

HEIPowered Startup Pitch Competition (second edition)

under EIT Higher Education
Initiative Community 2026-2028



Call for a Prize – Rules of contest HEIPowered Startup Pitch Competition Second edition

under EIT Higher Education Initiative Community 2026-2028

EIT Urban Mobility

Barcelona | 8th June 2026

HISTORY OF CHANGES			
Version		Change	
1.0	8.06.2026	Initial version	

Disclaimer

This document may be subject to updates, including corrections, modifications, or clarifications. Any changes will be published on the official Call pages of the EIT Urban Mobility website. Applicants are therefore encouraged to regularly consult the Call pages to ensure they are informed of the latest updates.

Call for a Prize - Rules of contest

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1. Introduction

1.1. Information on the EIT and KICs

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is a European Union body with a legal personality and a wide legal capacity accorded to legal persons under national law. The EIT was created in 2008 by the European Union (EU) to enhance Europe’s ability to innovate by nurturing entrepreneurial talent and supporting groundbreaking ideas. Through its “knowledge triangle” model, the EIT connects leading companies, universities, and research centres to form dynamic cross-border partnerships called Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). These communities work collaboratively to address pressing societal challenges and drive innovation in the agri-food sector, health and well-being, raw materials, mobility and urban living or cultural and creative sectors, to name a few.

1.2. Information on EIT Higher Education Initiative (EIT HEI)

The [EIT Higher Education Initiative](#) is a programme implemented by a consortium of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs): EIT Raw Materials, Climate-KIC, EIT Culture & Creativity, 28DIGITAL, EIT Food, EIT Health and EIT Urban Mobility.

The Initiative, established under the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027, aims to strengthen European higher education’s role in innovation ecosystems. By building institutional innovation and entrepreneurship capacity, the EIT Higher Education Initiative (EIT HEI) fosters systemic change in higher education institutions (HEIs) and enhances their integration into regional and European innovation networks. EIT HEI projects follow the Knowledge Triangle Model, described in the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda, bringing together education, research, and business to co-create impactful solutions to global challenges. Since the launch of the initiative in 2021, more than 700 institutions have been involved, more than 2000 startups and scaleups have been supported, and more than 118000 students and staff have been trained.

The Initiative operates the [EIT Higher Education Initiative Community](#), the space that connects startups, innovators, HEIs, businesses, investors, and other stakeholders involved in the Initiative, amplifying both individual and collective project impact. The **HEIPowered Startup Pitch Competition** is an activity under the EIT Higher Education Community, launched and managed by the KIC “EIT Urban Mobility” (EIT UM), supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union.

1.3. Objectives of the HEIPowered Startup Pitch Competition

The **HEIPowered Startup Pitch Competition** is a platform to continue supporting startups that have emerged or received backing by projects funded by the EIT Higher Education Initiative since 2021 (see Annex 1), providing follow-up opportunities for startups beyond the initial project lifecycle.

Its main objective is to further **accelerate the growth of HEI-supported startups**, strengthen their market readiness, scalability, and long-term sustainability, and contribute to a stronger entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem in Europe.

To achieve this objective, the Call focuses on:

- **Advancing innovation pathways** in startups that have reached a proof of concept, prototype, or minimum viable product (MVP) stage, helping them progress towards market deployment.
- Empowering startups with **well-structured teams** that possess the necessary skills, experience, and competencies to effectively implement and scale their projects.
- **Promoting diversity** and inclusion by fostering gender-balanced and diverse startups, with a strong encouragement for women-led startups and active participation of women in leadership and decision-making roles.
- Providing startups with opportunities to **increase their visibility**, connect with stakeholders, and access further development and scaling support.
- Promoting and strengthening the **EIT Higher Education Initiative’s Community** with new startup members and opportunities for them.

Expected results

The expected impact of the HEIPowered Startup Pitch Competition is to foster a new generation of more competitive and investment-ready startups, while expanding the EIT Higher Education Initiative Community through new connections, and enhanced opportunities for collaboration and growth.

