Business Plan 2023 – 2025

Open Call for Proposals
EIT Community Co-Create NEB: Local communities and public authorities building sustainable, beautiful and inclusive public space – 2025
Call Manual

EIT Community NEB:

EIT Urban Mobility

EIT Climate KIC

EIT FOOD

EIT Manufacturing

Barcelona | 4 July 2024

History of changes

Version	Publication Date	Change
1.0	04.07.2024	Initial version

Any updates on this Call Manual, if any, are identified in the table above. Amended versions of the Call Manual are published on the EIT Urban Mobility, EIT Climate KIC, EIT FOOD and EIT Manufacturing websites.

Contents

Abbreviations

BP	Business Plan
EEE	External Expert Evaluator
EIT Community NEB	In this Call, EIT Community NEB refers to EIT Urban Mobility, EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Food and, EIT Manufacturing
EIT	European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT)
Coordinating KIC	The KIC that coordinates the grant of a project
FSA	Financial Support Agreement
FS	Financial Sustainability
FSM	Financial Sustainability Mechanism
HE	Horizon Europe
KIC	Knowledge and Innovation Community
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
MGA	Model Grant Agreement
RIS	Regional Innovation Scheme
SA	Strategic Agenda
SER	Summary Evaluation Report
SO	Strategic Objectives

Glossary

Lead Applicant	The entity/person that submits the proposal and will coordinate the project if it is selected. if the proposal is successful, the Lead Applicant becomes the Project Leader.
Project Leader	The Project Leader is the central contact point for EIT Community NEB from the proposal submission stage to the end of the project implementation. The Project Leader represents the project and the consortium partners (the other partners participating in the project, if any) towards EIT Community NEB, and also has responsibility for creating and submitting a proposal. For mono-participant grants, the single legal entity involved in the project also has the Project Leader role.
Call for Proposals	The Call for Proposals is the instrument used to allocate funding by EIT Community NEB to third parties to support the deployment and development of the Strategic Agenda through projects.
Call Manual	The Call Manual is the document where the terms, conditions, and criteria of any Call for Proposals are defined and stated according to the principles of transparency, equal treatment, open competition, and sound procedural management.
Consensus meeting	The Consensus meeting is convened in order for all the experts who assessed the proposals to discuss their Individual Evaluation Reports and agree on comments and scores reflected in the Summary Evaluation Reports. This remote meeting is led by the Rapporteur and supported by the Quality Controller, who seeks a consensus and ensures that proposals are evaluated in a fair manner and in line with the established evaluation criteria.
Deliverable	Deliverables capture the achievement of key outputs and may take the form of analysis reports, feasibility studies, strategy documents, pilot action reports, training documentations. The deliverables specified need to fully demonstrate the project's achievements and the judicious use of public funds.
EIT KPIs	Set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) defined by the EIT that reflect the EIT operational objectives for education, entrepreneurship, and innovation. These KPIs are used to measure how effectively a KIC/project is meeting the objectives of the EIT.
Evaluation Process	Process by which EIT Community NEB, supported by external experts, examines the quality of a proposal to decide if it should be selected to receive EIT funding.
Evaluation Panel	Group of external expert evaluators and Rapporteur, with specific expertise in a specific area/segment of the Call, aiming to evaluate a set of eligible proposals submitted to a Call.
Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement	The Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement (HE MGA) sets out the rights and obligations and terms and conditions applicable to the grant awarded.

Knowledge triangle integration	EIT Community NEB aims to gather close-knit partnerships of European education, research and business entities (knowledge triangles) and also involves cities, either in the composition of the members of the projects or in the expected impact of the projects' results.
KIC Specific KPIs	Set of indicators defined by EIT Community NEB that reflect the societal challenge that the KIC is trying to address.
Milestone	Control points to chart the progress of a project implementation. They may correspond to the completion of a key deliverable that allows the next phase of work to begin.
Ranking list	List of proposals in order of scoring list after the Selection Committee assessment.
Outputs	Tangible results, e.g. the concrete technology, product, service, method, design, patents, new jobs, new curricula, prototypes, concept, methodology, approach, skills and experience, etc. created by the project.
Selection Committee	The Selection Committee is responsible for the endorsement of the selected proposals and conditions for funding for the inclusion of the selected proposals in the final EIT Community NEB's portfolio of projects.
Summary Evaluation Report	The Rapporteur issues a single and final Summary Evaluation Report (SER) for each proposal after the consensus meetings. This document provides a concise overview of the proposal's final evaluation score, its strengths, weaknesses, associated risks, and any recommendations made.

Introduction

The New European Bauhaus (NEB hereinafter) is one of the main European key initiatives at present and translates the European Green Deal into tangible change on the ground by placing culture and citizens needs at the core of the implementation of the sustainable development goals. EIT and its pan-European thematic KICs are well positioned to drive the NEB change through innovation ecosystems with their thematic expertise. NEB utilises the experience and expertise of EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Digital, EIT Food, EIT Manufacturing and EIT Urban Mobility to advance the implementation phase of the NEB through grassroot activities. The participating KICs create a new and unique set of NEB activities resulting from the combination and blending of their tested and successful ongoing programmes and new ideas.

Since 2021, we have a growing portfolio of projects to support the implementation of New European Bauhaus in cities, rural and peri-urban areas across Europe. We work with innovators, city administrations, research organisations, educational institutions, NGOs and businesses to boost the transformation of their cities. A core summary of the conducted projects during 2023 can be found here. The projects that are currently taking place during 2024 can be found here.

This Call for Proposals, EIT Community Co-Create NEB, is a competitive mechanism addressed to consortia **with a minimum of two and a maximum of four partners**, one of them being a city, region or affiliated entity associated to a city or region, all located in a EU Member State or a Third Country associated to Horizon Europe.

The Call focuses on demonstrating new solutions to boost the transformation of cities, rural and peri-urban areas, by bringing individuals and communities closer to nature, bringing a sense of belonging, addressing the needs of territories, and communities that need specific attention, and transforming value chains and life of materials towards circularity. The Call will identify inspirational, beautiful, sustainable and inclusive project proposals.

Eight projects will be selected in this Call with a maximum funding of 45,000 EUR per project and a minimum co-funding rate of 25% across the project.

This Call for Proposals is also aligned with the KICs' portfolio strategic fit through its alignment with the activity plan approved by the EIT. It reflects the EU dimension character, as the geographical spread within the European Union of the proposals will also be considered.

