



EIT RawMaterials

Call for KAVA 12 Education and RIS Education

Instructions and process description

November 2023

1. Purpose and scope of this document

This document describes the process for preparation, submission, evaluation and selection of Proposals in response to the KAVA 12 call launched by EIT RawMaterials for the following KAVA (KIC Added-Value Activity in EIT terminology) types:

- Master Education

Before submitting a Proposal, you are required to register your intention to do so and are recommended to contact the Co-Location Centre/Innovation Hub staff and the Thematic Officers/Senior Advisors before submitting the Proposal. The Co-Location Centre/Innovation Hub staff can offer further advice.

All Project participants involved in the submission of a Proposal in response to this call should read the following documents carefully:

- The present document (call text) [B]
- *The template for Upscaling DRAFT proposals* [B]
- *EIT RawMaterials Upscaling Project proposal FINAL SUBMISSION Guidance and Template for complementary information* [B]
- *EIT RawMaterials communication and dissemination guidance* [B]
- *EIT RawMaterials Project Management guidance* [B]
- The *Lighthouse Appendix* that outlines the topics and criteria for application through the Lighthouses programmes renamed “Circular Societies”, “Responsible Sourcing”, and “Sustainable Materials”. [I]
- *Go-to-market strategy for upscaling projects – Process and guidance* [B]
- *The Strategic Agenda 2021-27 of EIT RawMaterials* [I]



- FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) that will be posted in the online Proposal submission platform “Seedbook” (<https://seedbook.eitrawmaterials.eu>), also containing explanations of the terminology used in this document; Project Coordinators should check this section regularly to ensure that they are fully informed and updated on important matters such as eligibility and evaluation criteria, advice on the compilation of the Proposal, costs and cost allocation. [I]

It is important to note that the documents listed above will be referred to in the Project Agreement and be either binding on the parties or used for interpretation of the parties’ obligations defined in the Project Agreement. Documents are marked above with a letter into brackets after the name of the document between binding (B) and for interpretation (I).

Definitions and acronyms are in Annex II.

In order to deliver on the higher education ambitions outlined in the new EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027, as well as the EIT RawMaterials Strategic Agenda 2021-2027, KAVA call 12 seeks Proposals for EIT-Labelled activities within the Master Education segment.

The two EIT Core KPIs on education are directly related to EIT-Label Education. For this reason EIT RawMaterials will seek Proposals on master education degree programmes that deliver on the following EIT Core KPIs:

- EITHE07.1/EITHE07.2-EITRIS : sum of graduates from EIT labelled master’s, PhD programmes and other education activities awarded the EIT Label
- EITHE05.1/EITHE05.2- EITRIS : Start-ups created by students enrolled and graduates from EIT-labelled programmes

In KAVA Call 12 EIT RawMaterials seeks five master’s degree programmes which fulfil the criteria described below in Pillars 1 and 2. Proposals should relate to programmes which already hold the EIT Label.

Pillar 1: Thematic Orientation

Based on the existing portfolio of EIT-Labelled Master Programmes in EIT RawMaterials Academy, EIT RawMaterials will seek to support five EIT-Labelled Master Programmes covering the following thematic orientations and disciplines.

- Master in Advanced Materials: Innovative Recycling
- Master in Advanced Materials for Innovation and Sustainability



- Master in resource engineering (Innovative Education in Geometallurgy and Circular Economy)
- Master in Sustainable Materials
- Master in Mineral Exploration

Based on the thematic parameters defined for each master programme, partners are encouraged to further develop an existing EIT-Labelled master's programme, while remaining within the requirements set by the EIT Label.

Master's Degree Programme 1: Advanced Materials: Innovative Recycling

EIT RawMaterials seeks an EIT-Labelled Master Programme in **Advanced Materials: Innovative Recycling**, which is already in possession of the EIT-Label, to be selected from KAVA Call 12. The selected master's degree programme will continue as an EIT-Labelled Master Programme in the Master School.

The program should equip students with vital skills in innovation, ethics, intellectual property, life cycle assessment, sustainability, and advanced research strategies. To foster entrepreneurial mindset through collaboration with affiliated businesses, incubators, innovation services and a diverse range of industries.

The program shall cultivate highly skilled European professionals specializing in diverse materials. Their expertise will empower them to innovate and implement large-scale, ambitious methods for materials recycling.

Master's Degree Programme 2: Advanced Materials for Innovation and Sustainability

EIT RawMaterials seeks an EIT-Labelled Master Programme in Advanced Materials for Innovation and Sustainability, which is already in possession of the EIT-Label, to be selected from KAVA Call 12. The selected master's degree programme will continue as an EIT-Labelled Master Programme in the Master School.

The principal aim is to impart students with a comprehensive grasp of the entire raw material value chain and instil in them an innovation and entrepreneurship mindset with a sustainability focus. The program addresses this goal through its emphasis on three core themes: the substitution of critical or toxic materials in products for enhanced performance, optimization of material chains for end-of-life products, and product and service design for a circular economy.

The program should strive to develop professionals who specialize in Material Science, placing specific emphasis on critical sectors like microelectronics, optics, bio-technologies, energy, communication, and the environment..



