

EIT JUMPSTARTER 2026

Terms & Conditions

Version 2
06.05.2026

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THE HISTORY OF CHANGES

Change log ID	Date	Page	Description
1	4.05.2026	5	Category Advanced and Green Manufacturing powered by EIT Manufacturing is cancelled. List of categories in point 1.1.3 updated accordingly. Text amended to: "Applicants can submit their ideas in one of six categories, powered and mentored by different EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities – EIT KICs (details in Annex 5): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare powered by EIT Health • Food & Agritech powered by EIT Food • Raw Materials: metals, minerals and industrial side streams powered by EIT RawMaterials • Energy and Renewables powered by InnoEnergy • Advanced and Green Manufacturing powered by EIT Manufacturing • Smart Cities and Mobility powered by EIT Urban Mobility • additional thematic agnostic category Supporting Maltese startups and innovations powered by EIT Communities together with Xjenza Malta and dedicated for applicants from Malta. The detailed scope of each thematic field is described in Annex 4."
2	4.05.2026	5,27	Additional stipulations added as footnote no.4&18: "The Advanced and Green Manufacturing category powered by EIT Manufacturing and included in EIT JUMPSTARTER 2026 Terms & Conditions (Version 1, 13.03.2025) is discontinued. Applicants in this category are not disadvantaged nor required to re-apply under different conditions. All applications submitted in this call for this category will be redistributed among other remaining categories and evaluated in line with the general rules by the respective evaluation committees. Number of teams selected to EIT Jumpstarter programme Online Bootcamp and Workshops and Startup Builder Training is increased proportionally to accommodate applicants from former Advanced and Green Manufacturing category."
3	4.05.2026	5,9,20	Eligibility criterion for of applicants in special category 'Supporting Maltese startups and innovations' was clarified. Additional stipulations added as footnote no. 3,7,16: "Please note that to be eligible to join thematic agnostic category "Supporting Maltese startups and innovations" powered by EIT Communities together with Xjenza Malta and dedicated for applicants from Malta, applicant (meaning at least one of the team members submitting application) must hold citizenship of Malta."
4	4.05.2026	5	Deadline to apply has been extended. Text amended to: "The call for applications opens on March 13th 2026 and closes on May 17th 2026 at 23:59 CEST."
5	4.05.2026	6	Number of applicants selected in thematic categories is increased to 30. Text in p.1.2.2 amended: "The selection will be made on the basis of the ranking and the best 30 teams per each KIC's thematic field and the best 12 in 'Supporting Maltese startups and innovations' cohort – in total up to 162 teams will be selected to participate in the programme."
6	4.05.2026	6	Number of participants selected in thematic categories for Startup Builder Training is increased to 14. Total number of participants selected across all thematic categories for Startup Builder Training is decreased from 72 to 70. Number of startups in in 'Supporting Maltese startups and innovations' cohort is not changed. Text in p.1.2.4 amended: "Their pitches and answers will be evaluated by a jury panel and based on a ranking list in each cohort organisers will select the best performing, most committed up to 82 teams (up to 14 teams per each category) and invite them to the next stage of the programme, the Startup Builder training, which partially takes place in person."
7	4.05.2026	7	Number of participants selected in thematic categories for EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day is decreased to 36. Text in p.1.2.6 amended: "Based on the submitted Supporting Document and the Business Plans, the organisers will invite the best up to 36 teams – up to 6 per each category to deliver a pitch at the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day event."
8	4.05.20226	13	Number of participants selected to specific stages where financial support is provided was updated accordingly. Text in p.5.1. amended: "In each thematic field, up to 30 teams, and in 'Supporting Maltese startups and innovations' category up to 12 teams will be selected in 1st round of evaluation to join Online Bootcamps. Then up to 14 teams in each category will be selected in 2nd round of evaluation to participate in Startup Builder Training, where they will become eligible to receive a subgrant (EUR 1,000) under condition of submitting required deliverables and signing a financial support agreement."
9	4.05.2026	14	Specific requirement for documentation necessary for finalizing financial support agreement was added. Text in p. 5.3 amended with footnote no.14: "Please note that as part of the conditions prior to funding, the participant must provide proof of PIC registration, if grant agreement with specific KIC requires PIC number from subgrantees."
10	4.05.2026	17-18	Key dates have changed. Text amended to: "Deadline for submitting business ideas: 17 May 2026 at 23:59 CEST Selection of ideas and invitation to the Online Bootcamps: 25 May 2026 Online Bootcamps will be held online in May-June 2026 (to be defined) Online Pitch Days: 6-10 July 2026 (to be defined) Startup Builder training: July-September 2026 (to be defined) Submission of Business Plans: 30 September 2026 Finalists selection and invitation to the Grand Demo Day: 16 October 2026 Grand Demo Day: October-November 2026 (to be defined) Award Ceremony: November-December 2026 (to be defined)"

11	4.05.2026		<p>Dedicated KIC Contact points has been updated. Text amended to: “For specific, category-related questions, please contact dedicated KIC Contact points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact from EIT Health: Mr. Mohammed Ilyass Rahmouni • Contact from EIT RawMaterials: Mr. Yevhen Kurlenko • Contact from EIT Food: Ms. Malgorzata Wolszlegier • Contact from EIT InnoEnergy: Mr. Piotr Pawelec • Contact form EIT Urban Mobility: Ms. Evelin Szasz • Contact form Xjenza Malta: Ms. Vella Mariah”
12	4.05.2026	26-27	<p>Annex 4 updated. Description of Advanced and Green Manufacturing cohort powered by EIT Manufacturing removed. Additional description added: “Optionally solutions implementing Advanced and Green Manufacturing, in particular: Flexible Production Systems for Competitive Manufacturing, Low Environmental Footprint Systems & Circular Economy for Green Manufacturing, Digital & Collaborative Solutions for Innovative Manufacturing Ecosystems and Human-machine coworking for socially sustainable manufacturing can be proposed. The applications submitted with such a thematic scope will be considered as applicable in other supported fields of advanced and green manufacturing for Healthcare, Food & Agritech, Raw Materials: metals, minerals and industrial side streams, Energy and Renewables, or Smart Cities and Mobility.”</p>
13	4.05.2026	28-29	<p>Annex 5 updated accordingly. Text amended to: “EIT Jumpstarter Programme is a flagship initiative of the EIT Community with five EIT KICs actively participating in: EIT Food, EIT Health, InnoEnergy, EIT RawMaterials, EIT Urban Mobility – which are described below.” Overview of EIT Manufacturing removed.</p>
14	4.05.2026	9	<p>Dates with number of teams selected and stages short descriptions on the Figure in point 1.2.9 EIT Jumpstarter Indicative timeline updated.</p>
15	4.05.2026	3-4	<p>History of changes added. Contents and page numbers updated.</p>

1. THE DESCRIPTION AND STRUCTURE OF THE EIT JUMPSTARTER

1.1. Description of EIT Jumpstarter

EIT Jumpstarter is a flagship programme of the EIT Communities, an initiative funded by the [European Institute of Innovation & Technology \(EIT\)](#). The EIT Jumpstarter is steered by EIT Food, while each cohort is coordinated by a different EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community.

1.1.1. What is the EIT Jumpstarter?

The EIT Jumpstarter (here and after referred also as the Programme) is an **award-winning pre-acceleration programme** funded by the European Union. The programme is designed to **help scientists, researchers, innovators, Master's or PhD students, citizens or idea holders** validate their innovative ideas and develop business skills **to create and run their startups**. The programme, powered by the EIT Community RII Cluster (more details in Annex 5), focuses on talents coming from the countries located in **Central, Eastern and Southern Europe**, where the overall pace of innovation is moderate or emerging¹ and which are, for the most part, eligible for the [EIT Regional Innovation Scheme](#) (list of eligible geographies below and in Annex 1). Very often, they have the necessary scientific background and research experience, but they lack business skills or have never validated their idea on the market. During the seven-month-long programme, the participants are equipped with an essential business skill set that is a must for future entrepreneurs, including business modelling and validation of the market need. They also gain best-in-class networking and understand how to turn their innovation from an idea to a marketable product or service and make a potential impact in their respective industry. The EIT Community carefully selects the best candidates to enable quality peer-to-peer learning. The most promising teams are awarded with financial prizes of up to EUR 10,000 to support their further development (details regarding funding terms in point 3).