Applicants selected for this Call for Proposals will have the opportunity to interact with the New European Bauhaus Community, NEBLab and other relevant New European Bauhaus activities through sharing information, best practice, and, where relevant, results. Please visit the official New European Bauhaus website.

1. Call summary

Call for Proposals Main Features	
Key dates of the Call calendar[1]	• **Call opening:** 4 July 2024 • **Call closure:** 10 October 2024 at 17:00 CET • **Eligibility and admissibility check:** October 2024 • **Evaluation of proposals:** October-November 2024 • **Communication of results:** December 2024 • **Tentative start of the projects:** 1 February 2025 • **Finalisation of the projects:** 31 December 2025 (at the latest)
Total estimated EIT Funding allocated to this Call	€360,000 Eight projects with up to € 45,000 of EIT Community NEB funding allocation for each project. All proposals must have a minimum co-funding rate of 25%.
Link to the submission portal	The **new EIT UM NetSuite platform** will be available by mid-July 2024
List of documents to be submitted	• Application form available on the NetSuite platform • Registration document/Declaration of affiliation if applicable • Project Gantt Chart (optional)
List of documents to take into consideration	• Call Manual • The New European Bauhaus Compass • Guidelines for Applicants • Eligibility of expenditure • Appeal procedure • Registration document/Declaration of affiliation template (if applicable) • EIT Community NEB Project Implementation Handbook • Financial Support Agreement (FSA) template • Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement • List of previously funded projects
Short summary of the topics to be addressed	The EIT Community NEB Challenges cover 4 main thematic axes: • Reconnecting with nature • Regaining a sense of belonging • Prioritising the places and people that need it the most • The need for long-term, life cycle thinking in the industrial ecosystem
Evaluation criteria	The proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria listed below, as stated in Section 5 "Evaluation and selection process": • Excellence and novelty • Impact and social, economic, financial, and general sustainability • Quality and efficiency of the implementation

---

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

2. General requirements

2.1 EIT Community NEB strategic vision and mission

Our mission is to build sustainable, beautiful and inclusive public space in line with the New European Bauhaus initiative. These citizen-centred engagement activities will serve to not only identify and prioritise challenges, but also to ideate an initial process to co-create solutions for the most pressing challenges in alignment with the New European Bauhaus core values and principles. All activities need to serve the purpose of achieving the three core inseparable values of the New European Bauhaus:

- Sustainability from climate goals, to circularity, zero pollution, and biodiversity
- Aesthetics quality of experience and style, beyond functionality
- Inclusion valorising diversity, equality for all, accessibility, and affordability

The following three key principles guide and integrate the New European Bauhaus dimensions' development:

- A multilevel approach: from global to local
- A participatory approach
- A transdisciplinary approach

In addition, the New European Bauhaus guided by the following four thematic axes that the Commission decided to follow during the implementation of the New European Bauhaus:

- Reconnecting with nature
- Regaining a sense of belonging
- Prioritising the places and people that need it the most
- The need for long-term, life cycle thinking in the industrial ecosystem

These thematic axes are highly interconnected in support of delivering the New European Bauhaus approach. For example, having access to green spaces can also bring people together. Affordable houses need proximity to the labour market to create a healthy and functional living ecosystem. Local improvement of a place cannot be done without taking the DNA and communities of the place into account. Further details on the strategic focus of the Co-create NEB Call are given in Section 3.

Applicants selected for this Call for Proposals will have the opportunity to interact with the New European Bauhaus Community, NEB Lab and other relevant New European Bauhaus activities through sharing information, best practices, and, where relevant, results. Please visit the official NEB Lab website.

2.2 Who can apply

This Call for Proposals is open to all legal entities established in Member States of the European Union, and/or in Third countries associated to Horizon Europe. These legal entities may be, for example, public or private legal entities, SMEs, education institutions, research & technology organisations, consultancies, NGOs, social entities,

Applications from RIS countries are encouraged to participate.

As a requirement, all proposals must be composed of a consortium **with a minimum of two and a maximum of four partners** located in an EU Member State or a Third Country associated to Horizon Europe. At least two of these partners must be independent of each other[2] and **one of these partners must be a city, region or an affiliated entity to a city or region**.

Important note
In case of new entities with direct links with a city/region not previously validated in the EIT Urban Mobility Partner Information Form (PIF) as an Affiliated Entity, applicants must upload together with the application form, either the legal registration/official document that proves the legal affiliation with said city/region or a declaration of affiliation signed by the legal representative of the affiliated entity that proves the legal affiliation with said city/region. **Applicants can find the template of the declaration on the Call webpage.**

Proposals with less than two partners or more than four partners will be ineligible. Proposals without the participation of a city, region, or an affiliated entity to a city or region will be ineligible.

Specific cases

Entities established in Switzerland are eligible to participate but at their own cost. These entities will not receive EIT funding, they will be funded by the Swiss Government. Applicants from Switzerland are requested to contact the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) for further details.

Temporary eligibility requirements for Hungarian Universities

Following the Council's Decision on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary that entered into force on 15 December 2022, special participation and funding restrictions may affect Hungarian public interest trusts and their linked Universities participating in any EIT Community NEB Calls. For further information and the list of affected entities, please refer to the *Eligibility of Expenditure* document published on the Call webpage.

---

[2] Legal entities shall be regarded as independent of each other where neither is under the direct or indirect control of the other or under the same direct or indirect control as the other. Please refer to the entire definition in Article 8: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal_basis/rules_participation/h2020-rules-participation_en.pdf

This Call for Proposals follows the main rules and principles established by the EIT Community NEB and EU general principles. The Call processes respect the principles of openness, transparency, equal treatment, and sound management.

3. Call specific requirements

3.1 Strategic focus of the Call

The overall purpose of this Co-create NEB Call for Proposals is to resolve challenges faced by cities, peri-urban and rural areas, focusing on innovation and action in public spaces through citizen engagement in their re-designing. It aims to work on activities where citizens and end-users are engaged to identify relevant challenges and to create citizen-generated transdisciplinary projects in their community, aligned with the New European Bauhaus initiative. In addition, in alignment with the cities and peri-urban and rural area cross-sectoral challenges, we encourage mapping challenges and developing solutions in collaboration with citizens based on a demand-led approach.