Master Degree Programme 3: Master in Georesource engineering (Innovative Education in Geometallurgy and Circular Economy)

EIT RawMaterials seeks an EIT-Labelled Master Programme in Georesource engineering (Innovative Education in Geometallurgy and Circular Economy), which is already in possession of the EIT-Label, to be selected from KAVA Call 12. The selected master's degree programme will continue as an EIT-Labelled Master Programme in the Master School.

The objective of this master's program should involve establishing a circular approach to mineral and metal resource extraction, encompassing the collection of end-of-life products and the recovery of valuable materials from urban mines (circular economy).

The master's program should aim to nurture a new generation of engineers who possess both an entrepreneurial mindset and a comprehensive understanding of the global value chain. The graduates should be qualified to work in the field of mining, building materials, non-ferrous metals production and circular economy of metals and mineral chemistry.

Master's Degree Programme 4: Master in Sustainable Materials

EIT RawMaterials seeks an EIT-Labelled Master Programme in Sustainable Materials, which is already in possession of the EIT-Label, to be selected from KAVA Call 12. The selected master's degree programme will continue as an EIT-Labelled Master Programme in the Master School.

The programme should provide young scientists with a robust foundation in chemistry and physics, empowering them to design and customize new material systems for distinct functions, all while embracing sustainability in materials development processes and technologies. The program should emphasize on innovation, entrepreneurship, and leadership, adopting a comprehensive approach to the materials paradigm. This includes delving into circular (eco) design, materials substitution, life cycle engineering, circular economy design, materials processing and recycling, as well as manufacturing and innovation.

Graduates should be able to start a career as highly valued future leaders in positions of responsibility in managing advanced material design, production processes and material qualifying protocols in high-tech firms, material diagnostics ect.

Master's Degree Programme 5: Master in Mineral Exploration

EIT RawMaterials seeks an EIT-Labelled Master Programme in Mineral Exploration, which is already in possession of the EIT-Label, to be selected from KAVA Call 12. The selected master's degree programme will continue as an EIT-Labelled Master Programme in the Master School.



The program shall place significant importance on practical field activities and the application of innovative exploration methods and solutions. Students should be expected to engage in intensive summer fieldwork. This should foster the development of their entrepreneurial, innovative, and socio-civic skills, with substantial support from both industrial and research partners.

Earth science specialist should be able to apply innovative mineral exploration methods and techniques in the field and integrate the collected data with comprehensive analytical and laboratory results.

Pillar 2: Programme development

Because EIT RawMaterials is seeking existing master's programmes which already hold the EIT Label, it is expected that Proposals will demonstrate a clear progression and innovation to further develop and improve the programmes under the proposed Project duration. Areas for development may include (but are not limited to):

- Plans to increase the number of students graduating from the programme (increased capacity)
- Plans to increase the number of start-ups created by students or graduates of the programme
- Integration of new curricular elements, especially relating to key European Commission policy priorities of Deep Tech and the Green and Digital Transitions
- Plans to obtain alternative funding and thereby secure the long-term viability of the programme after the end of EIT funding
- Plans to increase the number of EU students participating in the programme
- Plans to improve the tracking of graduates and strengthen the student and alumni community
- Plans to enhance the level of collaboration with non-Academic partners in the delivery of the programme and increase students' exposure to industry

All developments and programme adjustments must remain fully aligned with the key principles and overarching learning outcomes (OLOs) specified in the EIT Label Handbook and consistent with the previous successful award of the EIT Label to the programme.

The planned non-AVSA related budget shall not be more than 200.000€ per annum. Extracurricular activity such as summer schools should be reduced to the core needed to fulfil the label obligations and in line with the yearly non-AVSA budget. Programs shall aim to increase graduate targets



compared to the status quo, whilst reducing the amount of AVSA grants by 25 %. This goes along with the ambition to obtain alternative financing such as Erasmus Mundus, other country specific support and industry contributions.

Co-funding in the range of 5-10% will be evaluated positively.

Increase the status quo of the number of engaged companies in the program. Companies should advise the curriculum to obtain best possible industry fit. Furthermore companies should provide internships and Master thesis topics.

2. Project call and selection process

2.1. General rules and guiding principles

- All Projects must lead to specific deliverables and outputs over a defined time schedule
- Projects will be financed by EIT RawMaterials (the KIC) only for a defined duration.
- Proposals must meet the highest expectations and performance on the creation of impact (please refer to Strategic Agenda 2021-2027).
- Only the Proposals that are fully aligned with the EIT RawMaterials 2021-2027 Strategic Agenda will be considered for funding. In particular, the Proposal should address at least one of the topics listed in the [Lighthouse](#) Appendix and must be developed in close cooperation with the KIC staff that have been assigned to the Proposal. Proposals that do not address the topics listed in the Lighthouse Appendix will be considered for funding, but will be given lower priority.
- The EIT RawMaterials Lighthouses are the following :
 - Circular Societies
 - Sustainable Materials
 - Responsible Sourcing
- Partners may request up to 100% funding for eligible KAVA costs. Any co-funding contributed by the Project Consortium will be evaluated positively.
- A detailed work plan must be provided for each year of the Project duration at the time of Proposal submission. The work plan must contain major milestones to be achieved during every year of the funding period, including main deliverables and description of the envisaged Project.
- Deliverables must include a mandatory Final Report including number of participants, their institutions, gender ratio, the full set of teaching material (**with editable master files**), results of



training programme evaluations (participant surveys) and an explanation of whether and how the KAVA Project will be continued by the partners. The Final Report must include a conclusion.

