale-ups	1M€ in 2027 2M€ in 2028	

5.1.1. Rectification process

In the case of missing information or obvious clerical errors linked to the Partner Information Form (PIF), applicants will be given **five calendar days**[17] after receiving the official communication to complete or correct the PIF and resubmit it. If the Project Leader responds positively to this requirement within the time limit, the proposal will progress to the next stage of the evaluation process (See Section 5.2). If the Project Leader fails to respond or responds after the deadline, the proposal will remain ineligible and will not be further processed.

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[17] A few additional days might be granted according to the circumstances (i.e. public holidays/weekends). In such cases, the Project Leader will be informed by email of the exact period.

The Project Leader may appeal the decision to reject a proposal on the grounds of inadmissibility or ineligibility. This appeal must be made within seven calendar days[18] of the official EIT Urban Mobility notification regarding inadmissibility or ineligibility (see the *Appeal procedure* document published also on the call webpage).

If a single consortium partner is ineligible, this partner must withdraw. EIT Urban Mobility will then check whether the proposal is still eligible. The Project Leader will be informed accordingly.

The Project Leader may appeal if they disagree with the decision to reject a proposal on the grounds that it is inadmissible/ineligible. An appeal must be made within seven calendar days[19] of the official EIT Urban Mobility notification of ineligibility (see document *Appeal procedure* published also on the Call webpage).

5.2. Stage 1: Applications evaluation

Each evaluation phase is comprised of different groups of criteria and sub-criteria which will be assessed according to the following scores:

Score		Description
0	*Fail*	The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1	*Poor*	The proposal inadequately addresses the criterion, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	*Fair*	The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3	*Good*	The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
4	*Very good*	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5	*Excellent*	The proposal fully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion and is outstanding in every aspect.

The purpose of this first evaluation is to determine a proposal's suitability for funding that has passed the admissibility and eligibility check.

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[18] A few additional days might be granted according to the circumstances (i.e. public holidays/weekends). In such cases, the Project Leader will be informed by email of the exact period.

[19] A few additional days might be granted according to the circumstances (i.e. public holidays/weekends). In such cases, the Lead Applicants will be informed by email of the exact appeal period.

The evaluation will assess the proposal's strategic fit, as well as its excellence, impact, and quality and efficiency of implementation. It will be carried out by three independent external expert evaluators and one internal EIT Urban Mobility evaluator who will only assess the proposal's strategic fit. The evaluators will have relevant experience in startup acceleration, urban mobility, startup investment, gender/diversity inclusion and EU-funded project delivery. Each proposal is scored individually and anonymously.

The table below provides an overview of the maximum and minimum qualifying scores for each evaluation criterion:

	Maximum score	Minimum qualifying score
Strategic fit and EU dimension	*15 points*	*9 points*
Excellence	*25 points*	*15 points*
Impact	*15 points*	*9 points*
Quality and efficiency of the implementation	*20 points*	*12 points*
Total points	*75 points*	

Only proposals that obtain the minimum score for each of these four criteria will qualify for the next stage.

The threshold is **three points in each sub-criterion**, therefore only proposals that receive at least three points in each evaluation criterion will move on to the full quality evaluation stage.

The evaluation can yield a maximum total score of 75 points, split across the following sub-criteria.

Strategic fit and EU dimension	Max. score
The proposal is relevant to the EIT Urban Mobility mission, contributes to the knowledge triangle integration (KTI), EU dimension and adheres to the principles of the Sustainability Mechanism (FSM) of EIT Urban Mobility. The proposal is relevant to the EIT Urban Mobility mission of accelerating the transition to sustainable urban mobility through innovation and entrepreneurship. It is designed specifically to support the development of high-potential startups.	5 points
The proposal is **uniquely tailored** for the Flagship Accelerator, with a mono-beneficiary or complimentary consortium and a relevant network to involve in the implementation of activities.	5 points
The proposal contributes to positioning of EIT Urban Mobility as the leading EU organisation in urban mobility **impact investing** with an approach to ensure a **steady pipeline of de-risked, high-quality investment opportunities in pre-seed stage companies.**	5 points

Excellence	Max. score
Clarity and relevance of objectives: The proposal describes **SMART objectives**: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time Bound.	5 points

