EIT Culture & Creativity

Co-funded by the European Union

Open call for proposals Seasonal schools in Creative Entrepreneurship

Call reference number:

26-EDU-SCH-018-X

EIT Culture & Creativity

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https://eit-culture-creativity.eu/

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Document History

Version 1.0 (2026)

Changelog

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	25/11/2026	Initial version

Abbreviations

EIT	European Institute of Innovation and Technology
EIT KPIs	Key Performance Indicators defined by the EIT
EIT SIA	EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda
FSM	Financial Sustainability Mechanism
FSTP	Financial support to third parties
HE MGA	Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement
KAVA	KIC-added value activity
KIC	Knowledge and Innovation Community
KIC SA	KIC Strategic Agenda
KTI	Knowledge Triangle Integration
NEB	New European Bauhaus
PA	Partnership Agreement
PMO	Project Management Office
PRA	Subgrant agreement – Project agreement
RIS	Regional Innovation Scheme

Definitions

Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries	Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI) are based on cultural values, creativity, skills, and talent with the potential to generate innovation, wealth, and jobs through social and economic value creation, particularly from intellectual property. Sectors include architecture, archives, artistic crafts, audio-visual (film, TV, software, video games, multimedia, recorded music), cultural heritage, design, high-end industries and fashion, festivals, live music, performing arts, publishing, radio, visual arts, and advertising. (Source: European Parliament (2016/2072(INI))
Deliverable	Deliverables are tangible or intangible goods or service produced during the project implementation phase. They track the progress made towards a project's objectives and may take the form of a report, document, software product, course, event or any other building block of a project. The deliverables specified need to fully demonstrate the project's achievements and the judicious use of public funds.
EIT	The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is an EU body established in 2008 to strengthen Europe's innovation capacity. It is part of Horizon Europe, the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and funds EIT Culture & Creativity (www.eit.europa.eu).
EIT KPI	The set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) defined by the EIT that reflect the EIT operational objectives for education, entrepreneurship, and innovation. These KPIs are used to measure how effectively a KIC/project meets the objectives of the EIT.
EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS)	The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS), launched in 2014, helps innovators from eligible countries access EIT activities, creates links among regional innovation actors, and offers tailor-made programmes to support moderate and emerging innovating countries, as well as the EU's Outermost Regions, in building their innovation capacity. List of eligible countries: https://www.eit.europa.eu/activities/eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris-closing-innovation-divide-europe
Extended Knowledge Triangle	In addition to the Knowledge Triangle Integration (KTI), EIT Culture & Creativity promotes Extended Knowledge Triangle collaboration, which includes public institutions, policymakers, and civil society stakeholders, to foster long-term systemic impact and alignment with regional development goals.
Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement	The Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement (HE MGA) sets out the rights and obligations and the terms and conditions applicable to the implementation of the EIT grant.
Knowledge Triangle Integration	The EIT is established to complement existing Union and national policies and initiatives by fostering the integration of the knowledge triangle – higher education, research and innovation, and business creation – across the Union.
Standstill period	A mandatory waiting period following the communication of award decisions, during which no contracts are signed and applicants are not permitted to publicly announce the outcome – even if they have already received written notification. It gives unsuccessful applicants the opportunity to submit an appeal before any funding agreements are finalised.

Overview of key information on the call

Call reference number	26-EDU-SCH-018-X
Purpose of the call	To support the design, testing, and initial deployment of **short-term Bachelor-level summer or winter schools (1-4 weeks)** that integrate creative sector expertise with innovation and entrepreneurship education within the CCSI. These programmes aim to complement existing undergraduate studies by equipping students with interdisciplinary, practice-oriented skills that combine creativity and entrepreneurship. A core objective is to **develop and validate a scalable education model**, not simply deliver a one-off training activity.
Call opening and deadline for applications	**Call publication / opening:** 25/11/2026 **Deadline for applications:** 25/01/2027, 17:00 CET
Evaluation and implementation timeline (indicative)	• Evaluation of proposals: January – February 2027 • Communication of results to applicants: March 2027 • Standstill period: 30 calendar days, unless a shorter period has been agreed with EIT, counted from the day after dispatch of the communication of results • Publication of results: April 2027 • Signature of the subgrant agreement – Project agreement: April - May 2027 (subject to expiry of the applicable stand-still period, completion of procedural and contracting checks, and, where applicable, legal entity validation by the EIT Onboarding Service) • Tentative start and end of the projects (according to date defined on the subgrant agreement – Project agreement): Implementation window 1: **starting from 01/05/2027 and ending no later than 30/04/2028** [2027/2028 Winter School] or Implementation window 2: **starting from 01/10/2027 and ending no later than 30/09/2028** [2028 Summer School].
Maximum EIT funding allocated to this call	The maximum EIT funding allocated to this call is up to **EUR 600 000** allocated as follows: • Up to **EUR 200 000** per funded project The indicative number of accepted projects is **up to 3 projects**.
Funding model	The funding model for this call is the **actual costs model**. Such model reimburses real expenses backed by detailed financial records (e.g., timesheets, invoices).
Reimbursement rate	EIT Culture & Creativity financial support may reimburse **up to 80%** of the total eligible project costs of each project participant. The remaining costs

	must be covered by the applicant or consortium participants through own resources or other eligible sources. In consortium projects, each project participant's reimbursement rate is set at 80% of their respective eligible costs. Costs already funded by other EU programmes or sources cannot be reimbursed, in order to avoid double funding.
Who can apply	This call is open to legal entities established in eligible countries as detailed in Section 4.2. Affiliated entities and associated partners may participate subject to the conditions set out in Section 4.2. Proposals must be submitted by **consortia** composed of **at least two (2) and up to three (3) independent legal entities established in eligible countries** as specified in Section 4.2. Each consortium application **must** include: • **One entity from the Education sector** (HEI or VET institution, or accredited professional training providers) who serves **as the Project Coordinator** and leads the process of co-designing the school's curriculum, ensures academic recognition and/or accreditation of the programme, manages marketing and learners' recruitment, and co-designs the programme's financial sustainability and scalability plan. • **One entity from the Business sector** (e.g., SME, startup, or large company) who serves **as Co-Creator** and co-designs the programme's curriculum, provides real industry challenges and use cases, contributes market insights, entrepreneurship input, mentoring, teaching or coaching to the funded programme, and co-designs the programme's financial sustainability and scalability plan. Consortia **may** also include a **third entity** among the following eligible entities: HEIs, VET institutions, Industry partners, accredited professional training providers, Non-profits/Associations (NGOs, Foundations), and Research/Media/Cultural institutions.
List of call documents	• Call guidelines • Application form, as available on the submission platform • Part B of the Application Form template • Budget plan and EIT Culture & Creativity funding request template • Eligibility of Expenditure guidelines • Subgrant agreement – Project agreement (note: the template is subject to change) • EIT Culture & Creativity Guidelines for Project Monitoring and Controlling
List of reference documents (with links)	• EIT Culture & Creativity Strategic Agenda 2024-2027 • List of participating countries in Horizon Europe • EIT Culture & Creativity Code of Conduct

	• EIT Impact Framework (2022-2027) with codes
List of documents to be submitted	• Application form as available on the submission platform • Part B of the Application Form in PDF format using the EIT Culture & Creativity template provided • Budget plan and EIT Culture & Creativity funding request template in excel format using the EIT Culture & Creativity funding template provided • Gantt chart with project timeline and work packages in PDF format (Example from European Commission)
Link to the PIC registration and submission portal	• **Step 1:** Register your organisation in the EU Funding & tender opportunities portal to obtain the nine-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC number). If you do not 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:** Link to the submission platform of the call. The application form will be available from **25/11/2026 to 25/01/2027 17:00 CET**.
Topics to be addressed	Proposals must focus on creative entrepreneurship applied to one of the EIT Culture & Creativity priority topic areas: Architecture, Audio-Visual Media, Cultural Heritage, Fashion, and Gaming. This sector prioritisation is aligned with the EIT Culture & Creativity Business Plan 2026-2028 for the period of 2027-2028.
KPIs to be addressed	For details, please see Section 2.3.4. **Mandatory KPIs:** • **EITHE08.1** - Number of successful participants in EIT professional development courses, online training courses, and other education/training activities delivered or in process of delivery (by country and type of programme), including data on country of citizenship and gender. Only participants who successfully completed the programme are counted. ***(Minimum target: 30 successful participants per school)*** **Optional KPIs:** • **EITHE08.2** - Number of successful participants in EIT professional development courses, online training courses, and other education/training activities delivered or in process of delivery, **with citizenship in EIT RIS countries**. Only participants who successfully completed the programme are counted.
Contact point Q&A	Applicants may submit their inquiries via the official EIT Culture & Creativity Contact Form. This form can be used for all questions related to call content, technical aspects, thematic focus, administrative, financial, or procedural

	matters. The relevant team will review and respond accordingly to provide clear and aligned guidance throughout the application process. Questions submitted by applicants during the submission period will be anonymised, reviewed, and – where appropriate – published on the call page under the FAQ section. The FAQ section will be updated throughout the call period to ensure equal access to information for all applicants.
Further information to interested applicants	Interested applicants are invited to attend an online **information session** related to this call on **10/12/2026 at 10:00 CET.** **Registration** is required through the following form: Registration form The Teams meeting link will be shared with registered participants after registration. This information session will focus on the call content, topics, and requirements, and on general procedures, such as the submission and evaluation process. The information session will be recorded and made available on the EIT Culture & Creativity website. Applicants are encouraged to check the call webpage regularly for update.

1. Introduction

1.1. Information on the EIT

European Institute of Innovation and Technology

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 global competitiveness by fostering collaboration between businesses, research institutions, and higher education organisations.

The EIT is governed by Regulation (EU) 2021/819 (EIT Regulation), which aligns the EIT's mission with the EU's priorities and the objectives of Horizon Europe on evolving research, innovation, economic growth, job creation, global competitiveness, sustainable growth, higher education and entrepreneurship, by means of the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), which address specific societal challenges and are established and supported by the EIT.

The EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) 2021-2027 is aligned with Horizon Europe and lays down the priority fields and the strategy of the EIT for future initiatives, capacity to generate the best innovation added-value, objectives, key actions, mode of operation, expected results, impact, as well as an estimate of the resources needed for the duration of Horizon Europe.

Horizon Europe Regulation

The Horizon Europe Regulation (EU) 2021/695 foresees that the EIT takes part in the implementation of the Horizon Europe Programme in accordance with its strategic objectives for the period 2021 to 2027, as laid down in the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the EIT, and taking into account the strategic planning of Horizon Europe.

EIT and Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) relations

The EIT Regulation defines KICs as large-scale Institutionalised European Partnerships of higher education institutions, research organisations, companies and other stakeholders in the innovation process in the form of a strategic network, regardless of its legal form, based on joint mid- to long-term innovation planning to meet the EIT's challenges and contribute to attaining the objectives established.

According to the EIT Regulation, and without prejudice to the partnership agreements and grant agreements between the EIT and each KIC, the KICs have substantial autonomy to establish their internal organisation and composition, as well as their agenda and working methods, provided that they result in progress towards achieving the objectives of the EIT and the KICs, taking into account the strategic planning of Horizon Europe and the strategic direction of the EIT set out in the SIA and by the Governing Board.

Contractual framework between the EIT and the KICs

The long-term relations between the EIT and each KIC are based on a **seven-year Partnership Agreement** (PA)[1] laying down the general terms and conditions under which the KIC operates as an Institutionalised European Partnership. Subject to positive performance, interim review and outcome of comprehensive assessment of the KIC, the PA can be extended for another period of a maximum of seven years.

The Partnership Agreement between the EIT and EIT Culture & Creativity entered into force on 1 January 2024 (PA reference: PA2024/EIT/EIT CC).

The **Grant Agreement** (GA)[2] is the contractual instrument laying down the provisions concerning the implementation of the KIC activities (KIC Business Plan, Cross-KIC activities, etc.) through grants, on an annual or multi-annual basis of up to three years with the KICs. Business plans describe the main objectives and expected results and actions taken by the KICs.

The Grant Agreement between the EIT and EIT Culture & Creativity for the 2026-2028 period entered into force on 6 May 2026(Grant Agreement No.: GA-101264271).

Contractual framework between the KIC and the subgrantees

In line with Annex 5 of the Grant Agreement, selected applicants will be offered Subgrant agreement – Project agreements governing the implementation of the awarded projects or prizes.

1.2. Information on EIT Culture & Creativity

EIT Culture & Creativity is the institutional partnership dedicated to strengthening the European Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI), enabling them to become more sustainable, resilient, and globally competitive.

Launched in 2023 by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union, we provide access to funding, knowledge, and tailored support. As part of Europe's largest innovation ecosystem, we connect research, industry, academia, and cultural institutions to drive systemic innovation.

Our initial focus spans five key sectors: architecture, gaming, fashion, cultural heritage, and audio-visual and media. Across these domains, we support innovators end-to-end – from idea to market – scaling solutions, translating innovation into impact, and redefining entrepreneurship in the CCSI.

We are active in over 30 countries, with headquarters in Cologne and Regional Hubs in Amsterdam, Barcelona, Bologna, Helsinki, Košice, and Vienna. Together, we are building a pan-European ecosystem that transcends silos, sectors, and geographies.

We believe that culture and creativity are not luxuries, but critical infrastructure for resilience, renewal, and sustainable economic growth. Whether you are an innovator, company, university, research center,

[1] Model Partnership Agreement: Partnership Agreement
[2] Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement: general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

cultural institution, investor, policymaker, civic leader, or learner, we invite you to join us in shaping desirable futures for Europe.

1.2.1. MISSION AND VISION

Vision

To position the CCSI as a central driver of Europe's economic, societal, and environmental transformation.

Mission

To drive sustainable and responsible growth within and beyond the CCSI through innovation, education, business creation, and societal transformation.

Impact goals

Working towards this mission, EIT Culture & Creativity will pursue three overarching impact goals for the EU CCSI:

- Create and safeguard jobs in a resilient European CCSI ecosystem that can scale, innovate, and compete in global markets.
- Strengthen resilience within and through the EU CCSI by reducing environmental impact, supporting inclusive growth, and increasing social cohesion.
- Accelerate the transition towards sustainable, responsible, and competitive economic growth across the EU CCSI

Challenges

EIT Culture & Creativity has identified three core challenges limiting the ability of the CCSI to remain globally competitive, resilient, and impactful:

- Skills gaps for future job markets – insufficient alignment between education, training, and the rapidly evolving needs of the CCSI workforce.
- Limited innovation implementation capacity – strong creative potential exists, but it is not consistently translated into scalable, market-ready solutions.
- Weak venture creation, scaling, and value capture – insufficient support for building and growing companies, coupled with underdeveloped monetisation of intellectual property and revenue generation

1.2.2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

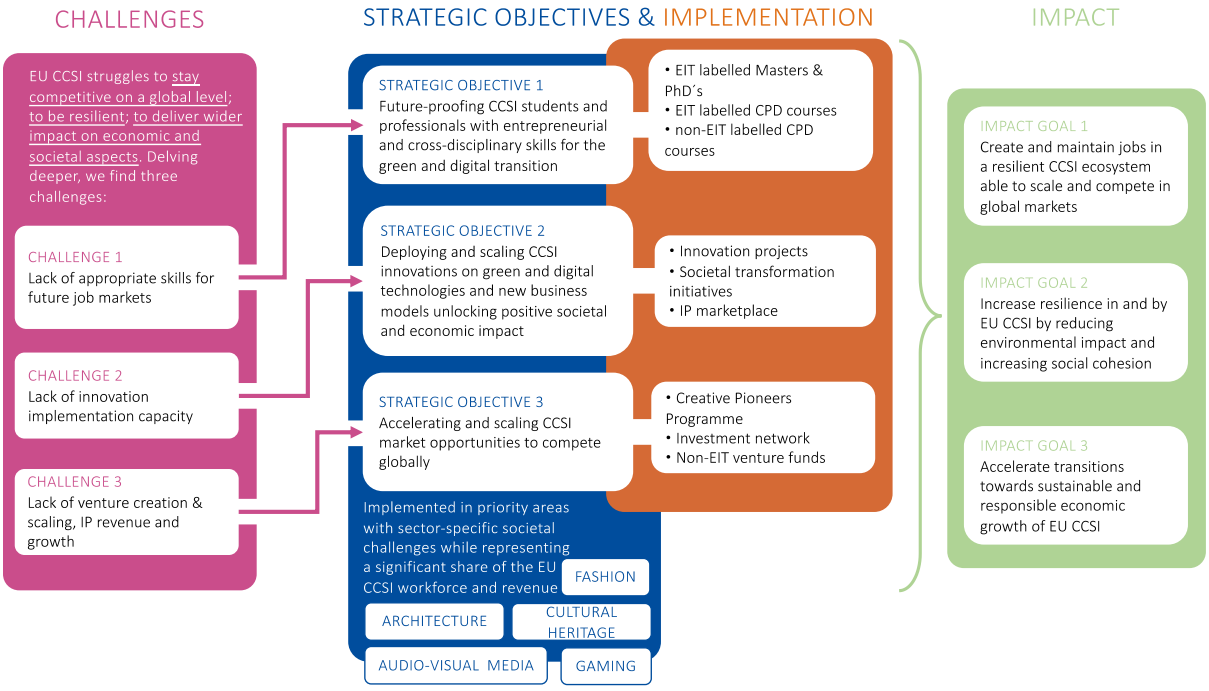
To achieve our mission, EIT Culture & Creativity will focus on the following strategic objectives (SOs):

- Future-proofing CCSI students: Equip CCSI students with entrepreneurial and cross-disciplinary skills necessary for the green and digital transitions. This includes addressing emerging

technologies, environmental challenges, market disruptions, globalisation, and talent shortages. Please note that this call has students as the main general target group.