- All Projects will be tracked, and their progress will be assessed for 5 years after the end of the funding period.
- In the case of a resubmission, it is mandatory to highlight the improvement performed.
- In case of a Proposal selected at Stage 1 of KAVA Call 11 that did not progress to Stage 2 due to not submitting a FINAL Proposal in time, the consortium must provide the reasons and resubmit a DRAFT Proposal at Stage 1 of KAVA 12.
- If a Proposal has already been supported with previous funds, please indicate them with the name of the Project as well as the source of funding.
- Specific tasks may be assigned to subcontractors, as long as the necessity is clearly justified and follows the general Horizon Europe principles. Please note that only a limited part (in budget and scope) of a Project may be subcontracted; depending on the scope of the work to be provided, it may be necessary for the entity to become a partner.
- It is possible to add other partners to the consortium after the Project selection, but without changes to the total KAVA budget allocated to the Project. Those partners have to be formally named to and approved by EIT RawMaterials, and in the case of a non-member to submit an EIT RawMaterials membership application.
- Regardless of the funding source, in general, if an entity incurs costs as part of a KAVA they need to become KIC partners (with the exception of the RIS task partners). In other words, non-members who receive funding, or who incur costs as a result of a KAVA (even if the funding is brought in by them) need to become partners, supply all documents, pay fees and report their costs, be subject to eligibility criteria etc. like any regular partner. Non-members who participate in a KAVA but receive no funding and incur no costs in the Project do not need to become partners. They need to sign the PA, however, because this includes statements on IP, confidentiality etc. that still need to be respected.

The Project duration can be from a minimum of 1 year to a maximum of 3 years.

For Lifelong Learning Proposals a market analysis must be included in the Proposal. Relevant feasibility and market aspects must be considered in a dedicated 'go-to-market' Work Package (WPO). WPO will be updated throughout the duration of the Project and enable go/no-go decisions following annual reviews.



- Above and beyond the specific EIT RawMaterials eligibility criteria, all Projects will have to comply with Horizon Europe and EIT rules, and with the conditions set in the current EIT RawMaterials Partnership Agreement (ParA).

Our Project selection process is designed to:

- continue to build the collaborative backbone of the KIC consortium and future service offerings.
- support the building of a networked community by encouraging partners to get involved in several Projects.
- create new programmes or redesign existing programmes, including a high degree of involvement of industry partners.
- enhance interest in and knowledge of the role and importance of raw materials in society.
- encourage the inclusion of SMEs as partners and/or customers in the Projects.
- align with, and clearly illustrate how Proposals will contribute to the EIT Core KPIs as detailed in the *Strategic Agenda 2021-2027* of EIT RawMaterials.

2.1.1 Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) specific conditions

The following applies for Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) Education Proposals:

- a) The majority of RIS Education Proposal's activities are executed in RIS countries;
- b) Activities need to provide benefits for RIS countries;
- c) Raise the innovation level of entities in RIS countries;
- d) Coordinated by a partner from RIS countries;

Contribute a reasonable/significant amount of EIT Core RIS KPIs from the Strategic Agenda 2021-27.

2.1.2. Budget, funding and costs

From 2023 the EIT and EIT RawMaterials change their operational modality to the so-called cascading system. Therefore, selected Projects will be following cascading modalities to administer the funding. The practical implementation details are currently being developed between the EIT and EIT RawMaterials, and will be to ensure eligibility and compliance under the Grant Agreement(s) to be



signed between the EIT and EIT RawMaterials, as well as Project Agreement(s) to be signed between EIT RawMaterials and the selected activities. Further details will be shared whenever they become available, either through amendment of the call, or updates to all applicants. EIT funded activities are part of Horizon Europe, general funding and cost eligibility regulations are governed by the Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement (AGA).

Expected budget and funding

The exact number of Projects to be funded in the framework of this call will depend on the quality of the received Proposals, and on the total available funding, with funding allocated to Lighthouse Projects that will depend on the overall strength of the Proposals. Lighthouse and non-Lighthouse Proposals will be evaluated together, and selection for funding will be based only on the eligibility, quality and strategy criteria outlined in Section 2 of this document (additional eligibility criteria apply to Lighthouse Projects as outlined in the 'Lighthouse Appendix' document, *such as the alignment of the proposals with EIT Raw Materials strategic frameworks, called Lighthouses, and that are the following: Responsible Sourcing, Sustainable Materials, and Circular societies.*).

Full scholarships Master's students are not in the funding scope of EIT RawMaterials. Tuition fees will also not be covered by the KIC. Please see the guidelines on added-value student activity (AVSA) grants for EIT-Labelled programmes (AVSA grants) – see the *Education Project Proposal: Guidance and Template for complementary information*.