Quality of the proposed activities: the proposal presents **concrete, realistic and high-impact outcomes, supported by a coherent set of activities**. It demonstrates how these outcomes will contribute meaningfully to the goals of the accelerator and EIT Urban Mobility.	5 points
Strength and complementarity of the mono-beneficiary partner network or, for **multi-participant proposals**, **the consortium brings together partners with complementary expertise** relevant to their roles. The collaboration structure enhances the proposal's ability to deliver **tailored business support services such as mentoring, coaching, technology development road mapping**, **product–market fit analysis**, and **business model refinement**.	5 points
Proven experience in startup support: The proposals shows demonstrable **experience in leading or co-delivering at least three structured startup support programmes. This includes the design and execution of tailored, high-quality curriculum for early-stage companies with innovative solutions.**	5 points
Access to high-quality talent and networks: The consortium demonstrates access and capacity to involve **top-notch expert mentors, coaches and facilitators** by leveraging on their professional networks.	5 points

Impact	Max. score
European reach and startup sourcing strategy: The proposal demonstrates a strong **European scope with a clear strategy for scouting high-potential startups. It outlines the use of effective** sourcing channels and a proven methodology to identify and select high-quality teams with scalable business aligned with EIT Urban Mobility investment focus areas and strategic topics as detailed at [Startup investment - EIT Urban Mobility]().	5 points
Commitment to inclusive innovation: The proposal actively integrates gender equity and diversity considerations into both the design and implementation of the activities for the programme. It includes targeted outreach and inclusive selection practices to ensure broad participation, particularly from underrepresented groups.	5 points
Impact measurement: The proposal adheres to EIT Urban Mobility Impact Assessment framework with the aim to measure and report the impact of supported startups and programmes activities.	5 points

Quality and efficiency of the implementation	Max. score
Operational capacity and team structure the proposal outlines a clear project management structure, with well-defined roles, responsibilities, and collaboration mechanisms, to ensure effective day-to-day implementation. The core team is gender balanced and diverse, including at decision-making level. The mono-beneficiary or consortium demonstrates to have a relevant external network willing to get involved in the implementation of activities.	5 points
Project budget, duration and value for money: The project budget and timeline are realistic and proportional to the scope of the project. The proposal demonstrates	5 points

efficient use of resources and provides transparency regarding co-funding and/or in-kind contributions, in line with value-for-money principles.	
Coherent workplan: The proposal includes clearly structured tasks, timelines, and milestones clearly aligned with the project's objectives and KPIs. The timing and sequencing of activities are appropriate, and the plan includes actions to support the dissemination and visibility of results.	5 points
Risk analysis and mitigation plan: The proposal demonstrates a strong understanding of activity implementation related risks and includes tailored mitigation measures.	5 points

5.3.   Stage 2 - Hearing and Portfolio Selection

Only proposals that meet the minimum qualifying scores in each criterion will be considered for the hearing stage. From these, **the two top-ranked proposals** will be invited to a hearing with the EIT Urban Mobility Selection Committee, composed of the Impact Ventures Director and two members of the Executive Management Team (or their deputies). In the event of a tie, proposals will be prioritised based on their score for Strategic fit and EU dimension, followed by Impact, Excellence, and Implementation.

5.3.1. Panel Hearing Format & Portfolio selection process

The Hearing will be managed by the EIT Urban Mobility Selection Committee. The Selection Committee is composed of three members of the EIT Urban Mobility Executive Management Team (or their deputies).

Hearings will be held online (and recorded exclusively for internal use). Each proposal will be represented by a Proposal Response Team. Generally, the team will consist of the Proposal Leader and a representative from each Proposal partner. No more than four people may represent the proposal. Each consortium partner can only involve one member in the Proposal Response Team.

Shortlisted proposals will have to deliver a 15-minute pitch about their proposal and expected impact. This will be followed by a 15-minute question and answer session.

The Selection Committee will consider the following factors and will add 25 points to the final scoring obtained by each proposal in the 1st stage evaluation. Each criterion will be assessed from 0-5 points according to the table score indicated in Section 5.2

Assessment factor	Description of the assessment	Max score
Results of the Hearing	• Credibility and quality of the pitch delivered. • Clarity on the responses to questions asked by the Selection Committee. • Responses to issues and concerns expressed by the external expert evaluators in the SER, if applicable.	5 points x3 (15 points)
Contribution to EIT Urban Mobility objectives	• Track record of entities involved in a consortium. • The extent to which the proposal and applicants strengthen EIT Urban Mobility's strategic position in the	5 points x 2 (10 points)

Assessment factor	Description of the assessment	Max score
	European urban mobility startup ecosystem beyond pipeline generation. This includes: • their capacity to elevate EIT UM's visibility, credibility, and influence as an active impact investor • their ability to deepen EIT UM's engagement with founders, investors, cities, and ecosystem multipliers • their contribution to expanding EIT UM's reach into new or underrepresented innovation communities • how their execution of the accelerator will reinforce EIT UM's role as a recognised leader in shaping Europe's early-stage urban mobility investment landscape	

In the event of a tie in the final score, preference will be given to the proposal with (in order of importance) 1. a higher scoring on Strategic Fit and EU dimension and 2. a higher co-funding rate.

