Business Plan 2023 – 2025

EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative
Call for Training Proposals 2025

Call Guidelines

Index

1. Call Summary

Disclaimer: *The information given in this document is subject to revision, according to new potential rules or requirements provided by EIT and/or by the EC.*

This Call does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding.

There may be circumstances that may require the cancellation of the call which is possible up until the signature of the subgrant agreement. In this case, you will be informed via a call update. This decision must be substantiated, and the applicants must be notified. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.

EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative Call for Training Proposals 2025 Main Features	
Dates[1]	**Call publication:** 13 February 2025 **Call opening:** 25 February 2025 at 10:00 CET **Call closing:** 8 April 2025 17:00 CEST **Evaluation of proposals (including Eligibility and admissibility check):** April-May 2025 **Communication of results:** May 2025 **Stand-still period:** May-June 2025 **Start date of the projects:** 30 June 2025
Introduction	The EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative Call for Training Proposals 2025 is open to legal entities that are already Pledgers of the initiative or that become Pledgers. Proposals should aim to enhance, improve, expand, or update deep tech training content and programmes across any of the 15 deep tech areas.
Duration of the projects	6 months
Type of participants	Multi-beneficiary. The consortium must include minimum 2 independent legal entities, coming from at least 2 different eligible countries:

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[1] Please note that this calendar is indicative. Dates might be subject to slight changes.

	- At least one partner must come from a Member State (MS). - The other partner can be from either MS or Associated Countries (AC).
The total budget allocated to this call	Up to EUR 1 million. Each consortium may request up to EUR 60 000 budget.
Links to the submission tool	- Not a DTTI Pledger? Join the Pledge before applying https://www.eitdeeptechtalent.eu/the-pledge/join-the-pledge/ - A DTTI Pledger? Log in to the submission tool [This link will be available upon call opening on the 25 February 2025 at 10:00 CET]
List of documents to be submitted	Application form to be completed on the submission tool
List of documents to take into consideration	- Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement - Appeal and Redress Procedure - Eligibility of Expenditures - Financial Support Agreement, including Annexes - Activities Monitoring Process Guidelines - Call Q&A
Evaluation criteria	*Evaluation criteria assessed by the independent experts*: - Excellence - Impact - Quality and efficiency of the implementation - Strategic fit - European dimension

2. Call General Conditions

2.1 Introduction to EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative

In alignment with the European Commission's New European Innovation Agenda, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is contributing to a deep tech talent pool across Europe with its **EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative**.

The process is guided by the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) 2021-2027, which sets the strategic direction, priorities, and objectives of EIT and its Knowledge and Innovation Communities (EIT KICs), as well as by the EIT Community Education Business Plan 2023-2025.

The EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative is a pioneering programme led by the European Institute of Technology and Innovation (EIT) that will skill one million people within deep tech fields. Deep tech innovations – cutting-edge technological solutions combining fields of science and engineering in the physical, biological and digital spheres – are indispensable in addressing the most pressing global challenges. The Deep Tech Talent Initiative started in the early 2023, with the objective to train one million talents in deep tech fields by the end of 2025.

For additional information, visit https://www.eitdeeptechtalent.eu/

2.2 EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative Call for Training Proposals 2025

The EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative Call for Training Proposals 2025 is designed to engage a wide array of organizations committed to pioneering the future of deep technology education and skill development across Europe.

Addressing this goal requires innovative approaches to training and education that meet current industry standards and anticipate the needs of the future. Therefore, applicants to this Call for Training Proposals must demonstrate a history of success in tackling deep tech training challenges and a forward-thinking vision that contributes to sustainable, long-term impact in the deep tech ecosystem.

Proposals should reflect on past achievements and outline a clear and actionable future training implementation plan for skilling, reskilling, and upskilling people across Europe These strategies should aim to achieve scalable solutions that can be adapted and replicated across different contexts and communities, thereby amplifying the Initiative's impact on a pan-European scale.

In alignment with the European Commission's New European Innovation Agenda, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is contributing to a deep tech talent pool across Europe with its EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative.

The process is guided by the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) 2021-2027, which sets the strategic direction, priorities, and objectives of EIT and its Knowledge and Innovation Communities (EIT KICs), as well as by the EIT Community Education Business Plan 2023-2025. The Deep Tech Talent Initiative is a pioneering programme led by the European Institute of Technology and Innovation (EIT) that will skill one million people within deep tech fields. Deep tech innovations – cutting-edge technological solutions combining fields of science and engineering in the physical, biological and digital spheres – are indispensable in addressing the most pressing global challenges. The Deep Tech Talent Initiative started in the early 2023, with the objective to train one million talents in deep tech fields by the end of 2025.