2. Overview of key information on the Prize

Prize reference number, acronym	HEIPowered Startup Pitch Competition - Second edition
Prize opening and deadline for applications	Call publication/opening: 8th June 2026 Deadline for applications: 8th July 2026 (17h00 CET)
Evaluation and implementation timeline	Admissibility and eligibility check: Up to 1 week post-submission deadline. Stage 1: Online Proposal Evaluation and invitation to the in-person Startup Pitch Competition: Up to 2 weeks post-submission deadline. Communication of the startups that go to Stage 2: 29 th -31 st July 2026 Deadline for startups to confirm their participation to the in-person Startup Pitch Competition: 14 September 2026 Stage 2: In-person Startup Pitch Competition and Selection: Q4 2026 (city and date tbc)

	<p>Announcement of the three winners: Startup Pitch Competition (Q4 2026)</p> <p>Signature of the prize declaration: Up to 30 days after the Startup Pitch Competition</p> <p>Prize instalment: after the contracting and validation are finalised.</p>
<p>Estimated EIT funding allocated to this Prize</p>	<p>The total EIT funding allocated to this Prize is EUR 30.000</p>
<p>List of Prize documents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prize Manual • Guidelines for applicants • Eligibility of Expenditure • Appeal procedure
<p>List of reference documents (with links)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIC Code of Conduct • EIT Impact Framework • Declaration of honour template • Prize Declaration • EIT Higher Education Initiative website • EIT Higher Education Initiative Community
<p>Link to the submission portal</p>	<p>Step 1: Verify if your organisation already has a Participant Identification Code (PIC number) directly on the EU Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal (click here). If your organisation is not yet registered, register in the EU Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal to obtain a nine-digit PIC number.</p> <p>Step 2: Register in NetSuite, the EIT UM application tool.</p> <p>Step 3: Access the EIT Urban Mobility NetSuite platform and find the calls under menu --> Call for Proposals --> Open Calls.</p> <p>Please follow carefully the steps explained in Section 7: Proposal submission process and in the Guidelines for Applicants.</p>
<p>Contact point Q&A</p>	<p>All applicants may contact EIT Urban Mobility to answer any questions or address any concerns about the Call: info@eit-hei-alumni.eu</p>
<p>Further information to interested applicants</p>	<p>To help applicants prepare and submit their proposals, EIT Urban Mobility will host an information session after the Call for a Prize is published.</p>

3. Description of the Prize

3.1. Scope of the activities

The **HEIPowered Startup Pitch Competition** is a unique opportunity for early-stage startups to present their ventures to an audience of professionals and entrepreneurs. Participants will compete for funding, mentorship and increased visibility.

The competition will consist of two stages: the Online Proposal -Stage 1- and the In-person Startup Pitch Competition -Stage 2-.

Stage 1: Online Proposal

Within the first stage, startups will submit an online application, including a Pitch Deck presentation (see Section 7.2.1. Proposal submission). Based on the evaluation of these applications, the top five-ranked startups will be selected and invited to the in-person Startup Pitch Competition (second stage), scheduled to take place in Q4 2026 in a European city.

The selected finalists will be informed of the exact location and dates, once confirmed. Travel expenses for attending Stage 2 will be covered by EIT Urban Mobility for the five finalists, in accordance with the Horizon Europe costs eligibility rules (for further details, please refer to the [Eligibility of Expenditure](#) document).

Stage 2: In-person Startup Pitch Competition and Selection

In the second stage, the five shortlisted startups will present their ventures through live pitches at the in-person event. Following the presentations, three winners will be selected to receive:

- **Cash fund:**
 - 1st place: 15.000€
 - 2nd place: 10.000€
 - 3rd place: 5.000€

This amount is intended to cover expenses related to the growth of the awarded startup, including personnel costs, travel expenses for startup representatives attending promotional events, the purchase of equipment and materials, and any other costs directly linked to activities that support the further development of the startup.

- **Mentorship:**
 - The three winning startups will each receive 8 hours of individualized mentoring from a pool of expert mentors.
 - Additionally, the two remaining finalists will each receive 3 hours of individualized mentoring.

Important notes:

The five finalist startups will be required to sign a participation agreement confirming their attendance at the in-person competition and agreeing to reimburse travel expenses in the event of cancellation.

The three awardees be required to sign a Prize Declaration. They will be responsible for paying any taxes linked to award receipt in line with national legislation. The winners will also commit to using the remaining funds for the development of their startup. Additionally, they must make use of the prize award in accordance with the requirements set out by EIT Urban Mobility and the conditions of the Prize Declaration, such as complying with the applicable visibility, communication, dissemination, conflict of interest and IPR obligations.

3.1.1 Gender and diversity

Diversity empowers us to develop the best solutions to pressing global challenges and drives innovation. Accordingly, participating startups are expected to have an inclusive design, such as **gender/sex analysis and consideration of diverse user needs** in both solution development and user profiling.