Based on the outcomes of the hearings, the Selection Committee will determine the ranking list, including which project is selected, placed on the reserve list (if any), or rejected.

Finally, EIT Urban Mobility retains the right to reach out to proposals listed on the reserve list within a year of selection. If additional EIT funds become available in the current Business Plan and in justified cases, EIT Urban Mobility can use the reserve list.

5.4.   Communication of results to applicants

The Lead Applicant will receive a communication from the EIT Urban Mobility with the evaluation results, after the end of the evaluation and selection process. The email notification will include the Summary Evaluation Report (SER) of the proposal and the results of the selection process (pre-selected, rejected, reserve list).

If the proposal is pre-selected, the evaluation results may include a set of conditions to improve the proposals, within a defined non-negotiable period. The Lead Applicant of a conditionally preselected proposal must respond and update the proposal according to these conditions within this timeframe. If the Lead Applicant fails to comply with the conditions or does not respond before the deadline, EIT Urban Mobility reserves the right to withdraw the conditional notification. Should this occur, the applicant of the next proposal on the ranking list will be contacted.

Unsuccessful applicants may be contacted by EIT Urban Mobility staff about future opportunities, subject to their consent.

5.5.   Appeals

If the Lead Applicant disagrees with the decision, they may appeal only in the event that a comment in the SER clearly contradicts the information provided in the proposal. In this case, the Lead Applicant will have seven calendar days after receipt of the final SER to submit an appeal (see the *Appeal procedure* document published also on the call webpage).

5.6.   Onboarding and contracting phase

Should all conditions be met within the indicated timeframe, EIT Urban Mobility will initiate the onboarding and contracting process. The contract will be signed only after 30 days from the preselection decision.
As outlined in the Project Implementation Handbook, available also on the Call webpage, entities receiving EIT Urban Mobility funding become subgrantees committed to our Business Plan 2026-2028 targets. New entities without validated PICs will undergo validation by the EIT Community Onboarding Service before signing the Financial Support Agreement[20].

Additionally, EIT Urban Mobility reserves the right to request to the EIT Community Onboarding Service a Financial Assessment Capacity to check the financial capacity of any entity of a selected proposal. If the Financial Assessment Capacity results are not satisfactory, EIT Urban Mobility might reject the participation of this entity and will then check whether the project is still eligible.

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[20] The Financial Support Agreement template is available on the Call webpage.

ANNEX 1

Admissibility and eligibility criteria for the open call for Startups (to be managed by the awarded consortium)

Applicants must comply with the following minimum eligibility criteria:

- The application must be submitted in **English**.

- The startup must have a **team of at least 2 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)**. FTEs are individuals dedicated a minimum of 30 hours per week to the startup. These roles do not require a salary—stock options or pro bono contributions are also acceptable.

- The startup must be **legally incorporated** in an EU Member State or a third country associated with Horizon Europe, as per the **official list** published by the European Commission. A valid company registration certificate will be required.

- The startup must have been **incorporated less than 3 years** before the programme start date.

- The applicant must be **registered with an individual profile** on the Mobility Innovators platform.

- Only **one application per startup** is allowed per cohort. In case of additional applications, only the latest submitted application will be evaluated.

- The startup must **not have previously participated** in any EIT Urban Mobility accelerator or programme addressing startups in the period 2020 - 2025, including:

  - EIT Urban Mobility Accelerator programmes (e.g. Smart Mobility Accelerator, Better Mobility Accelerator, Accelerate2Move, Sustainable City Logistics, Energy & Public Realm, E+ Mobility, 5G TURBO, Urban Air Mobility Accelerator)
  - EIT Urban Mobility Scale-up programmes
  - Investment Readiness Accelerator/Programme
  - EIT Community New European Bauhaus Catalyser programme
  - EIT Community Supernovas Rocket Up programme

If conditionally selected, applicants will be required to clear the following conditional criteria in order to be formally accepted to participate in the accelerator programme:

- Jointly define and agree in coordination (startup representative – consortium representative – EIT UM representative) the Performance-based milestone/s. The milestone/s must be measurable, time-bound, and feasible to be achieved yet ambitious within the scope of support provided by the accelerator (milestones achievement end-date: latest 6 months after cohort graduation). Examples of performance-based milestones include a verified commercial traction (e.g. new clients signed,

increased revenue target, paid pilot signed), one Letter of Intent (LOI), term sheet, or verified expression of interest from a reputed qualified investor (no older than 6 months, valid for at least 6 months);

- Provide the registration certificate (mandatory to provide at the latest 5 calendar days after the selected startup receives notification of conditional acceptance);
- Include on the webpage of their organisation a clear reference to EIT UM and to the accelerator programme (mandatory to provide when an applicant has been conditionally accepted and before the cohort starting date).