Funding is disbursed on a yearly basis, with a certain percentage of pre-financing being paid as a lump sum during the course of the year, and a balance payment being paid during the following year on an actual-cost basis. Partners are expected to have at their disposal certain liquidity reserves for the periods between payments. A set of requirements, updated and communicated by EIT RM yearly, must be fulfilled before receiving any funding. All payments are conditional on the project implementation. Balance payments are conditional on fulfilling the cost eligibility rules and may be subject to an audit.

Cost eligibility

Specific tasks may be attributed to subcontractors, as long as the necessity is clearly justified and follows the general Horizon Europe principles (see [Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement](#) for more information). Please note that only a limited part (in budget and scope) of a



Project may be subcontracted; depending on the scope of the work to be provided, it may be necessary for the entity to become a partner.

It is possible to add other partners to the consortium after the Project selection, but without changes to the total KAVA budget allocated to the Project. Those partners have to be formally named to and approved by EIT RawMaterials, and in case of a non-member to submit an EIT RawMaterials membership application.

Regardless of the funding source, if an entity incurs costs as part of a KAVA they need to become KIC partners (with the exception of the RIS task partners). In other words, non-members who receive funding, or who incur costs as a result of a KAVA (even if the funding is brought in by them) need to become partners, supply all documents and pay fees; they need to report their costs, be subject to eligibility, etc. like any regular partner. Non-members who participate in a KAVA but receive no funding and incur no costs in the Project do not need to become partners. They need to sign the Project Agreement (PA), however, because this includes statements on IP, confidentiality, etc. that still need to be respected.

Above and beyond the specific EIT RawMaterials Eligibility criteria, all Projects must comply with Horizon Europe and EIT rules, and with the conditions set in the new EIT RawMaterials Partnership Agreement.

2.1.3 Activity implementation and reporting

A detailed work plan must be provided for each year of the Project duration at the time of Proposal submission. The work plan must contain major milestones to be achieved during each of the year(s) of the funding period, including main deliverables and description of the envisaged Project status.

Deliverables must include a mandatory Final Report and an explanation of whether and how the KAVA Project will be continued by the partners. The Final Report must include a Conclusion.

All Projects will be tracked and their progress will be assessed for five years after the end of the funding period.

In case some KPIs are planned outside of the funding period, the Proposal should also include a work-plan for the following period after the Project duration consisting in additional KPIs which implementation and compliance should be documented in annual reports (“Legacy Reporting”), as well as a work-plan for reporting revenues generated thanks to the results of the Project.

All Projects will be tracked by KIC and their progress will be assessed during the Project duration and up to five years after the end of the funding period. This includes onsite visits on short notice to



control effective implementation of tangible milestones. Revenue tracking remains for as long as the FSM agreement is in effect.

Milestones achievements, as reported by the Consortium and assessed by KIC, will be scored by KIC based on various criteria such as GTM strategy quality, risk management, project and agile change management, project progress.

Non-compliance with Milestones, or lack of reporting, which might result in impossibility to achieve a commercial use within the period defined in the Project may result in various sanctions which can go up to funding suspension or freezing, or the Consortium's obligation to repay the funds.

2.1.4 Re-application

In the case of a reapplication, it is mandatory to highlight the improvements made.

In case of a Proposal selected at Stage 1 of KAVA Call 11 that did not go to Stage 2 by submitting a FINAL Proposal in time, the consortium must provide the reasons and resubmit a DRAFT Proposal at Stage 1 of KAVA 12.

If a Proposal has already been supported with previous funds, please indicate them with the name of the Project as well as the source of funding.

2.1.5. Confidentiality, data protection and ethical considerations

Access to the Proposals will be given to EIT RawMaterials Management Team and to the evaluation panel conducting the evaluations. Everyone with access to the Proposal texts will have signed a non-disclosure and confidentiality agreement before access is granted.

The title, scope, summary, name of partners in the consortium, name of coordinator and overall budget of Projects approved for funding will be shared within the EIT RawMaterials community, and therefore will be made publicly available (e.g. on the EIT RawMaterials website, in presentations at conferences etc.). Public dissemination of the Project's main results and outcomes is a mandatory condition for funding, and will be arranged jointly by the consortium and EIT RawMaterials staff taking into account the consortium's legitimate confidentiality requirements.

All data and information related to the Proposal and its evaluation will be handled and stored in the 'SeedBook' platform according to EIT RawMaterials' customary procedures. The EIT RawMaterials Code of Conduct will be followed throughout the evaluation process. External evaluators will receive specific instructions on the evaluation process, and access to the Proposals will be granted to each evaluator only after the upload of her/his 'Evaluator Agreement' with provisions on confidentiality, conflicts of interest and code of conduct.



All Candidates are obligated to disclose any conflict of interest they might be facing as soon as they identify it, and shall comply with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination, and sound financial management.