For additional information, visit https://www.eitdeeptechtalent.eu/

The Call will be managed by EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative team led by EIT Manufacturing, with contributions from EIT Raw Materials, EIT Urban Mobility, EIT Health, and EIT Food.

3. Call Specific Conditions

3.1 Topic Description

The Call 2025 will have **three objectives**:

(1) Increase the number of people trained in deep tech in Europe. These should come from the following categories covered by the Initiative:

- o Students of Higher Education with a need for more specialised training in deep tech;
- o Adult Learners in companies and on the job market who need additional skills in deep tech.

(2) Expand, improve, and diversify the DTTI training catalogue;[2]

(3) Foster collaboration between the DTTI Pledgers (over 390 by the end of 2024).

Applicants may apply for funding to support trainings in one of the **15 deep tech areas** specified on the DTT website:[3]

1. Advanced Computing / Quantum Computing
2. Advanced Manufacturing
3. Advanced Materials
4. Aerospace, Automotive and Remote Sensing
5. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, including Big Data
6. Biotechnology and Life Sciences
7. Communications and Networks, including 5G
8. Cybersecurity and Data Protection
9. Electronics and Photonics
10. Internet of Things, W3C, Semantic Web
11. Robotics
12. Semiconductors (microchips)
13. Sustainable Energy and Clean Technologies
14. Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Metaverse
15. Web 3.0, including Blockchain, Distributed Ledgers, NFTs

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[2] https://www.eitdeeptechtalent.eu/courses/

[3] https://www.eitdeeptechtalent.eu/the-initiative/what-is-deep-tech/

Applications must focus on enhancing, improving, expanding, or updating deep tech training content and programmes across any of the 15 deep tech areas. Improvements may include digitalization, enhancing accessibility, increasing participation of women and other underrepresented groups, scaling up, fostering international collaboration, localizing content to different languages, establishing new academia /industry /NGO / government / etc partnerships, or updating programmes with new deep tech curriculum and more ambitious and impactful KPIs, inter alia.

3.2 Applicants Profile

Entities eligible to participate[4]

Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organisations, is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation[5] have been met, along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call topic.

A 'legal entity' means any legal person created and recognised as such under national law, EU law, or international law, which has legal personality, and which may, acting in its name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations.

Entities eligible for funding

To be **eligible** for funding, the applicants must meet the following criteria by the proposal submission deadline:

- The call is open to the Member States of the European Union, including their outermost regions:
  - Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania,

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[4] Based on the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506) on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary, effective as of 16th December *2022, no legal commitments shall be entered into with any public interest trust established on the basis of the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity maintained by such a public interest trust.*

[5] Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170 , 12.5.2021, p. 1)

Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

- o the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the Member States.
- o the countries associated with Horizon Europe and the low- and middle-income countries.[6]
- o Following the announcement of the conclusion of successful negotiations between the European Commission and Switzerland on Switzerland's association with Horizon Europe, it is important to note that the transitional arrangements in place while waiting for the signature of the Switzerland's Association Agreement do not apply to cascading funding of the EIT KICs (Financial Support to Third Parties). Therefore, Swiss entities can apply to this call for proposals but will not be eligible and awarded any funding before the signature of said Association Agreement. The signature of the Association Agreement will not have retroactive effects to 1 January 2025 for cascading grants. The eligibility of Swiss partners for EIT funding will be assessed at the end of the selection process of the call.

- All entities participating in this call for proposals must become Pledgers (have their pledge submitted) as early as possible and no later than 10 working days before the call closing, that is, by 25 March 2025 17:00 CET; otherwise, they may not be eligible for funding.[7]
- All Pledgers who have joined by 31 December 2024, must have their 2023-2024 reports fully completed in all required sections by the time of application submission, whereas all pledgers joining from 1 January 2025 onwards, must submit their reports as a precondition for pre-financing, if successful.
- Applicants should not have received funding from the DTTI Prize 2023[8] or from DTTI Call for Training Proposals 2024[9] for the same actions of the application of the Call 2025.
- Applicants cannot be EIT KICs.