- Deploying and scaling CCSI innovations: Support collaborative innovations that have significant commercial potential and societal benefits, focusing on green and digital technologies and new business models.
- Accelerating and scaling CCSI market opportunities: Provide business support to create and scale ventures, enabling them to compete globally and access necessary capital, markets, and audiences.

These strategic objectives are designed to create and maintain jobs, enhance resilience, and accelerate sustainable economic growth within the EU's CCSI.



This graphic illustrates the relationship between our challenges, strategic objectives, and impact goals, highlighting how each proposal can contribute to the overarching mission and vision of EIT Culture & Creativity.

1.2.3. PRIORITY AREAS

EIT Culture & Creativity's Strategic Agenda 2024-2027 covers five priority areas – Architecture, Audio-Visual Media, Cultural Heritage, Fashion, and Gaming – all of which are described in the table below. Each represents a significant share of the EU CCSI workforce and revenue and faces unique challenges requiring targeted intervention.

Priority area	Objective	Key challenges (non-exhaustive list)
Architecture	• Foster circular innovation with a social dimension, focusing on new bio-based materials and technologies. • Affordable climate adaptation, enhancing liveability and cohesion in urban environments.	• Growing demand for reusing and renovating existing buildings over new constructions. • Limited entrepreneurial skills among architects and lack of capacity to use architecture to promote social cohesion. • SMEs and freelancers in architecture struggle to scale and find appropriate economic models.
Audio-visual media	• Promote responsible and trustworthy use of technology, including generative AI, audience data collection.	• Limited capacity to implement and commercialise new technologies. • New business models based on disruptive technologies. • Issues with data ownership and privacy. • Stagnant revenues and limited investment capabilities.
Cultural Heritage	• Integrate emerging technologies and new business models for commercialising scalable products and services. • Preserve cultural heritage, increase societal impact towards social cohesion.	• Disappearing traditional knowledge and craft skills. • Limited skills for emerging technologies and entrepreneurship. • Financial bottlenecks making it difficult to monetise and find new revenue streams from cultural heritage.
Fashion	• Drive circular innovations, new textile processing, recycling technologies, and supply chain innovations. • Promote circular business models and circular design.	• High reliance on raw material consumption and environmentally damaging production processes. • Significant waste generation leading to environmental degradation and social issues. • SMEs and new ventures face difficulty competing with global industry players and scaling up.
Gaming	• Foster innovation with disruptive technologies focused on digital ethics and cross-sectoral collaboration. • Enhance the societal impact of the gaming sector.	• Access to funding • Access to talent and strict industry-specific curricula. • Barriers from global platforms restricting market access and choice of distribution channels. • Difficult for EU gaming companies to maintain and grow market share against dominant American and Asian players.

1.2.4. MISSION OF THE PROGRAMMATIC PILLARS

Education

The Education area equips learners with the skills and entrepreneurial mindsets needed to lead the green, digital and social transitions. By integrating creativity, technology, sustainability and business expertise, it fosters cross-disciplinary innovation across and beyond Europe's Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI). Through practice-based learning, industry collaboration and forward-looking curricula, Education strengthens capacity for inclusive, responsible and future-oriented growth.

Innovation

The Innovation area bridges groundbreaking ideas and commercial viability through a structured, impact-driven pipeline. It advances high-potential, close-to-market projects (TRL 7-9) from validation to deployment and commercialisation through rigorous selection, milestone-based funding, and robust business models – accelerating their path to scalable impact. By mobilising cross-sector expertise and strategic investment, Innovation strengthens Europe's cultural ecosystems and enhances global competitiveness. It delivers measurable economic, societal, and financial impact for the CCSI by connecting projects to international markets, investors, and EIT business creation pathways – ensuring long-term growth and value creation.

Business Creation

The Business Creation area supports entrepreneurs and ventures in building, scaling, and internationalising sustainable, competitive businesses, while unlocking access to public and private finance. Through incubation, acceleration, and post-acceleration support, it guides companies from product development and IP strategy to market entry and expansion. With a strong focus on robust business models, investor readiness, and global positioning, Business Creation ensures that creative innovation translates into scalable ventures – driving economic resilience, long-term value creation, and measurable impact across Europe.

Transformation & New European Bauhaus (NEB), including RIS

The Transformation & NEB area drives systemic change through cultural practices and creative approaches (artistic and design methodologies), with a focus on priority areas including sustainable fashion and textiles, design, architecture, and the transformation of the lived environment. It explores new models of collaboration, governance and societal engagement, turning experimental ideas into practical, scalable initiatives. Rooted in inclusion, sustainability and shared responsibility, Transformation strengthens social cohesion and resilience, fostering place-based innovation and shaping a more sustainable, beautiful and inclusive European future.

2. Description of the subject matter of the call

2.1. Call for Seasonal Schools in Creative Entrepreneurship

This call specifically invites applications for the development and implementation of **up to three seasonal Bachelor-level schools (summer or winter schools)** that integrate entrepreneurship and innovation education specifically for the CCSI. These programmes are designed to inspire undergraduate students to pursue creative careers by focusing on sustainability, digitalisation, and foundational business skills.

By training a new generation of entrepreneurial students, EIT Culture & Creativity aims to accelerate the green, digital, and social transformations of Europe, contributing to a more competitive and resilient CCSI.

All proposals must be submitted by **consortia composed of at least one entity from the Education sector and one from the Business sector**, ensuring strong alignment between academic content and industry needs. Proposals should demonstrate strong collaboration between the partners, ensuring relevance, practical applicability, and alignment with current and emerging needs of the CCSI.

This call for proposals aligns with the EIT Culture & Creativity Strategic Agenda 2024-2027. Proposals submitted to this call must support the EIT Culture & Creativity vision and mission and directly contribute to tackling our challenges, impact goals, strategic objectives (SOs) and priority areas (see Section 1.2).

EIT Culture & Creativity acts in compliance with Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement (HE MGA) regulations and ensures that the principles of transparency, non-discrimination, sound financial management and no conflict of interest (including having procedures agreed with the granting authority regarding links with recipients) are ensured throughout the selection, evaluation and implementation of the sub granted activities.

Proposals need to demonstrate how the proposal will not just align with but will also actively contribute to the EIT Culture & Creativity Strategic Agenda 2024-2027.

2.1.1. PURPOSE OF THIS CALL

The purpose of this call is to support the design, testing and initial deployment of short-term Bachelor-level summer or winter schools (1-4 weeks) that integrate creative sector expertise with innovation and entrepreneurship education within the CCSI. These programmes aim to complement existing undergraduate studies by equipping students with interdisciplinary, practice-oriented skills that combine creativity and entrepreneurship. Particular emphasis is placed on developing entrepreneurial mindsets, strengthening intellectual property and AI literacy, and developing leadership skills relevant to the rapidly evolving creative economy.

The call seeks to inspire and empower undergraduate students to pursue careers in the CCSI, addressing key sectoral transformations driven by digitalisation, sustainability and new business models. Through immersive and challenge-based group and individual learning experiences, participants will gain the ability

to identify opportunities, develop innovative solutions, and translate creative ideas into viable concepts or ventures.

Proposals must focus on creative entrepreneurship applied to one of the EIT Culture & Creativity priority topic areas: Architecture, Audio-Visual Media, Cultural Heritage, Fashion, and Gaming.

A core objective is to develop and validate a scalable education model, not simply deliver a one-off training activity. These programmes are therefore expected to evolve beyond their initial pilot cohort of 30 students and be delivered on an annual or biannual basis following the funding period. Proposals should demonstrate a clear pathway for growth, including a steady increase in learner numbers over time, potential expansion to additional countries, and/or the development of partnerships with corporate and institutional stakeholders. These elements should contribute to ensuring the long-term financial viability of the programmes through sponsorships, external revenue streams, and other sustainable funding mechanisms.

2.1.2. SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS CALL

Activities supported under this call consist of in-person Bachelor-level summer or winter schools with a duration of 1 to 4 weeks that augment the student's existing undergraduate studies.

These schools must be designed as interdisciplinary learning experiences that merge creative sector knowledge with innovation tools, entrepreneurship education, IP understanding, and leadership development.

The schools may include a combination of:

- Lectures, seminars, and expert talks
- Site visits to relevant industry or cultural organisations
- Collaborative project work in interdisciplinary teams
- Mentoring sessions with industry professionals to refine their ideas
- A Demo Day with final pitches and jury scoring.

Funded activities will include:

- Marketing and recruitment of participants (at least 30 per edition)
- Design of an interdisciplinary 1–4 week school combining creative and entrepreneurial learning
- Inclusion of practice-based, project-oriented learning approaches
- Development of new or updated teaching materials
- Ensuring a high-quality, inclusive, and engaging learning experience
- Pilot delivery and evaluating and improvements of the programme's format and/or curriculum for future years.

2.1.3. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

2.1.3.1. Learner Target Groups

Each school must target a minimum of 30 undergraduate participants. Proposals must explicitly define their intended learners by identifying a **primary learner target group** for the proposed school. This should include the learners' academic background and relevant professional experience (if any), their specific training needs, and any entry requirements. This primary group represents the core beneficiaries of the learning activity, that is the main audience for whom the training is designed.

Proposals should include specific measures to promote gender balance and diversity, such as outreach initiatives aimed at women and under-represented groups, inclusive selection criteria, and collaboration with partner institutions and networks that support equity in education.

2.1.3.2. Delivery Requirements

All supported schools must:

- Deliver in-person or blended training;
- Provide a credible pathway to academic recognition and/or integration into Bachelor-level education, which may include allocation of ECTS credits, recognition within existing degree programmes, and formal or informal validation mechanisms;
- Demonstrate clear intended learning outcomes and formal assessment methods, ensuring academic recognition.

2.1.4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

2.1.4.1. Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Applicants are expected to define at least **three clear ILOs** for the proposed school. ILOs are typically structured using action verbs, which may be reflected in the assessment approach to demonstrate the learner's ability to apply the intended competences in practice.

ILOs are expected to be:

- Specific: clearly state the knowledge, skills or competencies to be acquired by the learner.
- Measurable: structured to facilitate the assessment.
- Achievable: considering the target audience profile, their previous knowledge, skills and competencies.
- Relevant: for the thematic focus of this call; they should contribute to closing call-relevant skills gaps in the CCSI and to supporting competitiveness of the European CCSI.

- Time-bound: ILOs are expected to be achieved by the end of the school, with their achievement measured through documented assessment.

2.1.4.2. Assessment of ILOs

Proposals must demonstrate how these outcomes are embedded within the school design, and how their achievement will be evidenced through assessment. Proposals must describe the assessment method, which can be defined as best fitting the learning activity and defined ILOs. Assessment should prioritise applied competencies, including the ability to transfer learning into professional contexts. Where appropriate, assessment formats may include a final pitch to a jury of experts, a capstone project, or a prototype, rather than purely theoretical evaluation.

2.2. Main requirements for applicants

Participation in and eligibility for funding under this call follow the country eligibility rules, as further detailed in Section 4.2. Applicants and affiliated entities receiving EIT Culture & Creativity financial support must meet the applicable country eligibility requirements. Associated partners may participate without receiving EIT Culture & Creativity financial support, where permitted under the call conditions.

To ensure relevance, innovation, and long-term impact, proposals must be submitted by a multi-beneficiary consortium composed of **at least two (2) and up to three (3) independent legal entities established in eligible countries** as specified in Section 4.2.

Each consortium application **must** include:

- **One entity from the Education sector** (HEI or VET institution, or accredited professional training providers) who serves **as the Project Coordinator** and leads the process of co-designing the school's curriculum, ensures academic recognition and/or accreditation of the programme, manages marketing and learners' recruitment, and co-designs the programme's financial sustainability and scalability plan.
- **One entity from the Business sector** (e.g., SME, startup, or large company) who serves **as Co-Creator** and co-designs the programme's curriculum, provides real industry challenges and use cases, contributes market insights, entrepreneurship input, mentoring, teaching or coaching to the funded programme, and co-designs the programme's financial sustainability and scalability plan.

Consortia **may** also include a **third entity** among the following eligible entities: HEIs, VET institutions, Industry partners, accredited professional training providers, Non-profits/Associations (NGOs, Foundations), and Research/Media/Cultural institutions.

2.2.1. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Eligibility of Associated Countries** – Countries in the process of associating with Horizon Europe must have completed their association agreement by the launch date of the call in order for entities established in those countries to benefit from the status of an Associated Country under the call.

Any association agreement finalised after the publication date will not apply retroactively. For reference, see the section "Third countries associated to Horizon Europe" in the List of participating countries in Horizon Europe. As the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is implemented under Pillar III of Horizon Europe, any association relied upon for eligibility under this call must cover Pillar III.

- **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[3] (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.

2.2.2. SUPPORTING THE KNOWLEDGE TRIANGLE INTEGRATION (KTI)

EIT Culture & Creativity applies the Knowledge Triangle Integration (KTI) model to ensure meaningful collaboration across education, research, and business. The Knowledge Triangle approach ensures that supported projects are not only academically rigorous, but also closely aligned with industry and societal needs, preparing graduates to navigate and lead the green, digital, and social transitions of the CCSI.

In addition, EIT Culture & Creativity promotes **Extended Knowledge Triangle (EKT)** collaboration, which includes public institutions, policymakers, and civil society stakeholders, to foster long-term systemic impact and alignment with regional development goals.

2.2.3. INTEGRATION OF RIS APPLICANTS

EIT Culture & Creativity encourages the participation of organisations from countries with moderate or emerging innovation scores, as defined by the European Innovation Scoreboard. These countries are part of the Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS), and applicants from these regions are referred to as "RIS applicants".

[3] following the adoption of Council Regulation (EU) 2024/1745 of 24 June 2024 amending Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine.

Encouragement for participation of RIS applicants

EIT Culture & Creativity is committed to expanding the innovation and education ecosystem by fostering collaboration with RIS countries and regions.

Proposals are encouraged to meaningfully engage with RIS members and allocate a portion of their activities and budget to addressing challenges and opportunities specific to these regions. While there is no mandatory requirement for a minimum budgetary allocation, proposals that demonstrate strong engagement with RIS countries will be positively evaluated during the assessment process.

Accordingly, proposals can enhance their alignment with EIT Culture & Creativity's RIS objectives by:

- Including members from RIS-eligible countries and regions in their consortium.
- Highlighting activities specifically designed to address regional challenges or opportunities in RIS areas.
- Identifying measurable outcomes or contributions to innovation, capacity-building, and societal impact in RIS regions.

Any entity from a RIS country can apply as a RIS applicant during the initial application process. The goal of integrating RIS applicants is to expand the innovation ecosystem by connecting local RIS members to the broader European innovation landscape. This ensures that regions with moderate or emerging innovation performance are well-represented and can contribute to the overall success of the programme.

Reimbursement rate

RIS applicants are subject to the same reimbursement rate as all other applicants. Costs already funded by other EU programmes or other EU sources cannot be reimbursed by EIT Culture & Creativity, in order to avoid double funding.

2.3. Main requirements for project implementation

2.3.1. PROJECT DURATION

The total project duration is 12 months, and must include all phases of the project. The total project duration must align with these specifications to ensure that all deliverables and KPIs are met within the project timeframe. Applicants must **select one** of the following project timeframes:

- **Implementation window 1: starting from 01/05/2027 and ending no later than 30/04/2028 [2027/2028 Winter School] or**
- **Implementation window 2: starting from 01/10/2027 and ending no later than 30/09/2028 [2028 Summer School].**

In their proposals, applicants are expected to outline a deployment strategy to demonstrate how their seasonal school will reach the mandatory minimum participant KPIs for EITHE08.1 and EITHE08.2 if applicable (See Section 2 for KPI details).

Please also see Section 2.3.5 about fast-tracking.