ANNEX 2

Evaluation phases and criteria for the open call for Startups (to be managed by the awarded consortium)

1st phase –Eligibility check

Fully submitted applications will be revised against Admissibility and Eligibility criteria for Startups - ANNEX1. Eligible applications will pass to the 2nd phase of the evaluation process.

2nd phase – Proposal evaluation

STARTUP applications will be reviewed by a **panel composed by, at least, 2 evaluators** with weighting of scores as follows:
- 45% internal expert evaluator
- 55% external expert evaluator

Each evaluator will have to score each STARTUP application based on **four standardised criteria** for a maximum of 20 points: **Excellence / Innovation** (5 points), **Team / structure** (5 points) **Impact** (5 points), **Implementation and overall merit** (5 points). The average of all evaluators scores will give the online evaluation score for a given applicant.

	1. Excellence / Innovation	2. Team / Structure	3. Impact	4. Implementation and overall merit	TOTAL
Evaluation criteria	Degree of innovativeness and technological advancement of the proposed solution. Novelty compared to existing market offerings and potential to address current urban mobility challenges.	Quality and experience of the founding and management team (C-levels). Demonstrated execution capability, coachability, and clarity of the hiring plan. Strength of relationships with key stakeholders,	Potential of the product or service to deliver measurable improvements in urban mobility, including sustainability, accessibility, safety, efficiency, or emissions reduction.	Overall merit of applicant and application fit to accelerator programme. Achievements and pilot experience.	20

		investors, and partners.			
Score	5	5	5	5	

The evaluation score will result from the average scores from the two evaluations, ranked from top scored applications to lowest scored applications.

To ensure a competitive and fair selection process, the number of startups invited to phase 3 – Live pitch will be at least 150% and maximum of 200% of the number of available spots in the cohort. For example, if the cohort will include 10 startups, a minimum of 15 startups and a maximum of 20 startups will advance from 2nd phase – Proposal evaluation to 3rd phase – Live pitch, based on their phase 2 evaluation scores.

Applicants will be notified via e-mail about the outcome of the evaluation.

3rd phase – Live pitch

Startups having passed to 3rd phase – live pitch will pitch their candidacy to join the accelerator to a **panel composed by, at least, 2 jury members** with weighting of scores as follows:

-   45% internal expert evaluator – jury member
-   55% external expert evaluator – jury member

Each evaluator will have to score each startup application based on **two standardised criteria** for a maximum of 20 points: **Pitch** (10 points), **Overall fit to accelerator** (10 points). The average of all evaluators scores will give the total score for a given applicant.

	1. Pitch	2. Overall fit to accelerator	TOTAL
Evaluation criteria	Evaluation of pitch deck clarity on: - Founding team - Problem – solution fit - Innovativeness - Market validation - Business model, pricing and go-to-market strategy - Partners and traction - Competition and USP - Financial projections (3-5 years) - Funding needs - Impact, SDG and KPIs	Merits and readiness of applicant. Quality and feasibility of proposed performance-based milestones (measurable, time-bound, ambitious yet achievable with programme support). Strategic fit of startup to the accelerator call and investability potential.	20
Score	10	10	

The consortium is expected to detail the format of the live pitch (pitching time/format, jury questions time/format). Once the jury members have concluded their assessment, a Consensus Meeting is organised: for each application the live pitch score will result from an agreed averaged score resulting from the two evaluations. A final evaluation report will be produced.

Scoring criteria – 2nd and 3rd phases

Each criterion must be assessed according to the following scoring system:

Score		Description
0	None	The information requested is missing or incomplete
1	Very poor	The information provided is considered irrelevant or inadequate compared to the specific information required for the block and/or call provisions
2	Poor	The information provided lacks relevant quality and contains significant weaknesses, compared to the specific block required information and/or call provisions
3	Fair	The overall information provided is adequate, however, some aspects are unclearly or insufficiently detailed, compared to the specific block required information and/or call provisions
4	Good	The information provided is adequate with sufficiently outlined details, compared to the specific block required information and/or call provisions
5	Excellent	The information provided is outstanding in its details, clarity and coherence, compared to the specific block required information and/or call provisions

Final application score

The final application score is determined by the sum of phase 2 score and phase 3 score. Top ranked startups applications will be conditionally accepted to join the accelerator programme according to the available cohort spots.