2.2. Proposal preparation, submission, evaluation and selection process

2.2.1. Proposal preparation and registration

Matchmaking events organised at the Innovation Hub level or during the EIT RM Expert Forum will allow partners to discuss Project ideas and form potential consortia. It is mandatory for the Project coordinator to inform her/his Innovation Hub Manager of each Project Proposal to be submitted. The Innovation Hub staff, including the Education Manager, and the Thematic Officers/Senior Advisors provide guidance and support in order to:

- set up a solid consortium and find missing partner(s) if required
- advise and support the consortium with their Project Proposals to ensure they are in line with the evaluation and eligibility criteria

It is recommended to contact the Education Managers before submitting the FINAL Proposal using the SeedBook platform.

Final proposals must be registered by Wednesday 31 January 2024 at 13.00 CET (Berlin time) using the SeedBook online platform.

It is mandatory for all Candidates to register in the European Commission's Funding and Tenders Portal and obtain a Participant Identification Code (PIC) number.

The registration form will become available through SeedBook by mid-November 2023. Following registration, the Proposal will be assigned to a Project Officer who will be the primary point of contact with the Project Coordinator throughout the submission process. Note that Project Coordinators will be able to access the online Proposal submission template only after their Project has been registered and assigned to a Project Officer.

[A series of 3 Expert fora have been organised in the Fall of 2023 to facilitate networking among the Candidates and the generation of ideas for new proposals, and the Business developers and Education managers at EIT RawMaterials will be happy to inform any organisation wishing to apply for this call.](#)

2.2.2. Proposal submission

The Proposal submission will take place in one stage, with a FINAL Proposal.



Coordinators must submit the FINAL Proposal Proposal no later than Wednesday 31 January 2024 at 13.00 CET (Berlin time) using the SeedBook online platform.

The attached *Education Project Proposal: Guidance and Template for complementary information* offers guidance for the content of the Proposal.

2.2.3. Proposal evaluation and selection process

The **FINAL Proposals** will be evaluated according to three sets of criteria :

Eligibility criteria - mandatory requirements (Proposals that do not meet such criteria will not be considered for further evaluation), as described in section 2.3 below.

Quality criteria - quality criteria against which the collected Proposals will be scored and ranked by external evaluators, according to the evaluation grid presented in section 2.4 below.

Strategy criteria - strategy criteria against which the collected Proposals will be scored and ranked by the EIT RawMaterials Management Team, according to the evaluation grid presented in section 2.5 below.

Eligible Proposals will be selected based on the quality and strategy criteria ranking. Quality criteria (external evaluation) account for 50% of the final score, while strategy criteria (EIT RawMaterials evaluation) account for 50%.

The quality of Proposals will be evaluated by a panel of external experts appointed by the EIT RawMaterials Management Team. EIT RawMaterials will strive to achieve balance in the evaluators' gender and geographic provenance.

- All members of the evaluation panel will sign non-disclosure and conflict of interest agreements.
- A minimum of three experts will be assigned to the evaluation of each Proposal.
- In the first step, these assigned experts evaluate each Proposal remotely using the criteria set out in the 2.4 Quality Criteria grid.
- A final evaluation of all Proposals is conducted by the entire panel (with the exclusion of any member with a conflict of interest). The strengths and weaknesses of each Proposal as perceived by the panel will be documented and communicated to the Project Coordinator once the evaluation process is completed.
- EIT Raw materials staff and management will act as the secretaries of the panel and facilitate the discussion during evaluation panel meetings but will otherwise not take part in the evaluation process.



Evaluation of Proposals according to the strategy criteria will be evaluated using the criteria set out in the 2.5 Strategy Criteria grid. The final selection of all Proposals is conducted by the EIT RawMaterials Managing Board using the same criteria. The strengths and weaknesses of each Project will be documented and communicated to the Project Coordinator once the evaluation process is completed.

Based on the evaluation and the overall available funding, the EIT RawMaterials Managing Board will propose a portfolio of Projects to be funded. The Executive Board will approve the portfolio of Projects to be submitted to the EIT for funding, for the Business Plan 2021-2022.

Successful and unsuccessful Candidates will be informed via email within five working days following the day of the final decision by the Executive Board. Coordinators of Projects that are selected for funding also receive feedback from the evaluation panels. The feedback may include a list of requested changes that must be made by the Project Coordinator before the Project can be given the final approval.

Final recipients of funding will be obligated to comply with the IPR rules under Article 16 of the MGA. A standstill period of 30 days shall be in effect.

Also following approval by the Executive Board, coordinators of Projects that were not selected for funding will be informed. They will receive evaluation feedback as soon as it is finalised. A appeal and redress procedure will be available, see chapter 2.8.

2.3. Eligibility criteria

Eligibility will be checked at the time of Proposal submission and at the time of signing the Project Agreement, and apply throughout the Project's funding period. In line with Horizon Europe rules, Proposals that do not meet all the eligibility criteria at the time of **FINAL Proposal** submission will be deemed ineligible and will not be evaluated. Proposals that do not meet all the eligibility criteria at the time of the signing of the Project Agreement will be deemed ineligible and will not be funded. After the signing of the Project Agreement, EIT RawMaterials will not consider any changes that impact on eligibility criteria, and the Project will be immediately terminated if these are not met. The following criteria apply to Education Proposals:

- It must be clearly explained how the Proposal is aligned with the Strategic Agenda 2021-27 of EIT RawMaterials (FPA, Annex I).
- The Project consortium must consist of a minimum of two Project participants, coming from a minimum of two different countries.