EIT Jumpstarter is open for participants from the following countries and territories (details in point 2.1 and Annex 1):

- EU Member States: **Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain;**
- EU Outermost Regions: **Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain);**
- Horizon Europe Associated Countries and territories: **Albania, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, *Kosovo², Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine, Türkiye.**

The EIT Jumpstarter creates a new European cohort of innovators and early-stage entrepreneurs, curious and eager to find solutions to some of the most pressing global intersectional challenges such as: climate change, the energy crisis, access to raw materials, health, well-being and active ageing, sustainable manufacturing or smart and liveable cities, resilient agriculture and others (details on thematic scope in point 2).

Since 2017, the EIT Jumpstarter has brought to life over 150 startups and trained over 1500 researchers, scientists, and professionals. It is free of charge for beneficiaries and doesn't require equity shares.

¹ According to the European innovation scoreboard: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/statistics/performance-indicators/european-innovation-scoreboard_en

² This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

1.1.2. Who are the participants?

EIT Jumpstarter participants are individuals or teams of individuals (researchers, master's or PhD students, or other professionals and idea owners) intending to establish a startup in one of the eligible countries (detailed eligibility criteria in point 2).

1.1.3. What kind of ideas can be submitted?

Applicants can submit their ideas in one of six categories, powered and mentored by different EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities – EIT KICs (details in Annex 5):

- **Healthcare** powered by EIT Health
- **Food & Agritech** powered by EIT Food
- **Raw Materials: metals, minerals and industrial side streams** powered by EIT RawMaterials
- **Energy and Renewables** powered by InnoEnergy
- **Smart Cities and Mobility** powered by EIT Urban Mobility
- additional thematic agnostic category **Supporting Maltese startups and innovations** powered by EIT Communities together with Xjenza Malta and dedicated for applicants from Malta.³

The detailed scope of each thematic field is described in Annex 4.⁴

1.2. Structure of EIT Jumpstarter

This Programme is divided into several phases. Detailed timeline and key dates are outlined in in point 10.

1.2.1. Submission of ideas

The **call for applications opens on March 13th 2026 and closes on May 17th 2026 at 23:59 CEST**. Applications must be submitted in English through our [online application form](#). The applicants should emphasise: the innovative concept, what is unique in their technology, the development stage of their idea, explaining the need the innovation solves, the team description, and the current challenges of the team. Applications can be submitted only once under the most appropriate thematic field (details point 1.1.3). Applications shall be evaluated on a rolling basis; therefore, applicants are encouraged to complete their application form earlier than the expiration of the application deadline.

The Organisers reserve the right to extend the application deadline at their sole discretion, without the obligation to provide further explanation. In case the application deadline is extended the organisers will inform about it via the programme website: eitjumpstarter.eu.

Eligibility of all applications will be checked before detailed evaluation. Only eligible applications will go through evaluation using selection criteria (please see Annex 2 – Scoring criteria).

If the number of eligible applications (fulfilling the eligibility criteria and submitted before the deadline) is lower than the number of available places in the Online Bootcamps of a cohort, the additional recruitment of participants may be launched and carried on for such a cohort. The selection for the remaining vacant places will be held separately upon the same criteria as the initial one. The additional recruitment might be terminated earlier without any prior notice.

³ Please note that to be eligible to join thematic agnostic category “Supporting Maltese startups and innovations” powered by EIT Communities together with Xjenza Malta and dedicated for applicants from Malta, applicant (meaning at least one of the team members submitting application) must hold citizenship of Malta.

⁴ The Advanced and Green Manufacturing category powered by EIT Manufacturing and included in EIT JUMPSTARTER 2026 Terms & Conditions (Version 1, 13.03.2025) is discontinued. Applicants in this category are not disadvantaged nor required to re-apply under different conditions. All applications submitted in this call for this category will be redistributed among other remaining categories and evaluated in line with the general rules by the respective evaluation committees. Number of teams selected to EIT Jumpstarter programme Online Bootcamp and Workshops and Startup Builder Training is increased proportionally to accommodate applicants from former Advanced and Green Manufacturing category.

1.2.2. Evaluation of applications and Selection to the Online Bootcamps

A team of experts will carefully assess the submitted applications (details point 3). During the evaluation process of submitted applications, additional points will be given to STEM students graduated from [the EIT-labeled programmes or HEI projects](#), teams comprising at least one founder coming from the EU Outermost Regions, teams co-founded by at least one woman as well as participants of [the COST Actions or other COST Association programmes](#). A ranking list of the submitted applications will be prepared in each cohort.

The selection will be made on the basis of the ranking and the best 30 teams per each KIC's thematic field and the best 12 in 'Supporting Maltese startups and innovations' cohort – in total up to 162 teams will be selected to participate in the programme. Due to the cross-sectoral character of the programme, there may be possible shifts of qualified teams between thematic cohorts: in case the scope of a business idea fits better into another thematical cohort, the team will be requested to change the earlier selected vertical. The invitations will be sent to accepted participants directly by the respective EIT KIC's Contact point.

A reserve list of applicants will be prepared for each cohort. If a selected applicant resigns from the Programme, the applicant with the highest score from the reserve list shall be invited to participate. Please note, that teams from the reserve list can only be invited during the first three weeks of the learning programme's commencement. This timing allows for adequate integration into the curriculum process.

1.2.3. Online Bootcamp and Workshops

The training aims to deliver the fundamental qualitative and quantitative skills of developing a business case for an entrepreneurial idea; as well as knowledge on pitching the business case to get investor funding. Focus areas: pitch deck development, creation of business-critical assumptions, and identification of next steps. Bootcamps will be organised online in May-June 2026. Bootcamps are composed of online training modules (approximately 15 hours in total) during which participants will develop key elements of their business model. Participants will have 6 weeks to complete all required trainings, followed by a Pitch webinar. The self-study will be supported with 3 online workshops to master the different topics while interacting, networking, and learning from fellow teams and involved experts. At the end of the Online Bootcamp, each participating team is required to prepare, pre-record and submit a pitch-video. Finalizing the training of the team on dedicated e-learning platform is mandatory to proceed and pitch at the Online Pitch Day.

1.2.4. Online Pitch Day and Selection to the Startup Builder Training

After the Online Bootcamp, teams will pitch their business ideas during an online, thematical Pitch Day in late June – early July 2026. During the event, the pitch videos will be presented and the teams will have the opportunity to answer the jury's questions. Their pitches and answers will be evaluated by a jury panel and based on a ranking list in each cohort organisers will select the best performing, most committed up to 82 teams (up to 14 teams per each category) and invite them to the next stage of the programme, the Startup Builder training, which partially takes place in person. In case any of selected teams refuse or are unable to participate in the EIT Jumpstarter Startup Builder Training, the next highest-ranking team will be invited to take the vacant place. The invitations will be sent to participants by the respective EIT KIC's Contact point.

1.2.5. Startup Builder Training

The EIT Jumpstarter Startup Builder Training will be organised in July-September 2026 as one in-person training workshop with supporting on-line activities for teams selected in the previous stage. The Training will build on the knowledge acquired by teams during the Online Bootcamps. The Startup Builder Training aim to help teams test and validate their main assumptions set up in the previous phase, expand existing knowledge and practice new skills, master their presentation skills, and learn how to set up a startup. The Startup Builder Training will include deep-dive sessions and peer-to-peer workshops led by top experts, delivering: 16 hours of in-person training (2 days), 18 hours of online live webinars on different topics, and additional 6 hours of cohort specific online training (approximately 40 hours in total per team). Teams will be asked to prepare home assignments

during the trainings namely, to work on business modelling tools. Furthermore, teams will have the possibility to receive individual mentoring. The Startup Builder Training will be organised partially in person. Teams will be supported by small grants to cover the travel and accommodation costs related to their participation in the training (further specification in point 5.2). The attendance of the team representative in the Training is mandatory. At the end of the trainings, teams will be required to write concise Business Plans considering the outcomes of the analyses prepared and delivered during the training. Teams will prepare a Business Plan with the support of mentors (up to 3 hours/team) and using a provided template. At this stage each team willing to proceed to the Grand Demo Day should have enough knowledge and skills and be ready and committed to incorporate their startup. Teams will be asked to submit their Business Plans together with one of the Supporting Documents: a Registration certificate or a Proof of Filing⁵ the Registration, if the team members have already started the company registration process related to their application. In justified cases a Letter of Intent confirming that the team will incorporate its company by the end of December 2026 might be accepted.