The EIT Community NEB aims to support activities where cities and peri-urban and rural areas can act to deliver on their commitments and public realm development plans laid out in their strategic plans and empowered to create together potential solutions embedding the New European Bauhaus approach in an ideation process aligned with the initiative. It is expected to co-create new solutions, products and services with citizens, empowering them to implement innovations in their communities and trigger change by actively influencing local policies. Citizen engagement that reflects the diversity of voices in the community is essential to developing successful long-term solutions that match the needs of the wider community. Working together in a shared endeavour for a common higher goal, results in a true synergy of innovation, creativity, and design, improving citizens quality of life in cities and driving green and digital transformations. For citizens, this can increase engagement with and social acceptance of change, and encourage a shift to more sustainable behaviours and mindsets. Successful citizen engagement will increase the ability to create, experiment, demonstrate, scale, and deploy innovative solutions for a just, equitable and prosperous future.

3.2 Call objective

The primary focus of the Co-create NEB Call for Proposals is to co-create and build sustainable, beautiful and inclusive public space and demonstrate new solutions that boost the transformation of our cities, peri-urban and rural areas.

All proposals must comply with the following requirements to ensure the project scope is suited:

- Develop activities to **improve selected public spaces and/or complement local policy/strategy** whilst **integrating all three core New European Bauhaus values** (*sustainability, aesthetics,*

inclusion) and all **three key** New European Bauhaus **principles** (*multilevel, participatory, transdisciplinary approach*) into their projects.

- The activities must be tailored towards **at least two specific and clearly identified target groups** (can be defined by age, profession, neighbourhoods of the same city, etc.). The proposal needs to include a communication and dissemination plan to engage with target groups in the given period.
- The proposed solution must have the **potential to be implemented on a broader scale and/or replicable** following a context-based approach. Proposals should **aim for long-term sustainable impact.**
- The proposal must provide **deep understanding of the local ecosystem**, including stakeholders, culture and social dynamics, as well as the **role of the city/local authorities** must be well defined.
- The proposed solution must use **existing knowledge, innovative methodologies, tools, or processes on target group behaviour** with regard to the selected topic and **push for/promote real behavioural change and influence policy making.**
  All activities should leverage and use the **Knowledge Triangle Integration** (KTI) principle to gather and facilitate collaboration with the cities as well as with education, research and business entities. To this aim, proposals must include a joint workshop with the aforementioned stakeholders, where impact assessment data will be discussed and potential opportunities for further research and exploitation will be identified.

3.3 EIT Community New European Bauhaus Challenge Areas

For this Co-create NEB Call for Proposals, the EIT Community NEB defines four Challenge Areas based on the New European Bauhaus four thematic axes:

- Reconnecting with nature
- Regaining a sense of belonging
- Prioritising the places and people that need it the most
- The need for long-term, life cycle thinking in the industrial ecosystem

All proposals must address at least one of the EIT Community New European Bauhaus challenges described below.

Concrete examples of projects that have previously been funded through the Co-create NEB call and have addressed one of the challenge areas can be found in here:

3.3.1 Re-connecting with nature

Specific Challenge

The New European Bauhaus movement aims to create greater opportunities for contact with green public spaces that translate into better health and reduce income-related health inequalities. Nature-based solutions in cities can help address floods and other extreme weather events, whilst making the built environment more attractive. Climate action can improve air, water and soil quality and overall living conditions. The COVID-19 pandemic underlined the direct link between nature protection and physical and

mental health for citizens. There is a need to go beyond a human-centred to a life-centred perspective, seeking inspiration from nature and learning from it.

Keywords related to the challenge area:

Urban greening, urban green corridors, active mobility, green transportation, nature-integrated transit routes, Nature Based Solutions (NBS), green jobs and skills, crop resilience, sustainable soil and/or crop management, (re)naturalisation, biophilic design, green infrastructure, urban agriculture, community gardens, green roofs, vertical farming, urban wildlife, sustainable tourism, nature playgrounds, nature connected public spaces, urban nature walks

Examples

Some examples of the types of projects that address this challenge are included in the following non-exhaustive list:

- Urban greening, such as urban green corridors for active mobility
- Rethinking transport infrastructure
- Interacting with citizens to encourage the uptake of green mobility solutions
- Co-creation of greening public space(s) to exploit their potential, such as better refresh/cooling an urban area, etc.
- (Re)naturalisation of degraded public areas, green areas, biodiversity, green and blue infrastructure, and urban furniture as assets promoting active mobility
- Nature-based-solutions for industrial sites and processes or old post-industrial sites including the regeneration of degraded soils and wastewater streams
- Supporting and promoting green jobs and skills, and futures literacy, including life-long learning through nature-based solutions
- Solutions to enhance crop yield and resilience, making use of more sustainable soil and/or crop management as well as other practices to increase plant tolerance to stress (abiotic, biotic), including climate change
- Solutions with credible potential to reduce GHG emission or mitigate biodiversity loss from the agri-food production chain, including solutions targeting livestock, human diets, and resource stewardship

3.3.2 Re-gaining sense of community and belonging

Specific Challenge

The New European Bauhaus movement is about collective and private experience. Building bridges between people implies encouraging intergenerational solidarity, developing links between education and the arts in local environments, and improving common spaces and places to meet.

Keywords related to the challenge area:

Degraded public space transformation, community engagement, social cohesion, inter-generational, cultural exchange, proximity economy, accessible public spaces, urban revitalisation, participatory design, co-creation, local heritage preservation, public art, walkable communities, urban gardens, human-centric design, food culture, local identity, food-waste initiatives.