2.3.2. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING

Selected projects will be managed in line with the "EIT Culture & Creativity Guidelines for Project Monitoring and Controlling" available on the call website, ensuring effective execution, compliance, and alignment with EIT requirements, including any updates that may apply. Project coordinators are responsible for implementing the approved work plan and ensuring timely delivery of deliverables, milestones and KPI targets, while EIT Culture & Creativity will monitor progress and provide guidance and support throughout implementation. Each beneficiary should prepare and submit its own financial cost report, in line with the timeline defined in the call/topic (Section 3.4). The coordinator remains responsible for the consolidated project-level performance reporting and coordination. Any significant changes (e.g., consortium changes and budget reallocations among participants) require prior formal approval from EIT Culture & Creativity. In case of underperformance or non-compliance, EIT Culture & Creativity may apply corrective measures, including adjustments to the financial support in accordance with the Subgrant agreement – Project agreement.

Selected beneficiaries must ensure appropriate visibility and acknowledgement of EIT Culture & Creativity, the EIT and EU funding in all relevant project-related communication and dissemination activities, in accordance with the communication, dissemination and visibility requirements set out in the Subgrant Agreement – Project Agreement and its annexes.

EIT Culture & Creativity is committed to **gender equality, diversity and inclusion (GEDI)**. Applicants must demonstrate how GEDI considerations are meaningfully embedded throughout the design, development and implementation of project outputs, using an **intersectional perspective** where relevant. Projects must comply with the principles set out in **Annex 5 (Specific Rules, Values) of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement** and the EIT Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan 2025-2027.

2.3.3. DELIVERABLES

Mandatory deliverables

Each project proposal must include the following mandatory deliverables:

Deliverable	Description	Expected	KPI the deliverable contributes to
D01	**Data Management Plan:** A comprehensive document defining how data generated and collected throughout the project, including learner registration details, assessment outcomes, and quality feedback will be handled, stored, protected,	M3	EITHE08.1, EITHE08.2

	and shared in strict compliance with GDPR regulations.		
D02	**Curriculum Design and Outline:** A clear outline of the programme's structure, including but not limited to programme's objectives, curriculum, learning milestones, number of ECTS (if applicable), description of assessment method(s) and how these document ILO achievements.	M4	EITHE08.1, EITHE08.2
D03	**Communication and Dissemination Plan**: A document including clear communication and dissemination activities foreseen during and after implementation of the project, as well as a recruitment plan specifying targeted marketing actions and channels used, including timeframes and expected number of learners applying and enrolling. The plan should also include specific measures to promote gender balance and diversity, such as outreach initiatives aimed at women and under-represented groups, inclusive selection criteria, and collaboration with partner institutions and networks that support equity in education. Compliance with HE Guidance and visibility rules set in MGA Article 17 is required.	M3	EITHE08.1, EITHE08.2
D04	**Activity Report and Impact Monitoring**: A comprehensive report of the activities implemented, performance, and immediate outcomes of the seasonal school following its pilot delivery. It must include: a summary of the activities delivered and any deviations from the initial plan, participants' completion rates and achievement of the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs), a description and assessment of the role and contribution of the industry partners, and any lessons learnt for future iterations.	M12	EITHE08.1, EITHE08.2
D05	**Post-funding financial sustainability plan:** A document outlining how the programme will continue to be deployed and scaled after the end of the funding period and for the duration of a minimum of 3 years, including the target market, pricing strategy, revenue streams, and planned	M12	EITHE08.1, EITHE08.2

	measures to attract and retain learners. The plan should demonstrate initial evidence of repeatability based on the pilot delivery (e.g. number of applications received, profile of applicants, expressions of interest, institutional and corporate support). It should also present a realistic pathway to scalability and sustained delivery, including external revenue generation and plans for growth (e.g. increase in participant numbers, delivery of repeat cohorts, expansion to new locations or countries, partnerships with academic, corporate or institutional actors, replication or licensing of the programme). It should also include accessibility considerations to ensure that financial sustainability does not limit access for target learners (e.g. tiered pricing, sponsored places, scholarships financed by third parties).		

Any additional deliverable specified by applicants in their proposal will also be mandatory during implementation, if the proposal is selected.

2.3.4. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIS)

To be eligible, all submitted proposals must address the KPIs listed below and indicate the expected minimum target value for each selected KPI[4].

Mandatory KPIs

KPI Code	KPI description	Minimum target expected
EITHE08.1	Number of successful participants in EIT professional development courses, online training courses, and other education/training activities delivered or in process of delivery (by country and type of programme), including data on country of citizenship and gender. Only participants who successfully completed the programme are counted.	30

[4] *EIT Impact Framework (2022-2027) with codes.pdf*

Optional KPIs

KPI Code	KPI description
EITHE08.2	Number of successful participants in EIT professional development courses, online training courses, and other education/training activities delivered or in process of delivery, **with citizenship in EIT RIS countries**. Only participants who successfully completed the programme are counted.

2.3.5. FAST-TRACKING OF PROJECTS

EIT Culture & Creativity may, at its sole discretion, decide to activate a fast-track mechanism for a limited number of projects selected under this call in order to explore opportunities for scaling, replication, continuation, further development or other forms of follow-up support. Any such support may be financial and/or non-financial (including in-kind support), subject to the availability of budget, internal approvals and, where applicable, alignment with or approval by EIT.

The inclusion of this provision in these Call Guidelines does not create any entitlement, legitimate expectation or right for applicants or selected projects to receive additional support, to be assessed for fast-tracking, or to participate in any subsequent procedure. Fast-tracking is entirely optional and may only be activated where EIT Culture & Creativity considers such a mechanism appropriate, feasible and aligned with its strategic, operational, financial and portfolio objectives.

If EIT Culture & Creativity decides to activate a fast-track mechanism, it will define and communicate, at the relevant time, the applicable scope, eligibility conditions, assessment methodology, decision-making process, type of support, implementation arrangements and any applicable contractual or financial conditions.

Where applicable, any assessment may take into account factors such as project implementation progress, achievement of milestones, deliverables and KPIs, review outcomes, scalability, portfolio contribution, sustainability prospects and/or any other considerations determined by EIT Culture & Creativity for the purposes of the specific fast-track exercise.

Any fast-track mechanism will be implemented in accordance with the principles of transparency, equal treatment, sound financial management and conflict-of-interest management. Any additional support, if awarded, will be subject to a separate decision and formalised through an appropriate contractual arrangement, which may include an amendment, a new agreement or another applicable legal instrument.

3. Financial aspects of the call

3.1. KIC funding

The total maximum EIT Culture & Creativity financial support available for this call is **EUR 600 000 from the Business Plan 2026-2028,** conditional and subject to formal approval by the EIT.

Scope of activities	Maximum KIC funding	Indicative number of projects to be funded	Max. EIT funding per project
Seasonal Schools in Creative Entrepreneurship	EUR 600 000	3	Up to EUR 200 000

The funding model for this call is the **actual costs model**. Such model reimburses real expenses backed by detailed financial records (e.g., timesheets, invoices).

3.2. EIT funding and double funding restriction

In order to avoid double funding and conflicts of interest, applicants must ensure that the activities, costs, outputs and results proposed under this call are not already funded, or planned to be funded, through any other EIT-funded instrument, including grant agreements, Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), Cross-KIC (X-KIC) activities, the Higher Education Initiative (HEI), or any other EIT-funded activity. Legal entities receiving EIT funding through other instruments may participate in this call only where they can demonstrate that there is no overlap in the funded activities, costs, outputs or results, and that their participation does not create a conflict of interest or unfair advantage.

Other EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), including their legal entities acting in their capacity as KICs, may not participate as beneficiaries or receive financial support under this call.

3.3. Reimbursement rate

EIT Culture & Creativity financial support may reimburse up to **80% of the total eligible project costs**. The remaining share of the total eligible project costs must be covered by the applicant or consortium members through own resources or other eligible sources, in accordance with the applicable funding and double-funding rules.

In consortium projects, each project participant's reimbursement rate is set at 80% of their respective eligible costs.

Costs already funded by other EU programmes or other EU sources cannot be reimbursed by EIT Culture & Creativity, in order to avoid double funding.

3.4. Payment arrangements

Entities receiving financial support from EIT Culture & Creativity for the implementation of the selected projects will become subgrantees under the Grant Agreement between EIT Culture & Creativity and EIT.

Necessary arrangements are put in place to ensure eligibility of costs and compliance under the Grant Agreement between the EIT and EIT Culture & Creativity. All validated entities will have to proceed with the signing of the Subgrant agreement – Project agreement, before any financial support can be provided.

EIT Culture & Creativity will provide financial support according to the payment schedule below. Interim and final payments may follow an annual schedule, subject to the availability of funds from the Granting Authority (EIT), the applicable financial framework, reporting obligations agreed upon in the Subgrant Agreement – Project Agreement, and the results of any Certificate on the Financial Statements (CFS) and other verification procedures required by EIT Culture & Creativity and/or the Granting Authority.

The date of entry into force shall be the date on which all beneficiaries have successfully completed the validation process and the Subgrant Agreement – Project Agreement has been signed by all Parties.

Reporting					Payments			
Reporting Periods			Type	Deadline	Type	Payment Ceiling	Reimbursement rate The reimbursement rate shall apply equally to all beneficiaries participating in the project.	Deadline
RP N.	Month from	Month to						
-	-	-	-	-	Initial prefinancing	25% of the maximum grant amount awarded during the Business Plan 2026–2028	80%	30 days from entry into force/10 days before starting date – whichever is the latest

1	January 2027	December 2027	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Interim payment	Cumulative payments up to 70% of the maximum grant amount awarded during the Business Plan 2026–2028	80%	90 days from receiving periodic report
2	January 2028	December 2028	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Final payment	Balance payment up to a maximum of 100% of the grant amount awarded during the Business Plan 2026–2028	80%	90 days from receiving periodic report

EIT Culture & Creativity shall be under no obligation to distribute EIT funding as financial support to the entities selected unless the cost eligibility rules of Article 6 of the Grant Agreement (as transposed in the Subgrant agreement – Project agreement) are complied with, always subject to final confirmation by EIT.

EIT Culture & Creativity may withhold or suspend payments if the FSM Agreement is not signed within the required deadline or if the consortium does not comply with the applicable financial sustainability obligations.

3.5. Financial sustainability requirements

EIT Culture & Creativity aims to achieve financial independence from European Union funding as part of its long-term strategic vision. For this Seasonal Schools for Creative Entrepreneurship Call, a Financial Sustainability Mechanism (FSM) is established to generate revenue through income-sharing.

The FSM is based on a revenue-sharing model, where EIT Culture & Creativity will receive a proportionate share of the revenues generated by the activities funded under this call. The FSM will apply from the first deployment of the school, for the duration of the funded project period, and for a minimum of three years post-funding. The revenue-sharing model will apply for as long as the activities funded under this call generate revenues (minimum three years).

This revenue-sharing model is designed to ensure financial sustainability, providing EIT Culture & Creativity with a proportional share of income that scales with participants enrolment and market demand.

3.5.1. REVENUE-SHARING MODEL

Selected proposals shall ensure that EIT Culture & Creativity GmbH receives a proportionate share of the Participation Fees (Net) and commercial income generated by the activities funded under this call, based on the following sliding scale structure:

- €1,000 – €25,000 annual revenue: 25% revenue share
- €25,000 – €100,000 annual revenue: 20% revenue share
- > €100,000 annual revenue: 15% revenue share

The applicable revenue share percentage (as defined in Section 3.5.1) shall be determined by the total annual net revenue, applied to the full relevant net revenue base for that year. This structure is designed to incentivise programme growth and scalability by reducing the revenue share percentage as enrolment and revenues increase. While revenue sharing to EIT Culture & Creativity is normally facilitated through the Project Leader, the revenue collection process can be set up by the Consortium as best fits the Consortium and programme structure. Where the content developed under this call is reused, adapted, or repurposed to create additional commercial products or services (including, but not limited to, licensing of materials, derivative programmes or sponsorship), any resulting income shall be considered part of the Revenues, and subject to the same revenue-sharing conditions set out in Section 3.5.1, including the applicable sliding scale structure for revenue sharing.

Contributions aimed at supporting the delivery and accessibility of the programme, such as university co-funding, institutional procurement, or scholarships financed by third parties, shall not be considered Revenues for the purpose of this mechanism and will therefore be excluded from the revenue-sharing base.

For the purpose of revenue sharing, "Participation Fees (Net)" means the actual amounts received from participants enrolling in the funded programme after deducting only:

a. VAT/sales taxes,
b. refunds/chargebacks, and
c. third-party payment processing fees (card/acquirer/PSP or platform payment-facilitator fees).

Unless otherwise agreed in writing, the same principles shall apply to determine the net base for additional commercial income, allowing only deductions strictly equivalent in nature to those listed above.

No deduction applies for platform commissions/take rates (marketing/hosting/distribution), internal admin/overheads, or teaching/content costs.

Each settlement must clearly indicate gross revenue, VAT, refunds/chargebacks, processing fees (when applicable), and the resulting net revenue base.

3.5.2. SUSTAINABILITY OF FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED PROGRAMME

To ensure long-term delivery and financial sustainability, all financially supported programmes must commit to the following obligations:

- Continuation for a minimum of three years post-funding: Financially supported projects are required to continue delivering their seasonal school activities and implement the Financial Sustainability

Mechanism from first deployment during the funded period and for at least three years after the conclusion of the EIT Culture & Creativity financial support. This ensures the long-term availability of high-value educational offerings that contribute to EIT Culture & Creativity's education portfolio. This commitment will be formalised during the Project Agreement (PRA) preparation phase, establishing clear operational roles, timelines and conditions for programme continuation. Financial support provided by EIT Culture & Creativity is intended to cover the initial setup of the seasonal school, including, among other things, content development, marketing and recruitment, delivery of the pilot cohort, and evaluation and refinement of the format for future scaling. Beyond this, it is the responsibility of the financially supported entities to ensure the continuation of the school through the financial sustainability plan submitted as part of their proposal (and updated with the final mandatory project deliverable 'Post-funding financial sustainability plan').

- Financial sustainability plan: Applicants must describe a diversified and actionable sustainability plan, including:
    a. A clear business model outlining how the seasonal school will generate revenue (e.g. participation fees, or partnerships) and providing revenue projections from the first year of deployment onwards. Proposals are encouraged to diversify their financial architecture beyond participation fees as a sole revenue stream. Acceptable and encouraged revenue streams and co-financing sources include, but are not limited to university contributions, corporate and industry sponsorship, replication or licensing of the programme, third-party funded scholarships, and equitable participant fees. The business model should also include accessibility considerations to ensure that financial sustainability does not limit access for target learners (e.g. tiered pricing, sponsored places, or scholarships financed by third parties).
    b. Target audience analysis and expected enrolment numbers during project duration and for three years post-funding.
    c. A description of how the seasonal school aligns with market needs and scales during the post-funding period to ensure lasting relevance.
- Revenue-sharing: All funded activities must adhere to the revenue-sharing model described in Section 3.5.1.

3.5.3. IMPACT ON FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

Each financially supported project is expected to contribute to EIT Culture & Creativity's annual revenue targets. By aligning educational content with industry needs and providing value-added training for diverse market segments, this call supports EIT Culture & Creativity's goal of achieving long-term financial sustainability. Additionally, the (minimum) three-year continuation requirement ensures that the financially supported programmes have a lasting impact, strengthening EIT Culture & Creativity's education portfolio and generating consistent financial contributions. All financially supported entities will be required to report on school completion rates, revenue generated, and alignment with the FSM throughout the

duration of their projects, thereby ensuring accountability and measurable contributions to EIT Culture & Creativity's financial resilience.

3.5.4. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY PROCESS

1. Proposal submission: All proposals must clearly outline a strategy and estimate calculation for revenue sharing, following the revenue-sharing model described in Section 3.5.1. Proposals must also detail a financial sustainability plan that ensures the continuation of the seasonal school for at least three years post-funding. Proposals should specify the seasonal school's commercialisation plan, demonstrating the potential for sustained income generation aligned with EIT Culture & Creativity's financial sustainability goals.

2. Selection and agreement finalisation: Selected projects will be sent a Subgrant agreement – Project agreement to be signed by all project participants and countersigned by EIT Culture & Creativity. Revenue-sharing conditions will be formalised in the Agreement, ensuring all parties understand and agree to the revenue-sharing arrangement before the project commences.

3. Project implementation and monitoring: EIT Culture & Creativity will monitor the financial contributions generated over the project lifecycle. Projects implementing the revenue-sharing model will provide updates and submit contributions on agreed timelines, ensuring ongoing alignment with financial sustainability goals.