1.2.6. Business Plan Evaluation and Selection of the Finalists of the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day

Participants must deliver their Business Plans and a Supporting Document by end of September, 2026. In case teams will not provide a supporting document, their Business Plans will not be evaluated. The Business Plans will be evaluated by the evaluation committee and a ranking list will be prepared in each cohort. The prizes at the Grand Demo Day are considered a part of the pre-seed funding stage. This is the earliest phase of financing for a startup, typically occurring when the company is still in the ideation or concept stage. These prizes are intended to incentivise product or service development efforts aimed at commercialising innovative solutions by startup companies. Therefore, across all EIT Jumpstarter categories, only those teams who are ready to set up a new business enterprise by end of 2026 will be eligible to enter the final phase of the Programme. In this context, additional points will be given to the teams which already finalized startup incorporation. Based on the submitted Supporting Document and the Business Plans, the organisers will invite the best up to 36 teams – up to 6 per each category to deliver a pitch at the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day event. The invitations will be sent to participants by the respective EIT KIC's Contact point.

1.2.7. EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day and selection of prize winners

The EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day is the final pitching stage and the culmination of the EIT Jumpstarter programme. The Grand Demo Day is an online, public event where the most promising teams, selected after months of rigorous preparation, compete for prizes. In order to participate in the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day, participants must deliver the final version of their pitch decks to the EIT Jumpstarter Programme Lead and the respective EIT KIC's representative by end of October, 2026. The invited teams will be grouped into seven sessions according to their categories. The teams in each cohort will pitch their ideas live in front of the broader audience and the jury panels, composed of experts appointed by the EIT Community. During the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day the teams will be ranked based on the evaluation of the jury.

1.2.8. EIT Jumpstarter Award Ceremony

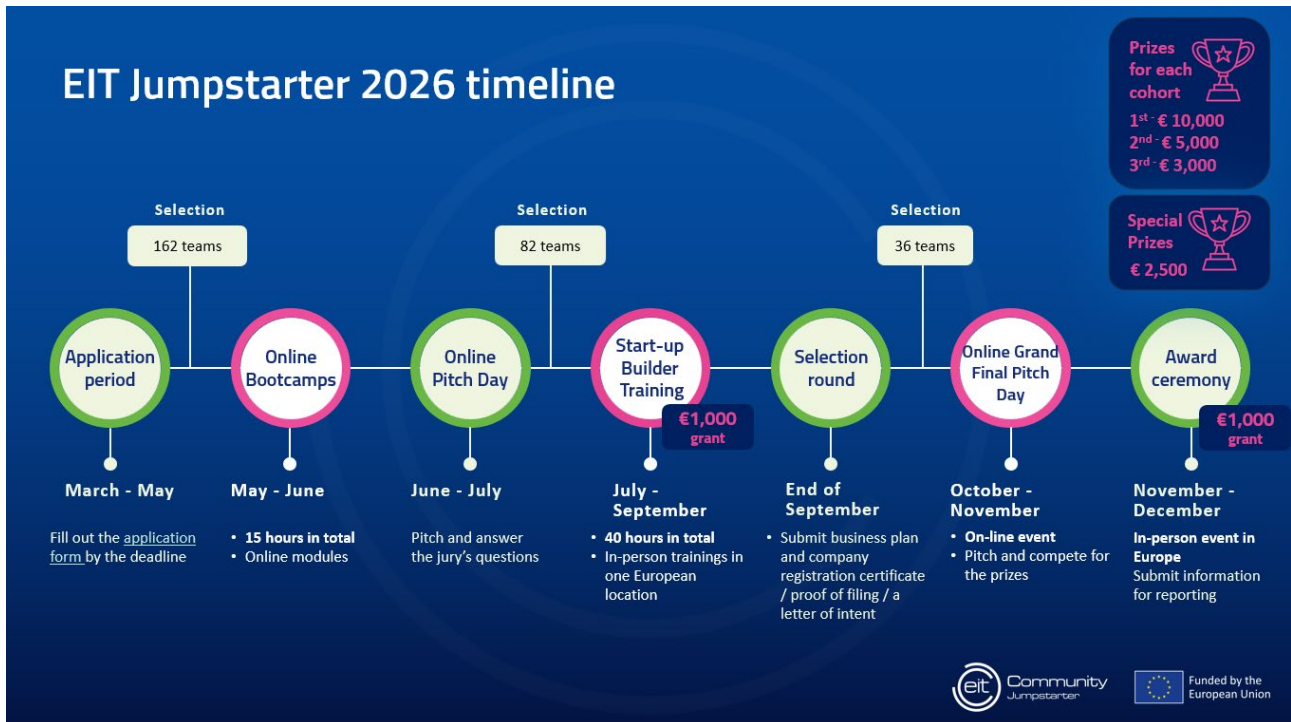
The top 3 winners selected in each category by the Jury during Grand Demo Day will be awarded with financial prizes up to EUR 10,000. Additional special prizes of EUR 2,500 each will be given to the best teams (regardless of their category):

- with the solution implementing the New European Bauhaus principles,
- with solution supporting Rebuild Ukraine efforts,
- coming from the Western Balkans,
- coming from the EU Outermost Regions (more details in point 5.4).

⁵ The Proof of Filing the Registration should include the forecasted date of the registration of the company.

The best three teams per cohort as well as the winners of the special prizes will be invited to the Awards Ceremony, which will take place in-person (if possible by the end of the year) in one of the EIT RIS eligible countries. If a member of the awarded team is not an EU citizen, they may receive a letter of invitation to obtain the appropriate visa. Teams will be supported by small grants to cover the travel and accommodation costs related to their participation in the Award Ceremony (more details in point 5.2). The Awards Ceremony will be organised as a side event of another relevant innovation or startup ecosystem event. It will give additional networking opportunities to the most successful teams. Additional special prizes might be offered by sponsors, on specific terms agreed with the EIT Community, and communicated to the teams respectively.

1.2.9. EIT Jumpstarter Indicative timeline



2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

2.1. Eligible participants - Who can apply?

- Categories of persons: Eligible applicants are **natural persons only** (individuals or teams of individuals). Legal entities are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants profile: researchers or research groups, Masters/PhD students, professionals, idea holders, or idea owners; that have an idea/solution that is targeting the one of EIT Jumpstarter categories and want to start a company.
- Team status: Application may be submitted by an **individual or by a team of individuals**.⁶
- Eligible countries and territories: Applicants (in case of a team application – **at least one member of the team**) **must hold citizenship** in one of the eligible countries or territories listed in point 1.1 and

⁶ The participation of a team is welcome and appreciated in the evaluation, especially when the team is covering different competencies required in running a startup. However, a maximum number of two (2) co-founding members per team is eligible to take part in the EIT Jumpstarter programme to ensure the high quality and comfortable conditions of the training activities. In justified cases, the EIT KIC contact point or trainer/mentor may allow the participation of more team members in specific activities. Up to two team members can receive grants (financial support) for travel and accommodation purposes.

Annex 1.⁷

- e. Startup Registration Status: Eligible are only those applicants **who before 1 January 2026 did not have registered startup based on the submitted ideas**. Applicants who already have startups (legal entities) registered before 1 January 2026, and connected to their business ideas submitted in the application phase, are not eligible to participate and will not be accepted.⁸ Applicants who registered their company in the given calendar year (from 1 January 2026) are eligible for the programme.⁹
- f. Funding limit: Eligible are only those applicants for whom **the sum of grants received from EIT does not exceed the funding limit of EUR 60,000**.

