Call for applications to EIT RIS Joint Innovation Incubator Program with EIT Urban Mobility

21 February 2021

Contents

EIT Joint Innovation Incubator Program

1.   Background

The project aims at enhancing the innovation capacities of RIS regions by establishing individual concepts for regional ecosystem effective university-based incubators based on joint knowledge transfer and individual concept development.

Although universities and incubators often have access to local and regional ecosystems, the desired impact for them as local and regional innovation incubators remain low, and their impact to the surrounding ecosystems remain limited in most cases. With the right concept and appropriate support from all relevant stakeholders (including the multiple EIT KICs) universities can play an important hub and multiplier function as innovation centres. Since there is no one-for-all "right" concept for building up a successful university incubator, but in individual activities we see many good examples; through a common work, discussion and knowledge transfer process, the most promising concept for each individual case can be developed and implemented.

Thus, the Joint Innovation Incubator activity will aim on two things in parallel:

(i)   jointly building the "right" particular concepts for ecosystem effective incubators, based on joint knowledge transfer and individual concept development together with the focused local ecosystems, that will enhance the innovation capacity of the effected regions;

(ii)   transferring KIC good practises of the Knowledge Triangle Integration around the innovation incubators from the concept phase on, thus making the ecosystems, which eventually should benefit from the innovation incubator, an integral part of it.

Beneficiaries of the project are universities from the EIT's RIS region[1] with existing incubators, which cover at least 2-3 different KIC´s thematic scope. To ensure success, prior unconditional commitment from the Rectorates of the participating universities and the active participation of relevant representatives are/were required. Participating Universities need/ed to raise national co-funding and to run the parallel related workshop activities within their particular ecosystem on their own.

Program:

The project started in 2020 with a one-year concept phase, followed by a one-year implementation period in 2021. The concepts developed in 2020 will be initiated, optimized and sustainably implemented in a subsequent second phase (implementation phase, 12 months, in 2021), with the

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[1] Further information at: https://eit.europa.eu/our-activities/eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris, **please be aware** that this call text is only for RIS countries are member of the European Union and is not open for universities already engaged in the program by other KICs (Slovak University of Agriculture, Nitra; University of Novi Sad, Warsaw University, University of Ljubljana & University of Tartu)!

EIT KICs wanting to participate according to their strategies. The final outcome of the project will consist in tested and finally reviewed individual incubation concepts and processes linking with all key players of the regional/local innovation ecosystems, thus enabling the acceleration of innovation via the Knowledge Triangle Integration and supporting the creation of conditions where innovation is more likely to thrive and generate breakthroughs.

2. How is the program structured?

The project started in 2020 with a one-year concept phase, followed by a one-year implementation period in 2021. The concepts developed in 2020 by each participating university will be initiated, optimized and sustainably implemented in a subsequent second phase (implementation phase, 12 months, in 2021), with the EIT KICs wanting to participate according to their strategies. Intended outcome will be the implementation of the concepts developed in year 1 in the frame of pilot projects. The final outcome of the project will consist in tested and finally reviewed individual incubation concepts and processes linking with all key players of the regional/local innovation ecosystems, thus enabling the acceleration of innovation via the Knowledge Triangle Integration and supporting the creation of conditions where innovation is more likely to thrive and generate breakthroughs.

Year one (2020) was dedicated to capacity building, knowledge exchange and concept development. During year one selected incubators have worked through moderated workshops on the development of their own sustainable business incubation model according to their individual work plan. 6 such workshops have been held during which KICs presented cases and best practices from their networks, also international best practices have been examined.

Year two (2021) will focus on implementing the strategies and concepts developed in year one. The individual business plans drawn up by the participating incubators are to be implemented and initial collaborations with interested KICs are to be established. At the same time, the mutual learning and the best practice exchange between the participating incubators and the participating KICs should continue along with the implementation of the business plans. For this purpose, workshops will take place in the incubators – ideally in connection with corresponding events and / or activities taking place there – at which the successes and difficulties will be evaluated and learnings as well as mitigation measures should be determined.
This contains in particular:

- Implementation of processes based on new incubator concepts
- Implementation of enhanced strategy for acquiring start-ups
- Implementation of a 12 months pilot project

- Development and implementation of a long-term strategy
- Development and implementation of external networking processes
- Conception of a thorough communication and awareness strategy

3.   Who can participate?

The participation is open to any university operating in a country considered as RIS country member of the European Union (countries included are Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Southern Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain) that are not (yet) partners of EIT Urban Mobility. Universities must have a proven connection to sustainable urban mobility and its briefly described and demonstrated during the application[2].