4. Financial aspects of the prize

4.1. Prize budget

The **funding allocated to this Prize is 30,000 EUR**. The amounts will be allocated in the form of a **lump sum** as follows:

Maximum EIT funding allocated for the Prize	Number of startups to be awarded
<p>TOTAL of 30,000.00 EUR divided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1st place: 15.000€ ○ 2nd place: 10.000€ ○ 3rd place: 5.000€ 	3

4.2. Payment arrangements

The three selected startups will receive the corresponding funds in a single instalment, subject to validation by the Partners Validation Service Team (See Section 6.3.2. Validation process) and the signature of the Prize Declaration.

5. Prize admissibility, eligibility and exclusion criteria

Following the deadline for submission, the admissibility, eligibility and exclusion criteria checks will be performed for each applicant by EIT Urban Mobility staff in line with the principles of transparency, equal treatment and non-discrimination, and in accordance with the following criteria.

5.1. Admissibility

- Applications must be submitted before the Prize deadline (see Section 2 above).

- Applications must be submitted using the forms provided inside the EIT Urban Mobility electronic submission system ([NetSuite](#), see Section 2 above).
- Applications must be complete and contain all parts, mandatory annexes and supporting documents (see Section 7.2.1. Proposal submission). The structure and presentation must correspond to the instructions given in the forms.
- Applications and their supporting documents -including the pitch deck- must be written in English, and must be readable, accessible and printable.
- Applications must respect the characters' limits established in the application form.

Applications missing any of the mandatory supporting documents or submitting blank or wrong documents will be automatically rejected during the admissibility check. Any additional documents uploaded under "Other supporting documents" that are not specifically listed as optional documents will not be considered during the evaluation process. Please read carefully the registration and submission process outlined in the Guidelines for Applicants document available on the Call webpage.

Only proposals satisfying all the admissibility criteria shall pass on to the eligibility criteria assessment stage.

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**¹ after receiving the official communication to complete or correct the PIF and resubmit it. If the startup representative responds positively to this requirement within the time limit, the proposal will progress to the next stage of the evaluation process. If the startup representative fails to respond or responds after the deadline, the proposal will remain inadmissible and will not be further processed.

5.2. Eligibility

Following the admissibility check, only proposals complying with the following conditions will be considered eligible for further evaluation.

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

- Must be a registered legal entity in a Member State of the European Union, and/or in a [Third country associated with Horizon Europe](#).
- Must provide a proof of concept, prototype, or minimum viable product (MVP).
- Startups must have been created or supported through a project funded by the EIT Higher Education Initiative and have been officially reported by their project (Cohorts 1-3 and Cohort 4 Phase 1). Refer to Annex 1 - List of funded Projects by the EIT Higher Education Initiative.

¹ A few additional days might be granted according to the circumstances (i.e. public holidays/weekends). In such cases, the startup representative will be informed by email of the exact period.

- The startup has not been among the top three winners of the first edition of the HEIPowered Startup Pitch Competition.

5.2.1. EU restrictions on participation

- **EU restrictive measures** — Entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) as well as Article 75 TFEU, are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

Special rules also apply to entities covered by Commission Guidelines No 2013/C 205/0522.

- **Legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine** — Given the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the involvement of Belarus, there is currently no appropriate context allowing the implementation of the actions foreseen in this programme with legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine. Therefore, even where such entities are not subject to EU restrictive measures, such legal entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity. This includes participation as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any). Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for justified reasons.

With specific regard to measures addressed to Russia, following the adoption of the Council Regulation (EU) 2024/1745 of 24 June 2024 (amending Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014) concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine, legal entities established outside Russia but whose proprietary rights are directly or indirectly owned for more than 50% by a legal person, entity or body established in Russia are also not eligible to participate in any capacity.

- **Measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary** — Following the [Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/2506](#), as of 15 December 2022, no legal commitments can be entered into with Hungarian public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain. Affected entities may continue to apply to calls for proposals and can participate without receiving EU funding, as associated partners, if allowed by the call conditions. However, as long as the Council measures are not lifted, such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties, etc.). In case of multi-beneficiary grant calls, applicants will be invited to remove or replace that entity in any funded role and/or to change its status into associated partner. Tasks and budget may be redistributed accordingly.
- **Restrictions for the protection of European communication networks** — The protection of European communication networks has been identified as an important security interest of the

Union and its Member States. For further information, please refer to the Horizon Europe, Work Programme 2025, General Annexes, B – Eligibility on page 14.

5.3 Exclusion criteria

Entities participating in this prize can be excluded **at any time** (during the evaluation, the onboarding and contracting phase, or the implementation phase) if they²:

- Won any of the three top positions during the first edition of the HEIPowered Startup Pitch Competition.
- 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 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.
- Attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon its undue advantages in the call process.

² See article 57 of Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC and article 80 of Directive 2014/25/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors and repealing Directive 2004/17/EC (referral to article 57 of Directive 2014/24/EU).