2.2. Eligible applications – How to apply?

- a. Applications must be **in English**. Applications in other languages will not be accepted.
- b. Applications must be **submitted** by the contact person **through a dedicated [online application form](#)** with all required information tabs filled in. Incomplete submissions or submissions via any other means (e.g. email) will be rejected.
- c. Applications must be submitted **before the deadline**; all late applications will be rejected.¹⁰
- d. Applications must clearly indicate at least one co-founder having citizenship in one of the eligible countries or territories.
- e. The idea must be **within the scope of the thematic categories** as listed in point 1.1 and described in details in Annex 4.
- f. The submitted idea must be exclusively concentrated on civil applications, with no intention of military use or serving military purposes, in adherence to ethical considerations, to be eligible for participation. If a product/service/model involves dual-use items as defined by [Regulation 2021/821](#) or other items requiring authorisation, participation, and support can still be considered, but we will add a specific note to make sure the Project complies with the relevant regulatory framework.
- g. Each applicant must use a unique email address for submission. Multiple submissions are not accepted.
- h. Individuals, co-founders, and project team members are not eligible to be part of more than one submitted project at the same time and/or submit more than one project at the same time.
- i. Additional information, such as a weblink to the project, can be uploaded to support the application. These additional documents are not mandatory, and please be aware that if you do not explicitly refer to such documents in your application, the reviewers may not consider these attachments as the basis for their evaluation.

⁷ Please note that to be eligible to join thematic agnostic category “Supporting Maltese startups and innovations” powered by EIT Communities together with Xjenza Malta and dedicated for applicants from Malta, applicant (meaning at least one of the team members submitting application) must hold citizenship of Malta.

⁸ A startup is considered connected and based on similar idea, if its primary NACE activity, core IP, or commercial purpose substantially overlaps with the submitted idea

⁹ Please note that EIT Jumpstarter supports only natural persons meaning co-founders of startups in case of startups already incorporated in 2026.

¹⁰ The application deadline will be set according to the Central European Time zone (CET). Teams which will represent countries outside the Central European time zone, please take into account the hourly time difference.

2.3. Exclusion criteria - Who cannot participate?

- a. Participants of the former editions of the EIT Jumpstarter¹¹ cannot be selected for the programme nor receive any financial support at any stage of the Programme.
- b. Applicants shall be excluded from participation¹² if they:
 - are subject to personal bankruptcy;
 - have been banned from taking part in public procurement processes, performing executive duties or shareholder status, completing professional work;
 - are guilty of grave professional misconduct (professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information to gain advantage);
 - have committed fraud, corruption, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking;
 - have shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar;
 - are guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95 on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests;
 - have created an entity under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social, or other legal obligations in the country of origin;
 - have a conflict of interest at the commencement or at any time during the entire duration of the application or the completion process; a conflict of interest could arise in particular as a result of economic interests, political or national affinities, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest related to the call.

3. EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

3.1. Evaluation methodology

The evaluation methodology used during the entire programme is as follows. The evaluation will be conducted in four rounds:

- (1) **Evaluation of applications and Selection to the Online Bootcamps,**
- (2) **Online Pitch Day and Selection to the Startup Builder Training,**
- (3) **Business Plan Evaluation and Selection of the Finalists of the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day,**
- (4) **EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day and Selection of winners.**

To participate in the respective stages of the programme the candidates will be evaluated and selected in each cohort separately. Each evaluation will be conducted by jury/evaluation committee composed of 2 external and 1 internal evaluators. Evaluators are contractually required to recuse themselves in the event of a conflict of interest. At each round teams' deliverables will be evaluated and a ranking list of the candidates based on

¹¹ The former EIT Jumpstarter participants - Former EIT Jumpstarter participants are teams of individuals who have been selected for one of the EIT JS cohorts in Phase I (Online Bootcamps) in previous years of the programme.

¹² To join the Programme applicants will be required to sign EIT Jumpstarter Code of Conduct for Participants (Annex 3) confirming that the exclusion criteria do not apply to them.

their deliverables will be prepared. The selection will be made on the basis of this ranking. The top highest-scoring candidates will be selected.

3.2. Award criteria for Evaluation of applications, Online Pitch Day and Business Plan Evaluation and Selection of the Finalists of the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day,

The following criteria will be used for teams' evaluation at round (1),(2),(3) with scoring 0-5 and equal weights:

- A. Innovativeness of idea;
- B. Identification of an existing problem;
- C. Market Opportunity and potential customers;
- D. Implementation plan of the idea;
- E. Team expertise and Motivation;

Additional criteria will be used exclusively at round (1) for selection of participants with scoring 0-1:

- E1. COST Actions or other COST Association programmes experiences;
- E2. EIT-labelled programmes or HEI projects experiences;
- F. Female co-/founders;
- G. EU Outermost Regions team's origins.

Additional criterion will be used exclusively at round at round (3), for selection of finalists of Grand Demo Day scoring 0-1:

- H. Startup incorporation status.

The criteria reflect and allow assessment of: **Excellence** (A,B); **Impact** (C,F,G); **Quality and efficiency of the implementation** (D,E,E1,E2,H). More details in Annex 2.

3.3. Award criteria for evaluation of Finalists at EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Days and Selection of prize winners

The following criteria will be used for teams evaluation at round (4) with scoring 0-5 and equal weights:

- A. Problem Definition and Relevance;
- B. Solution and Problem-Solution Fit;
- C. Customer value proposition & Market Understanding;
- D. Innovation / Technological Potential;
- E. Business Model & Go-To-Market Readiness;
- F. Impact (Societal, Environmental, or Economic);
- G. Team Strength & Execution Capacity;
- H. Pitch Delivery & Communication;
- I. Slide Design & Visual Impact.

The criteria reflect and allow assessment of: **Excellence** (B,D,H,I); **Impact** (A,C,F); **Quality and efficiency of the implementation** (E,G).

Each evaluation criterion scored from 0 to 5 will be using the following scoring system:

0 - Very Poor - The criterion is not addressed, or there are critical deficiencies, that make the evaluated deliverable unacceptable with respect to this criterion.

1 - Poor - The criterion is inadequately addressed and presents major weaknesses.

2 - Fair The criterion is partially addressed, but significant weaknesses remain.

3 - Good The criterion is adequately addressed, though several shortcomings are present.

4 - Very Good The criterion is well addressed, with only minor shortcomings.

5 - Excellent The criterion is very well addressed, fully meeting or exceeding all relevant aspects.

Each evaluation criterion scored from 0 to 1 will be using the following scoring system:

0 - Not documented - The criterion is not addressed or not sufficiently documented in deliverables.

1 - Documented - The criterion is addressed and sufficiently documented in deliverables.

3.4. Announcing results of the call

The results of the EIT Jumpstarter selection process will be communicated to applicants by email following the completion of each evaluation round. Each eligible candidate will receive a message containing results, as well as information on the next steps in the process. The final results, including the presentation of the 2026 EIT Jumpstarter cohorts at different programme stages, will be publicly announced on the EIT Community websites, social media, and through newsletters.

4. REDRESS AND APPEALS PROCEDURE

Applicants to EIT Jumpstarter may appeal the process for the selection. Similarly, the participants of the programme may appeal for errors in the programme execution, following the EIT Jumpstarter Appeals Procedure. The only grounds for appeal are: process errors, technical problems beyond the control of applicants (e.g. the technical failure of the electronic submission system), Human/technical errors made by EIT KICs staff.

Scores awarded in the process of evaluation, regardless of the phase of the programme, do not constitute the grounds for an appeal.

Applicants should send their appeals in writing to redress@eitfood.eu as soon as they identify an error, but no later than 15 days after receiving their result. EIT Jumpstarter Programme Lead acknowledges receipt of the appeal within 48 hours, assesses the claim and delivers a first response within 2 weeks.

If there are grounds for appeal, EIT Jumpstarter Programme Lead will attempt to remedy the consequences (e.g. if a technical error of EIT Jumpstarter prevented the submission of a proposal or application, a late submission may still be accepted as eligible).