Examples

Some examples of specific projects that can be addressed are included in the following non-exhaustive list:

- Enhancement of degraded public areas
- Increasing accessibility, and interconnection of public spaces with more sustainable means of transport
- Encouraging multiple uses of public space by citizens, creating conditions for enhanced cultural exchange
- Promotion of proximity economy activities allowing citizens to access key services and amenities within walking distance, strengthening connections and fostering healthy, sustainable, active mobility
- Repurposing and/or refurbishing public space(s) which can act as a catalyst to rediscover local communities and integrate newcomers
- Demonstrating the interconnectedness of sustainability, resilience, and community through multi-functional activities addressing all three in a mutually reinforcing manner
- Manufacturing solutions contributing to building more human-centric, sustainable and resilient industry placing wellbeing of workers at the centre of production processes
- Enrichment of food culture with local identity, the authenticity of food as a means to reduce food fraud and boost consumer confidence on source and quality
- Drive food supply-chain optimisation, reduce amount of food lost / wasted and change the shape of demand by setting up innovative systems that promote value-chain linkages

3.3.3 Prioritising the places and people that need it the most

Specific Challenge

The New European Bauhaus movement promotes the inclusion of all citizens, as well as of the places where they live. Beautiful and sustainable solutions have to be affordable and accessible for all. Special attention should be paid to the specific situation of groups and individuals who are the most vulnerable, for instance, at risk of exclusion or poverty or experiencing homelessness. Disadvantaged groups are at greater risk of energy poverty and air pollution and have less access to public transport. Inclusion also implies pursuing a design for all approaches to remove accessibility barriers to the built and virtual environments and to goods and services. The New European Bauhaus clearly goes beyond large city centres and encompasses places in all their diversity, including small villages, rural areas, shrinking cities, neglected city districts, suburbs and de-industrialised areas. This calls for planning to avoid spatial segregation of social groups and create a sense of togetherness. The various parts of a city, a village or neighbourhood should be connected.

Keywords related to the challenge area:

Social inclusion, vulnerable groups, rural-urban connectivity, inclusive public spaces, public safety integrated neighbourhoods, neighbourhood revitalisation, community-led solutions, participatory processes, social housing, social manufacturing, social integration, co-design, human-centred design.

Examples

Some examples of specific projects that can be addressed included in the following non-exhaustive list:

- Addressing poor transport connections between rural and urban areas
- Solutions aiming at universal mobility as a key enabler for social inclusion, allowing everyone to move freely within cities regardless of gender, race, beliefs, or disability
- Climate justice initiatives focusing on equitable distribution of housing and living conditions
- Green solutions addressing social issues, in line with the "build back better" principle
- Proposals including social manufacturing, including involvement of less favoured groups or groups at risk of social integration in manufacturing products
- Co-design and test with citizens affordable food products and/ or ingredients customised to vulnerable target groups (elderly, children, etc.), which could include data standardisation for targeted nutrition

3.3.4 Prioritising the need for long-term, life cycle and integrated thinking in the industrial ecosystem

Specific Challenge

The New European Bauhaus movement promotes an economy based on circularity to tackle unsustainable practices, including resource uses for obsolete buildings or infrastructures. Addressing these challenges concerns the entire industrial ecosystem, from production to delivery and consumption, with a circular economy mindset. Recovered and renewable materials should be better recognised by all relevant disciplines and become part of design paradigms. The use of sustainably produced and procured nature-based building materials, such as wood, bamboo, straw, cork, or stone should be improved. New production technologies should help reduce the carbon footprint of steel or cement, recycle otherwise wasted textiles and accelerate the green transition of energy intensive industries. New business models, bioeconomy, social economy approaches, and Design for Sustainability can support the transformation of sectors such as textiles, tourism, waste management or energy production. The digital transition will play a systematic role in the development and implementation of the New European Bauhaus.

Keywords related to the challenge area:

Circular economy, long-term use, reduce by design, maintenance, reuse, refurbish, remanufacturing, repurpose, recycling, waste rethinking, product life extension, second life, resource management, (un)sustainable mindsets and/or behaviours, decentralised manufacturing, circular mobility, cleantech, sustainable packaging, green economy, local production, shared mobility, durability, food waste, circular mobility, local crafts

Examples

Some examples of specific projects that can be addressed are included in the following non-exhaustive list:

- Activities to promote products and services for long-term use
- Reduce by design, as well as, maintenance, reusing, refurbishing, remanufacturing, repurpose and recycling of resources and waste, including digital and monitoring tools
- Improvement of current state-of-the-art of the manufacturing industries

- Public and multi-stakeholder activities fostering circular economy actions, namely with regards to resources, waste, product life extension and second life of products, and more efficient management of sources.
- Activities targeting unsustainable mindsets or behaviours in specific social groups to maximize the potential impact.
- Activities of decentralised, local and urban manufacturing designing and/or demonstrating symbiotic and sustainable factories closer to the customer including integrating new and traditional techniques, local crafts, and knowledge to foster innovation in manufacturing
- Circular mobility including shared mobility, satisfying user needs without transferring ownership of physical products through shared solutions
- Solutions for the sensibilities and aesthetics of the circularity concept as user experience; combining circular and cleantech solutions for long-term effect
- Leveraging existing innovations promoting circularity and market opportunities in the agri-food systems and a circular model maintaining the value of food in the economy for as long as possible
- Co-creation of innovative, sustainable packaging concepts to reduce food spoilage

3.4   Expected outcomes, outputs and impacts

All submitted proposals are expected to co-create and, build sustainable, beautiful and inclusive public space in alignment with NEB.

In terms of public realm development strategy, the **projects must comply with at least one of the expected outcome targets:**

- **Outcome A:** Improved quality of a defined public space by implementing the NEB approach. The proposal must have a clear explanation of how and at what level the project contributes to achieve the selected NEB challenge, including a realistic and achievable plan.

- **Outcome B:** Improved quality of public space by complementing local policy/strategy whilst implementing NEB approach. The proposal must have a clear explanation of how and at what level the project contributes to achieve the selected local strategic plan/documents' targets, including a realistic and achievable plan. The project must provide clear evidence of implementing the NEB approach. Some examples of specific types of local level official strategic documents that can be addressed are included in the following non-exhaustive list:

    o   Public realm infrastructure plan or/and urban development plan or/and public realm improvement strategy
    o   Commitment statement of the city/region on the relevant segment/area targeted by the project
    o   Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs)
    o   Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs)
    o   Zero Pollution Action Plan for 2030
    o   Waste management plans and/or waste prevention programmes
    o   Circular Economy Strategy or Action Plan

- o   Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change
- o   Local Action Plan on Green urban areas and green infrastructure Sustainable Land Use & Soil strategy
- o   Nature Restoration Plan
- o   Farm to Fork strategy
- o   Biodiversity strategy for 2030
- o   Any action plans that can be supported by the project
- o   Net-Zero Industry Act
- o   EU industrial strategy
- o   Critical Raw Materials Act

Any of the above listed outcomes or their combination are eligible to boost desired collaboration within the local community.