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

6. Evaluation procedure

6.1. Admissibility and eligibility, exclusion and selection stages

All proposals received are first checked against the Admissibility, Eligibility and Exclusion (Section 5). Only proposals that successfully pass these checks proceed to the evaluation stage.

6.2. Evaluation of proposals

6.2.1. Assessment methodology

The evaluation process is conducted in accordance with the principles of transparency, equal treatment, confidentiality, and the absence of conflicts of interest. All evaluators are required to complete and sign a declaration of confidentiality and non-conflict of interest before participating in the process.

The evaluation is structured in two stages:

1. **Stage 1: Online Proposal Evaluation:** One independent external evaluator will be appointed to assess and score each proposal individually against the award criteria set out below.
2. **Stage 2: In-person Startup Pitch Competition,** including Hearing and Winners Selection: the top five ranked start-ups will be invited to pitch in front of a Selection Committee, appointed by EIT Higher Education Initiative, which will assess their presentation and decide on the final ranking list.

Each evaluator will assess the proposals in accordance with the scoring system outlined below:

Score	Description	
0	<i>Fail</i>	The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1	<i>Poor</i>	The proposal inadequately addresses the criterion, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	<i>Fair</i>	The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3	<i>Good</i>	The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
4	<i>Very good</i>	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.

5	<i>Excellent</i>	The proposal fully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion and is outstanding in every aspect.
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6.2.2. Award criteria

6.2.2.1. Award criteria, subcriteria and maximum scores

Stage 1: Online Application evaluation

The evaluation will assess the startup proposal’s excellence, impact, and quality. It will be carried out by one independent expert evaluator. The evaluator will have relevant experience in startup development and gender/diversity inclusion. Each proposal is scored individually against the following award sub-criteria and can yield a **maximum total score of 40 points**.

Excellence	Max. score
Product/service description <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The product/service proposed is clearly described, including core elements such as functionalities and components to be developed, and demonstrates novelty, innovativeness and competitiveness. 	5 points
Concept development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal demonstrates a clear concept and an appropriate stage of development (e.g., prototype or MVP). 	5 points
Need and relevance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal clearly describes the target beneficiary/user of the solution The proposal demonstrates the need and relevance for the end users 	5 points

Impact	Max. score
Overall impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal addresses real need. It demonstrates clear, relevant, and measurable social, economic, and/or environmental impact. 	5 points
Commitment to inclusive innovation	5 points

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal actively integrates gender equity and diversity considerations into both the design and implementation of the activities. 	
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Quality of Implementation	Max. score
Team overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal identifies and describes the start-up has technical and business experience in the relevant field, including the expertise of key staff members to effectively manage and deliver the project. 	5 points
Team diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal describes a mixed project team in terms of gender and diversity and identifies active roles of women in leadership and decision-making positions. 	5 points
Quality of the business plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal presents a clear, coherent, and realistic business plan with a feasible timeline and alignment between activities. 	5 points

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

	Maximum score	Minimum qualifying score
Excellence	<i>15 points</i>	<i>7 points</i>
Impact	<i>10 points</i>	<i>5 points</i>
Quality and efficiency of the implementation	<i>15 points</i>	<i>7 points</i>
Total points Phase 1	<i>40 points</i>	<i>19 points</i>

The **five top-ranked proposals** with a minimum of **19 points** and that obtain the minimum qualifying score for each of the three above criteria will be invited to the in-person Startup Pitch Competition (stage 2), which will be hosted in Q4 (date and location tbc). In the event of a tie, startups with higher scoring in gender-related criteria – *Team diversity* and *Commitment to Social Innovation*- will be prioritised.

Stage 2: In-person Startup Pitch Competition, including Hearing and Winners Selection

The Selection Committee, formed by at a representative from the EIT Higher Education Initiative and a member of the EIT Urban Mobility Management Team (or a deputy), will conduct the hearings and select the winners during the in-person Startup Pitch Competition. The Committee will assess and score the

pitched delivered by the startups’ representatives against the award criteria outlined below, in order to establish the final ranking.

Each of the five shortlisted startups will deliver a **3-minute pitch presentation**, followed by **5 minutes of questions** from the Selection Committee. The total time allocated per startup will therefore be **8 minutes**, with an additional **1 minute for transitions** between presentations. The overall duration of the hearing session will be **45 minutes**.

Following the presentations, the Selection Committee will meet separately to deliberate, discuss individual assessments, and align on the final evaluations and scores.