The Steering Committee of the EIT Community Regional Innovations and Internationalization Cluster is notified about the matter if:

- the applicant does not accept a rejection of the appeal, or the remediation suggested by the EIT Jumpstarter Programme Lead,
- there are grounds for appeal, but the problem cannot be remedied any more without disrupting the process.

The final decision regarding the appeal and the suggested remedies shall be brought by the Steering Committee of the EIT Community Regional Innovations and Internationalization Cluster within 4 weeks.

5. FUNDING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The total budget for financial support in this call is EUR 241,000. Recipients may receive one or two subgrants to fund their costs, as well as may receive financial prize(s), depending on their participation and performance in the Programme. Financial support will be distributed to the team only if all required deliverables are submitted and a respective agreement is signed.

5.1. General conditions

Participants will be eligible to receive financial support at different stages of the Programme, depending on their successful completion of each stage and submitting required deliverables within a time frame defined in the point 5.2. Financing is based on teams, no matter if the team is represented by just one or two or more

members. Participants may not receive financial support twice during the Programme cycle for the same activity.

To participate in the respective stages of the programme and to receive (if applicable) financial support, the candidates will be evaluated and selected in each cohort independently based on their submitted deliverables: (1) application, (2) pitching (pitch-video and pitch deck), (3) business plan and supporting documents as described in point 3.

In each thematic field, up to 30 teams, and in ‘Supporting Maltese startups and innovations’ category up to 12 teams will be selected in 1st round of evaluation to join Online Bootcamps. Then up to 14 teams in each category will be selected in 2nd round of evaluation to participate in Startup Builder Training, where they will become eligible to receive a subgrant (EUR 1,000) under condition of submitting required deliverables and signing a financial support agreement. Then up to 6 best teams in each category will be selected in 3rd round of evaluation to participate in Grand Demo Day. In 4th round of evaluation, the best 3 teams in each category will be selected to receive financial prizes and to attend final stage of the programme where they will become eligible to receive additional subgrant (EUR 1,000) for participating in Award Ceremony.

5.2. Financial support for participation in different stages

a. Online Bootcamps (May-June 2026)

Not applicable

b. Startup Builder Training (July-September 2026)

Each team which participates in the Startup Builder Training and submits required deliverables (Business Plan together with one of the Supporting Documents Company registration certificate, Proof of Filing the Registration, or in exceptional and justified cases a Letter of Intent) by September 30th, 2026 will receive a lump sum of EUR 1,000 to cover their costs related to attending the Startup Builder training, as well as other eligible project development activities.¹³

c. Award Ceremony (November-December 2026)

Each team which participates in the Award Ceremony and submits required deliverables (Pitch deck and Company registration certificate) by November 30th, 2026 will receive a lump sum of EUR 1,000 to cover their costs related to attending the Award Ceremony, as well as other eligible project development activities.

5.3. Form of financial support

Financial support will be provided as a lump sum.

Financial support to teams will be based on a financial support agreement signed by each team member or a team leader on behalf of the eligible team. After having all participants of the Startup Builder Trainings and all the winners taking part in the Award Ceremony selected and confirmed, each EIT KIC responsible for its cohort will provide all necessary documentation to the teams.¹⁴ If a participating team does not accept the financial support agreement, this team will not be eligible for financial support. Financial Support Agreement templates will be published at the EIT Jumpstarter website.

¹³ Additional cohort specific deliverables will be required from participants of ‘Supporting Maltese startups and innovations category’ to ensure accurate local support, progress monitoring and outcomes reporting. Details will be provided in the financial support agreement and dedicated recruitment materials.

¹⁴ Please note that as part of the conditions prior to funding, the participant must provide proof of PIC registration, if grant agreement with specific KIC requires PIC number from subgrantees.

5.4. Prizes

The top 3 winners will be selected in each category by the Jury during the Grand Demo Days and awarded with financial prizes:

- **1st prize** (EUR 10,000)
- **2nd prize** (EUR 5,000)
- **3rd prize** (EUR 3,000)

Additional winners will be selected and awarded with Special financial prizes given to the best team (regardless of their category):

- from the **Western Balkans** (EUR 2,500). The best team is selected based on the highest score achieved by any team from the Western Balkans for their pitch during the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day;
- from the **EU Outermost Regions** (EUR 2,500). The best team is selected based on the highest score achieved by any team from the EU Outermost Regions for their pitch during the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day;
- with the solution supporting **Rebuild Ukraine** efforts (EUR 2,500). The best team is selected based on the highest score achieved by any team from Ukraine for their pitch during the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day;
- with the solution implementing the **New European Bauhaus** principles (EUR 2,500). The best team is selected based on the highest score achieved by any team preselected as offering New European Bauhaus relevant solution. The preselection will be conducted by dedicated NEB jury panel before the Grand Demo Day and will be based on the participants declarations and the assessment of the pitch decks submitted by the Finalists.

The special prize can be won by a team which also wins in the thematic cohort.

Please note that all EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day Prize Winners need to finalise the registration of their company¹⁵ and provide the EIT Communities with a final Registration Document (extract from the state registry or equivalent) within 15 days from the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day to be able to receive the monetary prize. In exceptional circumstances (e.g. in cases where it is proven that national law requires longer processing time) this deadline can be prolonged with maximum 15 days by the decision of the EIT Jumpstarter Programme Lead.

The founders of the companies and the holders of the shares must be team members. Trusted persons, proxies and official representatives, who will be displayed as the company's founders, will not be taken into consideration. The underlying economic activity of the established companies should be the same as the essence of the team's project. All charity organisations, NGOs, non-profit organisations, or associations will not be accepted in the means of "company".

In case a prize winner cannot receive the prize (e.g. resigns, cannot submit all the required documents on time, receives a higher prize), the next team in the ranking, which took part in the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Demo Day and fulfilled the eligibility criteria, is entitled to receive the respective prize. It shall receive a notice regarding

¹⁵ The newly created company connected to the business idea should hold shares or stocks (for example, in: GmbH, LLC, Ltd, OU, Sarl, SL, Sp zoo, Srl, TOB) and be registered during the year 2026 in one of the eligible countries and territories: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain; EU Outermost Regions: Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain); or Albania, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, *Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine, Türkiye. *) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

this fact and is obliged to submit the Registration Certificate to the EIT Communities within maximum 15 days from the notice received. Please note that one team is entitled to receive only one prize in each thematic cohort.

The Prize Winners shall receive the Prize amount through a bank transfer and subject to the signature of Prize Agreement.

5.5. Payment Schedule

The financial support will be disbursed in instalments following the completion of respective programme milestones for every team eligible for financial support (details in point 5.2). Payments will be made upon signing the corresponding agreement and submission of the corresponding deliverables within maximum 60 days from delivery of all required deliverables mentioned in point 5.2 and 5.4. Each deliverable is linked to a proportional cost allocation and a defined deduction rate of 100% of the amount of financial support. If a deliverable is not completed or is only partially fulfilled, a deduction will be applied up to the amount allocated to that deliverable, meaning that in cases where deliverables are not completed or only partially fulfilled, funding will not be disbursed.

Please note: If less than three Finalist meets the conditions for receiving prizes on 15th of January 2027, the Organisers may decide to pay the prizes only for the teams eligible for it on this date (meaning that only eligible team having sent the registration certificate till this deadline shall be entitled for the prize).

6. EIT COMMUNITY'S REPRESENTATION / COMMUNICATION POLICY

Participants who receive funding **must** support the promotion of the EIT Jumpstarter and display the EIT Community and EIT Jumpstarter logo on their website (if they have any) in a visible place. EIT Jumpstarter organisers will share the relevant guidelines with the teams during the programme.

By signing the consent form or Financial support agreement the participants commit to taking part in the EIT Jumpstarter's follow-up questionnaires, including statistical questions about the company registered, startup performance and the Programme outcomes up to 3 years after finishing the programme. The participants who received a cash prize are requested to inform the EIT Jumpstarter organisers about the first sales generated since the incorporation of their startup.