4. Post-implementation monitoring: EIT Culture & Creativity will track the continuation of seasonal schools and financial contributions generated post-funding to ensure adherence to the agreed financial sustainability plan. For a minimum of three years following the EIT Culture & Creativity financial support period, financially supported entities may be required to report on the status of their seasonal schools, including:

- participant numbers, following the reporting requirements outlined in the EIT Impact Framework for KPIs EITHE08.1 (and EITHE08.2 if applicable).
- revenue generated
- alignment with the financial sustainability objectives.

Through this FSM, EIT Culture & Creativity ensures that all financially supported education projects contribute to its financial sustainability, enabling EIT Culture & Creativity to reinvest in future educational and innovative initiatives.

3.6. Cost eligibility

The main cost eligibility principles applicable to this call are summarised below. This call is based on the reimbursement of **actual** eligible costs. Applicants should therefore refer to the applicable cost categories

and eligibility conditions set out below, together with the "Eligibility of Expenditures Guidelines" available on the call webpage.

3.6.1. GENERAL FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES

Grants are subject to the principles laid down in the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509:

Equal treatment: the general principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination requires that comparable situations are not treated differently unless differentiation is objectively justified.

Transparency: Grants shall be awarded following a publication of calls for proposals, except in the cases referred to in the same regulation.

Grant reimbursement rate and non-reimbursed costs: EIT Culture & Creativity financial support may reimburse up to a certain rate of the total eligible project costs, as defined in the relevant call guidelines (see Section 3.3). The remaining share of the total eligible project costs must be covered by the applicant or consortium members through their own resources or other eligible sources, in accordance with the applicable Horizon Europe funding and double-funding rules. The EIT Culture & Creativity contribution may not exceed the maximum reimbursement rate defined for the call. Applicants must therefore ensure that they have sufficient financial resources to cover the part of the project costs that is not reimbursed by EIT Culture & Creativity. In-kind contributions are discouraged and will not be accepted as eligible expenditure unless explicitly allowed in the relevant call guidelines. Where in-kind contributions are exceptionally allowed, they must be duly justified, clearly described in the project proposal and budget, and assessed by EIT Culture & Creativity before being accepted.

Non-cumulative award and no double funding: Each action may give rise to the award of only one grant, there can be no duplicate European Union funding of the same expenditure. The applicant must indicate the sources and amounts of any other funding received or applied for in the same financial year for the same action or for any other action and for routine activities (running costs).

Non-retroactivity: Unless otherwise provided in the subgrant Agreement grants shall not be awarded retroactively. A grant may be awarded for an action that has already begun provided that the applicant can demonstrate the need for starting the action prior to the signature of the subgrant Agreement. In such cases, costs incurred prior to the date of submission of the grant application shall not be eligible, except: (a) in duly justified exceptional cases as provided for in the basic act; or (b) in the event of extreme urgency for measures referred to in point (a) or (b) of the first paragraph of Article 195 whereby an early intervention by the Union would be of major importance.

No-profit rule: The EU grant may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit for the recipient of the grant. Profit is defined as a surplus of the receipts over the eligible costs incurred by the recipient of the grant when the request is made for payment of the balance. The receipts referred to above shall be limited to income generated by the action as well as financial contributions specifically assigned by donors to the financing of the eligible costs. Any income of the action must be indicated in the estimated budget

and the final financial statement. If the final amount results in a profit for the applicants, the amount of the grant will be reduced by the percentage of the profit corresponding to the Union contribution to the eligible costs of the action actually incurred by the applicants.

Record-keeping: According to the AGA, the applicants must — for a period of 5 years (> EUR 60 000) or 3 years (< EUR 60 000) after the payment of the balance — keep records and other supporting documentation to prove the proper implementation of the action and the costs they declare as eligible.

3.6.2. ELIGIBLE BUDGET CATEGORIES

For calls based on reimbursement of actual, unit or flat-rate costs, eligible costs must be broken down according to the applicable budget categories, as defined in Article 6 of the Horizon Europe Annotated Grant Agreement (AGA).

For calls based on lump sums, the same budget categories may be used, where relevant, to structure and assess the budget estimations submitted at proposal stage. In such cases, the budget is used to assess whether the proposed lump sum is reasonable, proportionate and aligned with the planned activities, but beneficiaries are not required to declare incurred costs for reimbursement purposes.

A. Personnel costs: the proposal must contain a calculation of the time that a person working for the recipient of the grant will likely spend on the activity. Personnel costs must be calculated and comply with the eligibility conditions according to AGA Article 6.2. Personnel costs must be reasonable and aligned with market standards for the location and position.

B. Subcontracting: cost of services to implement a specific and limited task described in the proposal. Subcontracting costs are limited to a maximum of 30% of the total costs at participant level and 15% of the total costs at project level. Subcontracting costs must be calculated and comply with the eligibility conditions according to AGA Article 6.2. The consortium must choose subcontractors on “best value for money” competitive selection procedures, requesting several offers.

C. Purchase costs

This budget category covers the following sub-categories:

- Travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs: all these costs may be incurred by activity staff (participation in activity meetings, presentation of activity results at conferences, etc.) or external experts (such as a guest speaker).
- Depreciation for purchase of equipment: if equipment, research infrastructure, or other assets are acquired or used in an activity, only the portion of the depreciation costs allocable to the activity is eligible for funding, not the purchase price. The depreciation costs eligible should be calculated in accordance with the local accounting rules in place.

- Other goods, works and services: mainly including consumables, catering, printing, graphics and translations, open access publications, as well as license and patent fees.

Purchase costs must be calculated and comply with the eligibility conditions according to AGA Article 6.2.

D. Other cost categories

Unless explicitly authorised in the relevant call guidelines and subgrant Agreement, **the following cost categories are not eligible** under EIT Culture & Creativity financial support:

- Financial support to third parties by recipients of EIT Culture & Creativity financial support: recipients must not use EIT Culture & Creativity financial support to provide further financial support to third parties, including grants, prizes, cascaded funding or similar forms of support, unless this is expressly allowed in the call conditions.
- Internally invoiced goods and services: costs for goods or services provided within the applicant's own organisation and valued on the basis of the applicant's usual cost accounting practices are not eligible, unless expressly allowed in the call conditions.

This restriction does not affect the award of financial support by EIT Culture & Creativity to the selected applicants under the relevant call.

E. Indirect costs are charged at a flat rate of 25% of the eligible direct costs, excluding subcontracting costs, financial support to third parties, internally invoiced goods and services, and any other cost categories excluded under the applicable Horizon Europe rules or call conditions.

3.6.3. NON-ELIGIBLE COSTS

- Costs arising between the organisation of the consortium (selling/purchasing goods or services within the consortium)
- Costs related to return on capital and dividends paid by a recipient of the grant
- Debt and debt service charges
- Provisions for future losses or debts
- Interest owed
- Currency exchange losses
- Bank costs charged by the recipient of the grant's bank for transfers from the granting authority
- Excessive or reckless expenditure
- Deductible VAT (non-deductible VAT is eligible)
- Costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant agreement suspension
- Costs incurred during the suspension of the implementation of the action
- Costs declared under another EU/Euratom grant/local funding (double funding is not allowed)

3.6.4. GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OF COSTS

All costs must meet the following criteria:

- be **incurred by the recipient of the grant** (no estimated/imputed/budgeted costs),
- be **incurred in the activity period**,
- be **included in the budget** submitted at the proposal stage,
- be incurred in **connection with the action** and **necessary for its implementation**,
- be **identifiable and verifiable and recorded** in the recipient of the grant's accounts in accordance with the applicable accounting standards and **usual cost accounting practices**,
- **comply with the applicable national laws** on taxes, labour, and social security, and
- be **reasonable** and **justified** and must comply with the principle of **sound good financial management** (in particular regarding economy and efficiency).

In addition, for direct cost categories only costs that are ***directly*** **linked to the action implementation** and can therefore be attributed to it *directly* are eligible. They must not include any *indirect* costs (i.e. costs that are only indirectly linked to the action, e.g., via cost drivers).

In-kind contributions provided by third parties free of charge are discouraged and will not be accepted as eligible expenditure unless explicitly allowed in the relevant call guidelines. Where in-kind contributions are exceptionally allowed, they must be duly justified, clearly described in the project proposal and budget, and assessed by EIT Culture & Creativity before being accepted. If accepted, they may be declared as eligible direct costs by the applicants which use them (under the same conditions as if they were their own), provided that they concern only direct costs and that the third parties and their in-kind contributions are set out in the proposal.

Finally, as set out in Art. 20 of the HE MGA, each recipient of the grant must keep appropriate and sufficient evidence to prove the eligibility of all the costs declared, proper implementation of the action, and compliance with all the other obligations under the subgrant Agreement. The evidence must be verifiable, auditable, and available. It must be correctly archived for the duration of the activity indicated in the subgrant Agreement. In general, the evidence must be kept for at least 5 years after final payment or longer if there are ongoing procedures (audits, investigations, litigation, etc.).

4. Call criteria

Following the deadline for submission, the admissibility, eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria checks will be performed for each proposal in line with the following criteria.

Proposals failing to meet one or more criteria will receive an official communication from EIT Culture & Creativity, informing the applicant of the outcome of the admissibility and eligibility check and explaining why the proposal failed to meet the criteria.

4.1. Admissibility

- **Deadline:** The application is submitted before the call deadline (see Overview). Any proposals submitted after the deadline will be inadmissible.
- **Submission format:** The application is submitted using the forms provided inside the electronic submission system (see Overview), including all mandatory templates.
- **Completeness:** The application is complete and contains all required sections, mandatory annexes and supporting documents as specified in the call/topic conditions and in the electronic submission system. The **financial section** is completed using the EIT Culture & Creativity funding template provided (where applicable). A **plan for exploitation and dissemination of results** is included in the application form, covering communication activities, unless explicitly stated otherwise in the specific call/topic conditions.
- **Language:** The application and all mandatory annexes and supporting documents are written entirely in English.
- **Accessibility:** The application is readable, accessible and printable.
- **Character limit:** The application respects the maximum character limits defined for each section of the application form, where stated as mandatory and not indicative. If any section exceeds the specified mandatory character limit, the application will not be admissible.

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

4.2. Eligibility

Following the admissibility check, only proposals meeting all eligibility conditions below will be considered for evaluation:

- **Applicant type:** The applicant declares that the proposal is submitted by **a consortium of legal entities**, as specified in the call/topic conditions. Other EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), including their legal entities acting in their capacity as KICs, may not participate as beneficiaries or receive financial support under this call.

- **Registration (PIC):** as independent legal entities, applicants are required to be registered in the EU Funding & tender opportunities portal and have a nine-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC number).
- **Legal status & eligibility:** The applicant(s) are legal entity(ies) and comply with the applicable Horizon Europe eligibility rules (including not being 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)[5] as well as Article 75 TFEU[6]).
- **Country eligibility:** In accordance with the applicable Horizon Europe rules, applicants eligible for funding under this call must normally be established in one of the following:
    - **Member States of the European Union, including their outermost regions;**
    - **Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to Member States;**
    - **Countries associated to Horizon Europe, Pillar III;**

  Legal entities established in countries not listed above may be eligible for funding where their participation is considered essential for implementing the action by EIT, in accordance with the applicable Horizon Europe rules and the call conditions.

  For countries in the process of associating with Horizon Europe, the association agreement must be in force by the launch date of the call for entities established in that country to benefit from the status of an Associated Country. Where this status is relied upon for eligibility under an EIT call, the association must cover Pillar III of Horizon Europe.
- **Affiliated entities:** Affiliated entities are eligible for funding where they are established in one of the countries eligible for funding under the call.
- **Associated partners:** Entities that are not eligible for funding may participate as associated partners were permitted under the call conditions. Associated partners do not receive EIT Culture & Creativity financial support and do not count towards the minimum consortium composition requirements, unless explicitly stated otherwise in the call conditions.
- **Consortium structure**: The proposal is submitted by a multi-beneficiary consortium as specified in the call/topic conditions. EIT Culture & Creativity encourages a clear EU dimension and Knowledge Triangle Integration. The proposal meets the minimum consortium composition required as defined in the call/topic conditions.
- **Additional EU restrictions:** Applicants, affiliated entities, associated partners and any other relevant participants must not be subject to EU restrictive measures, exclusion situations or other restrictions that prevent their participation or the award of EU funding under the applicable

[5] Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the EU Sanctions Map
[6] Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the EU Sanctions Map

Horizon Europe and EU financial rules. Additional country-, entity- or security-related restrictions may apply, as set out in the call/topic conditions and the applicable legal framework.

- **Reimbursement rate:** The proposal must comply with the maximum reimbursement rate defined in the call/topic conditions. EIT Culture & Creativity financial support may reimburse up to **80%** of the total eligible project costs. The remaining share of the total eligible project costs must be covered by the applicant(s) through own resources or other eligible sources, in accordance with the applicable funding and double-funding rules.
- **KPIs & targets:** The proposal addresses the mandatory KPIs defined in the call and meet the minimum targets within the required timeframe.

4.3. Exclusion criteria

Applicants will be excluded from participation in the call and from funding if they are subject to EU administrative sanctions or fall under any exclusion grounds set out in Article 138(1) of the EU Financial Regulation. This includes situations such as:

- Insolvency, bankruptcy, or similar legal proceedings;
- Breach of social security or tax obligations;
- Grave professional misconduct;
- Fraud, corruption, criminal activity, terrorism-related crimes, child labour or human trafficking;
- Serious non-compliance with obligations under previous EU contracts or grants;
- EU law irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/9534;
- Creating entities to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations;
- Misrepresentation or failure to provide required information;
- Conflict of interest or unfair advantage in the award procedure.

As evidence, the applicants (i.e. the project coordinator and all the proposed project participants participating in the applicant consortium) will have to submit a **declaration of honour on exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest**. Failure to provide adequate documentation may result in the exclusion of the applicants concerned.

Successful applicants will undergo legal entity validation process of the **EIT Onboarding Service (a shared service led by EIT Urban Mobility KIC)**, including possible checks in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) of the European Commission.

4.4. Selection criteria

4.4.1. FINANCIAL CAPACITY CRITERIA

Applicants must have stable and sufficient financial resources to successfully implement the proposed activities and cover the share of the project costs not reimbursed by EIT Culture & Creativity.

By applying, applicants declare that they have the financial capacity required to implement the proposal, including where they participate in several projects or activities in parallel. This declaration will be included in the application form and/or in the Declaration of Honour submitted as part of the application package.

In line with Horizon Europe practice, the financial capacity check will normally be carried out for the coordinator where the requested EIT Culture & Creativity financial support is equal to or higher than EUR 500,000, except for public bodies, international organisations and low-value grants where the individual requested amount does not exceed EUR 60,000.

EIT Culture & Creativity may also verify the financial capacity of the coordinator or any other applicant, including affiliated entities where applicable, whenever there are grounds to doubt their financial capacity, regardless of the requested funding amount. If the financial capacity is structurally guaranteed by another legal entity, the financial capacity of that legal entity may also be verified.

Where requested by EIT Culture & Creativity, applicants must provide the documents needed to verify their financial capacity, which may include, among others:

- profit and loss accounts;
- balance sheets;
- business plans;
- audit reports or certified accounts for the last closed financial year;
- information on dependency on EU funding;
- information on deficit, revenue or financial performance in previous years;
- any other document reasonably required to assess financial capacity.

Successful applicants may also be required to go through the financial capacity check process of the EIT Community Onboarding Service or any other verification process designated by EIT Culture & Creativity.

If the financial capacity of an applicant is considered not satisfactory, EIT Culture & Creativity may request additional information and/or apply appropriate measures, including:

- payment of pre-financing in instalments;
- reduction or removal of pre-financing;
- additional monitoring and reporting requirements;
- requirement for a financial guarantee or equivalent assurance, where applicable;
- requirement for the applicant to be replaced, where possible;
- rejection of the proposal or termination of the contracting process, where the issue cannot be resolved.

Failure to provide requested information, or the submission of false, incomplete or misleading information, may result in rejection of the proposal, withdrawal of the award decision, termination of the agreement and/or recovery of funds, where applicable.

4.4.2. OPERATIONAL CAPACITY CRITERIA

Applicants must have the necessary experience, know-how, qualifications, staff, organisational capacity and operational resources to successfully implement the proposed activities and fulfil their role in the project.

By submitting an application, applicants declare that they have the operational capacity required to implement the proposal, including where they participate in several projects or activities in parallel. This declaration will be included in the application form and/or in the Declaration of Honour submitted as part of the application package.

The operational capacity assessment may take into account whether the applicant(s) have the appropriate resources, experience and internal arrangements to deliver the proposed work plan within the expected timeframe, budget and quality requirements. This may include the ability to manage the project, coordinate the proposed activities, allocate sufficient staff, provide the necessary technical or thematic input, manage risks, and comply with the reporting, monitoring and contractual obligations of the call.