Each member of the Selection Committee will score startups’ pitches based on the three evaluation criteria outlined below, on a scale from **0 to 5 points per criterion**. The average of the scores awarded to each startup will be calculated. **A maximum of 15 points will then be added** to the Stage 1 evaluation results, before obtaining the final ranking. The overall maximum punctuation for the two phases will be **55 points**.

Based on the final ranking, the **five highest-scoring startups** will be identified, and the **three winners** will be appointed. In the event of a tie, priority will be given to proposals with higher scoring in **Pitch Delivery**.

Assessment factor	Description of the assessment	Max score
Pitch delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credibility and quality of the pitch delivered: the pitch is structured and easy to follow, the storytelling is engaging and confident, and the key message is memorable. 	5 points
Pitch slides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slide design and visual impact: slides are clean, professional, and visually clear with visuals, graphs, images or flowcharts reinforcing the story. 	5 points
Q&A Responsiveness during pitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarity in the responses to questions asked by the Selection Committee. 	5 points
	Total Points Phase 2	15 points

6.2.2.2. Results of the evaluation

Based on the outcomes of the hearings, the Selection Committee will determine the ranking list, including the winning position for each startup.

6.3. Communication of evaluation results to applicants

6.3.1. Communication of evaluation results

Stage 1:

All applicants will be informed of the result in writing via email. All applicants will receive a Summary Evaluation Report, including their score.

Five successful startups will be invited to participate in Stage 2: In-person Startup Pitch Competition, via email and will be asked to sign a document to commit to their participation. The other startups scoring above 19 points will be put on the reserve list. In case a selected startup rejects to participate in the Startup Pitch Competition, the next proposal from the reserve list will be invited. Proposals with less than 19 points in Stage 1 will be rejected.

Stage 2:

All participating startups will be informed of the result in person during the day of the Startup Pitch Competition. After the event, the five startups also receive a final version of their Summary Evaluation Report via email.

6.3.2. Validation process

EIT Urban Mobility will initiate the validation process of each entity (e.g. legal entity validation, signature of Declaration of honour, if not yet provided, financial capacity check, if relevant) and then continue with the preparation of the Prize Declaration.

6.4. Standstill period

A mandatory standstill period of up to 30 days shall apply between the communication of the evaluation results to applicants and the signature of the Prize Declaration. This period is counted from the day after the dispatch of the communication of results.

6.5. Appeal process

Applicants wishing to contest the outcome of the admissibility, eligibility, evaluation or selection process may do so in accordance with the EIT Urban Mobility Appeal Procedure, available on the Call webpage. Appeals shall be addressed by email to pmo@eiturbanmobility.eu within a **maximum of 7 calendar days** from the day of the official communication of the results.

6.6. Publication of recipients of funds annually

The KIC will make available (on a dedicated page on its website) information on recipients of funds (only legal persons or entities without a legal personality) financed from the EIT budget, no later than 30 June of the year following the financial year in which the funds were legally committed.

The following information shall be published, having due regard for the requirements of confidentiality and security, in particular the protection of personal data:

- (a) the recipient's full legal name and the country where it is established;
- (b) the amount committed and, in case of a commitment with multiple recipients, the breakdown of this amount per recipient, where available;

(c) subject of a grant or contract.

7. Proposal submission process

7.1. Support given to applicants preparing a proposal

Applicants are encouraged to thoroughly read the *Guidelines for Applicants* (published on the call webpage), and direct any questions to the contact persons during the proposal preparation process to improve chances of successful applications.

Guidelines for Applicants

The *Guidelines for Applicants* document is published on the Call webpage and provides comprehensive information and instructions on how to prepare and submit a proposal for this Prize.

Prize information session

To help applicants prepare and submit their proposals, EIT Urban Mobility will host an information session after the publication of the Prize. This event will focus on the prize content, the requirements and general procedures, such as the submission and evaluation process.

Type of event	Topic covered	Date and time (CET)	Access to the platform
Webinar	Introduction to the Call, strategic focus, scope and Call requirements, evaluation process and submission steps.	22 June 2026 at 12pm	Zoom meeting – webinar registration link

Call contact points

All applicants may contact the EIT Higher Education Initiative Community to answer any questions or address any concerns about the Call. Contact names:

- Ariadna Vilalta, Stakeholder Strategic Lead. Email: info@eit-hei-alumni.eu

7.2. Submission of a proposal

7.2.1. Proposal submission

Before starting to draft a proposal, **all applicants** must follow the following steps:

- **Step 0:** Ensure at least one representative of the startup is registered to the [EIT Higher Education Initiative Community](#).