In addition, all submitted proposals need to meet **at least one of the following expected outputs**:

- **OUTPUT 1**: **Products and services (including rapid product prototypes) :**
  - o   enhancing nature-based-solutions, promoting green spaces and supporting urban greening.
  - o   responding to citizens' real needs in urban, and regional spaces, as well as improving accessibility and quality of experience of citizens in their daily lives, i.e. leisure, working, moving around and commuting etc.
  - o   delivering both online and offline (in person) support, as well as public and private realm infrastructure and facilities with a focus on specific vulnerable populations, i.e., elderly, children, ethnic minorities, marginalised groups etc.
  - o   promoting long-term use and thinking, and reduce by design; also maintenance, reusing, refurbishing, remanufacturing, repurposing and recycling of resources and waste, including digital and monitoring tools, as well as improvement of current state-of-the-art industrial manufacturing processes.

- **OUTPUT 2**: **Co-design and co-stewardship of:**
  - o   green spaces and natured-based-solutions through public-private partnerships and social participation.
  - o   on nature-based solutions access, and amplification of green spaces, as well as their collective stewardship
  - o   public realm and commons with civil society and other stakeholders to favour diversity while strengthening inclusivity and equitability, as well as promoting co-ownership and care of public and private spaces.
  - o   urban regeneration in less favoured areas, including most polluted zones, neglected or dangerous neighbourhoods, remote areas with poor communication, and districts with limited services.
  - o   transforming the public space embedded into the urban ecosystem towards circularity taking into account sustainability, aesthetic and social aspects. For example, harvesting ambient water or energy for use on site, cycle nutrients locally, create such an environment that support biodiversity, human health and wellbeing.

3.5 Gender and diversity

Diversity powers us to bring the best solutions to pressing global challenges and enables us to make innovation happen. At the same time, we are aware that to make our cities more liveable and address the needs of all community groups, we need to ensure that we have a more diverse workforce, and that gender and diversity are considered when new mobility products and services are developed.

EIT Community aims to support organisations that also 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 (product/services, pilots and marketing material) and how these considerations interact with other identity traits (age, race, class, sexual orientation and physical ability, among others).
- Offer a mixed team with women and/or underrepresented groups taking an active role in project implementation.

3.6 Key Performance indicators (KPIs)

Each proposal must address a **minimum of 2 mandatory KPIs** from the provided list below and specify the minimum target value expected for each chosen KPI. The selected KPIs might be subject to amendment depending on the scope of the project and the designated coordinating KIC during the conditions-clearing phase.

KPI Code	KPI name	KPI description	Minimum Target expected
KSN03	Public realm improvements	Public realm is a platform for life with a diversity of urban functions to live, work, shop, relax, encounter and play, commonly defined as all areas between buildings including streets, boulevards and open squares that are accessible to the public. This KPI includes both: a) small-scale and temporary changes, using low-cost and scalable interventions, as the first step in informing long-term systemic change, and b) permanent investment as part of a public realm action plan and/or a walking and cycling strategy, and/or parking interventions Reporting requirement in the final performance report as structured data on: List incl. the type, title and short description	1
KSN02	Demonstrations/ pilots/ living labs within a project that actively involve citizens and/or local associations	Actively engaged an appropriate amount of citizens/community representatives of various age and social groups in running a demonstration/successful pilot/living lab***** to encourage experimentation, research and the development of solutions to city challenges and issues; and, where relevant: mobilised local citizen associations and community groups to help maximise reach out to citizens. The aim is to ensure acceptance of measures, raise awareness for opportunities or restrictions that come with measure implementation, and enhance ownership of measures. ******Living labs are defined as user-centred, open innovation ecosystems based on a systematic user co-creation approach integrating research and innovation processes in real life communities and settings. Living labs place the citizen at the centre of innovation.*	1

		Reporting requirement in the final performance report as structured data on: List incl. the type, title, number of engaged participants and short description. In Annex the signed and dated participant lists are mandatory with family names and signatures according to GDPR.	
CL01	Strengthened resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change	People with strengthened climate resilience Reach of activities with awareness and capability building effects for climate change mitigation, adaptation, green skills and futures literacy. Reporting requirement in the final performance report as structured data on: List of activities/events incl. the type, title and short description and number of participants	50
CL02	Climate-friendly jobs created or sustained	Combined 1 new jobs created in start-ups/scale-ups, and 1 jobs/employment in existing businesses, partners sustained through innovations	2
KIC.I10	Events organised (adjusted for the purposes of the given Call as MO1)	Number of events organised to engage with citizens in the co-creation. EIT Community NEB beneficiaries report at proposal submission (CfP), whether their proposed activities engage citizens in a variety of co-creation approaches, methods and processes.	2
KIC.B05.1	Transition towards greater circularity EITM KPI KIC.BO5.1 (adjusted for the purposes of the given Call as MO2)	Activities that lead to a reduction of material consumption (related to the process and/or product targeted) in the Connect NEB programme. Innovation activities will be required to report at the end of the activity (programme) if the results of the innovation activity that enables the activity partners to transition towards greater circularity have been implemented and the process or product in question has become (more) circular. Start-ups supported will be required to report if respective products or services have been brought to the market and material consumption rates are or, could be, lowered at the level of clients. By the end of the EIT Community Programme, EIT Community NEB beneficiaries are asked to report on to which degree has their activity met its overall objective of becoming (more) circular.	1
FD01	Increased public engagement in food system	People taking part in EIT Food co-creation activities	50
FD02	New skills and professions developed in the food sector	New skills and profession developed through the activity proposed.	1

The selected KPIs must be delivered during the project implementation and **no later than 31 December 2025.**

3.7 Project duration

Projects selected for this Call for Proposals will have a duration of **up to 11 months** (tentative start date: 1 February 2025 up to 31 December 2025).

As indicated in the EIT Community NEB Project Implementation Handbook, if the project requires additional time to complete its workplan and/or achieve the KPIs, the Project Leader may request a project extension to its coordinating KIC. If the extension is approved, the project will be allowed to continue being implemented and enable KPI to be attained without any additional EIT funding.

3.8 Financial aspects

3.8.1 EIT funding allocation, co-funding rate and cost eligibility

The total maximum **estimated EIT funding** allocated to this Call for Proposals is € 360,000. Eight projects will be selected with the maximum funding of € 45,000 per project.

Additionally, all proposals must have a minimum co-funding rate[3] of 25% across the project. Partners in the consortium may have different co-funding rates as long as the overall project co-fund meets the required 25% minimum.