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[6] See the Horizon Europe List of Participating Countries on the Portal for an up-to-date list of these countries https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

[7] https://www.eitdeeptechtalent.eu/the-pledge/join-the-pledge/

[8] https://www.eitdeeptechtalent.eu/calls-and-opportunities/training-prize/

[9] https://www.eitdeeptechtalent.eu/calls-and-opportunities/eit-deep-tech-talent-initiative-call-for-training-proposals/

- Applicants must register in the Participant Register to obtain a PIC number and in the submission system[10] before the call deadline (check Chapter 4 for consequences of not compliance).

Only legal entities forming a consortium are eligible to participate. <u>The consortium must include minimum 2 independent legal entities, coming from at least 2 different eligible countries, and respecting the following conditions:</u>

- At least one partner must come from a Member State (MS).
- The other partner can be from either MS or Associated Countries (AC).

One consortium member must take the role of the Activity Leader (Coordinator). The Activity Leader will be the direct contact for EIT Manufacturing team members in charge of the coordination of the consortium, including the implementation of the workplan, the execution of the budget, the submission of the deliverables, the risk management and mitigation and the impact achievements of the overall activity. The role of Activity Leader is open to any entity participating to the call for proposals.

3.3 Integration of RIS aspects

EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative team fosters the participation of organisations from countries with moderate or emerging innovation scores, as defined by the <u>European Innovation Scoreboard</u>, in its activities. Applicants from countries under the <u>Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS)</u> are strongly encouraged to apply. Additionally, applicants not from RIS countries are encouraged to design projects that will have a significant impact on RIS regions.

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[10] You shall make sure that the information that you are providing on the submission tool is consistent with the legal information connected to your PIC (legal name, VAT, registration number, legal address, LEAR – legally appointed representative responsible for updating the organisation's information on the EU participant portal).

3.4 Expected Impact and Main Outcomes

Project results are expected to contribute to the following expected impact:

- **Mitigate the deep tech skills gap** in Europe by equipping a diverse and inclusive workforce with critical competencies, enabling innovation across key technological areas.
- **Position Europe as a leader** in deep tech talent development, fostering creativity, inclusivity, and collaboration in training methodologies and curriculum design.
- **Enhance Europe's global competitiveness** in deep tech industries while supporting the digital and green transitions through an empowered, well-trained, and gender-balanced workforce.

Successful training programmes developed through the call are expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- **Bridging the Deep Tech Skills Gap**: Specifically target and mitigate the skills shortages in the deep tech areas covered by the DTTI. The proposals should describe efforts to reach a goal of **at least 300 trained learners** by the end 2025, of which at **least 30% women**.
- **Fostering Creativity and Innovation in Deep Tech Curriculum Design**: Support the development of innovative training methodologies that encourage creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking among participants. Any type of training can be envisaged: online, onsite, hybrid, workshops, seminars, master and doctoral programmes, summer or winter schools, if they meet the outlined criteria.
- **Enhancing Programme Appeal and Reach**: Focus on empowering underrepresented groups through training programmes, such as increasing women participation, attracting other under-represented minorities, or ensuring inclusivity across all EU members states, especially RIS countries, with moderate or emerging innovation scores according to the European Innovation Scoreboard (see Section 3.3).
- **Adhering to High Standards**: All courses must adhere to the DTTI Quality Check (QC) standards by adherence to specified mandatory criteria that uphold the quality and relevance of deep tech training.
- **Collaborative Efforts**: Applications must involve a consortium of at least two entities, demonstrating a collaborative approach to deep tech training. All partners must be or become pledgers of the Deep Tech Talent Initiative.

3.5 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Every proposal must contribute to the following KPI

Applicants requesting a higher budget are encouraged to aim for a higher KPI target than the minimum required, provided it is credible and well-justified.

Note that once the KPI value is submitted, it cannot be reduced—only increases are allowed—and it will remain fixed as the target to be achieved by the end of the activity.

Short title	Minimum Target
Talents trained on deep tech	300

3.6 Project Implementation Phases and Mandatory Work Packages

Activities must cover a duration of 6 months and be completed by the end of 2025.

The funded project implementation will be structured in two phases:

Phase 1: This phase will run from 30 June 2025 to September 2025 and will include the followings steps:

- Enhancing, improving, expanding, or updating deep tech training content and programmes Submitting of the training content to the QC process and getting it approved.