Where requested by EIT Culture & Creativity, applicants must provide evidence to demonstrate their operational capacity, which may include, among others:

- description of the applicant's relevant experience and role in the proposal;
- information on the proposed team and allocation of responsibilities;
- profiles, qualifications and experience of the team members involved;
- information on staffing, technical resources and organisational arrangements;
- references to previous or ongoing activities of comparable nature, where relevant;
- list of other ongoing projects or commitments, where relevant;
- any other document reasonably required to assess operational capacity.

If the operational capacity of an applicant is considered not satisfactory, EIT Culture & Creativity may request additional information and/or apply appropriate measures, including additional monitoring, adjustment of the applicant's role, replacement of the applicant where possible, rejection of the proposal or termination of the contracting process.

Failure to provide requested information, or the submission of false, incomplete or misleading information, may result in rejection of the proposal, withdrawal of the award decision, termination of the agreement and/or recovery of funds, where applicable.

4.5. Award criteria

Eligible proposals will be assessed by **three independent external expert evaluators** through an external quality evaluation against the **mandatory Horizon Europe award criteria**: **(a) Excellence**, **(b) Impact**, and **(c) Quality and efficiency of the implementation**. The EIT-specific criteria **(d) KIC portfolio strategic fit and**

compliance with the financial sustainability principles and Knowledge Triangle Integration and **(e) EU dimension** will be assessed either during the external quality evaluation or during the portfolio selection.

For this call, the EIT-specific criteria are integrated into the evaluation model as follows:

Criterion	Assessment stage	Maximum score	Threshold
(d) KIC portfolio strategic fit, financial sustainability principles and Knowledge Triangle Integration	Portfolio selection	30	22
(e) EU dimension	External quality evaluation	5	3

During the evaluation, the combined weight of the Horizon Europe criteria **(a), (b) and (c)** will be higher than the combined weight of the EIT-specific criteria **(d) and (e)**. Where internal evaluators and/or the Selection Committee allocate scores, their combined scores will not exceed **40%** of the total score.

Gender dimension and inclusiveness will be assessed under criteria **(a) Excellence** (unless specified otherwise in the call/topic), in line with the EIT Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan 2025-2027 and the EIT-specific provisions of HE MGA Annex 5.

4.5.1. EXTERNAL QUALITY EVALUATION: SCORING, WEIGHTING AND THRESHOLDS

Each eligible proposal will be independently assessed against the award criteria set out below. Criteria may be broken down into sub-criteria as specified in the call/topic text.

For each criterion, the call/topic text defines: (i) the **maximum score**, (ii) the **minimum threshold**, and (iii) any **weighting**. **Each criterion threshold must be met individually**, and proposals must also reach an **overall minimum score** to proceed to the next stage (e.g., portfolio selection), as defined in the call/topic text.

Standard scoring framework:

- Excellence (**20 points** – threshold: **12 points**)
- Impact (**20 points** – threshold: **12 points**)
- Quality and efficiency of the implementation (**30 points** – threshold: **18 points**)
- EU dimension **(5 points – threshold: 3 points)**

Overall threshold: proposals must reach at least **50/75** points in total.

Evaluators assign scores based on the sub-criteria and indicators defined in the call/topic text and provide a written justification for each criterion score. Only proposals meeting all applicable thresholds (per criterion and overall) will progress.

Scoring scale

Score	Description	Explanation
1	Very Poor	Irrelevant or inadequate in relation to the call requirements.
2	Poor	Lacks quality and presents significant weaknesses.
3	Fair	Adequate overall, but some aspects are unclear or insufficiently developed.
4	Good	Adequate and well-explained, with minor shortcomings.
5	Excellent	Outstanding in clarity, coherence, and alignment with the call's objectives.

4.5.2. EXTERNAL QUALITY EVALUATION: AWARD CRITERIA, SUB-CRITERIA AND MAXIMUM SCORES

The sub-criteria, guiding questions and maximum scores under each applicable criterion are specified below.

Excellence Clarity and pertinence of objectives, ambition, soundness of underlying concepts and assumptions	Maximum score
Sub-criteria 1: Clarity and relevance of the proposal, and quality of the proposed approach The proposal has clear objectives and integrates creative sector expertise with innovation and entrepreneurship education within the CCSI. The proposal demonstrates how it will complement existing undergraduate studies by equipping the target audience with interdisciplinary, practice-oriented skills that combine creativity and entrepreneurship.	5 points
Sub-criteria 2: Innovation in seasonal school's design and pedagogy The proposal demonstrates innovation in curriculum design, including unique content, novel pedagogical techniques, cross-disciplinary approaches, and integration of challenge-based, practice-based, and/or project-oriented methodology.	5 points
Sub-criteria 3: Strategic alignment with CCSI green and digital transition The proposal describes clear, coherent objectives that directly address EIT Culture & Creativity's strategic objective to future-proof European CCSI students and professionals with entrepreneurial and cross-disciplinary skills for the green and digital transition.	5 points
Sub-criteria 4: Gender dimension and inclusiveness The proposal clearly describes integration of gender mainstreaming, inclusiveness, and accessibility into the curriculum and recruitment, supporting the overarching goal of diverse participation. Describes how the programme will strive to contribute to EIT Culture & Creativity's objective of 40% women in education.	5 points

Impact Potential long-term value and the measures taken to achieve it, credibility of projections	Maximum score
Sub-criteria 1: Measurable KPIs The proposal describes measurable and realistic KPIs and any additional specific, measurable outputs that may be needed to achieve KPI EITHE08.1 (mandatory) and EITHE08.2 (optional).	5 points
Sub-criteria 2: Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) and Assessment Method The proposal defines at least three specific, measurable, and achievable ILOs for the proposed school, using action verbs. Proposals must demonstrate how these outcomes are embedded within the school design, and how their achievement will be evidenced through assessment. Proposals must describe the assessment method, which can be defined as best fitting the defined ILOs.	5 points
Sub-criteria 3: Dissemination and communication The proposal presents a clear and realistic approach to attracting students. It defines the marketing and recruitment channels to be used and demonstrates the potential to reach and enrol a high number of students. It outlines how project results will be communicated to maximise their reach.	5 points
Sub-criteria 4: Sustainability, exploitation, and transferability beyond project lifetime The proposal defines how results will be exploited and how sustainability and transferability of the programme's content will be ensured for at least three years beyond the project lifetime.	5 points

Quality and efficiency of the implementation Feasibility of proposed results, soundness of proposed work plan structure and resources	Maximum score
Sub-criteria 1: Work plan effectiveness Effectiveness of the 12-month work plan, including timing, resources, and appropriateness of effort to achieve all project goals. The mandatory milestones and deliverables are integrated into the overall work plan in a reasonable way and respect the maximum deadlines set by the call.	5 points
Sub-criteria 2: Programme structure and delivery methods Programme's structure, content, delivery methods (in-person or blended), and duration are clearly defined. Activities are relevant to the objectives of the	5 points

programme and feasible, being appropriately scaled to the target audience needs and capacities.	
Sub-criteria 3: Soundness of budget and revenue feasibility The proposal presents a sound, reasonable and proportionate budget and resource allocation in relation to the planned activities, deliverables and expected results, demonstrating value for money. It presents a sound financial sustainability plan and feasible learner engagement and revenue forecasts. It outlines a credible business model towards scalability and sustained delivery, including diversified revenue streams to ensure accessibility of the programme for learners.	5 points
Sub-criteria 4: Learner target, school deployment strategy and KPI feasibility A primary learner target group is clearly identified and described. The school's deployment strategy is clearly described and demonstrates the feasibility of achieving project KPIs.	5 points
Sub-criteria 5: Consortium capacity and co-creation Capacity and complementary expertise of the multi-beneficiary consortium are clearly demonstrated, and co-creation actions between the education and business partners are clearly described. The business partner has an active role in co-designing the programme's curriculum, providing real industry challenges and use cases, contributing market insights, entrepreneurship input, mentoring, teaching or coaching to the funded programme, and co-designing the programme's financial sustainability and scalability plan. Balanced distribution of work and responsibilities across Consortium partners is ensured.	5 points
Sub-criteria 6: Risk identification and mitigation Identifies potential risks, e.g. pedagogical, operational, financial, or partnership risks, and proposes sound mitigation strategies.	5 points

EU dimension Coherence with European values and potential of European impact	Maximum score
The proposal demonstrates a clear EU dimension through impact and scope of the seasonal school, including coherence with European values and priorities (e.g. the European Skills Agenda, the Pact for Skills, and the Triple Transition).	5 points

4.5.3. PORTFOLIO SELECTION: SCORING, WEIGHTING AND THRESHOLDS

Each eligible proposal passing the external quality evaluation will be assessed by the Selection Committee Members against the weighted portfolio selection criteria defined below. These criteria will be assessed in this section and will not be scored under Section 4.5.1 and 4.5.2. This avoids double scoring of the same criterion.

For this call, each eligible proposal passing to the portfolio selection (see Section 5) will be independently assessed by the Selection Committee Members against one criterion:

- KIC portfolio strategic fit and compliance with the financial sustainability principles and Knowledge Triangle Integration **(30 points – threshold: 22 points)**

Each criterion must be passed individually.

Where portfolio selection involves scoring by internal evaluators and/or the Selection Committee, the combined score allocated by internal evaluators and the Selection Committee will not exceed 40% of the total score.

The final ranking is calculated by summing the score from the quality evaluation and the score from the portfolio selection. Projects will be funded in strict ranking order until the budget is exhausted.

Proposals meeting all thresholds but not selected due to budget limits will be placed on a reserve list, valid for up to one year.

4.5.4. PORTFOLIO SELECTION: AWARD CRITERIA, SUB-CRITERIA AND MAXIMUM SCORES

The sub-criteria, guiding questions and maximum scores under each applicable criterion are specified below.

KIC portfolio strategic fit and compliance with the financial sustainability principles and Knowledge Triangle Integration	Maximum score
Sub-criteria 1: Strategic alignment with EIT Culture & Creativity's goals The proposal demonstrates direct, verifiable alignment with the EIT Culture & Creativity Strategic Agenda and Business Plan 2026-2028 by clearly mapping the project's specific objectives and expected outcomes to the defined Challenges, Strategic Objectives, and Impact Goals within the chosen priority area (Architecture, Audio-Visual Media, Cultural Heritage, Fashion, or Gaming).	5 points x2
Sub-criteria 2: Portfolio Alignment and Knowledge Triangle Integration (KTI)	5 points x 2

The proposal complements EIT Culture & Creativity's existing and planned portfolio of educational initiatives. It applies the Knowledge Triangle Integration (KTI) model to ensure the seasonal school's relevance, innovation, and long-term impact.	
Sub-criteria 3: Financial Sustainability, Scalability and Continued Relevance The proposal demonstrates a credible approach to financial sustainability, including realistic assumptions on student demand, revenue generation or cost-efficiency. The expected outcomes allow for future replication, scalability and transferability. It demonstrates the potential for long-term continuation beyond the initial funding period and shows how student demand can be sustained or increased over time.	5 points x2

4.5.5. THRESHOLDS, RANKING AND AWARDING IN A NUTSHELL

Proposals must meet **all required thresholds** at each stage of the evaluation process to be considered for financial support:

- **During the external quality evaluation**, each evaluation category has an individual threshold. Proposals failing to meet the threshold in any one category will not proceed to the portfolio selection stage.
- In addition, proposals must reach a minimum total score of 50 out of 75 points in the quality evaluation to be considered for portfolio selection.
- **During the internal portfolio selection**, proposals must meet the minimum total score of 22 out of 30 points to be included in the final ranking for funding.

The final maximum score is 105 points, composed of 75 points from the external quality evaluation and 30 points from the portfolio selection.

Financial support will be awarded in strict descending order of final scores (quality evaluation + portfolio selection), until the total available call budget is exhausted.

Proposals that meet all thresholds but are not selected due to budget limitations will be placed on a **reserve list**.

5. Evaluation procedure

5.1. Admissibility and eligibility, exclusion and selection stages

After the submission deadline, EIT Culture & Creativity conducts a structured, multi-step verification and evaluation process to ensure full compliance with the admissibility, eligibility, exclusion, and selection criteria.

1. Admissibility and eligibility check

EIT Culture & Creativity performs an initial screening to verify compliance with formal admissibility and eligibility requirements as defined in Section 4. Proposals failing to meet these criteria are rejected at this stage, and applicants are formally notified of the outcome and the reasons for rejection.

2. External quality evaluation

Proposals passing the admissibility and eligibility check proceed to an external quality evaluation by independent expert evaluators. Each eligible proposal will be independently assessed by three external expert evaluator(s) against the award criteria defined in Section 4.5.1 and 4.5.2.

3. Internal portfolio selection

Proposals passing the external quality evaluation will be reviewed by the EIT Culture & Creativity Selection Committee against the portfolio selection criteria defined in Section 4.5.3 and 4.5.4.

The portfolio selection stage may include the assessment of KIC portfolio strategic fit, financial sustainability principles/FSM, Knowledge Triangle Integration, EU dimension, portfolio balance and/or other strategic criteria, provided that these criteria are clearly defined in the call and do not duplicate the same assessment already carried out during the external quality evaluation.

Proposals passing the external quality evaluation will be reviewed by the EIT Culture & Creativity Selection Committee, composed of:

- Director of Education or their representative;
- Two additional Thematic Area Directors or their representatives;
- One representative of the Education Thematic Area, with expertise in the call topic;
- One external observer (to attend the portfolio selection meeting).

4. Final ranking list

The final ranking is calculated by summing the score from the quality evaluation and the score from the portfolio selection. Projects will be funded in strict ranking order until the budget is exhausted.

Proposals meeting all thresholds but not selected due to budget limits will be placed on a reserve list, see Section 5.2.2.

5.2. Evaluation of proposals

All eligible proposals are evaluated by three independent external experts, selected on the basis of their expertise in the subject matter of the call. External experts evaluate proposals against the defined award criteria and provide scores and written justifications. The requirements set out in Horizon Europe practice on expert selection, conduct, impartiality, and confidentiality are fully applied.

Based on the evaluation results, proposals are ranked according to their total scores, and the selection is made strictly following this ranking, subject to the available budget.

5.2.1. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Each proposal is evaluated against the award criteria in Section 4 using a numerical scoring system with defined maximum scores and minimum thresholds.

Only proposals meeting all thresholds and the overall minimum score are eligible for funding. Final rankings are based on total scores, with ties resolved using the rules in Section 5.2.3.

The final score for each criterion shall be calculated as the arithmetic average of the scores assigned by the three independent evaluators. The overall external quality evaluation score shall be calculated by aggregating the final weighted criterion scores in accordance with the scoring methodology set out in Section 4.5.

An Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) shall be prepared for each proposal, presenting the final aggregated scores and a consolidated summary of the evaluators' assessments.

EIT Culture & Creativity shall ensure a procedural quality check of the ESRs, including consistency between scores and written justifications, completeness and compliance with the published evaluation criteria.

5.2.2. RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION: AWARD, RESERVE LIST, REJECTION

Following completion of the evaluation procedure, EIT Culture & Creativity will establish a proposed final ranking and proposed award list based on the results of the external quality evaluation and, where applicable, the portfolio selection stage.

The proposed final ranking and proposed award list remain provisional and subject to completion of the applicable internal governance and procedural steps, including, where applicable, completion of the call report review process and confirmation that the evaluation procedure has been concluded and the results may be communicated to applicants.

Proposals may be identified for funding in strict descending order of ranking, subject to the availability of the allocated budget, compliance with all call requirements, completion of the applicable procedural checks and the conditions set out in these Call Guidelines.

Proposals that meet all applicable thresholds but cannot be funded due to budget limitations may be placed on a reserve list, in ranked order. The reserve list may be used to award funding to additional proposals in case selected projects withdraw, fail to complete contractual requirements, or if additional budget becomes available. The validity of the reserve list shall be limited to the period during which sufficient time remains to complete the necessary legal entity validation, financial capacity assessment and contracting procedures following the notification of selection from the reserve list.

In addition, projects selected from the reserve list must comply with the mandatory implementation period and must not extend beyond the eligible implementation period of the applicable Grant Agreement, ending on 31 December 2028.

Proposals that do not meet the applicable admissibility, eligibility, exclusion, selection or evaluation requirements, or that fail to meet the minimum thresholds defined in the call, will be rejected.

Any notification indicating that a proposal has been identified as selected for funding does not constitute an award decision, contractual commitment or entitlement to receive financial support. Funding remains conditional upon: (i) expiry of the applicable stand-still period; (ii) completion of any appeal or evaluation review process; (iii) successful completion of validation and contracting requirements; (iv) continued availability of the allocated budget; and (v) signature of the Subgrant agreement – Project agreement.