A co-funding rate above 25% might be positively considered during the evaluation.

For information on the eligibility of your project's budget costs, please refer to the document *Eligibility of Expenditure* published on the Call webpage.

3.8.2 Contribution to the Financial sustainability

Within the EIT Community NEB, the KICs have developed a Financial Sustainability (FS) Strategy, to enable the KICs to gradually become financially independent from EIT funding. These FS plans are based on a mix of different mechanisms, such as revenue share and equity stakes. The FS strategy aims to create a perpetual innovation fund that will sustain innovation beyond the predefined cycles of European Commission block grants. This financial independence will be based on a mix of both active earned income and passive investment revenue.

For the Co-create NEB projects, even if the provision of a FSM for EIT Community NEB is not a mandatory element, it will be assessed as part of the evaluation criteria (see section 5.2). Accordingly, each applicant should have a credible operational strategy for their own product/service/solution evidenced by a credible operational forecast for their specific product/service/solution to be scaled/replicated during the project implementation. We are aiming for long lasting effects and sustainability of the project, ensuring that the activities continue after the completion of the EIT Community NEB project. Proposals are encouraged to outline the potential economic impact, a potential planned period of project continuation (e.g., 1-2-3 years or beyond), and how it is planned to be achieved (e.g., based on viable operational model, or fresh funding from other grants, etc.). Measures for exploiting the obtained data should be described (in line with Article 16 Intellectual Property Rights of MGA), including how this could potentially be used as a project's marketing and/or sales plan.

---

[3] Co-funding refers to financial contributions such as partners' own resources and/or other non-EIT Community NEB funding sources.

3.9   Project implementation, monitoring and reporting

EIT Community NEB will manage all projects according to the general rules and procedures outlined in the EIT Community NEB Project Implementation Handbook.

All Project Leaders will need to comply with the rules and procedures defined in the Horizon Europe MGA during the project implementation. In particular, they will have to comply with the rules and procedures defined in the EIT Community NEB Project Implementation Handbook published on the Call webpage and the Financial Support Agreement that each partner will have to sign with each coordinating KIC.

In addition, all Project Leaders and consortium partners will need to comply with the rules and procedures defined in the Horizon Europe MGA, with special attention to Article 16 (Intellectual Property Rights) and Article 17 (Communication, Dissemination and Visibility). Most particularly, all project activities must follow the branding guidelines and obligations as set out in MGA Article 17. All communication and dissemination activities funded by the grant must display the special logo of the EIT Community New European Bauhaus with the following text: "EIT Community New European Bauhaus [project name] is supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union") and related communication materials must include the official logo of both: New European Bauhaus and EIT Community New European Bauhaus logos.

EIT Community NEB will offer mentoring to the selected projects to enlarge the impact of the activity through NEB values/principles, to assist in designing business model/scale up within NEB values/principles.

3.9.1 Mandatory deliverables

To prove the successful implementation of the project, and consequently to have the right to receive the EIT Community NEB funding according to its defined value, the following minimum mandatory deliverables are expected to be submitted:

Deliverable	Description	Tentative Date
Intermediate report	Report presenting activities implemented during the first half part of the project, including challenge description, initial outputs according to the submitted work plan, progress so far, applied methodology, stakeholder involvement, identification of potential risks and mitigation measures if required, etc.	30 June 2025
Final performance report, including report on KPIs	Report presenting activities implemented during the whole period of the project and final conclusions. - Overall progress of the activity: brief description, methodology, work plan and achievement. - KTI workshop results for future exploitation and research (including proof of addressing branding requirements). - Outputs and outcomes. - Potential impact on local policies: feedback from local authorities and impact on their strategy. - Conclusions: overall management and recommendations for further replication and/or upscaling the realised activity.	End December 2025

	- Demonstrating the evidence of the KPIs publications/dissemination/communication events (title, description, views/participants, events pages, agenda, pictures, signed and dated consent forms with family names and signatures anonymised, signed and dated participant lists with family names and signatures anonymised, pictures/videos/graphic/image/ infographics) that were able to be achieved according to the pre-defined targets of the application.	

Minor additional deliverables may be needed (e.g. slide decks and presentations) during the project implementation, depending on the projects' scope, and/or the product/service solution.

4. General proposal preparation and submission

4.1 Support on proposal preparation

Applicants are encouraged to thoroughly read the Guidelines for Applicants, attend the Call information session, and direct any questions to the contact persons during the proposal preparation process to improve chances of successful applications.

Guidelines for Applicants

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

Call information session

To help applicants prepare and submit their proposals, EIT Community NEB will host an online information session after the publication of the Call. This online information event will cover the Call content, scope and challenges, requirements, timeline, evaluation process and criteria, financial aspects, and online submission steps.

Please find details below **to register for the webinar**, please fill in the registration form: *https://forms.office.com/e/eHXPgFyMKk*

To register for the online matchmaking event, please fill in the registration form: *https://forms.office.com/e/kXBQSye6YD*

Type of event	Topic covered	Date and time (CET)	Access to platform
Online Webinar	**Co-create NEB Call Information session** Introduction to the Call, strategic focus, scope and Call requirements, the evaluation process and the steps for the submission of the proposals in the online platform.	30 July 2024, at 11:00 CET	MS Teams (LIVE) (Recording is available later on the Call website)
Online match making event	**Matchmaking event** Registered participants will present their organization, their strengths and needs to form a consortium in 4min. Template will be sent after registration	10 September 2024 at 11:00 CET	MS Teams (LIVE)

Call contact points

In addition to the Call information sessions, all applicants can reach out to the EIT Community NEB to resolve any concerns or doubts related to the Call content, the rules of participation, the evaluation process and criteria, the online submission steps, etc. Below are the key contact details for the EIT Community NEB team:

Type of contact	Team	Email
Call timeline, evaluation process and criteria, financial aspects, and online submission steps.	Programme Management Office (PMO) – Call Coordinator	pmo@eiturbanmobility.eu
Call content, scope and challenges, requirements	EIT Urban Mobility	maria.marrugat@eiturbanmobility.eu
	EIT Climate KIC	Natalia.vera@climate-kic.org
	EIT FOOD	Marianne.lemberger@eitfood.eu
	EIT Manufacturing	blanca.chocarro@eitmanufacturing.eu

In the email subject please insert the title of the Call and the acronym/ID of your proposal if any.