The Quality Check will be conducted by the DTTI team according to the procedure specified on the DTTI website.[11]

*It is **imperative** that all funded projects submit the redesigned course to the Quality Check (QC) team by **4 August 2025**. Failure to meet this deadline will result in the project **not being able to continue its implementation**. After submission, teams must remain active and respond promptly to any information requests from the QC team throughout August.*

*On **1 September 2025**, the QC team will hold a panel meeting to evaluate the submitted courses. If a course receives a **positive evaluation**, it can proceed to Phase 2. However, if a course is classified as **"Conditionally Accepted (minor changes required)"** or **"Not Accepted (revise and***

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[11] https://www.eitdeeptechtalent.eu/courses/quality-check/

resubmit)," *teams must stay highly engaged throughout September. The QC team will request additional information, and teams must be available for calls to revise their courses and meet QC requirements.*

In **late September/early October 2025***, a second QC panel will be held. If a course fails this second quality check, the project* **will not** *be able to continue its implementation under the DTTI funding.*

Please note: The QC results will be communicated a few days after the panel meeting.

The funded projects will need to follow the instructions on the DTTI website carefully to ensure a complete and well-prepared application for the QC of their courses. If you need any assistance, please contact the QC team at the following email quality-check@eitdeeptechtalent.eu

Phase 2: This phase will run from October until December 2025 and will include the following steps:

- Launching and executing the training programmes, applying the curriculum in practical and impactful ways to cultivate deep tech expertise among participants.
- Meeting the KPI requirement of learners per project.
- Submitting the implementation report.
- Submitting of KPI data via the DTTI reporting tool.

Phase 2, including final reporting[12] on the number of successful graduates of the trainings, should be concluded by the end of the DTTI current Business Plan (31st December 2025).

The following mandatory deliverables are expected:

Work Package	Deliverable name	Due date
WP 1 (from month 1 to month 6): Project management	D1.1: Kick-off package. This package includes the signed Financial Support Agreement and Declaration of Honour.	M1
WP 2 (from month 1 to month 3): Training programme development	D2.1: Progress performance report. This report includes the results of Phase 1 as well as the dissemination and communication plan.	M3

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[12] https://www.eitdeeptechtalent.eu/the-pledge/faq/

WP 3 (from month 3 to month 6): Training programme delivery	D3.1: Final performance report. The report includes the results of Phase 2 and the KPI justification.	M6

The templates for the deliverables are provided by the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative team.

3.7 Available Budget and Co-funding

The total maximum EIT funding allocated to this call is up to 1 million EUR. Each consortium may request up to 60 000 EUR.

The EIT funding will take the form of a lump sum grant, covering up to 100% of the eligible costs. While co-funding is not requested, applicants may provide additional funding from their own resources or other sources to enhance the project's scope and impact. Consortia may include partners that bring with their own funding.

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

Please note that the information above is provided for information only and does not constitute any kind of commitment on behalf of EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative team. Final EIT funding allocated might vary significantly based on the number of proposals evaluated and selected and other factors.

The exact number of activities to be funded will depend on the quality of the proposals received and the total funding available.

3.8 Payment Scheme

The grant will be transferred in two (2) instalments:

- **25% Pre-financing**: Paid at the start of the project, upon the signature of all contractual documents with EIT Manufacturing. This pre-financing is intended to provide initial financial support for project activities.

- **75% Final Payment (Balance)**: Paid after the official closing of the project, upon the acceptance by EIT Manufacturing of all completed work packages (as outlined in paragraph 3.6).

The assessment of work packages under the lump sum model will follow the same standards as for actual cost subgrants. The assessment focuses on the status and quality of the work packages and includes the following principles:

- Work packages are considered completed if all essential activities and deliverables have been completed to an acceptable level of quality and deviations, if any, have been duly justified.
- Partially completed work packages may be accepted if:
    o All essential work has been completed with an acceptable level of quality, or Equivalent work has been carried out and justified, or
    o Deviations are duly justified and do not call into question the project's objectives or the award decision.

If a work package is declared incomplete, the lump sum share for that work package may be proportionally reduced based on the degree of completion. Unjustified deviations, significant omissions, or poor-quality outputs may result in the rejection of a work package and non-payment of the corresponding lump sum share.

Work packages declared incomplete during the project can be revised and declared again in subsequent reporting periods (if applicable). This ensures that subgrantees can address technical issues or deviations. EIT Manufacturing will apply the performance rate methodology for balance payments. This approach evaluates the completion and quality of work packages, deliverables, and KPIs to calculate the final payment.

In cases of technical deviations, these must be reported in the Performance report and will be assessed as part of the overall evaluation. Justified deviations are accepted under the same principles as for actual cost grants. If a work package is rejected or partially accepted, the coordinator will be given the opportunity to provide additional information or justify deviations. EIT Manufacturing may request this through: (1) A request for additional information without reopening the report, or (2) A request to revise and resubmit the reports with improved justifications.