The final ranking, funding line, reserve list and rejection decisions may be revised only to the extent necessary as a result of: (a) an appeal or evaluation review outcome; (b) correction of a manifest procedural or clerical error; (c) withdrawal or ineligibility of a selected applicant; (d) failure to complete contracting requirements; or (e) changes to the available call budget occurring before signature of the Subgrant agreement – Project agreement. Any such revision will be made in accordance with the published call conditions and the principles of equal treatment and transparency and will be communicated to the applicants concerned.

5.2.3. TIE-BREAKING RULES

In the event of tied scores, proposals will be prioritised in the following order:

- Proposals with a higher expected contribution to the mandatory KPIs and targets of the call.
- Proposals with a higher score under the Excellence criterion.

5.3. Communication of evaluation results to applicants

Following completion of the evaluation and selection procedure, and once EIT has completed its review of the call report and confirmed that the results may be communicated, EIT Culture & Creativity will inform all applicants of the evaluation results in writing.

The project coordinator will receive a formal notification by email from EIT Culture & Creativity at pmo@eit-culture-creativity.eu, indicating whether the proposal has been selected for funding, placed on the reserve

list, or rejected. This notification will include the relevant assessment and score and, where applicable, the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) and/or other relevant evaluation information in accordance with the evaluation model described in this call.

This communication constitutes the official outcome notification of the evaluation process and will be sent to the email address provided by the project coordinator. The applicable stand-still period will start on the day following the dispatch of this communication.

The notification of results does not create an unconditional entitlement to EIT Culture & Creativity financial support. Any proposal indicated as selected for funding remains subject to the expiry of the applicable stand-still period, the outcome of any appeal or evaluation review procedure, the successful completion of the Subgrant agreement – Project agreement preparation process, and the availability of the allocated call budget. No financial support shall be considered granted until the Subgrant agreement – Project agreement has been duly signed by all required parties.

If an applicant requests further clarification regarding the evaluation result, they may contact EIT Culture & Creativity by email.

Selected proposals may be invited to the Subgrant agreement – Project agreement preparation and onboarding stage. However, no Subgrant agreement – Project agreement will be signed before the end of the applicable stand-still period and completion of the procedural and contracting checks required before signature.

5.4. Standstill period

Following the final award decision and the written communication of results to applicants, EIT Culture & Creativity will apply the standstill period applicable to this call, counted from the day after the dispatch of the communication of results.

The standard standstill period is 30 calendar days, unless a shorter period has been agreed with EIT as part of the applicable approval or procedural review of the call. During this period, applicants are not permitted to publicly announce the outcome – even if they have already received written notification.

During the standstill period, applicants may submit an appeal in accordance with the appeal procedure described in Annex I of these call guidelines. EIT Culture & Creativity may suspend or adjust the contracting process for proposals whose funding position may be affected by an appeal or evaluation review.

Where an appeal or evaluation review results in a correction, full or partial re-evaluation, or revised ranking, EIT Culture & Creativity may update the list of selected proposals, the reserve list and/or the list of rejected proposals accordingly, before any Subgrant agreement – Project agreement is signed.

No Subgrant agreement – Project agreement will be signed before the end of the applicable stand-still period and completion of the procedural and contracting checks required before signature.

5.5. Publication of selected proposals and annual publication of recipients of funds

EIT Culture & Creativity may publish the list of selected proposals once the applicable procedural checks have been completed and the results may be communicated. The publication may include the name of the selected recipient(s), the country of establishment, the amount of EIT funding committed, and the subject of the grant or contract, considering confidentiality, security and personal data protection requirements.

5.6. Appeal process

EIT Culture & Creativity will address requests for review concerning decisions taken during the admissibility and eligibility check, as well as the procedural aspects of the proposal evaluation process, in accordance with the Appeal Process set out in **Annex I** of these Call Guidelines.

Appeals must be submitted through the official Appeal Submission Form within **7 calendar days** from the date of the official communication of the decision being appealed.

Annex I provides full details on:

- who may appeal and on what grounds;
- the submission process and timeline;
- the internal appeal review mechanism and decision procedure.

Appeals that do not meet the specified criteria or are submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

6. Legal aspects, other terms and conditions

6.1. Acceptance of the call conditions

EIT Culture & Creativity reserves the right to make reasonable amendments and additions to the call conditions. Amendments and additions to the call 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 of the EIT Culture & Creativity website.

EIT Culture & Creativity may declare the call unsuccessful in case no applications are received, if the applications do not meet the admissibility, eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria, or if none of the applications reach the thresholds laid down in this call text.

By submitting the application form, the applicant agrees to the present call conditions. Applicants agree that they have no legal entitlement to funding. Submission of an application does not establish any entitlement to receive financial support from EIT Culture & Creativity.

6.2. Cancellation of the call

EIT Culture & Creativity reserves the right to cancel the call at any time before the signature of the Subgrant agreement – Project agreement(s) 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 the EIT Culture & Creativity website: https://eit-culture-creativity.eu,
- 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 Subgrant agreement – Project agreement: in writing directly to the selected applicants.

6.3. Data protection

EIT Culture & Creativity 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 (GDPR). Personal data submitted in the context of this procedure will be processed to the extent necessary for the administration, evaluation, and follow-up of the call. 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 dpo@eit-culture-creativity.eu

The collected personal data will be used solely for the evaluation of the applications and the conduct of the call process.

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

By submitting your application to this call, applicants acknowledge that their personal data will be processed by EIT Culture & Creativity for the purposes of the management, evaluation, monitoring and administration of the call and any resulting financial support, in accordance with the applicable data protection rules.

For more information on the processing of your personal data, please consult the privacy statement of EIT Culture & Creativity at: Code of Conduct

6.4. Confidentiality

EIT Culture & Creativity 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 Culture & Creativity 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 call.

Confidential information may be shared among EIT Culture & Creativity and its subsidiaries (e.g. KIC Co-Location Centres) solely for the purposes of the call process. EIT Culture & Creativity 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 Evaluation 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 Culture & Creativity.

6.5. Avoidance of conflict of interest

EIT Culture & Creativity 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 Culture & Creativity of the conflict of interest without any delay.

6.6. 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 Subgrant agreement – Project agreement for further requirements.

6.7. 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 or have legally secured the right to use all elements of the innovative product or service included in their application.

Applicants agree to indemnify and hold harmless EIT Culture & Creativity and/or any assignee or affiliate from any third-party allegations or claims of intellectual property rights infringement by the product or service of applicants. Applicants shall have the right to further develop, use and license their intellectual property rights for creating, making, marketing, and distributing products, services, and technology. Applicants agree to respect the IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) Rules (Article 16) of the General Model Grant Agreement and Article 10 of the Subgrant agreement – Project agreement (Common Subgrant Agreement Model).

6.8. Withdrawal of the funding – Recovery of undue amounts

EIT Culture & Creativity may withdraw the funding after its award and recover all payments made in line with the provisions of the Subgrant agreement – Project agreement, including in the following cases:

- in case the applicant committed substantial errors, irregularities or fraud;

- in case the applicant committed serious breach of obligations under the Subgrant agreement – Project agreement or during its award (including non-compliance with the call 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.

6.9. Checks, reviews, audits and investigations

EIT Culture & Creativity retains the right to initiate checks, reviews and audit on an applicant that has been awarded funding, in order to verify compliance with the requirements of the call conditions and of the legal and contractual framework referred to above.

EIT Culture & Creativity 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 Subgrant agreement – Project 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.

6.10. Applicable law

The present call is governed by the applicable European Union legal framework (i.e. in particular the EIT Regulation[7], the EU Financial Regulation[8], the Horizon Europe Regulation[9]), supplemented if necessary by the national law of Belgium.

Applicants acknowledge that the present call is implemented within the framework of the Partnership Agreement and Grant Agreement concluded between the EIT and EIT Culture & Creativity, and that the applicable provisions of those agreements may be reflected in the Subgrant Agreement.

6.11. Settlement of 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.

6.12. Other

All applicants selected for funding will be required to sign a **Declaration of Honour** in the format provided under the **Subgrant agreement – Project agreement**. By signing the Declaration of Honour, applicants

[7] Regulation (EU) 2021/819
[8] Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509
[9] Regulation (EU) 2021/695

confirm that they are not in any of the exclusion situations and that all information provided is accurate and complete.

Participation in EIT Culture & Creativity calls takes place **entirely at the applicants' own cost and risk**. Any activities undertaken by applicants to start the implementation of a project **before the Subgrant agreement – Project agreement is signed** are carried out at their own cost and risk. EIT Culture & Creativity shall not be held liable for any actions or costs incurred prior to the signature of the Subgrant agreement – Project agreement.

EIT Culture & Creativity does **not undertake any commitment** regarding the provision of financial support until the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) has confirmed the eligibility of the selected projects and the **Subgrant agreement – Project agreement has been duly signed**. All financial support is subject to the **cost eligibility rules** laid down in the Subgrant agreement – Project agreement and to the **final confirmation of cost eligibility by the EIT**.

Entities that have never been part of projects financially supported by EIT Culture & Creativity and that do not yet have a **validated Participant Identification Code (PIC)** will be subject to a **PIC validation process**. This process is managed through the EIT Community Onboarding Service in cooperation with the European Commission's Research Executive Agency (REA), and successful validation is a precondition for the signature of the Subgrant agreement – Project agreement.

Annex I – Appeal process

EIT Culture & Creativity will address requests for review concerning decisions taken during the admissibility and eligibility check and the procedural aspects of the evaluation of proposals submitted under this Call, in accordance with the procedure described in this Annex.

Appeals must be submitted by the Project Coordinator, or a duly authorised representative, through the official Appeal Submission Form within **7 calendar days** from the date of the official communication of the decision being appealed.

The appeal process does not constitute a new evaluation of the merits of a proposal or an opportunity to amend or complete the original application.

1. Right to appeal

Only the Project Coordinator of a submitted proposal is entitled to file an appeal, either directly or through a duly authorised representative.

An appeal may concern a decision taken during the admissibility and eligibility check or a decision communicated following the proposal evaluation process.

2. Grounds for appeal

Appeals may be lodged only where the Project Coordinator considers that the applicable admissibility, eligibility or evaluation procedures were not correctly applied to its proposal.

Admissible grounds are limited to:

- Procedural errors in the application of the published Call requirements or evaluation procedures;
- Technical or administrative errors affecting the processing or assessment of the proposal;
- Manifest factual errors that may have materially affected the decision.

An appeal must identify the alleged error and explain how it may have affected the outcome.

Disagreement with the technical judgement of evaluators, the assessment of the proposal's merits or the scores awarded does not, in itself, constitute valid grounds for appeal.

Appeals cannot be used to submit new or modified proposal content or to remedy missing mandatory documentation after the submission deadline.

3. Appeal submission procedure

The appeal must be submitted exclusively through the official Appeal Submission Form within **7 calendar days** from the date of the official communication of the decision being appealed.

The Project Coordinator must complete all mandatory fields and provide the information required under this Section.

EIT Culture & Creativity will acknowledge receipt of the appeal in writing, using the contact details provided in the form.

The appeal must include the following mandatory information:

- Full legal name and address of the Project Coordinator's organisation;
- Name, position and contact details of the person submitting the appeal, including the official contact email address of the Project Coordinator;
- PIC number of the Project Coordinator's organisation, proposal title and acronym;
- Identification of the decision being appealed (admissibility and eligibility check or evaluation outcome) and its notification date;
- Clearly stated grounds for appeal, as defined in Section 2, including an explanation of the alleged error and how it may have affected the outcome.

Where relevant, the Project Coordinator may provide supporting documentation to substantiate the grounds of appeal. Such documentation must relate to the original application and may not introduce new, additional or modified proposal content.

Where the appeal is submitted by an authorised representative, the representative must confirm their authorisation to act on behalf of the Project Coordinator.

4. Grounds for automatic rejection

An appeal will be rejected without substantive examination if:

- It is submitted after the deadline;
- It is not submitted by the Project Coordinator or a duly authorised representative;
- It is based on grounds not covered by Section 2;
- It does not contain the mandatory information specified in Section 3.

In such cases, EIT Culture & Creativity will notify the Project Coordinator within **15 calendar days** of receiving the appeal and inform the relevant Thematic Area.

5. Internal appeal evaluation process

EIT Culture & Creativity will examine each appeal to verify compliance with the submission requirements and assess whether the grounds raised fall within those defined in Section 2.

Admissible appeals will be referred to the Appeal Panel, together with the relevant documentation, for an independent review.

The Appeal Panel will assess whether the applicable procedures were correctly followed and whether any procedural, technical, administrative or manifest factual errors may have materially affected the decision.

The Appeal Panel does not re-evaluate the merits of the proposal.

6. Composition and function of the Appeal Panel

The Appeal Panel shall be composed of two voting members appointed by the CEO of EIT Culture & Creativity:

- the COO of EIT Culture & Creativity, provided they were not involved in the evaluation or selection of the proposal concerned;
- one Legal Counsel or legal representative of EIT Culture & Creativity, provided they were not involved in the evaluation or selection of the proposal concerned.

The Appeal Panel shall be chaired by the COO of EIT Culture & Creativity, unless the COO is unavailable or has a conflict of interest, in which case the CEO may appoint another impartial chair.

The CEO may appoint additional voting or non-voting members where needed, taking into account the nature of the appeal, the need for additional procedural, legal, technical or thematic expertise, or the need to avoid a conflict of interest or deadlock.

All Appeal Panel members must be free from any conflict of interest and must not have been involved in the admissibility and eligibility check, evaluation or selection of the proposal concerned. If a conflict arises, the member will not participate in the review and the CEO may appoint a replacement.

The composition of the Appeal Panel may be changed where objectively justified, including in cases of an identified conflict of interest, unavailability, or other circumstances affecting a member's ability to act impartially. Any change made after the appeal review process has started shall be duly documented.

7. Appeal Panel process

The Appeal Panel will review the appeal, the technical examination prepared by EIT Culture & Creativity and the relevant documentation to determine whether the alleged error falls within the admissible grounds defined in this Annex and whether it may have materially affected the outcome.

The Appeal Panel does not re-evaluate the merits of the proposal.

The Panel shall document its findings and issue a reasoned internal opinion and recommendation using a standardised review form.

Depending on the findings, the Appeal Panel may recommend:

- Confirming the original decision where no grounds for upholding the appeal have been established;
- Correcting an identified procedural, administrative or factual error and, where appropriate, allowing the proposal to continue in the relevant stage of the selection process;
- Conducting a full or partial re-evaluation of the proposal, primarily by evaluators who were not involved in the original evaluation.

Based on the Panel's opinion and recommendation, EIT Culture & Creativity will take the final decision on the appeal.

The final outcome of the appeal, together with the main reasons supporting the decision, will be communicated in writing to the Project Coordinator by EIT Culture & Creativity through its dedicated redress email address (redress@eit-culture-creativity.eu). Internal reports and Appeal Panel deliberations will not be shared with applicants.

A favourable appeal decision does not automatically imply the selection or funding of the proposal.

8. Timeline and outcome notification

The project coordinator will receive a formal reply to the appeal within **15 calendar days from the expiry of the appeal submission deadline**, provided that the appeal is admissible and contains all mandatory information required under Section 3.

If this timeline cannot be met due to exceptional circumstances, EIT Culture & Creativity will inform the project coordinator accordingly.

All formal communications concerning the outcome of an appeal will be sent from redress@eit-culture-creativity.eu to the Project Coordinator's official contact email address provided in the Appeal Submission Form.

9. Non-suspensive effect of appeals

The submission of an appeal does not suspend, interrupt, or otherwise affect the evaluation, selection, or contracting process in respect of proposals not subject to that appeal. This approach is consistent with standard Horizon Europe review practice.

10. Finality of the appeal process

Based on the opinion and recommendation of the Appeal Panel, EIT Culture & Creativity will take the final decision on the appeal and notify the project coordinator in writing. The decision of EIT Culture & Creativity is final within the

framework of this internal appeal procedure described in this Annex. No further appeals will be accepted on the same grounds for the same proposal. This is without prejudice to any external legal remedies that may be available under applicable law.

Annex II – Online application form

Thank you for your interest in our calls. We look forward to reviewing your application. Ready to begin? Click **"Start my application."**

Submission is via the online platform only.

Before starting, please make sure to read the **call guidelines** and all related documents.

A few things to note

- Please fill out all sections in English – incomplete applications can't be considered.
- Use templates where provided, e.g. budget file template.

Saving your draft application

- You can save a draft of your application, but please make sure to save the link! As admins, we don't have access and unfortunately can't recover it.
- After submission, you'll still be able to edit your application, again, just keep that link safe too.

PART A – Project and applicant information

PROJECT INFORMATION

- Proposal title
  Enter the full title of your proposal.
- Proposal acronym
  Enter a short acronym. It will be used as the project identifier throughout the process.
  For example: "GREENLAB" for a project titled "Green Solutions for Urban Laboratories".
- Priority area
  Select the main priority area under which you are submitting your proposal. This helps us match your application with the right evaluators.
  - Architecture
  - Audio-visual media
  - Fashion
  - Cultural heritage
  - Gaming
- Project duration
  Select one of the following project timeframes:

Implementation window 1: **starting from 01/05/2027 and ending no later than 30/04/2028** [2027/2028 Winter School] or

Implementation window 2: **starting from 01/10/2027 and ending no later than 30/09/2028** [2028 Summer School].