- **Step 1:** Verify if your organisation already has a Participant Identification Code (PIC number) directly on the EU Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal (click [here](#)). If your organisation is not yet registered, register in the [EU Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal](#) to obtain a nine-digit PIC number.
- **Step 2:**
 - If you never registered in NetSuite, please complete the **Partner Information Form (PIF)**³. If the system denies your registration because your email address is associated with an existing entity, please contact servicedesk@eiturbanmobility.eu.*
 - 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 applicants are strongly advised to **complete their registration several days before the submission deadline** to ensure a successful and timely submission.

Then, **for each proposal, the applicant** must complete the following step:

- **Step 3:** 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)
 - Pitch deck: PDF format with maximum 15 slides, summarising the description of the startup idea, the problem, unique solution and who benefits from it, the innovation or technology used, the potential impact, a brief overview of the Business Plan and the team overview. –
 - Proof of concept, prototype, or minimum viable product (MVP).⁴

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

Any proposals submitted after the deadline will be inadmissible.

7.2.2 Failed submission of a proposal

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.

³ 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.

⁴ It can be Provided as a supporting document or as an URL within the Application form.

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 this 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**.

8. Other terms and conditions

8.1. Acceptance of the call conditions

EIT Urban Mobility reserves the right to make reasonable amendments and additions to the prize conditions. Amendments and additions to the prize conditions shall be valid only before the submission deadline, and if made available to all potential applicants at the same time on the call page.

EIT Urban Mobility may declare the prize unsuccessful in case no applications are received or if the applications do not meet the admissibility, eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria., or if none of the applications reaches the thresholds laid down in this Manual.

By submitting the application form, the applicant agrees to the present Prize conditions. Applicants agree that they have no legal entitlement to funding.

8.2. Cancellation of the call

EIT Urban Mobility reserves the right to cancel the call at any time before the signature of the Prize Declaration without the obligation to compensate applicants, in particular where its objectives can no longer be met, provided that the applicants are informed in a transparent manner in writing as follows:

- if the cancellation takes place before that award: on the call page of EIT Urban Mobility,
- if the cancellation takes place following the communication of the results to the applicants, during the standstill period, or any time before the signature of the Prize Declaration: in writing directly to the selected applicants.

8.3. Data protection

EIT Urban Mobility ensures that any processing of personal data shall be performed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and in accordance with Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). As a data subject, you have the right of access, the right to rectification, the right to erasure, the right to restrict processing, the right to data portability, the right to object, and the right not to be subject to a decision based solely

on automated processing. If you have a question about personal data processing or want to exercise your data subject rights, you can contact our Data Protection Officer at info@eiturbanmobility.eu.

The collected personal data will be used for the evaluation of the applications and the conduct of the call/prize process. Subject to the applicant's consent, it may also be used to send newsletters, updates, and information about related initiatives, opportunities, or upcoming projects. Proposal information may be shared internally and, where necessary, with authorised evaluators and partners involved in the assessment and call process, subject to confidentiality obligations. EIT Urban Mobility may also retain and review your submitted proposal for the purpose of contacting you about future collaboration opportunities or programmes, regardless of the outcome of the specific call/prize. Subject to the applicant's consent, data collected may also be used to send newsletters, updates, and information about related initiatives, opportunities, or upcoming projects. The data controller is EIT Urban Mobility according to Privacy Policy - EIT Urban Mobility.

Personal data will be deleted 5 years after the announcement of the results of the prize in case of unsuccessful applications and 7 years for successful applicants.

By submitting your application to this prize, you consent that EIT Urban Mobility will collect, transfer, process, store, and delete your data in accordance with the aforementioned conditions.

For more information on the processing of your personal data, please consult the privacy statement of EIT Urban Mobility at: [Privacy Policy - EIT Urban Mobility](#).

8.4. Confidentiality

EIT Urban Mobility undertakes to use any confidential information shared by the applicants solely for the purposes of the evaluation process.

Confidential information shall mean data and/or information (in any form) that is proprietary to, or possessed by, the applicants and not generally known to the public, or that has not yet been revealed whether in tangible or intangible form, that is identified as confidential in writing or when disclosed orally.

Confidential information included in the application form must be expressly labelled by the applicant as such in the form. As regards confidential information expressly labelled as such in the call process, EIT Urban Mobility undertakes to (i) not disclose them in any way and any form, without the prior written authorization of the applicant; and (ii) not to use them for purposes other than those strictly necessary for participation in the prize.

Confidential information may be shared among EIT Urban Mobility and its subsidiaries (e.g. KIC Co-Location Centres) solely for the purposes of the call/prize process. EIT Urban Mobility undertakes to impose this confidentiality obligation on its employees and the employees of its subsidiaries and its collaborators, as well as on independent experts and all subjects who, by virtue of participating in the conduct of the call, including as members of the Selection Committee, may have access to such confidential data and information.