If the rejection is upheld, the lump sum share concerned will not be paid. However, the subgrantees can complete the work package later and declare it again at the end of any subsequent reporting period (if applicable).

Exclusion Situations: In cases where an applicant is subject to EU administrative sanctions or falls under exclusion situations listed in the "Declaration of Honour" (annexed to this call), EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to withdraw funding at any stage of the project.

3.9 Eligibility of Expenditures

All applicants must provide a detailed cost estimation, which must approximate the actual costs, according to the format provided in the application form. The estimation provided must be:

- subject to the same eligibility rules as in actual costs grants, i.e. cost estimations can be included only if the same cost item/type of cost would be eligible in an actual cost grant.
- detailed in terms of tasks: applicants must identify the budget assigned to each task and the expected ending date of the task.
- must be in line with normal practices.
- must be reasonable/not excessive.
- must be in line with and necessary for the activities proposed.

For information on the eligibility of costs, please refer to the document Eligibility of Expenditure published on Call for Proposals webpage.

3.10 Activity Monitoring

Reporting periods and technical reporting may follow general rules and procedures according to the reporting guidelines of the responsible KIC with a focus on the successful completion and approval of the mandatory deliverables.

Furthermore, EIT Manufacturing will monitor all activities up to 5 years after activity completion to track long-term impact and to ensure the achievement of expected results and outcomes after the activity ends.

All projects selected for funding undergo continuous monitoring by the responsible KIC to ensure effective progress and implementation.

3.11 Dissemination, Communication, and Exploitation

Applicants should engage in dissemination, communication and exploitation of the results of the activities. Applicants need to respect the provisions of Article 16 regarding the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) — Background and Results — Access Rights and Rights and Article 17 regarding Communication, dissemination and visibility rules of the (Model) Grant Agreement.[13] including branding guidelines and obligations. Guidelines on the communication and dissemination activities related to the Call will be provided to the winning consortia by the DTTI team.

3.12 Gender Equality and Inclusiveness

EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative team aims to support organisations that value diversity and gender equality. To this end, projects applying to this call should:

- Demonstrate how gender and diversity are considered in the design/development of the project outputs. Applicants are encouraged to have at least 30% women as a target for the implementation of the course.
- Describe the measures in place to promote a mixed team with women and underrepresented groups taking an active role in project implementation, with a special focus on managerial levels

3.13 Ethics and Values[14]

Activities must comply with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles. Moreover, they must respect basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities). The activities must comply with:

- ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity) and
- applicable international, EU and national law

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[13] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

[14] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf

Applications that do not respect the above ethical principles and standards cannot be awarded a grant.

4. Proposal Preparation and Submission

4.1 Guidance and Support on Proposal Preparation

To guarantee the maximum support from the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative team to potential applicants, two types of support will be provided during the proposal preparation process: the Call Info Sessions and the Call Contact Points.

Call Info Sessions

The EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative team will conduct 3 info sessions after the publication of the call to ensure open, free, and fair access to the wider community:

26 February 2025 15:00 CET Call Info Session
6 March 2025 15:00 CET Call Matchmaking Session
17 March 2025 15:00 CET Call Q&A Session

Call Contacts Points

All Pledgers can access Pledgers' Network on Agora, to receive updated information and guidance on the Call. All applicants may also contact info@eitdeeptechtalent.eu to ask questions and clarify any points on the Call content, and its general and technical aspects.

With a view to equal treatment, the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative team cannot give prior opinion on the admissibility, eligibility, quality or any other relevant element of a specific proposal. Applicants are strongly discouraged from approaching any member of the Selection Committee to seek for specific advice or support regarding their application.

4.2 Registration and Submission Process

Before submitting a proposal, all applicants must:

1. Become **Pledgers of the DTTI**, i.e. submit their pledge at least 10 working days before the call deadline, that is, by 25 March 2025 17:00 CET. Please note the Pledge process requires approval by the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative team and is not automatic.
If you are already a Pledger of the DTTI, you can proceed to the next steps.

2. **Register on the** EU Participant Portal to obtain a PIC number[15] – If this is your first time participating in an EU-funded project or your organisation cannot access your already validated PIC and there are updates to the organisational data that need to be done, you need to register/re-register your organisation. Primary registration of your PIC number takes about 10 minutes, and your PIC number is generated within another 10 minutes and will be sent to the email address that you have indicated during the registration. All new PIC numbers get assigned a status of "Declared", which means your organisation has not been fully validated, but the new PIC number can already be used during your proposal submission.