Conditional selected startups

Conditionally selected startups will be required to meet the following criteria in order to be formally accepted to participate in the accelerator programme:

- Jointly define and agree in coordination (startup representative – consortium representative – EIT UM representative) the Performance-based milestone/s. The milestone/s must be measurable, time-bound, and feasible to be achieved yet ambitious within the scope of support provided by the accelerator (milestones achievement end-date: latest 6 months after cohort graduation). Examples of performance-based milestones include a verified commercial traction (e.g. new clients signed, increased revenue target, paid pilot signed), one Letter of Intent (LOI), term sheet, or verified

expression of interest from a reputed qualified investor (no older than 6 months, valid for at least 6 months);

- Provide the registration certificate (mandatory to provide at the latest 5 calendar days after the selected startup receives notification of conditional acceptance);
- Include on the webpage of their organisation a clear reference to EIT UM and to the accelerator programme (mandatory to provide when an applicant has been conditionally accepted and before the cohort starting date).

Formally selected startups

Once conditions are cleared, startups will be formally selected for a given cohort. Following conditions clearance, startups will receive:

- The Flagship Accelerator Programme support;
- **A fixed lump sum of €10,000.** This amount corresponds to Cash component - Grant 1. Grant in the form of lump-sum will be directly provided to the selected startups by EIT Urban Mobility. This amount is meant to cover the travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs (according to the conditions regulating eligible expenses) of the representatives of the startups when attending specific Accelerator and EIT UM events during the support period.

Formally selected startups must commit to:

- Actively participate at the programme;
- Drawing-up accelerator programme documentation for reporting purposes towards EIT;
- Complete and submit in due time monitoring survey/s;
- Actively promote the participation at accelerator programme to reach public audience.
- Participate at monitoring meetings to review status of achievement of the performance-based milestones during the period of Flagship accelerator support and up to 6 months after graduation. A minimum of 2 monitoring meeting will be agreed among each startup, the consortium and EIT Urban Mobility. The monitoring meetings will serve as formal revisions of performance-based milestones achievements to assess clearance of Grant 2 Trigger 1. Only startups having completed Grant 2 Trigger 1 will be considered for Grant 2 Trigger 2. **Startups having cleared Grant 2 Trigger 1 and Trigger 2, will receive a fixed lump sum of €50,000**. Grant in the form of lump-sum will be directly provided to the selected startups by EIT Urban Mobility.

ANNEX 3

KPIs description and reporting guidance

KPI Code	KPI Title	KPI Definition	Supporting documents
EITHE03.1	KIC Supported start-ups/scale-ups	Number of start-ups and scale-ups supported by KICs for at least 2 months in year N, provided the KIC's support contribute to the company's growth (including potential growth). Examples of such services are mentoring, consultancy on access to finance and markets, product/service marketing, legal advice, internationalisation, matchmaking, etc. The services should be provided for a total period of at least two months. Start-ups and scale-ups will be reported by country of registration of the venture.	**Structured data:** - Year of reporting - Company name - Company website - Company registration number - Country of registration - Gender of the CEO - Reference to a specific KAVA - Was the company supported through the HEI CBI? - Was the company supported through a cross-KIC project? **No supporting evidence required.** *(*Activity leaders are advised to keep the formal signed agreements and the registration certificates of start-ups in case they are requested during the assessment process.)*
EITHE06.1	Investment attracted by KIC-supported startups and scale-ups (in mEUR)	Total EUR amount of private and public capital attracted within year N by supported start-up/scale-ups that have received KIC business creation services support of total duration of at least two months, within a maximum of three years following the last received KIC KAVA support activity.	**Structured data:** - Year of reporting - Investment amount - Company name - Company registration number - Country of the company registration - Gender of the CEO - **Total amount of KIC support received (if applicable)** - Year in which the last support was received - Link to specific KAVA - Was the company supported through the HEI CB Initiative?

			- Was the company created through a cross-KIC project? **Supporting evidence:** - Declaration of a start-up proving the amount, type of investment, source of income by type (public/private) and a link to a specific KAVA and support received and the year when last support was provided. → TEMPLATE

ANNEX 4

Flagship Accelerator – startup journey