Finalists and winners are eligible to be interviewed, and they shall participate in any interview the organisers request from them during the Grand Demo Day or Award Ceremony. After the Grand Demo Day, some participants might receive an interview request from a medium through the organisers. The Finalists who have set up a company should take part in interviews and surveys up to three years after finishing the programme and should always mention that they were created during the EIT Jumpstarter programme.

When participants announce that they became a member of the EIT Jumpstarter community, they shall make sure to have the programme's logo displayed somewhere on the image they are using or should mention the EIT Jumpstarter account, if it is available on that platform (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, others).

It is recommended to promote the programme as the ambassador among local networks, by sharing information about being accepted and completing each step of a programme in the professional network and social media.

All images and assets where an EIT KIC, the EIT Community, the EIT Jumpstarter, or the EIT itself is displayed shall be approved by the organizers of the programme. EIT visual guidelines must be respected in this case. Guidelines will be provided to the teams during the programme and upon request.

7. IP RIGHTS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

The applications submitted to EIT Jumpstarter are handled under confidentiality. Everybody who comes in contact with the applications and deliverables during the review process is bound by confidentiality agreements. By applying for the EIT Jumpstarter, applicants consent to access, keep, and use their data by the EIT Communities and EIT Food, EIT Health, InnoEnergy, EIT Manufacturing, EIT RawMaterials, EIT Urban Mobility for the Programme implementation. In particular the personal data of applicants will be shared with the EIT, EIT KICs and respective EIT Community Officers for reporting purposes. For further regulations regarding personal data protection see our [Privacy Policy](#).

Applicants retain full and exclusive ownership of their prior information and intellectual property rights. The organiser and their authorised representatives in the programme undertake to ensure the confidentiality of the ideas and project details developed throughout the Programme, which are not revealed by the participants in the publicly available parts of the programme.

The intellectual property rights of all materials, curriculum, and methodology used during the EIT Jumpstarter are fully owned by the leading EIT KIC. Participants cannot share them with externals or use them for other purposes not related to the EIT Jumpstarter.

Please note: The submitted project should be grounded in the unique ideas and creations of the applicant. If it incorporates intellectual property (IP) not originally the applicant's, it's crucial to have clear permissions, like a license agreement or a formal transfer of IP rights from the IP rights holder.

8. AUDIT RIGHTS

Participants are aware that EIT Jumpstarter Programme Lead, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, the EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities, the European Commission, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) can carry out checks, reviews, audits, investigations on the participants and evaluations related to the Call.

9. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

9.1. Liability for damages

EIT Communities cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the participants or to third parties as a consequence of the grant, including for gross negligence. EIT Communities cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the participants in the context of the grant.

9.2. Force Majeure

EIT Communities shall not be liable to the other parties for non-performance or undue performance of the Programme implementation as a result of force majeure understood as an objective, external, unforeseeable, unexpected, whose consequences cannot be predicted and cannot be prevented, which occurred despite the due diligence required in commercial relations in order to properly perform the Programme (in particular: pandemic, fire, flood, hail, etc.). In this case, no contractual penalties will be charged.

10. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By submitting their application and sending confirmation of participation, applicants agree to the Terms and Conditions. EIT Community reserves the right to make reasonable amendments to these Terms and Conditions. Amendments and additions to these Terms and Conditions shall be valid if communicated in writing on the Programme website eitjumpstarter.eu or otherwise made available to the applicants.

Participants may withdraw their application as well as participation in the EIT Jumpstarter any time by informing the Programme organizers by email.

11. KEY DATES

- Deadline for submitting business ideas: 17 May 2026 at 23:59 CEST
- Selection of ideas and invitation to the Online Bootcamps: 25 May 2026
- Online Bootcamps will be held online in May-June 2026 (to be defined)
- Online Pitch Days: 6-10 July 2026
- Startup Builder training: July-September 2026 (to be defined)
- Submission of Business Plans: 30 September 2026
- Finalists selection and invitation to the Grand Demo Day: 16 October 2026
- Grand Demo Day: October-November 2026 (to be defined)
- Award Ceremony: November-December 2026 (to be defined)

Dates could change, but the project management team will report them appropriately.

12. HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

For general programme-related questions, please contact us at: info@eitjumpstarter.eu

For specific, category-related questions, please contact dedicated KIC Contact points:

- Contact from EIT Health: [Mr. Mohammed Ilyass Rahmouni](#)
- Contact from EIT RawMaterials: [Mr. Yevhen Kurlenko](#)
- Contact from EIT Food: [Ms. Malgorzata Wolszlegier](#)
- Contact from EIT InnoEnergy: [Mr. Piotr Pawelec](#)
- Contact form EIT Urban Mobility: [Ms. Evelin Szasz](#)
- Contact form Xjenza Malta: [Ms. Vella Mariah](#)

To get local support and information about EIT KICs activities in specific country of territory, please contact respective EIT Community Officer. Contact data and email addresses are available under the link: eit-ris.eu.

More information on EIT Jumpstarter: <https://eitjumpstarter.eu/>

LIST OF ANNEXES

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Annex 2 – Scoring criteria

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ANNEX 1 – LIST OF ELIGIBLE GEOGRAPHIES: COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES.¹⁶

- EU Member States:
 - Bulgaria
 - Croatia
 - Cyprus
 - Czechia
 - Estonia
 - Greece
 - Hungary
 - Italy
 - Latvia
 - Lithuania
 - Malta
 - Poland
 - Portugal
 - Romania
 - Slovenia
 - Slovakia
 - Spain

- EU Outermost Regions:
 - Guadeloupe (France)
 - French Guiana (France)
 - Réunion (France)
 - Martinique (France)
 - Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France)
 - the Azores (Portugal)
 - Madeira (Portugal)
 - the Canary Islands (Spain)

- Horizon Europe Associated Countries and territories:
 - Armenia
 - Albania
 - Bosnia & Herzegovina
 - *Kosovo¹⁷
 - Moldova
 - Montenegro
 - North Macedonia
 - Serbia
 - Ukraine
 - Türkiye

¹⁶ Please note that to be eligible to join thematic agnostic category “Supporting Maltese startups and innovations” powered by EIT Communities together with Xjenza Malta and dedicated for applicants from Malta, applicant (meaning at least one of the team members submitting application) must hold citizenship of Malta.

¹⁷ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

ANNEX 2 – SCORING CRITERIA

In selection all applicants will be evaluated in accordance with the pre-defined eligibility and selection criteria.

Eligibility criteria (yes/no, if no – not eligible):

- Geographical criteria (The applicant or at least one member of the applicant’s team is a citizen of the eligible country or territory) yes/no;
- Thematic scope (The idea submitted is within the thematic scope of the programme) yes/no;
- Funding limit (The sum of grants received from EIT by the applicant does not exceed the funding limit of EUR 60,000) yes/no;
- Participation in EIT KICs programmes (The applicant has not participated in EIT Jumpstarter or EIT funded programme for mature startups) yes/no;
- Application format (The applicant fulfils the application format as set out in the T&C) yes/no.

Selection criteria to the stage: Online Bootcamps, Startup Builder Training, Grand Demo Day:

General Criterion	Criteria	Scores
Excellence (A,B)	A. Innovativeness of idea	0-5
	B. Identification of an existing problem	0-5
Impact (C,F,G)	C. Market Opportunity and potential customers	0-5
	F. Female co-/founders (only for application evaluation)	0-1
	G. EU Outermost Regions team’s origins (only for application evaluation)	0-1
Quality and efficiency of the implementation (D,E,E1,E2,H)	D. Implementation plan of the idea	0-5
	E. Team expertise and Motivation	0-5
	E1. COST Actions or other COST Association programmes experiences (only for application evaluation)	0-1
	E2. EIT-labelled programmes or HEI projects experiences (only for application evaluation)	0-1
	H. Startup incorporation status (only for selection to Grand Demo Day)	0-1

- A. Innovativeness of idea (The applicant has a novel/unique/special solution, and the idea cannot be replicated easily);
- B. Identification of an existing problem (The applicant identified well the “pain” of targeted/future customers);
- C. Market Opportunity and potential customers (The applicant identified well the potential customers and there is a clear market need presented as well as a way to take advantage of that need);
- D. Implementation of the idea (The applicant identifies reasonably the expected output, the risks and time of implementation);
- E. Team and Motivation (The applicant’s team is composed of strong and willing experts. The applicant has a clear plan how they will implement knowledge and education received at the training. The applicant is strongly committed to start business activity);
- E1. The COST Actions or other COST Association programmes experiences (The applicant’s team has a co-/founder who is a participants of the COST Actions or other COST Association programme).
- E2. The EIT-labelled programmes or EIT HEI projects experiences (The applicant’s team has a co-/founder who is a graduate of EIT-labelled programme or EIT HEI project);
- F. Female co-/founders (The applicant’s team has a female co-/founder);
- G. Teams from the EU Outermost Regions (The applicant’s team has a co-/founder who is a resident of the EU Outermost Regions);
- H. Startup incorporation status (The applicant’s team has incorporated their startup in 2026 and submitted registration certificate).