4.2 Proposal submission

4.2.1 How and when to apply

Before starting a proposal, **all applicants (Project Leader and consortium partners)** must follow the following steps:

- **STEP 1**: register in the **EU Funding & tender opportunities portal** to obtain the nine-digit Participant Identification Code (**PIC number**). If an organisation has already a PIC number, there is no need to register again.
- **STEP 2**: register in the new **EIT UM NetSuite platform**, by submitting the **Partner Information Form (PIF)**.
  NB: For organisations that previously participated in an EIT Urban Mobility project, and therefore are already registered in the PLAZA platform, do not submit the PIF form but **contact the EIT UM Service Desk servicedesk@eiturbanmobility.eu**: you will be provided with the credentials to access the new NetSuite platform.
- **STEP 3**: access the **EIT UM NetSuite platform** and find the open calls under *menu --> Call for Proposals --> Open Calls.*

The following documentation must be submitted by the Lead Applicant through **NetSuite no later than 10 October 2024 at 17:00 CET.**

- Application Form (**mandatory**)

- Annexes to the Application form: Registration document/Declaration of affiliation (mandatory only if applicable), Project Gantt Chart (optional)

Please carefully read the registration and submission process. It is outlined in the *Guidelines for Applicants* document. Be aware that the registration of a new entity in the EIT Urban Mobility NetSuite platform can take 2 working days. Therefore, ensure that **all the project partners** are correctly registered in NetSuite few days before the deadline.

Any proposals submitted after the set deadline will not be considered.

5. Evaluation and selection process

Once the applicants have submitted their proposals, EIT Community NEB will proceed to:

- Check eligibility and admissibility of those proposals and
- Initiate the evaluation of the eligible and admissible proposals by independent experts.

5.1 Eligibility and admissibility check

A proposal will be admissible if it fulfils the below criterion:

1. Completeness	The proposal is completed, and submitted in time, by the Lead Applicant via the NetSuite platform, in English, and with all its mandatory sections and annexes.

If a proposal is not admissible, it will not go to the eligibility check. A proposal will be eligible if it fulfils the below criteria:

2. Applicants registration	All applicants (including Lead Applicant and consortium partners) are registered in NetSuite and their PIF is fully completed, including their PIC number.
3. Applicants' eligibility	Applicants (including Project Leader and consortium partners) are entities based in an EU Member State, and/or in <u>Third countries associated to Horizon Europe,</u> as defined in Section 2.2.
4. Consortium composition	As defined in Section 2.2., a consortium **with a minimum of two and a maximum of four partners** and that meets the following requirements**:** - At least two of these partners must be independent of each other - **One of these partners must be a city, region or an affiliated entity to a city or region**

5. Registration document/Declaration of affiliation (if applicable)	In case of new entities with direct links with a city/region not previously validated in EIT Urban Mobility NETSUITE online submission tool as an Affiliated Entity, the legal registration/official document or a declaration of affiliation that proves the legal affiliation with said city/region must be uploaded together with the application form.
6. Co-funding rate	The submitted proposal must have a minimum co-funding rate of 25% across the project.
7. KPIs addressed	The submitted proposal must identify and address at least **2 mandatory KPIs**:

KPI Code	KPI title	Minimum Target value
KSN03	Public realm improvements	1
KSN02	Demonstrations/ pilots/ living labs within a project that actively involve citizens and/or local associations	1
CL01	Strengthened resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change	50
CL02	Climate-friendly jobs created or sustained	2
KIC.I10	Events organised (adjusted for the purposes of the given Call as MO1)	2
KIC.B05.1	Transition towards greater circularity EITM KPI KIC.B05.1 (adjusted for the purposes of the given Call as MO2)	1
FD01	Increased public engagement in food system	50
FD02	New skills and professions developed in the food sector	1

8. Mandatory deliverables	The submitted proposal includes the two mandatory deliverables identified in section 3.9.1: Intermediate report and Final performance report.

Proposals failing to meet one or more admissible and eligibility criteria will receive an official communication from EIT Urban Mobility, informing the Lead Applicants of the outcome of the admissibility and eligibility check and explaining why the proposal failed to meet the criteria.

In case of missing or incorrect information linked to the applicant's registration, declaration, co-funding, KPI, and deliverables, applicants will be awarded five calendar days after receiving the official communication to allow them to complete or correct the proposal and resubmit it. If the applicants respond positively to this requirement and within the time limit, the proposals will progress to the next

stage of the evaluation process (See section 5.2 below). If the applicants fail to respond or respond after the deadline, the proposals will be ineligible and will not be further processed.

In the event that a single consortium partner is ineligible, this partner will withdraw. EIT Community NEB will then check whether the proposal is still eligible. The Lead Applicant will be informed accordingly.

The Lead Applicants may appeal if they disagree with the decision to reject a proposal on the grounds that it is inadmissible/ineligible. An appeal must be made within five calendar days of the official EIT Community NEB notification of ineligibility (see document *Appeal procedure* published on the Call webpage).

5.2 Quality evaluation of proposals

The purpose of the quality evaluation is to assess the excellence, impact, implementation, and overall quality of each proposal that successfully passes the eligibility and admissibility check.

This evaluation is comprised of different groups of criteria and sub-criteria which will be assessed according to the following scores:

Score		Description
0	*None*	The information requested is missing or incomplete
1	*Very poor*	The information provided is considered irrelevant or inadequate compared to the specific Call provisions
2	*Poor*	The information provided lacks relevant quality and contains significant weaknesses, compared to the specific Call provisions
3	*Fair*	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

During this phase, each proposal will be evaluated by an Evaluation panel consisting of three Independent Expert Evaluators from the 4 coordinating KICs.
Initially, the KIC evaluators will conduct the quality evaluation of all eligible proposals, assessing them based on the evaluation criteria listed in the table below and producing an individual evaluation report for each proposal.

Furthermore, the 20 best-ranked proposals[4], evaluated by the KICs during the initial phase, will undergo an additional evaluation conducted by one external independent expert evaluator, using the same evaluation criteria. This external expert will also serve as The Rapporteur.

Finally, the Rapporteur will produce a Summary Evaluation Report (SER) for each assessed proposal. The SERs will be discussed and finalized in a Consensus Meeting attended by the Evaluation Panel and a Quality Controller. The result of each SER along with the evaluation results list of all assessed proposals and the conditions for funding, will be sent to the Selection Committee.