The applicants agree that data and information regarding the selected projects' implementation (e.g. success stories) not labelled as confidential may be disclosed in connection with the activities of EIT Urban Mobility.

8.5. Avoidance of conflict of interest

EIT Urban Mobility is committed to ensure the avoidance of conflict of interest (regarding all actors) and comply with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and sound financial management.

Measures to avoid potential Conflict of Interest or unequal treatment of applicants are ensured, including through appropriate conflict of interest declaration and assessment process, established written communication channels and independent and fair complaints/redress procedures.

In case an applicant becomes aware of a potential conflict of interest affecting the conduct of the call process, it shall notify the EIT Urban Mobility of the conflict of interest without any delay.

8.6. Ethics and values

The proposal must comply with:

- ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity) and
- applicable EU, international and national law, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Supplementary Protocols.

No financial support/EIT funding can be granted, within or outside the EU, for activities that are prohibited in all Member States. No financial support/EIT funding can be granted in a Member State for an activity which is forbidden in that Member State.

Please refer to the financial support agreement for further requirements.

8.7. Intellectual property rights

Applicants retain full and exclusive ownership of their prior information and intellectual property rights. By submitting their application, applicants affirm that they hold ownership and have legally secured the right to use all elements of the innovative product or service included in their application.

Applicants agree to respect the IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) Rules (Article 16) of the [Model Grant Agreement](#) and Article 10 of the Financial Support Agreement (Common Subgrant Agreement Model).

8.8. Withdrawal of the funding – Recovery of undue amounts

EIT Urban Mobility may withdraw the funding after its award and recover all payments made in line with the provisions of the Prize Declaration., including in the following cases:

- in case the applicant committed substantial errors, irregularities or fraud;
- in case the applicant committed a serious breach of obligations under the Prize Declaration or during its award (including non-compliance with the prize conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, etc.)
- it is established that the awarded applicants were not eligible or should have been excluded.

8.9. Checks, reviews, audits and investigations

EIT Urban Mobility retains the right to initiate checks, reviews and audits on an applicant that has been awarded funding, in order to verify compliance with the requirements of the prize conditions and of the legal and contractual framework referred to above.

EIT Urban Mobility may request any information and data from applicants that have been awarded funding for 5 years after completion for these purposes, as well as in relation to monitoring by the EIT.

In accordance with the Grant Agreement between the EIT and the KIC as well as the Financial Support Agreement, the EIT and/or the Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the Court of Auditors may carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations in relation to the call and the implementation of the projects.

8.10. Applicable law

The present call is governed by the applicable European Union legal framework (i.e. in particular the [EIT Regulation](#)⁵, the [EU Financial Regulation](#)⁶, the [Horizon Europe Regulation](#)⁷), supplemented if necessary by the national law of Belgium.

The applicants agree to observe the obligations outlined in the [Partnership Agreement](#) and the [Grant Agreement](#) signed between the EIT and EIT Urban Mobility. Applicants agree to comply with the terms of the Prize Declaration between successful applicants and EIT Urban Mobility.

8.11. Settlement of official disputes

All disputes arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, which cannot be solved amicably, shall be finally settled before the courts of Brussels.

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/819

⁶ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509

⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/695

Annex 1 - List of funded Projects by the EIT Higher Education Initiative

Since 2021, four cohorts of projects have been funded under the EIT Higher Education Initiative. Startups eligible for this Prize are those created or supported by projects from cohorts 1–3, as well as those from cohort 4 that were reported and validated by the relevant KIC during Phase 1 reporting, which concluded in January 2026.

Startups created or supported by cohort 4 projects after Phase 1, and not yet reported, are not eligible for this edition but will be invited to participate in the next one.

Cohort	EIT KIC	Project Name
1	EIT Digital	BOOGIE-U
1	EIT Climate-KIC	CHIC
1	EIT RawMaterials	CloudEARTH <i>i</i>
1	EIT RawMaterials	E.I.N.S
1	EIT Digital	EELISA UNFOLDS
1	EIT Food	EntreUnity
1	EIT RawMaterials	ETEIA
1	EIT Urban Mobility	EUAcceL
1	EIT Food	HEADLINES
1	EIT Climate-KIC	HEIght
1	EIT Health	i2i
1	EIT InnoEnergy	INCORE
1	EIT Health	Inno4YUFE
1	EIT Digital	InnoChange
1	EIT Climate-KIC	Inno-EU+
1	EIT Food	INNOUNITA
1	EIT Manufacturing	INVENTHEI
1	EIT Manufacturing	PROMETHEUS
1	EIT Manufacturing	RiEcoLab
1	EIT RawMaterials	Smart-2M
1	EIT Urban Mobility	TANDEM+
1	EIT Urban Mobility	UNICORN
1	EIT Health	TRUE
2	EIT Food	4InnoPipe