Selection criteria at Grand Demo Day to select Prize Winners:

General Criterion	Criteria	Scores
Excellence (B,D,H,I)	B. Solution and Problem-Solution Fit	0-5
	D. Innovation / Technological Potential	0-5
	H. Pitch Delivery & Communication	0-5
	I. Slide Design & Visual Impact	0-5
Impact (A,C,F)	A. Problem Definition and Relevance	0-5
	C. Customer value proposition & Market Understanding	0-5
	F. Impact (Societal, Environmental, or Economic)	0-5
Quality and efficiency of the implementation (E,G)	E. Business Model & Go-To-Market Readiness,	0-5
	G. Team Strength & Execution Capacity	0-5

- A. Problem Definition & Relevance (The team clearly identified the problem or opportunity. It is significant and currently unmet. It does align with EIT KIC/cohort theme.)
- B. Solution & Problem-Solution Fit (The product/service is clearly described. It does directly solve the identified problem. The problem-solution fit is well demonstrated.)
- C. Customer Value Proposition & Market Understanding (Target users and customers are clearly defined. The customer value proposition is compelling. The beachhead market is defined and justified. There is evidence of market validation.)
- D. Innovation & Technological Potential (The idea has a competitive advantage. The technology is protected or protectable. IP protection plans are clearly defined.)
- E. Business Model & Go-To-Market Readiness (Revenue streams are defined and realistic, the cost structure is clear and credible, milestones and early traction is clearly outlined)
- F. Impact (Societal, Environmental, or Economic) (The project addresses real need. The impact is measurable. It substantially contributes to EIT/EU goals.)
- G. Team Strength & Execution Capacity (The team has complementary skills and experience. Roles, next steps, and required resources are clear, KPIs and timelines are defined.)
- H. Pitch Delivery & Communication (The pitch is structured and easy to follow. The storytelling is engaging and confident. Time is managed well. The key message is memorable)
- I. Slide Design & Visual Impact (Slides are clean, professional, and visually clear with visuals, graphs, images, flowcharts reinforcing the story)

Each evaluation criterion scored from 0 to 5 will be using the following scoring system:

0	Very Poor	The criterion is not addressed, or there are critical deficiencies, that make the evaluated deliverable unacceptable with respect to this criterion.
1	Poor	The criterion is inadequately addressed and presents major weaknesses.
2	Fair	The criterion is partially addressed, but significant weaknesses remain.
3	Good	The criterion is adequately addressed, though several shortcomings are present.
4	Very Good	The criterion is well addressed, with only minor shortcomings.
5	Excellent	The criterion is very well addressed, fully meeting or exceeding all relevant aspects.

Each evaluation criterion scored from 0 to 1 will be using the following scoring system:

0	Not documented	The criterion is not addressed or not sufficiently documented in deliverables.
1	Documented	The criterion is addressed and sufficiently documented in deliverables.

ANNEX 3 – EIT JUMPSTARTER CODE OF CONDUCT

EIT JUMPSTARTER CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARTICIPANTS

EXCLUSION CRITERIA – CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Applicants shall be excluded from participation if they:

- are subject to personal bankruptcy;
- have been banned from taking part in public procurement processes, performing executive duties or shareholder status, completing professional work;
- are guilty of grave professional misconduct (professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information to gain advantage);
- have committed fraud, corruption, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking;
- have shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar;
- are guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95 on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests;
- have created an entity under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social, or other legal obligations in the country of origin;
- have a conflict of interest at the commencement or at any time during the entire duration of the application or the completion process; a conflict of interest could arise in particular as a result of economic interests, political or national affinities, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest related to the call.

I _____, hereby provide my declaration, stating that I am not in one of the situations of exclusion listed above. In case of doubt, I hereby approve that I may be requested to provide supporting evidence of non-exclusion.

Date and place:

Signature

ANNEX 4 – DEATILED THEMATIC SCOPE

The ideas supported and developed in EIT Jumpstarter by Participants must be within the scope of the main challenges:

- **Healthcare cohort powered by EIT Health:** New models to deliver healthcare; Facilitating the uptake of digital medical devices in Europe; Harnessing the full potential of health data for innovation; Supporting the deployment of Important Project of Common European Interest in Health (IPCEI) to address market failures. More details are accessible here: <https://eithealth.eu/who-we-are/our-focus-areas/>
- **Metals, minerals, industrial side streams cohort powered by EIT RawMaterials:** Technologies and solutions for improved and new mineral exploration; Digital solutions for remote monitoring, analytics, sensing, modelling, digital twins, etc.; Advanced and fully integrated exploration – smart targeting of ore deposits; Technologies and solutions for more efficient, safer and sustainable modern mining; Technologies and solutions for mineral and metal processing and for improved materials production; Improving processing efficiency by reducing resource use and/or emissions and CO₂-footprint; Technology that address equipment-damage problems such as wall thinning, creep or corrosion; Technologies and solutions for materials supply from secondary sources and recycling; Cost-efficient and clever collection, dismantling and sorting of waste; Turning waste resources into a valuable raw materials feedstock for EU industries; New technologies, materials or services that make it possible to substitute or use lower quantities of critical or toxic materials in key industries; Solutions and business models implementing circular economy concepts; Design of products for recycling and lifetime extension; Resource efficient design of materials; Innovation to improve traceability, sustainability, and transparency across raw materials value chains. More details are accessible here: <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/about-us/our-mission>
- **Food & Agritech cohort powered by EIT Food:** optimising resource efficiency and environmental sustainability of agriculture supply, primary production, processing, storing, packaging, logistics/distribution, retail, consumer research, nutrition monitoring, and food service; developing nutritionally customised food products, addressing unmet needs and generating consumer relevant functionalities; building trust in the food system, securing traceability and auditability of food quality, safety, and authenticity, combining digital and sensor technologies to acquire and transmit information through the food value chain. In general – the development of solutions that will put new products on the market, introduce new and improved commercial processes and services, and achieve: Healthier Lives Through Food, A Net Zero Food System, and A Fully Transparent, Fair, and Resilient Food System. More details are accessible here: <https://eitfood.eu>
- **Energy and Renewables powered by EIT InnoEnergy:** energy costs reduction, system performance increase, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions decrease, circular economy (particularly in the context of energy usage), green hydrogen, energy management systems and energy storage. Any other innovative approaches that are based on sustainable energy generation, storage, or usage are welcome. More information is here: <https://www.innoenergy.com/>
- **Smart cities and Mobility powered by EIT Urban Mobility:** Active Mobility, Sustainable City Logistics, Future Mobility, Mobility and Energy, and Public Realm, are the main focus areas. This is not a closed list, any idea/solution to solving city challenges is welcome. More details are accessible here: [About us - EIT Urban mobility](#)
- **Supporting Maltese startups and innovations powered by EIT Communities and Xjenza Malta:** All solutions addressing challenges described above in dedicated thematic cohorts powered by EIT KICs or in the scope of activities of 28Digital, Climate-KIC, EIT Culture & Creativity, EIT Water. This is not a closed list, any idea/solution to support innovation created by Maltese eligible applicants is welcome, for instance: digital solutions, SaaS, AI, Machine-learning, Big Data, Predictive modelling, Robotics, 3D Printing, Satellites, Sensing & IoT, Wearables/Biometrics, Smart equipment and hardware, applications for creative industries, AR, VR, Image Recognition and processing, etc. More details are accessible here: [About us - Xjenza Malta](#)

