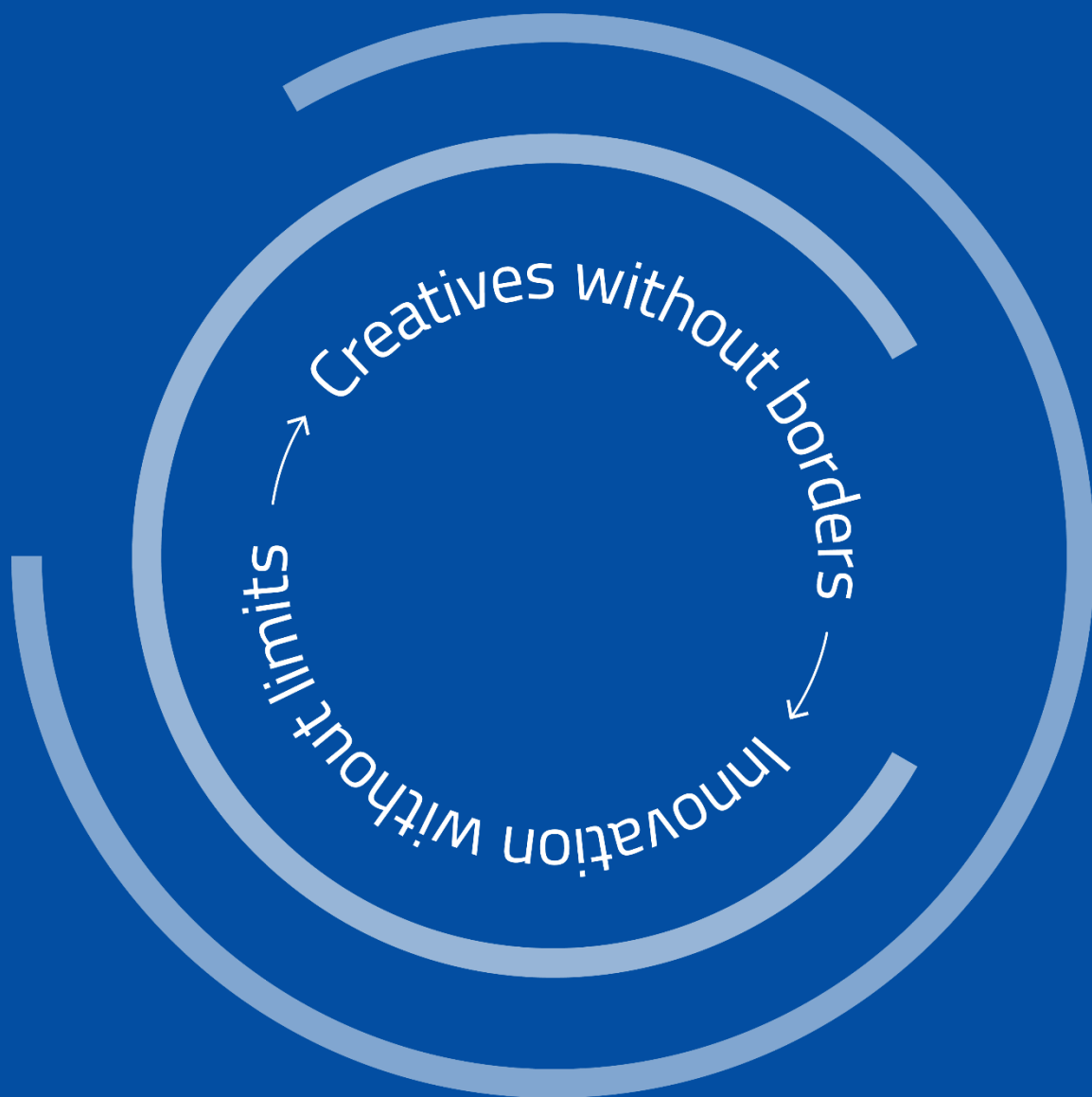


Partnership Call

FAQ

Call supporting document



# Partnership Call – Strategic Topic Group

## FAQ

Version 1.0 (2025)

### History of Changes

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	23/09/2025	Initial version.