PROJECT COORDINATOR – APPLICANT ORGANISATION INFORMATION

- Project coordinator – Legal name
  Enter the full legal name of the organisation exactly as registered.
- Project coordinator – Short name
  Enter the Enter the short name or commonly used name of the organisation. If not applicable, please write "Not applicable".
- Project coordinator – Type of entity
  Please choose the type of entity of the organisation. For guidance:
  ***Higher education institution (HEI):** A university or equivalent body providing tertiary education, recognised by the relevant national authorities.*
  ***Vocational Education and Training (VET) institution**: A public or private institution or centre formally recognised, certified, or registered by a competent national authority, professional association, or industry-standard body delivering formal or non-formal education designed to equip learners with the job-specific or transversal skills, knowledge, and competences required by the labour market, encompassing initial training and continuing adult upskilling.*
  ***Accredited professional training provider**: Any public or private training entity formally recognised, certified, or registered by a competent national authority, professional association, or industry-standard body to deliver structured Bachelor-level seasonal school.*
  - Higher education institution (HEI)
  - Vocational Education and Training (VET) institution
  - Accredited professional training provider
  - ☐ If you selected "Accredited professional training provider" above. By ticking this box, I confirm that a Certificate of Accreditation is available upon request.
- Project coordinator – Country
- Project coordinator – Country code
  Enter the two-letter country code corresponding to the country of legal establishment. For more information, see Country codes - Statistics Explained - Eurostat.
  For example: ES, DE, FR, IT.
- Project coordinator – City
- Project coordinator – Postal code
- Project coordinator – Street
- Project coordinator – Street number
- Project coordinator – PO Box, if applicable

If not applicable, please write "Not applicable". A Post Office Box (PO Box) is a lockable mailbox located at a post office, used as an alternative delivery address.

- Project coordinator –CEDEX, if applicable
  If not applicable, please write "Not applicable". CEDEX (Courrier d'Entreprise à Distribution Exceptionnelle) is a French postal designation used by organisations receiving large mail volumes.
- Project coordinator – PIC number
  Enter the 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC). If you do not 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.
- Project coordinator – Legal entity VAT number
  Enter the organisation's VAT number. If your organisation is not VAT-registered, enter "Not applicable".
- Project coordinator – Legal entity registration number
  Enter the organisation's legal entity registration number as it appears on the official incorporation or registration documents.
- Project coordinator – NACE code
  Enter the organisation's NACE code, corresponding to the organisation's main economic activity. For more information, see https://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/index/nace_all.html.
- Project coordinator – NUTS code
  Enter the organisation's NUTS code. For more information, see Overview - NUTS - Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics - Eurostat. If you do not know the NUTS code, please provide the full address and EIT Culture & Creativity may verify the code during the administrative checks.
- Project coordinator – RIS country
  Indicate whether the applicant is established in an EIT RIS-eligible country. For more information, see https://eit-ris.eu/about-eit-community/.
  - Yes
  - No
  - To be verified
- Project coordinator – Latitude
  Enter the latitude of the applicant's main legal or operational address, if known. You can find your coordinates via Google Maps: right-click your address and the latitude (lat) will appear at the top of the menu. If not known, please write "To be verified".
- Project coordinator – Longitude
  Enter the longitude of the applicant's main legal or operational address, if known. You can find your coordinates via Google Maps: right-click your address and the longitude (long) will appear at the top of the menu. If not known, please write "To be verified".

PROJECT COORDINATOR - SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)

- Project coordinator – First name of SPOC

- Project coordinator – Last name of SPOC
- Project coordinator – Title or salutation of SPOC
  Select the title and/or salutation.
  - Ms
  - Mr
  - Mx
- Project coordinator – Gender of SPOC
  This information is for statistical and reporting purposes only.
  - Female
  - Male
  - Non-binary
  - Prefer not to say
- Project coordinator – Email address of SPOC
  This email will be used for all official notifications including the evaluation result.
- Project coordinator – Telephone number of SPOC
- Project coordinator – Position / Job title of SPOC

PROJECT COORDINATOR – LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ORGANISATION (LRO)

The Legal Representative / Legal Responsible Officer should be the person authorised to legally represent the applicant organisation or to coordinate the signature of the relevant contractual documents.

- Project coordinator – First name of LRO
- Project coordinator – Last name of LRO
- Project coordinator – Title or salutation of LRO
  Select the title and/or salutation.
  - Ms
  - Mr
  - Mx
- Project coordinator – Position / Job title of LRO
- Project coordinator – Email address of LRO
- Project coordinator – Confirmation of LRO
  I confirm that the LRO identified above is authorised to represent the applicant organisation or to coordinate the signature of the relevant contractual documents.
  - Yes
  - No
  - To be confirmed during grant preparation

CONSORTIUM INFORMATION

- Are you applying as a consortium of 2 or 3 participants?
  - Consortium of 2 project participants

- Consortium of 3 project participants

PROJECT PARTICIPANT 2 – APPLICANT ORGANISATION INFORMATION

- Project participant 2 – Legal name
- Project participant 2 – Short name
  Enter the short name or commonly used name of the organisation. If not applicable, please write "Not applicable".
- Project participant 2 – Type of entity
  Please choose the type of entity of the organisation. For guidance:
  Startup: *A young, innovative enterprise (typically up to 5 years) developing scalable, technology-driven business models.*
  Scaleup: *A high-growth enterprise with proven product-market fit, typically with annualised growth of at least 20% over three years.*
  SME: *As per EU definition an enterprise with fewer than 250 employees and either ≤€50M turnover or ≤€43M balance sheet.*
  Large company: *An enterprise exceeding the SME thresholds.*
  - Startup
  - Scaleup
  - SME
  - Large company
  - ☐ If you selected "SME" above. By ticking this box, I confirm that the organisation complies with the EU definition of an SME as indicated above.
- Project participant 2 – Country
- Project participant 2 – Country code
  Enter the two-letter country code corresponding to the country of legal establishment. For more information, see Country codes - Statistics Explained - Eurostat.
- Project participant 2 – City
- Project participant 2 – Postal code
- Project participant 2 – Street
- Project participant 2 – Street number
- Project participant 2 – PO Box, if applicable
  If not applicable, please write "Not applicable". A Post Office Box (PO Box) is a lockable mailbox located at a post office, used as an alternative delivery address.
- Project participant 2 –CEDEX, if applicable
  If not applicable, please write "Not applicable". CEDEX (Courrier d'Entreprise à Distribution Exceptionnelle) is a French postal designation used by organisations receiving large mail volumes.
- Project participant 2 – PIC number

Enter the 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC). If you do not 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.

- Project participant 2 – Legal entity VAT number
  Enter the organisation's VAT number. If your organisation is not VAT-registered, enter "Not applicable".
- Project participant 2 – Legal entity registration number
  Enter the organisation's legal entity registration number as it appears on the official incorporation or registration documents.
- Project participant 2 – NACE code
  Enter the organisation's NACE code, corresponding to the organisation's main economic activity. For more information, see https://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/index/nace_all.html.
- Project participant 2 – NUTS code
  Enter the organisation's NUTS code. For more information, see Overview - NUTS - Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics - Eurostat. If you do not know the NUTS code, please provide the full address and EIT Culture & Creativity may verify the code during the administrative checks.
- Project participant 2 – RIS country
  Indicate whether the applicant is established in an EIT RIS-eligible country. For more information, see https://eit-ris.eu/about-eit-community/.
    - Yes
    - No
    - To be verified
- Project participant 2 – Latitude
  Enter the latitude of the applicant's main legal or operational address, if known. You can find your coordinates via Google Maps: right-click your address and the latitude (lat) will appear at the top of the menu. If not known, please write "To be verified".
- Project participant 2 – Longitude
  Enter the longitude of the applicant's main legal or operational address, if known. You can find your coordinates via Google Maps: right-click your address and the longitude (long) will appear at the top of the menu. If not known, please write "To be verified".
- ☐ By ticking this box, I confirm that project participant 2 is independent from the other project participants: neither party exercises direct or indirect control over the other.

PROJECT PARTICIPANT 2 - SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)

- Project participant 2 – First name of SPOC
- Project participant 2 – Last name of SPOC
- Project participant 2 – Title or salutation of SPOC
  Select the title and/or salutation.
    - Ms

  - Mr
  - Mx
- Project participant 2 – Gender of SPOC
  This information is for statistical and reporting purposes only.
  - Female
  - Male
  - Non-binary
  - Prefer not to say
- Project participant 2 – Email address of SPOC
- Project participant 2 – Telephone number of SPOC
- Project participant 2 – Position / Job title of SPOC

PROJECT PARTICIPANT 2 – LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ORGANISATION (LRO)

The Legal Representative / Legal Responsible Officer should be the person authorised to legally represent the applicant organisation or to coordinate the signature of the relevant contractual documents.

- Project participant 2 – First name of LRO
- Project participant 2 – Last name of LRO
- Project participant 2 – Title or salutation of LRO
  Select the title and/or salutation.
  - Ms
  - Mr
  - Mx
- Project participant 2 – Position / Job title of LRO
- Project participant 2 – Email address of LRO
- Project participant 2 – Confirmation of LRO
  I confirm that the LRO identified above is authorised to represent the applicant organisation or to coordinate the signature of the relevant contractual documents.
  - Yes
  - No
  - To be confirmed during grant preparation

PROJECT PARTICIPANT 3 – APPLICANT ORGANISATION INFORMATION

- Project participant 3 – Legal name
- Project participant 3 – Short name
  Enter the short name or commonly used name of the organisation. If not applicable, please write "Not applicable".
- Project participant 3 – Type of entity
  Please choose the type of entity of the organisation. For guidance:

Startup: *A young, innovative enterprise (typically up to 5 years) developing scalable, technology-driven business models.*
Scaleup: *A high-growth enterprise with proven product-market fit, typically with annualised growth of at least 20% over three years.*
SME: *As per EU definition an enterprise with fewer than 250 employees and either ≤€50M turnover or ≤€43M balance sheet.*
Large company: *An enterprise exceeding the SME thresholds.*
Higher education institution: *A university or equivalent body providing tertiary education, recognised by the relevant national authorities.*
Research organisation: *An entity whose primary goal is to conduct fundamental or applied research, irrespective of legal status or funding source.*
Non-profit organisation: *A legal entity that reinvests any surplus toward its statutory objectives rather than distributing profits.*
Association: *A membership-based non-profit organisation pursuing shared objectives in the interest of its members or the broader public.*
Vocational Education and Training (VET) institution*: A public or private institution or centre formally recognised, certified, or registered by a competent national authority, professional association, or industry-standard body delivering formal or non-formal education designed to equip learners with the job-specific or transversal skills, knowledge, and competences required by the labour market, encompassing initial training and continuing adult upskilling.*
Accredited professional training provider*: Any public or private training entity formally recognised, certified, or registered by a competent national authority, professional association, or industry-standard body to deliver structured Bachelor-level seasonal school.*
Media organisation*: Any public, private, or non-profit legal entity engaged in the creation, production, distribution, or rights management of media content. This broadly encompasses audio-visual sectors (film, TV, radio, music), digital and interactive media, streaming platforms, publishing, advertising, video games, and software development. It includes organisations utilising artificial intelligence, extended reality (XR), and advanced workflows for content delivery and exploitation.*
Cultural organisation*: Any public, private, or non-profit legal entity dedicated to the development, preservation, or dissemination of cultural heritage, creativity, and artistic expression. This broadly covers museums, archives, libraries, performing arts, festivals, visual arts, design, fashion, architecture, and craft sectors. It includes NGOs, foundations, and institutions leveraging digital tools or managing intellectual property to drive social and economic value.*

- Startup
- Scaleup
- SME
- Large company
- Higher education institution (HEI)
- Research organisation

  - Non-profit organisation
  - Association
  - Vocational Education and Training (VET) institution
  - Accredited professional training provider
  - Media organisation
  - Cultural organisation
  - ☐ If you selected "SME" above. By ticking this box, I confirm that the organisation complies with the EU definition of an SME as indicated above.
  - ☐ If you selected "Accredited professional training provider" above. By ticking this box, I confirm that a Certificate of Accreditation is available upon request.
- Project participant 3 – Country
- Project participant 3 – Country code
  Enter the two-letter country code corresponding to the country of legal establishment. For more information, see Country codes - Statistics Explained - Eurostat.
- Project participant 3 – City
- Project participant 3 – Postal code
- Project participant 3 – Street
- Project participant 3 – Street number
- Project participant 3 – PO Box, if applicable
  If not applicable, please write "Not applicable". A Post Office Box (PO Box) is a lockable mailbox located at a post office, used as an alternative delivery address.
- Project participant 3 –CEDEX, if applicable
  If not applicable, please write "Not applicable". CEDEX (Courrier d'Entreprise à Distribution Exceptionnelle) is a French postal designation used by organisations receiving large mail volumes.
- Project participant 3 – PIC number
  Enter the 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC). If you do not 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.
- Project participant 3 – Legal entity VAT number
  Enter the organisation's VAT number. If your organisation is not VAT-registered, enter "Not applicable".
- Project participant 3 – Legal entity registration number
  Enter the organisation's legal entity registration number as it appears on the official incorporation or registration documents.
- Project participant 3 – NACE code
  Enter the organisation's NACE code, corresponding to the organisation's main economic activity. For more information, see https://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/index/nace_all.html.
- Project participant 3 – NUTS code

Enter the organisation's NUTS code. For more information, see Overview - NUTS - Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics - Eurostat. If you do not know the NUTS code, please provide the full address and EIT Culture & Creativity may verify the code during the administrative checks.

- Project participant 3 – RIS country
  Indicate whether the applicant is established in an EIT RIS-eligible country. For more information, see https://eit-ris.eu/about-eit-community/.
  - *Yes*
  - *No*
  - *To be verified*
- Project participant 3 – Latitude
  Enter the latitude of the applicant's main legal or operational address, if known. You can find your coordinates via Google Maps: right-click your address and the latitude (lat) will appear at the top of the menu. If not known, please write "To be verified".
- Project participant 3 – Longitude
  Enter the longitude of the applicant's main legal or operational address, if known. You can find your coordinates via Google Maps: right-click your address and the longitude (long) will appear at the top of the menu. If not known, please write "To be verified".
- ☐ By ticking this box, I confirm that project participant 3 is independent from the other project participants: neither party exercises direct or indirect control over the other.

PROJECT PARTICIPANT 3 - SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)

- Project participant 3 – First name of SPOC
- Project participant 3 – Last name of SPOC
- Project participant 3 – Title or salutation of SPOC
  Select the title and/or salutation.
  - Ms
  - Mr
  - Mx
- Project participant 3 – Gender of SPOC
  This information is for statistical and reporting purposes only.
  - Female
  - Male
  - Non-binary
  - Prefer not to say
- Project participant 3 – Email address of SPOC
- Project participant 3 – Telephone number of SPOC
- Project participant 3 – Position / Job title of SPOC

PROJECT PARTICIPANT 3 – LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ORGANISATION (LRO)

The Legal Representative / Legal Responsible Officer should be the person authorised to legally represent the applicant organisation or to coordinate the signature of the relevant contractual documents.

- Project participant 3 – First name of LRO
- Project participant 3 – Last name of LRO
- Project participant 3 – Title or salutation of LRO
  Select the title and/or salutation.
  - Ms
  - Mr
  - Mx
- Project participant 3 – Position / Job title of LRO
- Project participant 3 – Email address of LRO
- Project participant 3 – Confirmation of LRO
  I confirm that the LRO identified above is authorised to represent the applicant organisation or to coordinate the signature of the relevant contractual documents.
  - Yes
  - No
  - To be confirmed during grant preparation

MANDATORY DOCUMENT UPLOADS

- Budget file
  *Upload the completed budget file **in excel format**. The financial section is completed using the EIT **Culture & Creativity funding template** provided.*
  File name: Budget_Project acronym.xlsx
- Gantt chart with project timeline and work packages
  *Upload the Gantt chart with project timeline and work packages **in PDF format**. You can see the example from European Commission.*
  File name: GANTT_Project acronym

SANCTIONS & JURISDICTION SCREENING

☐ By ticking this box, I confirm that the applicant (s), its shareholders, UBOs and controlling persons are not subject to EU restrictive measures, directly or indirectly, that would prevent participation in or receipt of funding under this call, and that the applicant does not fall under any country, ownership or control restriction set out in the Call Guidelines and the applicable EU restrictive measures.