- Optionally solutions implementing Advanced and Green Manufacturing, in particular: Flexible Production Systems for Competitive Manufacturing, Low Environmental Footprint Systems & Circular Economy for Green Manufacturing, Digital & Collaborative Solutions for Innovative Manufacturing Ecosystems and Human-machine coworking for socially sustainable manufacturing can be proposed. The applications submitted with such a thematic scope will be considered as applicable in other supported fields of advanced and green manufacturing for Healthcare, Food & Agritech, Raw Materials: metals, minerals and industrial side streams, Energy and Renewables, or Smart Cities and Mobility. ¹⁸
- Optionally in order to address special prize category for solutions implementing **New European Bauhaus** principles selected ideas should propose innovative solutions that contribute to developing beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive places, products, and ways of living.¹⁹ The New European Bauhaus (NEB) is a crossroad between art/culture and science/technology. Eligible projects may include accessible living spaces, alternative building methods that respect the environment and/or integrate cultural heritage, innovative solutions in architecture, materials and structures, design and production methods, smart infrastructure solutions, and circular and sustainable design and architecture. Proposals should focus on at least one of the three NEB dimensions: sustainability, aesthetics, or inclusion. For more details, please visit: [About the initiative - European Union](#)

¹⁸ The Advanced and Green Manufacturing category powered by EIT Manufacturing and included in EIT JUMPSTARTER 2026 Terms & Conditions (Version 1, 13.03.2025) is discontinued. Applicants in this category are not disadvantaged nor required to re-apply under different conditions. All applications submitted in this call for this category will be redistributed among other remaining categories and evaluated in line with the general rules by the respective evaluation committees. Number of teams selected to EIT Jumpstarter programme Online Bootcamp and Workshops and Startup Builder Training is increased proportionally to accommodate applicants from the former Advanced and Green Manufacturing category.

¹⁹ Alignment with NEB is optional and not required to apply to the EIT Jumpstarter programme, and allows to compete for the special prize during Grand Demo Day.

ANNEX 5 – OVERVIEW OF THE EIT AND THE EIT KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION COMMUNITIES ORGANIZING EIT JUMPSTARTER

The [European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\)](#) is dedicated to enhancing Europe's ability to innovate by nurturing entrepreneurial talent and supporting groundbreaking ideas. Through its "knowledge triangle" model, the EIT connects leading companies, universities, and research centres to form dynamic cross-border partnerships called **Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)**. These communities work collaboratively to address pressing societal challenges and drive innovation.

Currently, there are nine thematic KICs under the EIT umbrella:

- **EIT Food:** Driving innovation in the agri-food sector.
- **EIT Health:** Advancing health and well-being.
- **EIT RawMaterials:** Securing sustainable supply chains for raw materials.
- **EIT Manufacturing:** Innovating manufacturing ecosystems.
- **EIT Urban Mobility:** Improving mobility and urban living.
- **EIT Culture & Creativity:** Strengthening Europe's cultural and creative sectors.
- **28Digital:** Fostering digital transformation.
- **Climate-KIC:** Tackling climate change through innovation.
- **InnoEnergy:** Leading the transition to sustainable energy.

The [EIT Community Regional Innovation and Internationalisation \(RI&I\) Cluster](#) is a horizontal initiative providing a platform for KICs to collaborate, share best practices, and launch joint activities. It focuses on fostering innovation in Emerging European regions, including countries eligible for the [EIT Regional Innovation Scheme](#). The EIT RIS aims to bridge the innovation gap, particularly in countries where innovation performance is considered modest or moderate, as defined by the European Innovation Scoreboard. **EIT Jumpstarter Programme** is a flagship initiative of the EIT Community with five EIT KICs actively participating in: EIT Food, EIT Health, InnoEnergy, EIT RawMaterials, EIT Urban Mobility – which are described below.

Overview of EIT Food

EIT Food is the world's largest and most dynamic food innovation community. We accelerate innovation to build a future-fit food system that produces healthy and sustainable food for all.

Supported by the EIT, we invest in projects, organizations, and individuals that share our goals for a healthy and sustainable food system. We unlock innovation potential in businesses and universities and create and scale agrifood startups to bring new technologies and products to market. We equip entrepreneurs and professionals with the skills needed to transform the food system and put consumers at the heart of our work, helping build trust by reconnecting them to the origins of their food. For more information please visit:

<https://www.eitfood.eu/>

Overview of EIT Health

[EIT Health](#) is one of Europe's largest public-private partnerships in healthcare innovation, comprising approximately 150 partners, including leading companies, universities, research and development centers, hospitals, and institutes. Its mission is to build an ecosystem that fosters the development of future healthcare solutions, enabling European citizens to live longer and healthier lives.

Key contributions of EIT Health include:

- Upgrading the skills of healthcare professionals across Europe.
- Investing in Europe's best talent and entrepreneurial projects.
- Facilitating the commercialization of innovative health products and solutions.

EIT Health is co-funded by the EIT, a body of the European Union. For more information, visit their official website: www.eithealth.eu.

Overview of InnoEnergy

[EIT InnoEnergy](#) operates at the centre of the energy transition and is the leading innovation engine in sustainable energy. It brings the technology, business model innovation and skills required to accelerate the green deal, progress towards Europe's decarbonisation and re-industrialisation goals, whilst also improving energy security.

[Ranked as the most active investor in the energy sector in 2022 by Pitchbook, named in 2023 as one of Europe's top 10 most active deeptech investors by Sifted, and recognised in 2022 as Europe's leading impact investor in cleantech by Startup Genome](#), InnoEnergy backs innovations across a range of areas. These include energy storage, transport and mobility, renewables, energy efficiency, hard to abate industries, smart grids and sustainable buildings and cities.

InnoEnergy has a portfolio of more than 200 companies, which are estimated to generate EUR 110 billion in revenue and save 2.1G tonnes of CO₂e accumulatively by 2030. Collectively, these companies have raised more than EUR 9.7 billion in investment to date.

InnoEnergy is the driving force behind three strategic European initiatives which include the [European Battery Alliance](#) (EBA), [the European Green Hydrogen Acceleration Centre](#) (EGHAC) and the [European Solar Photovoltaic Industry Alliance](#) (ESIA).

Overview of EIT RawMaterials

Minerals, metals are key enablers of the green and digital transition. Raw materials are critical to preserving the global competitiveness of the EU's most strategic economic sectors. Today, only a fraction of the most relevant raw materials is produced in Europe. This can be changed through a circular economy approach, through innovation in recycling, substitution, processing, mining, and exploration. EIT RawMaterials overarching mandate is to support securing the supply of critical raw materials to the European industry by driving innovation along the raw materials value chain.

EIT RawMaterials builds on the world's largest network of partners in raw materials. EIT RawMaterials mission is to develop raw materials into a major strength for Europe by boosting competitiveness, growth and attractiveness of the European raw materials sector via radical innovation, new education approaches and guided entrepreneurship.

For more information visit: <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/>

Overview of EIT Urban Mobility

EIT Urban Mobility is an initiative of the EIT that has been working to encourage positive changes in the way people move around cities to make them more liveable places since January 2019. EIT Urban Mobility engages people, connects communities, accelerates market opportunities, and re-imagines public spaces. An innovation community to educate and inspire mobility solutions for 21st-century cities.

Using cities as living labs, the EIT Urban Mobility industry and university partners demonstrate how new technologies can work to solve real problems in real cities by transporting people, freight, and waste in smarter ways. By fostering innovation and transformation, we can improve people's quality of life, decarbonize

mobility, and make Europe's economy more competitive. EIT Urban Mobility aims to become the largest European initiative transforming urban mobility. The help of EIT, a body of the European Union co-funding up to EUR 400 million (2020-2026), will help make this happen. For more information visit: www.eiturbanmobility.eu