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# 1. Partnership & Consortium rules

## Who can apply to lead a Strategic Topic Group (STG)?

Only Core and Cooperation partners with a valid 2025 membership are eligible to lead and submit a proposal.

## Who can be part of the STG consortia?

Only Core and Cooperation partners with a valid 2025 membership.

## What if new Partners want to join?

Yes. New organisations can be included in proposals, but they must successfully complete the process to become a Core or Cooperation Partner at least 10 days before the call deadline to be eligible for funding.

## Do all consortium members need to submit the "expression of interest" form?

No. Only the lead applicant must submit the Expression of Interest form to receive access to the application portal.

## Who receives EIT funding after the consortium is selected?

Upon selection, the lead applicant and the connected consortium will receive EIT funding, based on the submitted application and budget.

## Can Community partners and other stakeholders get involved?

Yes. Although Community members and other relevant CCSIs stakeholders cannot receive funding or act as formal consortium partners, they may contribute informally through stakeholder engagement activities (e.g. focus groups, workshops, co-design sessions, conferences, roundtables) as defined by the STGs' workplan (*Work Package 2*).

## Can a partner participate in multiple STGs?

Yes. Partners may join multiple consortia and participate across different STGs, provided eligibility requirements are met.

## What happens if a Core or Cooperation Partner shifts to Community membership in 2026?

If the membership is not renewed as Core or Cooperation, the partner will no longer meet the call's eligibility conditions. This will directly affect the disbursement of the final payment (70%), which is conditional upon maintaining a valid Core or Cooperation membership in 2026. Additionally, it might compromise the organisation's formal participation in the STG.

## 2. Content of Partnership Call

### What is the purpose of Strategic Topic Groups?

STGs are designed to:

- Activate expert knowledge and experimentation
- Co-develop policy and strategic positioning
- Mobilize non-EIT funding
- Strengthen the partnership's strategic voice within the EU cultural and creative sectors

### What happens if a topic receives no eligible proposal?

If no consortium is selected for a topic, that STG will not be activated during this cycle.

### Are existing informal interactions in-between partners recognized in the application?

Yes. Past collaboration experiences (such as participation in prior working groups, joint projects, or informal interactions) are valuable evidence of mutual trust and collaboration. As STGs are formally established starting with this call, applicants are encouraged to describe relevant past experiences to demonstrate ecosystem activation capacity. Additionally, they shall propose how the STG will build upon and expand beyond them under the formal framework of the call.

## Are STG position papers official EIT CC publications?

Yes. Position papers are expected to be co-authored by consortium members and EIT Culture & Creativity.

## 3. Application & Evaluation

### What is expected in the application?

Applicants must:

- Submit a complete application form via the portal
- Include a budget breakdown using the provided Excel template
- Detail three mandatory work packages: coordination, stakeholder engagement, and policy development
- Optionally add further work packages aligned with consortium goals

### What are the evaluation criteria?

Proposals are assessed on:

- Expertise and integration of the Knowledge Triangle
- Societal and financial impact
- Quality of implementation, including consortium diversity and budget clarity

Minimum threshold scores must be met across all three evaluation categories to be considered for funding.

### How are proposals evaluated?

Each proposal is reviewed by three evaluators (two external, one internal). Final scores are averaged and ranked. Top eight proposals are funded; others may be placed on a reserve list.

### What support is available during the application process?

Applicants can access:

- A recorded info session
- A contact form for inquiries
- A digital hub for partner matchmaking and consortium building
- A Miro board for partner matchmaking and consortium building
- Regional Co-Location Centres for partner matchmaking and consortium building

## What is the timeline for the STG projects?

- Kick-off: Late November to early December 2025
- Interim reporting: January 2026
- Deliverables: May–July 2026
- Final reporting: August–September 2026

## Will STGs continue beyond this funding cycle?

Continuation is planned and included in the multi-year business plan, subject to budget approval and evaluation outcomes.