If you have already participated in projects funded by the EU before and have your PIC number declared/validated, you can proceed with the registration of your organisation on the submission tool.

3. **Register on the Submission system -** To access the submission system, applicants must follow these steps:

   - **For previously registered organisations**: if your organisation has already participated in EIT Manufacturing calls, there is no need to register again. You can proceed by registering your user account through the *Contact Form*. Once your user registration is complete, access the call submission forms via the link provided on the call webpage.

   - **For new organisations**: if your organisation has not participated in EIT Manufacturing calls before, you must first register your organisation through the *New Organisation Registration Form*. After registering the organisation, proceed to register your user through the *Contact Form*. Once both the organisation and user registrations are

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[15] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register

completed, you can access the call submission forms via the link provided on the call webpage.

Important: The registration process requires approval by the EIT Manufacturing team and is not automatic. Ensure that all information is consistent with the organisation's details provided for the PIC number in the EU Participant Portal, including legal name, VAT, registration number, legal address, and LEAR (Legally Appointed Representative).

> All entities participating in this call for proposals must be registered in the submission system as early as possible and no later than 3 working days before the call closing, i.e. by 3 April 2025 17:00 CEST; otherwise, they may not be eligible for funding.

Please note that, if your proposal is successful, the information provided when registering your organisation will need to be validated. EIT Manufacturing will contact you to submit the needed supporting documents.

4.3 Proposal Submission Mandatory Documentation

The following documentation must be submitted by the applicants through the **submission tool by the call deadline:**

- Online application form;

NB: Any documentation missing, incomplete, or sent after the deadline, will be deemed inadmissible.

5. Proposal Evaluation and Selection Process

5.1 Admissibility Check

Applications must be

- Submitted before the **call deadline;**
- Submitted in **English;**
- Submitted **electronically** via the submission tool. Paper submissions are NOT possible;
- **Complete**, i.e. contain all mandatory information in the online application form and all mandatory documentation.

Proposals containing one or more inadmissible elements will be **rejected** and will receive an official communication from EIT Manufacturing setting out the outcome of the admissibility check.

5.2 Eligibility Check

A proposal will be eligible if all conditions indicated in Chapter 3.2 Applicants profile are met.

Proposals containing any ineligible element will receive an official communication from EIT Manufacturing setting out the outcome of the eligibility check and explaining why the proposal failed to meet the eligibility criteria.

The Activity leader of any proposal deemed ineligible who disputes the ineligibility decision, may appeal. This appeal must be made within 5 working days from the official EIT Manufacturing notification of ineligibility by sending an email to support@eitmanufacturing.eu cc-ing info@eitdeeptechtalent.eu, according to the Appeal procedure document linked to the Call (see 5.6).

5.3 Proposal Evaluation

The proposals that successfully pass the eligibility check are evaluated and scored against 5 criteria: **Excellence, Impact, Implementation, Strategic Fit, and European Dimension**.

The evaluation process will be carried out by two independent external evaluators, supported by one independent external rapporteur.

The evaluation experts will assess each evaluation criteria according to the following scores on a scale from 1 to 5.

Score	Description	
1	*Extremely poor or None*	The information provided is considered irrelevant or inadequate compared to the specific call provisions
2	*Bad*	The information provided lacks relevant quality and contains significant weaknesses, compared to the specific call provisions
3	*Average*	The overall information provided is adequate, however, some aspects are unclearly or insufficiently detailed, compared to the specific call provisions
4	*Good*	The information provided is adequate with sufficiently outlined details, compared to the specific call provisions
5	*Excellent*	The information provided is outstanding in its details, clarity, and coherence, compared to the specific call provisions

The scores are given at criteria level (e.g., Excellence) and then summed together to determine a final total score.

Thresholds apply to individual criteria and to the total score. The maximum score for a proposal is 25. The default threshold for individual criteria is 3/5, and the default overall threshold is 15/25 to be considered for funding a proposal.

The detailed evaluation grid is provided here below.