4.   What EIT Urban Mobility provides and expects?

In case of selection and invitation, the participating university shall:

- Participate in an introductory event. The selected university joins to an ongoing program started in 2020, therefore a 1-day online intro activity is prepared where the participation is obligatory. During the intro event, materials from 2020 will be presented and made available, expectations communicated.
- Based on the intro event an annual activity plan to develop an implement including participating the 6 workshop provided and organized to all participating universities within the program o the following topics:
  - further engagement and activities with the local innovation ecosystem
  - exchange of knowledge, how to apply for funding and take part in projects in the domains of EIT
  - how to be well prepared to respond to calls of the EU recovery fund and in the framework of the 2021-2027 period of Structural Funds
  - the funding potential may also raise the opportunity of joint applications of the participating universities and the EIT KIC units involved in this project

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[2] For relevance, please consult the strategic agenda of EIT Urban Mobility at https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Annex_1_Strategic_Agenda_EIT_Urban_Mobility.pdf

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- at least one local event organized on building and integrating local ecosystem (event can be connected to a similar or relevant event the university organizing independently from this program) with the effort to involve also some of the other participating university from the program, participating,
- participating a observer in any of the Jumpstarter[3] training event;
- participating in a meeting organized physically at one of the well-established university incubator in Europe[4]
- actively cooperating with the KICs and participating universities and develop a long-term plan on how to improve your incubator on a long run (this shall be a short report)

What EIT Urban Mobility provides:

- Max 5000 EUR funding for the activity, organizing the physical meeting in Q3-Q4 2021, the 6 workshop with the facilitation of outstanding experts and facilitating your networking and development process.

5.   How to apply?

To participate in the Joint Incubator Program, the applicants must fill in the attached application form and submit it via email at: imre.gombkoto@eiturbanmobility.eu

The deadline for submission of the proposal is *15 March 2021 17:00pm CET*.

Only applications submitted in English will be accepted; applications submitted in other languages will not be considered. The program implementation will be also in English.

6.   How is the financial support distributed?

In case of selection, the respective Universities will be invited to sign a Sub-Grant Agreement (SGA with EIT Urban Mobility) based on the activity plan described in section 4.1. A signed SGA is a criterion for receiving any financial support from EIT Urban mobility.

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[3] https://eitrawmaterials.eu/eit-jumpstarter/#iLightbox[gallery11741]/0

[4] This is condition of COVID situation development but planned to be Q3-Q4 of 2021 when due to vaccination opening the situation is expected. Funds provided can be used flexibly also to support travel expenses for this event.

The selected university invited to implement their action plan can define the activities in line with the program requirements up to 5.000 EUR grant for 2021 however co-funding of activities is also expected including the possibility of in-kind contribution. All activity and related costs shall be done and incurred in 2021 calendar year. The funding is subject to EIT approval and is dependent on the successful delivery and reporting of the activity.

7.   How are applications evaluated?

The evaluation of applications shall be carried out by EIT Urban Mobility. The applications will be evaluated based on the university's demonstrated link to the mobility sector either through education or research, the potential to increase capacity for business incubation, and the university's potential to successfully integrate in the local ecosystem within a mid-term timeframe.

Criteria	Weight
Connection to the urban mobility sector through education and/or research activity	40%
Local ecosystem available	30%
Level of engagement, availability of a university incubator	20%
Current activities with other KICs	10%

A score will be given in relation to each criterion based on the following guidelines and a weighted average will be calculated:

Score	Appreciation	Explanation
0	N/A	The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information
1-3	Poor	The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
4-5	Fair	The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
6-7	Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
8-9	Very Good	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
10	Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The scores will be used to produce the ranking list. Once a decision is reached, there is no opportunity to appeal.

8. Privacy policy

Only for the purposes of the execution of the programme, applicants will provide name, postal address, email address and telephone number ("personal data"). Personal Data will only be collected and stored to proceed with the communication and organisation of the program. The EIT Urban Mobility Privacy Policy is available here: https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/privacy-policy/

The organizer will only publish data related to the programme communication. Pictures, videos and sounds may be used for such purposes by EIT Urban Mobility and its partners without compensation for the promotion of the programme and EIT Urban Mobility.

YOUR CONSENT TO THE USE OF PERSONAL DATA: By submitting your application within this call you consent that EIT Urban Mobility will collect, transfer, process, store and delete your data under the above-mentioned conditions.

9. Key Dates

- Deadline for submitting applications: *15 March 2021*
- Selection and invitation: *March 2021*
- Recap phase and activity plan: *April 2021*
- Implementation – *2021*

10. Do you have any questions?

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at
Imre Gombkötő (imre.gombkoto@eiturbanmobility.eu)

More details on EIT Urban Mobility: https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/

Annex – Application form

*A short and succinct proposal is appreciated. Please use **Calibri Light 10pt**, standard line spaces and margins.*

1. Contacts

Name of the University:	
Country, address:	
University is represented by (the person in charge approves and sign this application):	
Email of the representative:	
Contact person of this activity:	
Email of the contact person	
Phone number of the contact person	

2. Introduction

3.1 Introduction of your University

(maximum 1.500 characters)
Please give us a clue about your university and how it connects to and relevant to sustainable urban mobility:

3.2 Introduction of your University Incubator

(maximum 1.000 characters)
Please provide information about your university incubator, how is it organised, fields and activities it covers, what level of maturity it is:

3.3 Introduction of urban mobility related local ecosystem.

(maximum 1.500 characters)

Please describe your local ecosystem and your connection to it with the special focus on mobility sector:

3.4 Activities with different KICs.

(maximum 1.000 characters)

Please provide information of activities your university involved with other KICs[5]:

3.5 Your motivation.

(maximum 5.00 characters)

[5] https://eit.europa.eu/our-communities/eit-innovation-communities

Please tell us why you apply to this program, what do you expect for you.

3. Statement

By submitting this application, I confirm that I understood and agree what is written in the terms and conditions of the call, committed to implement the project by actively contributing to the activities organised and by organizing activities with other participating universities and the KICs ourselves. In case of selection, I participate in the intro activities and sign a sub granting agreement with EIT Urban Mobility.

Name, position

signature	date	place