- The lead Project participant must be a Core or Associate Partner (or Linked Third Party to a Core or Associate Partner) of EIT RawMaterials by the time the Project starts.
- The Project consortium must include KIC partners from at least two sides of the knowledge triangle (education, research, industry/business - as defined in the partner registration documentation).
- Project participants that are non-members are eligible to apply only if they submit an EIT RawMaterials membership application by early July 2024. Failure to apply for EIT RawMaterials membership by early July 2024 will result in their removal (including the requested funding) from the Proposal (note that the Project will be immediately terminated if eligibility criteria are not met at this stage).
- The Project cannot have one partner (including its Linked Third Parties) as the Work Package leader in all Work Packages. In most Projects, it is envisaged (but not mandatory) that each partner will lead at least one WP, and that no more than 50% of the EIT funding will be assigned to any one partner (justification to be provided otherwise).
- A detailed work plan must be provided for each year of the Project duration at the time of Proposal submission, including determined milestones planning as described under section 2.1.
- All Proposals must include a 'Dissemination and Communication Plan' work package, following the communications guidelines included in the document '*EIT RawMaterials Communication and Dissemination Guidance*'.
- All Lifelong Learning Proposals must include a 'Go-to-market strategy' as Work Package 0.
- All Proposals must include a 'Project Management' work package, following the guidelines included in the document '*EIT RawMaterials Project Management Guidance*'. The Project should be managed by a Project manager (PM) with relevant expertise in managing complex Projects. Her/his profile can differ from the PC's, and s/he should commit to the Project with 15% FTE, to be monitored with timesheets (timesheet approved internally + declaration of honour) during Project reporting. A one-page CV of the PM must be provided.
- Lifelong Learning Proposals must include a model of revenue generation through joint service creation together with EIT RawMaterials, in addition to the contribution of co-funding. There is no pre-set nor preferred model as this is highly dependent on the type and scope of the Project. The model must be developed in consultation with the KIC and must be described in the Proposal
- Additional eligibility criteria apply to Lighthouse Proposals as outlined in the document '*Lighthouse Appendix*', such as the alignment of the proposals with EIT Raw Materials strategic frameworks, called Lighthouses, and that are the following: Responsible Sourcing, Sustainable Materials, and Circular societies.



2.4. Quality criteria

Weight	Description of criteria (bullet points refer to examples but these are not exhaustive, and not all the points must be addressed in each Project)
7	<p>1. Innovation capacity</p> <p>Overall rationale for the Project's importance for the development of human capital for the sector</p> <p>Innovation capacity compared with current practice</p> <p>Contribution to EIT Core KPIs</p> <p>Pedagogic/andragogic approach and innovation</p> <p>Economic importance of the targeted theme/market (market size, breadth of customers/applications)</p> <p>Potential to deliver tangible results and products, processes or services that have not been delivered by other institutions</p> <p>Creation of synergies with other actors in the local ecosystem to create an impact beyond the Project itself</p> <p>Potential for students to transform knowledge into business</p>
7	<p>2. Quality of the Project definition and scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanation of the raw materials challenge addressed by this Project and why the Project will deliver robust solutions (background, current situation, issues and opportunities – specifically pertaining to EIT RawMaterials) • Quantitative demonstration of short-term and long-term impact of the Project, especially illustrating how the Project impact will contribute solutions to societal and industrial challenges • Detailed, step-by-step Project work plan, broken down into design, implementation and post-EIT funding phases and defining work packages, management and milestones to show how the Project delivers value to the Project consortium and its key stakeholders during and beyond the Project



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of aims, objectives and deliverables and their relevance to EIT RawMaterials • Demonstration of the Project's added value in terms of entrepreneurship and innovation • Details of how the funds are to be used in the form of a clear budget plan and timeline with justification • Identification of key risks and success factors supplemented with a mitigation strategy to overcome those risks • Effective and comprehensive communication and dissemination plan, building on the communication guidelines • A level of excellence is expected on the content and description of the work packages to generate optimal impact
3	<p>3. Quality of the consortium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance and demonstrated commitment of the lead partner • Relevant experience, expertise and resources, and demonstrated commitment and engagement of each of the partners • Project governance structure and operational coordination mechanisms • Diversity and complementarity of the partners, and clear definition and description of roles and responsibilities with justification of why these partners were selected • Appropriate level of cooperation and interaction within the consortium • Active involvement of industrial and/or start-up/SME partners in the teaching and learning, with a clear definition and description of their role and responsibility within the Project •
3	<p>4. Business Potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soundness of the Proposal from a demand perspective



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Lifelong Learning Proposals: competitive advantage over existing offers in the European marketplace, including an overview of the existing offers and price-benchmarking against existing competitors • Expected financial sustainability for the continuation of the programme
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Total weight =20

The score given by the panel for each criterion will then be multiplied by the weight. Maximum score is 100 = 20 (total weight) * 5 (maximum score for each criterion). These quantitative scores will be used as input for the consensus evaluation panel.