Evaluation criteria	Description	Max. score
Excellence	- The proposal expands and diversifies the DTTI training catalogue, clearly explaining how the new training differs from previous offering. It introduces innovative and forward-thinking approaches to training development. - The objectives of the proposed training are clearly defined and measurable. They are responsive to the needs of the target audience and address relevant gaps in the market, ensuring that the training is both innovative and impactful.	5 points
Impact	- Significance The KPI target of the proposal makes a significant contribution to the European Innovation Agenda, regarding upskilling one million deep tech talents. - The proposal has at least 30% women as a target for the course. - The proposed solution shows significant scalability and transferability, emphasizing its potential to expand across relevant sectors and regions, and its ability to be adapted and applied to new contexts to maximize its impact. - The proposal includes a Dissemination and Communication Plan. It presents a clear strategy to ensure the project's impact is effectively communicated to a wide audience, including potential users, policymakers, and other stakeholders, to ensure broader awareness and engagement.	5 points

Implementation	- The budget breakdown is relevant and well-distributed across the work packages, with the allocation of funds being appropriate for the described activities, reflecting the expected effort in terms of time and resources, and with clear justifications for each budget category. - The consortium has the relevant expertise and capacity to successfully execute the proposed activities, while also demonstrating consideration of potential risks and providing relevant contingency plans.	5 points
Strategic fit	- The application is aligned with the objectives of the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative. - The training programme is clearly aligned with the call requirements and appropriate for the targeted learners.	5 points
European Dimension	- The consortium demonstrates pan-European outreach and fosters collaboration between the DTTI Pledgers. - The RIS aspects are clearly addressed, including the engagement of RIS countries in the proposal and/or the impact generated in RIS countries by the proposal.	5 points
TOTAL		25 points

The external evaluators will assess each proposal independently by using the evaluation tool provided by EIT Manufacturing. The independent external evaluators will meet in a consensus meeting chaired by the external rapporteur to discuss and build an agreement on comments and scores. A final ranking list of proposals will be approved by the external evaluators. The rapporteur will address any notable divergences between the evaluators in the meeting and will prepare the final Evaluation Summary Reports (ESRs) to be shared with the applicants.

Ex-aequo Proposals

When the total scores of two or more proposals are equal (ex-aequo cases), the priority order will be established as follows:

1. The proposals will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion 'Excellence'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion 'Impact'.

2. If a distinction still cannot be made, the panel may decide to further prioritise by considering other factors such as deep tech area covered, geographical diversity, or gender. These factors will be documented in the call report.

5.4 Call Report and Stand-still Period

At the end of the evaluation process, EIT Manufacturing sends the Call Report & the Final ranking list to the granting authority (EIT) and applies a stand-still period of 30 days before signing agreements with the selected recipients, in order to allow the granting authority to verify compliance with the procedural requirements.[16]

5.5 Communication of Results

EIT Manufacturing will inform by email all proposals leaders after the evaluation is completed, within 5 working days.
The applicants might receive 3 types of evaluation feedback:

- The proposal is **selected** for funding. The proposal has got a high evaluation score and is selected for funding based on available budget assumptions.
- The proposal is **rejected**. The proposal has failed to reach the threshold of an individual evaluation criterion or the overall threshold and is therefore not considered for funding.
- The proposal is **retained on the reserve list**: the proposal has passed all thresholds but due to budget constraints it cannot be funded. In case of finally unused budget, the proposal might become eligible for funding. The duration of the reserve list is up to the end of December 2025.

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[16] According to Rules on page 127-129 of the Horizon Europe MGA (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)

When the communication of results is done, the successful participants will receive contractual documents to be signed with EIT Manufacturing, including:

- Financial Support Agreement – long term agreement regarding financial support to third parties under Horizon Europe
- Declaration of Honour

5.6 Procedure for Complaints and Appeal

The applicant (the representative of the legal entity) of a rejected application who disagree with the decision may request an evaluation review. **Only procedural aspects of an evaluation may be the subject of a request for an evaluation review**, for example process errors or technical problems. The evaluation of the merits of an application shall not be the subject of an evaluation review. In this case, the applicant will have 5 working days after receipt of the final evaluation results to submit an appeal to EIT Manufacturing by sending an email to support@eitmanufacturing.eu cc-ing info@eitdeeptechtalent.eu, according to the Appeal procedure document linked to the Call (see document Appeal procedure).

6. Other Terms and Conditions

6.1 Exclusion Criteria

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the call if they are in any of the situations of exclusion defined in Article 136 of the EU Financial Regulation[17]. All members of a consortium shall sign a Declaration of Honour to confirm that they respect the above-mentioned criteria at the application stage. Successful Applicants shall provide, if requested by EIT Manufacturing, relevant recent documentation substantiating the Declaration of Honour at the latest before signing the agreements mentioned under point 5.6. Failure to provide adequate documentation may result in the exclusion of the applicants and the proposal concerned.