LEGAL & DISPUTE HISTORY

☐ By ticking this box, I confirm that the company has not been involved in, and is not aware of, any legal, regulatory, arbitration, criminal, civil, or other dispute proceedings, investigations, or material claims.

LEGAL DECLARATIONS

☐ By ticking this box, I am authorised to submit this application on behalf of the applicant(s).

☐ By ticking this box, I confirm that the applicant(s) have read and accept the rules and conditions of the call.

☐ By ticking this box, I confirm that the applicant(s) will not receive double funding for the same activities.

FINANCIAL CAPACITY

☐ By ticking this box, I confirm that the applicant(s) have the financial capacity required to implement the proposal.

- I declare that the applicant(s), including all consortium members, individual applicants or team members where applicable, have stable and sufficient financial resources to implement the proposed activities and to cover the share of project costs not reimbursed by EIT Culture & Creativity.
- The applicant(s) acknowledge that EIT Culture & Creativity may request information or supporting documents to verify financial capacity, including financial statements, business plans, audit reports, information on dependency on EU funding, previous financial performance or any other document reasonably required for this assessment.
- The applicant(s) understand that failure to provide requested information, or the submission of false, incomplete or misleading information, may result in rejection of the proposal, withdrawal of the award decision, termination of the contracting process or agreement, and/or recovery of funds, where applicable.

OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

☐ By ticking this box, I confirm that the applicant(s) have the operational capacity required to implement the proposal.

- I declare that the applicant(s), including all consortium members, individual applicants or team members where applicable, have the necessary experience, know-how, qualifications, staff, organisational capacity and operational resources to carry out the proposed activities, fulfil their role in the project, and comply with the reporting, monitoring and contractual obligations of the call.
- The applicant(s) acknowledge that EIT Culture & Creativity may request information or supporting documents to verify operational capacity, including team profiles, allocation of responsibilities, staffing information, technical resources, relevant experience, ongoing commitments or any other document reasonably required for this assessment.
- The applicant(s) understand that failure to provide requested information, or the submission of false, incomplete or misleading information, may result in rejection of the proposal, withdrawal of the award decision, termination of the contracting process or agreement, and/or recovery of funds, where applicable.

PART B – Technical proposal

Part B is the technical part of your application. Together with the mandatory annexes (if applicable), it is assessed by independent external evaluators and the internal Portfolio Selection Committee (if applicable) against the award criteria outlined in the call guidelines.
The information provided in part B must be consistent with part A. Keep your answers focused and evidence-based. Evaluators respond favourably to clarity and credibility, not length.

Please upload Part B of the Application Form in PDF format according to the official template provided.

PROPOSAL ABSTRACT (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Provide a short summary of your proposal, including the skills gap addressed by your proposed school, its primary target group, learning objectives, and expected outcomes and results. Include how your proposed school will turn into a scalable education model, and not simply a one-off training activity after the funding period. Write for a non-specialist reader. Avoid jargon.

EXCELLENCE (CRITERION A)

A1 Clarity and relevance of the proposal, and quality of the proposed approach (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Describe your proposal's objectives and how it will integrate creative sector expertise with innovation and entrepreneurship education within the CCSI. Demonstrate how it will complement existing undergraduate studies by equipping your target group with interdisciplinary, practice-oriented skills that combine creativity and entrepreneurship.

A2 Innovation in seasonal school's design and pedagogy (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Describe the innovative features of your seasonal school and clearly explain how the activity will meet the pedagogical requirements outlined in the call guidelines, including unique content, cross-disciplinary approaches, novel pedagogical techniques, and integration of challenge-based, practice-based, and/or project-oriented methodology.

A3 Strategic alignment with CCSI green and digital transition (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Describe how your proposal addresses EIT Culture & Creativity's strategic objective to future-proof European CCSI students and professionals with entrepreneurial and cross-disciplinary skills for the green and digital transition.

A4 Gender dimension and inclusiveness (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Explain how gender mainstreaming, inclusiveness and equal access have been considered in the proposal. Please address whether the proposal considers the needs, behaviours or barriers of people of different

genders and how the proposal avoids bias, exclusion or unequal access. Please illustrate how you intend to achieve 40% female participation in your student cohorts.

IMPACT (CRITERION B)

B1 Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) and assessment method (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Define at least three specific, measurable, and achievable ILOs for the proposed school, using action verbs. Describe how these outcomes are embedded within the school design, and how their achievement will be evidenced through assessment. Describe the envisaged assessment method, defined as best fitting the defined ILOs.

B2 Dissemination and communication (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Describe your intended communication channels and outline the dissemination plan you will put in place to support the school's deployment, learner outreach, and dissemination of results achieved. Define the marketing and recruitment channels to be used and demonstrate the potential to enrol a high number of students. Outline how project results will be disseminated to maximise their reach.

B3 Sustainability, exploitation, and transferability beyond project lifetime (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Describe how you will exploit project results and how you will ensure sustainability and transferability of the programme's content for at least three years following the end of the funded period.

QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION (CRITERION C)

C1.A Project workplan (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Describe the practical execution of your project over the funding period, including its timeline of core activities, key milestones, and mandatory deliverables (Call Section 2.3.3). If you plan to list any additional deliverables, include their respective due date.

C1.B Work plan effectiveness (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Describe how the activities proposed in the workplan are aligned with the proposal´s objectives, expected results and KPIs. Demonstrate that the allocation of tasks, resources and budget is appropriate and offers value for money.

C2 Programme structure and delivery methods (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Describe the programme structure, envisaged content and materials. Explain the delivery method (in-person or blended), and duration of activities. Demonstrate how activities are relevant to the programme's objectives, feasible, and appropriately scaled to the target audience needs and capacities.

C3 Soundness of budget and revenue feasibility (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Present how you allocated budget and resources with respect to the planned activities, deliverables and expected results, demonstrating value for money. Present your financial sustainability plan and revenue and enrolment forecasts. Explain your business model towards scalability and sustained delivery, including diversified revenue streams to ensure accessibility of the programme for learners during and after the funding period.

C4 Learner target, school deployment strategy and KPI feasibility (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Describe your primary learner target group and your deployment strategy towards achieving your project KPIs. Go beyond the communication channels described in Question B3 to focus on learners' recruitment within Bachelor programmes (e.g. existing or intended partnership with universities, events participation, etc.).

C5 Consortium capacity and co-creation (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Describe the capacity, expertise and role of each consortium participant, the complementarity of the consortium, and the logic in the distribution of the work. Include any co-creation action between the education and business partners in the design, delivery and sustainability plan of the proposed school.

C6 Risks identification and mitigation (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Please address the following points:

- *Identify the top 3-5 risks to project delivery (technical, commercial, regulatory, consortium).*
- *For each risk, provide: likelihood (High/Medium/Low), potential impact (High/Medium/Low), and mitigation measure.*
- *Describe contingency plans if key milestones are missed.*

EU DIMENSION (CRITERION E)

E1 Coherence with European values and potential of European impact (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Please address the following points:

- *Describe the European dimension of your programme, including in which European territories it will be initially deployed, and how it is intended to scale to wider geographical coverage (if applicable).*
- *Explain how your programme is aligned with relevant European values and priorities, for example with the European Skills Agenda, or the Pact for Skills, and how it contributes to the Triple Transition.*

KIC PORTFOLIO STRATEGIC FIT AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES AND KNOWLEDGE TRIANGLE INTEGRATION (CRITERION D)

This section will be used only for the portfolio selection stage and will not be scored by the external evaluators.

D1 Strategic alignment with EIT Culture & Creativity's goals (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Demonstrate direct, verifiable alignment with the EIT Culture & Creativity Strategic Agenda and Business Plan 2026-2028 by mapping your project's specific objectives and expected outcomes directly to the defined Challenges, Strategic Objectives, and Impact Goals for your chosen sector (Architecture, Audio-Visual Media, Cultural Heritage, Fashion, or Gaming).

D2 Portfolio Alignment and Knowledge Triangle Integration (KTI) (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Demonstrate how your proposal complements the EIT Culture & Creativity education portfolio. Explain how your project applies the Knowledge Triangle Integration (KTI) model to ensure the seasonal school's relevance, innovation, and long-term impact.

D3A Financial Sustainability (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Describe how your seasonal school will remain financially sustainable beyond the initial funding period. Provide a financial outlook covering the first edition delivered during the funding period and a minimum of three years following the end of EIT Culture & Creativity funding.
Your outlook should include realistic estimates of annual revenues and ongoing operating costs, taking into account the revenue share payable to EIT Culture & Creativity. Identify the anticipated revenue streams and co-financing sources, which may include university contributions, corporate or industry sponsorship, programme replication or licensing, third-party-funded scholarships, and participant fees that remain equitable and accessible.
Demonstrate how these revenues and co-financing sources will contribute to covering ongoing costs, including personnel costs, content updates, marketing and other relevant operational expenses.

D3B Scalability and Continued Relevance (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Demonstrate the potential for sustained or increased student demand and the continued relevance of your seasonal school beyond the initial funding period. Explain how the programme will attract and retain learners over time, taking into account the needs of the target audience and developments in the relevant creative sectors.
Provide enrolment figures for each of the following editions:

- ***First edition:*** *Delivered during the funding period.*
- ***Second edition:*** *First edition delivered in Year 1 post-funding (Y+1).*
- ***Third edition:*** *Second edition delivered in Year 2 post-funding (Y+2).*
- ***Fourth edition:*** *Third edition delivered in Year 3 post-funding (Y+3).*

For each edition, specify the projected number of enrolled students. Explain the assumptions underpinning these projections and describe how the programme could grow over time, for example through increased enrolment, expansion to additional countries, or partnerships with educational institutions and industry stakeholders.

ETHICS, REGULATORY AND COMPLIANCE CONSIDERATIONS

F1 Ethics, regulatory and compliance aspects (indicatively up to 2,000 characters)

Describe any ethics, legal, regulatory or compliance aspects that may affect the proposal.
Please address:

- *Whether the proposal involves personal data, human participants, vulnerable groups, AI systems, sensitive content, cultural heritage, environmental impacts or other ethics-related aspects.*
- *Any permits, licences, certifications, approvals or authorisations required.*
- *Any data protection, consumer protection, employment, procurement, state aid or sector-specific requirements.*
- *How these aspects will be managed.*

If this section is not applicable, explain why.

KPI TARGETS

*State your target number for this **mandatory** KPI:*

- EITHE08.1 – Number of successful participants (minimum target: 30)

*State your target number for this **optional** KPI (if applicable):*

- EITHE08.2 – Number of successful participants with citizenship in EIT RIS countries.

SUBMISSION CONFIRMATION

- Full name of person submitting
- Name of organisation of person submitting
- Position / Job title of person submitting
- Confirmation of completeness and accuracy

  ☐ By ticking this box, I confirm that all information provided in Part B is true, complete, accurate and consistent with Part A and all mandatory annexes.
- Confirmation of readiness for evaluation

  ☐ By ticking this box, I confirm that the proposal is ready for evaluation and that all required sections and supporting documents have been completed and submitted.

Annex III – Budget plan and EIT Culture & Creativity funding request template

Below is a sample budget template for applicants' reference.

The mandatory excel budget template for this specific Call shall be downloaded from the call webpage and submitted in excel format within the application form on the submission platform.

INSTRUCTIONS
TEMPLATE FOR BUDGET BREAKDOWN
This file will help you input budget details for your project proposal. Please **follow the instructions below** to ensure that all relevant information is captured. **STEP 1**: On the **'Project Participants'** sheet, enter the names of the entities participating in your consortia, including the Project Coordinator as first one (PP1). Please **check the minimum and the maximum number of project participants allowed** under the call you are applying for. If you are applying as mono-beneficiary, only one entity will need to be included. **STEP 2**: On the 'EIT reimbursement' sheet you can chek the maximum **EIT reimbursement rate** and the maximum **EIT contribution** allowed by the call. Please note that: - your total requested EIT contribution must **not exceed the maximum amount** allowed in the call you are appling for; - the EIT reimbursement rate shall **apply equally to all beneficiaries** participating in the project. **STEP 3**: On the separate **sheets for each project participant (PP)**: - enter the **costs broken down in the different cost categories, separate WPs** (a maximum of ten are allowed) and **calendar years** of project. Note that indirect costs, total costs, EIT reimbursement rate and EIT contribution requested are calculated automatically based on the data you input. Note that **subcontracting costs** are limited to a maximum of 30% of the total costs at participant level and 15% of the total costs at project level; - fill in the tables below with the **number of FTEs per WP and the requested details for each cost category**; - make sure inserted data and **totals are consistent (error alerts will pop up).** **STEP 4**: When all costs have been entered, check the three **summary sheets 'Budget per WP', 'Budget per cost category' and 'Budget per year'.** Here you will find a summary of all the information you have submitted. Ensure that your **total requested EIT contribution does not exceed the maximum amount allowed** in the call you are appling for and that **subcontracting costs** do not exceed 15% of the total costs at project level. **STEP 5**: Once you have submitted all the data correctly, save the file and **upload it in excel format** in the application system.

INSERT BELOW THE NAMES OF THE PROJECT COORDINATOR AND PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONSORTIUM

PP number	Project Participant
PP1 - Project Coordinator	Insert name of Project Participant 1 - Project Coordinator
PP2	Insert name of Project Participant 2
PP3	Insert name of Project Participant 3
PP4	Insert name of Project Participant 4
PP5	Insert name of Project Participant 5
PP6	Insert name of Project Participant 6
PP7	Insert name of Project Participant 7
PP8	Insert name of Project Participant 8
PP9	Insert name of Project Participant 9
PP10	Insert name of Project Participant 10

MAXIMUM EIT REIMBURSEMENT RATE AND CONTRIBUTION ALLOWED BY THIS CALL

100.00%	Maximum EIT reimbursement rate allowed by this call

IMPORTANT! The EIT reimbursement rate shall apply equally to all beneficiaries participating in the project.

€ 500,000.00	Maximum EIT contribution allowed by this call

IMPORTANT! Your total requested EIT contribution must not exceed the maximum amount allowed in the call you are appling for.

PP1 - Project Coordinato	Insert name of Project Participant 1 - Project Coordinator													
	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP7	WP8	WP9	WP10	TOTAL	Year 2027	Year 2028	TOTAL
Personnel											-			-
Subcontracting											-			-
Travel and subsistence											-			-
Equipment											-			-
Other goods and services											-			-
Indirect costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EIT reimbursement rate	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Requested EIT contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP7	WP8	WP9	WP10	TOTAL
FTEs (Full Time Equivalents)											0

Personnel			
Personnel subcategory	Staff category / role description	Estimated cost related to the project	
TOTAL		-	OK

Subcontracting				
Item description	Estimated cost related to the project	WP		
TOTAL	-		OK	OK

Travel and subsistence			
Travel description	Estimated cost related to the	WP	
TOTAL	-		OK

Equipment							
Item description	Estimated cost	Depreciation period (in	Number of months of use in	% of use in the project	Estimated cost related to the	WP	
					-		
					-		
					-		
					-		
					-		
					-		
					-		
					-		
					-		
					-		
TOTAL					-		OK

Other goods and services			
Item description	Estimated cost related to the	WP	
TOTAL	-		OK

Total eligible costs												
Project Participant	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP7	WP8	WP9	WP10	TOTAL	
sert name of Project Participant 1 - Project Coordina	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 2	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 3	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 4	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 5	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 6	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 7	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 8	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 9	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 10	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	
TOTAL	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	
EIT reimbursement rate	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	
Requested EIT contribution	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	OK

FTEs (Full Time Equivalents)											
	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP7	WP8	WP9	WP10	TOTAL
sert name of Project Participant 1 - Project Coordina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insert name of Project Participant 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insert name of Project Participant 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insert name of Project Participant 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insert name of Project Participant 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insert name of Project Participant 6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insert name of Project Participant 7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insert name of Project Participant 8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insert name of Project Participant 9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insert name of Project Participant 10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Partner	Personnel	Subcontracting	Travel and subsistence	Equipment	Other goods and services	Indirect costs	Total costs	EIT reimbursement rate	Requested EIT contribution	
Insert name of Project Participant 1 - Project Coordinator	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 2	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 3	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 4	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 5	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 6	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 7	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 8	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 9	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 10	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	
TOTAL	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	OK
Year 2027	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	
Year 2028	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	
TOTAL	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	
		OK					OK		OK	

Partner	Year 2027	Year 2028	Total costs	EIT reimbursement rate	Requested EIT contribution Year 2027	Requested EIT contribution Year 2028	TOTAL Requested EIT contribution	
Insert name of Project Participant 1 - Project Coordinator	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 2	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 3	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 4	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 5	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 6	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 7	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 8	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 9	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Insert name of Project Participant 10	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	€ -	€ -	
TOTAL	€ -	€ -	€ -	100.00%	€ -	€ -	€ -	OK
			OK				OK	