2.5. Strategy criteria

Weight	Description of criteria
8	<p>1. Strategic importance for the KIC</p> <p>Overall contribution to the KIC’s objectives, strategic agenda and to the EU dimension</p>
8	<p>2. Expected impact for the KIC (return on KAVA investment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realistic assessment of the expected contribution that the Project will make to the impact of the KIC in terms of its EIT core and impact KPIs (see the Strategic Agenda 2021-2027 of EIT RawMaterials) in relation to the requested budget • KAVA co-funding brought by the consortium • EIT Core KPIs to fulfill, and to be achieved during the funding period, EITHE07.1 : sum of graduates from EIT labelled master’s, PhD programmes and other education activities awarded the EIT Label , and EITHE05.1 : Start-ups created by students enrolled and graduates from EIT-labelled programmes
4	<p>3. Completeness and Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment with feedback given by EIT RawMaterials on previous submissions (if applicable) • Quality of the Project budget definition: clear explanation and justification of costs, proper balance of costs among partners in line with their assigned roles



Total weight =20

The score given by the panel for each criterion will then be multiplied by the weight. Maximum score is 100 = 20 (total weight) * 5 (maximum score for each criterion). These quantitative scores will be used as input for the consensus evaluation panel.

Evaluation scale: In relation to each of the criteria above, each Project will be scored from 0 to 5 according to the following scale, and we reserve the right to ask the applicant / consortium for pitching of the FINAL proposal, (after the eligibility check for eligible proposals only). This would contribute to the evaluation of the final proposal and scoring according to the quality and/or strategy criteria"

0	Non-existent: no relevant information provided in the application file or cannot be judged because out of range
1	Very poor: The criterion is addressed in a very incomplete and unsatisfactory manner
2	Poor: There are serious inherent weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question
3	Fair: While the Proposal addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses that would need correction
4	Good: The Proposal addresses the criterion well, although some improvements are possible
5	Excellent: The Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor only



2.6. Call timeline

Thursday 16 November 2023	Launch of call
Thursday 16 November 2023	The Proposal submission platform “Seedbook” (https://seedbook.eitrawmaterials.eu) goes online
Wednesday 31 st January 2024 at 13.00 CET	FINAL Proposal SUBMISSION deadline
Thursday 1st February to end of February 2024	Evaluation by panel of external experts
End of February 2024	Preparation of list of Projects for funding by KIC Management Team
Starting March 2024	Approval of list of Projects for funding by KIC Executive Board & communication to partners
Starting March to end of March 2024	Response to changes requested by the Selection Panel (‘Change requests’) and inclusion of selected Projects in Business Plan 2023-2025
Early April 2024	Registration of new partners
January 2025	Earliest starting date for approved Projects (to be confirmed)
To be confirmed	EIT approval of Project portfolio after all the requests for clarification have been satisfied (to be confirmed)

2.7. Registration and Proposal submission using SeedBook

Registrations and Proposals can **only** be submitted using the IT tool SeedBook. Project Coordinators are invited to register via this link <https://seedbook.eitrawmaterials.eu> from mid-September 2021



to get the access to the tool, register their Proposal and commence the Proposal submission process. Innovation Hub staff will assist in using the IT tool.

The **FINAL Proposals** must be submitted by **Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 13.00 CET (Berlin time)**.

2.8. Appeal and redress procedure

Upon reception of the feedback, the applicant may wish to lodge a request for redress, if there is a concern that there might have been a shortcoming in the way a Proposal was evaluated, or if the results of the eligibility checks are incorrect. The redress procedure is not meant to call into question the judgement made by the expert-evaluators. It will consider only procedural shortcomings and factual errors.

Requests for redress should be raised within one month of the reception of the evaluation feedback sent by EIT RawMaterials, and should be sent to compliance@eitrawmaterials.eu. Requests must:

- be related to the evaluation process, or eligibility checks;
- include a clear description of the grounds for the complaint.
- be received within the time limit specified above.

An initial reply will be sent to complainants no later than two weeks after the deadline for redress requests. This initial reply will indicate when a definitive reply will be provided. A redress committee of EIT RawMaterials may be convened to examine the evaluation process for the case under consideration. The committee's role is to ensure a coherent interpretation of requests, and equal treatment of applicants. The redress committee itself, however, does not re-evaluate the Proposal. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the committee may review the evaluation report, the individual comments and examine the CVs of the evaluation experts. Following its review, the committee will recommend a course of action to the EIT RawMaterials Operational Management Team (OMT). If there is clear evidence of a shortcoming that could affect the funding decision, it is possible that all or part of the Proposal may be re-evaluated. Unless there is clear evidence of a shortcoming there will be no follow-up or re-evaluation. The Executive Board of EIT RawMaterials will be informed of any redress procedures in due course.

Please note:

- This procedure is concerned with the evaluation and/or eligibility checking process.
- The committee will not call into question the judgment of the individual expert-evaluators, whose qualifications have been already assessed and validated.



- A re-evaluation will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that affects the quality assessment of a Proposal. This means, for example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if a Proposal has anyhow failed on other criteria.
- The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. It may be lower than the original score.
- Only one request for redress per Proposal will be considered by the committee.
- All requests for redress will be treated confidentially.