6.2 Logos and Trademarks of the Applicants

The entities participating in the Call for Proposal grant EIT Manufacturing and / or the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative a free and non-exclusive license to use their brand solely for the promotion, dissemination of information, organisation, management and implementation of the current Call for Proposal. The applicants, EIT Manufacturing, and EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative mutually acknowledge and accept that the respective trademarks are, and remain, the exclusive property of their respective owners and that no provision of these guidelines is intended to confer any rights on such trademarks, outside the provisions of the previous paragraph. Therefore, the participating entities, EIT Manufacturing, and EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative will not be able to assign, sublicense or otherwise dispose of the trademarks of others, without prior written consent.

6.3 Confidentiality

EIT Manufacturing undertakes to use any Confidential Information shared by the entities solely for the purposes of the Call for Proposals. Confidential information shall mean data and/or information that is proprietary to or possessed by the entities and not generally known to the public, or that has not yet been revealed whether in tangible or intangible form, whenever and however disclosed and might also be included in the application form. Confidential information must be expressly labelled as such in the application form.

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[17] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32018R1046&from=EN

Applicants agree that EIT Manufacturing and its subsidiaries can disseminate, publish, and make use of non-confidential information regarding the call, to promote the activities of EIT Manufacturing or establish reports or other necessary documents for EIT.

The applicants agree that data and information in the application form not labelled as confidential may be disclosed in connection with the activities of EIT Manufacturing.

Considering the confidential nature of the data and information referred to above, EIT Manufacturing also undertakes to (i) not disclose them in any way and in any form, without prior written authorization of the entity concerned; and (ii) not to use them for purposes other than those strictly necessary for the purposes of this Call for Proposals.

Confidential Information may be shared among EIT Manufacturing and its subsidiaries (e.g. ICs) solely for the purposes of the Call. EIT Manufacturing undertakes to impose this confidentiality obligation on its employees and the employees of its subsidiaries and its collaborators, as well as on Rapporteurs and independent experts and all subjects who, by virtue of participating in the call for proposal as members of the Selection Committees or Jury, will take knowledge of or may have access to such confidential data and information.

6.4 Intellectual Property

Participating entities agree to respect IPR Rules (Article 16) of the (Model) Grant Agreement[18] and the EIT Manufacturing IP Policy.

6.5 Disclaimers

EIT Manufacturing denies all liability from an applicant participation to the call for proposal. Submitting the application does not establish a grantor-grantee relationship between applicant and the EIT Manufacturing as final decision will be made after the evaluation process and the final confirmation of acceptance of the application and all other procedure mentioned herein.

These call for proposals guidelines may be subject to changes/updates. In such a case, the changes will be communicated publicly (published) transparently and clearly. Applicants having already applied will also be informed in writing.

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[18] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

6.6 Processing of Personal Data

EIT Manufacturing 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 regarding the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and in accordance with Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). As a data subject you have the right of access, the right to rectification, the right to erasure, the right to restrict processing, the right to data portability, the right to object and the right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing. If you have a question about personal data processing or want to exercise your data subject rights, you can contact our Data Protection Officer on dpo@eitmanufacturing.eu . In the case of complaints, you can address them to the French regulator CNIL.

The collected personal data will be used solely for the procedure and assessment of the call applications and the management, completion, organisation, dissemination of information and publicity of the call. The data controller is EIT Manufacturing and its subsidiaries.

By submitting your application for this call, you consent that EIT Manufacturing will collect, transfer, process, store, and delete your data in accordance with the aforementioned conditions.

Details concerning the processing of your personal data are available in the privacy statement in the submission tool.

6.7 Applicable Law

The present call is governed by the applicable European Union laws (i.e. the EIT Regulation, the EU Financial Regulation, and the Horizon Europe Regulation) and is complemented, where necessary, by the laws of France. The applicants agree to observe the obligations set forth in the (Model) Grant Agreement[19] signed between the EIT and EIT Manufacturing and particularly Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping). These obligations will also be mentioned in the contracts to be signed if the application is successful.

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[19] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

6.8 Right to Activate Audits

EIT Manufacturing retains the right to activate an audit on the funded activities in case of alerts and/or to confirm governance and proper usage of the grant.

EIT Manufacturing keeps the right to request any data related to the activity for 5 years after completion to ensure transparency and allow monitoring from EIT.