The proposals are evaluated and scored against the criteria listed below:

Excellence: novelty and innovation	Max. scoring 25
• The proposal objectives are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time Bound) and in line with the NEB challenges.	5 points
• The proposal demonstrates the social demand, its need and relevance for the city/region and society, with at least two identified target groups.	5 points
• The proposed solution, methodology, and/or the engagement strategy is innovative: it uses creative and stimulating formats to co-create public space, thus boosting the transformation of their cities, peri-urban and rural areas.	5 points
The proposal integrates the 3 NEB values (sustainability, inclusivity and aesthetics) from the challenge definition to the proposed solution.	5 points
• Gender and diversity are considered in the design/development of the project and its outputs/solutions.	5 points

Impact: social, economic, financial, and general sustainability	Max. scoring 25
• The proposal's expected outcomes, outputs and impacts are measurable at a quantitative and a qualitative level. Adequate performance metrics of the proposed solution are provided to objectively evaluate the sustainability, inclusivity and aesthetic value.	5 points
• The proposal demonstrates the relevance of the benefits of the project to improve the selected public space or to a local strategic plan/policy [city´s public realm infrastructure or and urban development plan, see further info in section 3.4].	5 points
• The proposal presents a detailed outreach, dissemination and end-user engagement plan that targets specific audiences and stakeholders in the local context and is aligned with the challenge area (in line with MGA Article 17).	5 points

---

[4] To determine the top 20 ranked proposals in the event of tied scores, priority will be given to those proposals with the greatest divergence in scores as reflected in the individual evaluation reports, indicating the need for an additional assessment by an external expert.

• The proposal has the potential to be implemented on a broader scale or replicable in various cities (the outcomes are repeatable and/or scalable).	5 points
• The proposal's potential economic impact is outlined to ensure potential future durability and transferability. Measures on exploiting the obtained data should be described, including how this could potentially be used as a project's marketing and/or sales plan	5 points

Implementation: planning and sound financial management	Max. scoring 20
• The proposal provides effective and professional management structures to attain the defined outcomes.	5 points
• A clear risk and mitigation plan is provided.	5 points
• The workplan and budget including the identified deliverables and milestones, is aligned with the proposed objectives, KPIs and expected outcomes, impact projections.	5 points
• The consortium represents the right competencies and roles in accordance with the scope of the proposal. The role of and resources made available by the city/local authority are well defined.	5 points

The total scoring of **70 points** is distributed as follows:

	Max score
Excellence	*25 points*
Impact	*25 points*
Implementation	*20 points*
Total points	*70 points*

Only proposals **equal to or over 45 points (threshold)** might be funded.

If as a result of the quality evaluation, two or more proposals receive the same scoring, funding prioritisation will be based on the following scoring order:

- Geographical spread within the EIT Community NEB Portfolio
- Long lasting sustainability ensuring activities continue after the completion of the EIT Community NEB project (section 3.8.2, IPR and exploitation results)
- Co-funding rate higher than 25%

This will be specifically brought to the attention of the EIT Community NEB Selection Committee.

5.3   Portfolio selection

The Portfolio selection is the final step of the evaluation and selection process. It is undergone by the EIT Community NEB Selection Committee composed of the EU Affairs and RIS Director of EIT Manufacturing, the Strategic Projects Director of EIT Urban Mobility, the Performance Developer of Climate-KIC and the Director of EIT Community of EIT Food.

The EIT Community NEB Selection Committee will receive the result of each SER together with the evaluation results and the list of all proposals assessed. This Committee will endorse the final ranking list of projects put forward for funding, those put forward for inclusion in the reserve list (if any), and those put forward for rejection. In addition, the EIT Community NEB Selection Committee will endorse the list of conditions and recommendations (if any) to be addressed by the applicants of the selected projects to improve their proposals.

The EIT Community NEB retains the right to reach out to proposals listed on the reserve list if additional EIT funds become available and in justified cases, the EIT Community NEB can use the reserve list in the next Business Plan.

5.4   Communication of results to applicants

The Lead Applicant will receive a communication from EIT Community NEB with the results of the evaluation (SER).

If the proposal is pre-selected, the evaluation results may include a set of conditions to improve the proposals, within a defined and non-negotiable period. The Lead Applicant of a conditionally pre-selected proposal will need to respond and update the proposal according to these conditions within this timeframe. If the Lead Applicant fails to comply with the conditions or does not respond in the time allocated, EIT Community NEB reserves the right to withdraw the conditional notification. Should this occur, the next proposal on the ranking list will be contacted.

If the Lead Applicant of a rejected proposal disagrees with the decision, they may only appeal if an SER comment clearly contradicts the information provided in the proposal. In this case, the Lead Applicant will have five calendar days after receiving the final evaluation results to submit an appeal (see document *Appeal procedure* document published on the Call webpage).

5.5   Appeal on Evaluation Results

The Lead Applicant who disagrees with the decision may appeal only in the event that a SER comment is in clear contradiction with the information provided in the proposal. In this case, the Project Leader upon receipt of the final SER, will have 5 calendar days to submit an appeal. See *Appeal Procedure document* published on the Call webpage.

5.6   Onboarding and contracting phase

Should all conditions be met within the indicated timeframe, each KIC will initiate the onboarding and contracting process. The contract will be signed only after 30 days from the preselection decision.

As outlined in the Project Implementation Handbook, entities receiving EIT funding for the implementation of projects will therefore become subgrantees of the Business Plan 2023-2025, committing themselves to perform towards the achievement of the related targets. Entities that have never been part of projects funded by the KICs and that do not have a PIC validated by the Research Executive Agency (REA) of the European Commission will be subject to a PIC validation process managed by the EIT Community Onboarding Service. All validated entities will proceed with the signature of the Financial Support Agreement (FSA).

Additionally, each KIC reserves the right to request to the EIT Community Onboarding Service a Financial Assessment Capacity to check the financial capacity of any entity of a selected proposal. In such case, the coordinating KIC may require:

- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several liability for all subgrantees or joint and several liabilities of Affiliated Entities if any
- prefinancing paid in instalments (multiple/additional prefinancing)
- (one or more) prefinancing guarantees

or
- propose no prefinancing or
- request that the entity be replaced or, if needed, might reject the entire proposal

In other words, if the assessment results are not satisfactory, the coordinating KIC might reject the participation of this entity and will then check whether the proposal is still eligible.