For all three KAVA types (PhD summer/winter schools, Lifelong Learning and Master Education), funded activities can include:

- Partner costs for development, establishment, recruitment, marketing and communications, administration and coordination.
- Promotional activities to attract participants to relevant courses, programmes and events etc.
- Development of innovative education tools e.g. online education, learning-by-doing modules, virtual education, MOOCs etc. (including costs e.g. for hardware, time, travel)
- Follow-up activities related to KAVA Projects that were previously granted funding. In this case, please provide an explanation of the outcomes from the first Project as well as how the follow-up Project will build on the results of the first Project, and see the *Education Project Proposal: Guidance and Template for Complementary Information* for further considerations to be taken into account.



Annex I: Partner Categories At-a-Glance

	Core Partner	Associate Partner	Project Partner	Task Partner (for RIS)
KIC (e.V.) Member	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Governance • KIC Level	GA Attendance, right of speech, ask questions	GA Attendance, right of speech, ask questions	GA Attendance, right of speech, ask questions	No
	Full vote in GA	One delegate per CLC in GA	One of their number for all Project Partners in case of AoA amendm./ modific.	No
	• CLC Level	In CLC Steering Committee	In CLC Steering Committee	Part of a respective regional CLC (CLC internal rules to apply)
Number of annual activities / Leading a KAVA	Unlimited / Yes	Unlimited / Yes	Unlimited / No	Dedicated events and activities / No
Annual KIC funding ceiling*	Unlimited	EUR 300.000	EUR 100.000 (as in proposal)	60K, selected via open call
Annual Cash contribution	EUR 100.000 as membership fee	EUR 30.000 as membership fee	EUR 10.000 as membership fee	None
Horizon Europe treatment	Third Party	Third Party	Third Party	Third Party dependent on TP Patron



Annex II: Definitions and Acronyms

DEFINITIONS:

KPI(s): Key performance indicators – quantifiable indicators of the key project results, used for reporting and controlling how successful the project is in producing the desired results.

Milestones: Significant scheduled events in the project lifecycle occurring upon achieving a key planned result.

Project: the future activity described in a Proposal. It comes into existence only once the Proposal is selected and becomes a Selected proposal.

Proposal: a written document describing a future project which a number of participants (the consortium) wish to implement after receiving funding by the KIC.

Proposal submission: the act of officially submitting a Proposal for evaluation by the KIC.

Selected proposal: a Proposal which is officially confirmed to be funded by the KIC.

Upscaling: the activity of bringing a technology to a higher TRL level.

Candidate: a legal entity (LE) working on or having completed a Proposal submission.

Project participant: a legal entity (LE) taking part in a Project; can be a former Candidate, or can enter the Project at a later stage; can be funded by KIC, or participating only through 'co-funding' (own money) or funding from a non-Horizon Europe program (like UK national funding). Must become a KIC Partner in order to be eligible to receive EIT funding. Sub-contractors are not considered participants, and KIC Partners cannot be sub-contractors in a Project, they must be a participant.

Consortium: all Project participants together form the Consortium. A Project Agreement is not valid unless all Project participants - forming the Consortium have-signed it.

Lead partner: a Project participant responsible to lead and coordinate the Consortium; the Lead partner appoints the Project coordinator.

Commercialising partner(s) - the Project participant(s) responsible for bringing the project results to the market. Depending on the situation, that might be one or more Candidates, a newly entered Project participant, or a newly created startup/joint venture.

Partner (or 'Partner organisation') means a legal entity which is a member of a KIC and may include, in particular, higher education institutions, vocational education and training providers, research organisations, public institutions, public or private companies, financial institutions, regional and local authorities, foundations and not-for-profit organisations.

Member: Legal Entity (LE) (ies) who have applied and been accepted as members of the e.V. KIC LE. Depending on the membership tier, their voting rights and funding thresholds vary.

Linked Third Party (LTP), also called an Affiliated Entity, is a legal entity which has a close relationship with a Member through shared ownership, control, or influence.



They are not a Member but can participate in a Project and then share the benefits and obligations of the Member they are linked to.

Project coordinator: a person appointed by the Lead partner, who acts on behalf of the Consortium and steers the Project activities, 'has overall responsibility for the project; is the first point of contact between EIT RawMaterials and the consortium; is responsible for entering and updating data and information in SeedBook and BlueBook on behalf of the consortium, for submitting the proposal in SeedBook and for coordinating the smooth transition into BlueBook (response to feedback, change requests, project reviews, etc.). The Project Coordinator is also responsible for 1) defining the mechanisms for the generation of the financial backflow to the KIC and 2) the clear identification of the total amount and the entity/ies that will provide this backflow.' (taken from the Project Management Guidance).

Project officer: a person assigned by KIC LE to accompany the Consortium throughout the project implementation. The PO is the main contact person for the PC regarding all matters concerning the Project's agreements, reporting, and other implementation topics.

ACRONYMS:

- FSM: Financial sustainability mechanism.
- ROI: Return on investment.
- PIC: Participant Identification Code.
- TRL: Technology readiness level.
- RIS: Regional Innovation Scheme.
- KAVA: KIC added value activity.