2	EIT Digital	ACCELERATE-EEE
2	EIT Raw Materials	AccEnt
2	EIT Digital	C-ACCELERATE
2	EIT Manufacturing	CITE
2	EIT Digital	DIN-ECO
2	EIT Climate-KIC	DISCO
2	EIT Manufacturing	EcoAction
2	EIT Urban Mobility	Entrepreneur
2	EIT Manufacturing	EuroSpaceHub
2	EIT Urban Mobility	HEI4Future
2	EIT Raw Materials	HEI4S3-RM
2	EIT Health	HEInnovaSport
2	EIT Health	HIVE
2	EIT Manufacturing	IDEATION
2	EIT Climate-KIC	ILCA
2	EIT Health	innovAId
2	EIT Food	InterHEI
2	EIT Urban Mobility	INTREPID-HEI
2	EIT InnoEnergy	KICstartH2
2	EIT Health	Network IQ Alliance
2	EIT Food	NOBALIS
2	EIT Food	OASIS
2	EIT Climate-KIC	SMART4FUTURE
2	EIT Raw Materials	SMILE
2	EIT Raw Materials	UMANE
3	EIT Climate-KIC	ABCD
3	EIT Raw Materials	BOOSTalent
3	EIT Health	Deep INVENTHEI
3	EIT Manufacturing	DeepGreenInno
3	EIT Digital	DeepTech-2M
3	EIT Raw Materials	DEETECHTIVE
3	EIT Food	DETECT!
3	EIT Food	DIP4Agri
3	EIT Health	HEICE
3	EIT Digital	INCREDIT
3	EIT Manufacturing	REGINNA 4.0
3	EIT Urban Mobility	SFF.DeepT+
3	EIT Urban Mobility	SFFACCEL

3	EIT Urban Mobility	Skills2Scale
3	EIT Climate-KIC	TREATY
3	EIT Climate-KIC	UNITeD
4	EIT Food	4InnoPipe2
4	EIT RawMaterials	A-SIDE
4	EIT RawMaterials	AI-InnoScEnCE
4	EIT RawMaterials	AquaSphere
4	EIT RawMaterials	B-KINETIC
4	EIT Food	BECEE
4	EIT RawMaterials	BIKE-HEI
4	EIT Food	Biotech Venture
4	EIT Food EIT Health	Biotech Venture
4	EIT Culture & Creativity	C-Accelerate Plus
4	EIT Climate-KIC	CinnovatE
4	EIT Climate-KIC	Climate Engine
4	EIT Urban Mobility	CODEUNITED
4	EIT Manufacturing	COPILOT
4	EIT Culture & Creativity	CreaTech
4	EIT Urban Mobility	De-TECH
4	EIT Health	DigiCare Innovation
4	EIT Food	DIGIMPACT.EU
4	EIT Food	ELEVATE
4	EIT Culture & Creativity	ELICIA
4	EIT Climate-KIC	GT4T
4	EIT Health	HEALTHPRENEURS
4	EIT Food	HEI-TRAIN
4	EIT Health	HEI2MARKET
4	EIT Manufacturing	HMI2MARKET
4	EIT Culture & Creativity	IDEAL
4	EIT Culture & Creativity	IMPACT-Campus
4	EIT Manufacturing	IMPACTWHEEL
4	EIT Urban Mobility	InnovaCyBridge
4	EIT Digital EIT Health	InnovPrecMed
4	EIT Health	LEAPXR
4	EIT Digital	LOTUS
4	EIT RawMaterials	NanoBioTech Nexus
4	EIT Climate-KIC	NEXT-HEI
4	EIT Digital	PIONEER+

4	EIT Food	RUN-InnoBoost
4	EIT Health	Sport-IE
4	EIT Urban Mobility	Sustain4Future
4	EIT Health	Talent-CGT
4	EIT Urban Mobility	TECH2X
4	EIT Manufacturing	TECHSIGHT
4	EIT Culture & Creativity	TRI-CREATES
4	EIT Urban Mobility	TRIANGLE
4	EIT Climate-KIC	TROPHY
4	EIT Climate-KIC	U!Innovate
4	EIT Digital	UPTECH
4	EIT Climate-KIC	ZEEUS