CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

EIT CLIMATE-KIC HUB IN ROMANIA

UNDER THE EIT REGIONAL INNOVATION SCHEME

Overview

Programme
EIT Regional Innovation Scheme

Online Application Form

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In the subject line, please write "Call for Hub Member in Romania".

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Submission Deadline
29.01.2021, 24:00 (EET) via Application Form

Short Description

EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Romania representing EIT Climate-KIC, Europe's largest public-private innovation partnership focused on climate change, is launching a call to recruit new members of EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Romania to participate in EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS). The EIT RIS is a structured outreach scheme to support the integration of the knowledge triangle (education, research, business) and increase the innovation capacity in regions in Europe not yet directly benefitting from the EIT and its KICs.

About EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Romania
The EIT Climate KIC Hub in Romania consists now of 2 members:

- Timis Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture that is an NGO
- West University, Faculty of Business Administration, Fundatia Oeconomica Timisiensis that is a Foundation/ NGO

that worked together. The hub's aim is to bring together and empower national stakeholders invested in climate change actions in order to create a sustainable community that can facilitate social change. The main vision is to contribute to capacity building in the climate change field.

The Hub members were involved in:

Educational projects: the Journey (a 4-week full time programme focused on climate action, innovation, systems transformation, and community building- https://journey.climate-kic.org/) Pioneers into Practice (Connecting climate change organizations & professionals from all different backgrounds, levels of experience & skill sets to learn practical skills in systems innovation. A space to experiment, from June through to December participants take part in e-learning, workshops, group project challenges and a 4-6 week placement -https://pioneers.climate-kic.org/), Circular Economy Trainings; community engagement: Digi Edu Hack (is a series of online and offline idea-hackathons happening all around the world during two days, focusing on co-creating the future of education at the digital age: https://digieduhack.com/en/), Climathon (Our cities must be carbon neutral by 2030. A Climathon in your city can contribute to long-lasting conversations between citizens and decision-makers around city plans and policies: https://climathon.climate-kic.org/);

Entrepreneurship: Climate Launchpad-is the world's largest green business ideas competition. Our mission is to unlock the world's cleantech potential that addresses climate change. The competition creates a stage for those ideas (https://climatelaunchpad.org/) , Accelerator (the only EU acceleration programme focused on climate impact by cleantech commercialisation. In three stages, our program brings you the knowledge, resources, tools and the coaching a cleantech start-up needs for success: https://www.climate-kic.org/programmes/entrepreneurship/accelerator/);

Innovation projects: energy efficiency: Virtual Power Plant Project (is the largest sustainability initiative in Central and Eastern Europe, collecting and supporting energy savings and renewable energy production actions since 2011, and using this knowledge to share, motivate, educate, raise fund, provide professional services and raise awareness among its participants, i.e. municipalities, companies, policy makers and other organisations: http://www.mi6.hu/timisvpp), circular economy: Western Balkan Circular and Climate Innovation Beacons "CE Beacons" (The goal of this project is to build an eco-system for circular, climate-related innovation that catalyses systems transition in sequences from experiment through collaboration to implementation. Such a cross-national ecosystem currently does not exist in the Balkan region, but it is demanded by Chambers of Commerce, Ministries and the business sector: http://cciat.ro/cciat_Western_Balkan_Circular_and_Climate_Innovation_Beacons), coal transition: A Boost for Rural lignite Regions (REBOOST): aims to support stakeholders in three European lignite regions (Lusatia in Germany, East Geater Poland Voievoidship in Poland, and Gorj in Romania) in the transition from the current high economic dependence on lignite to a low-carbon future. The three regions share some characteristics that make the transition process difficult, including the economic downturn, aging populations, lack of job opportunities, and weak stakeholder cooperation. However, the regions differ with respect to the availability of political support from governments and funding for the transition process

(http://www.cciat.ro/cciat_REBOOST__A_Boost_for_Rural_Lignite_Regions).

Target Group

Organizations interested in becoming member of the EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Romania and interested in tackling climate change through active national and international cooperation with various stakeholders

Types of organizations

Currently, the EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Romania consists of

- Timis Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture that is an NGO
- West University, Faculty of Business Administration, Fundatia Oeconomica Timisiensis that is a Foundation/ NGO

We want to strengthen our cooperation with:

LOCAL/REGIONAL/MUNICIPAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

NGOs, PRIVATE/PUBLIC COMPANIES

RESEARCH INSTITUTES

Territorial scope

Currently, members of EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Romania are especially active in:

- The Western Region thanks to actions undertaken by both members of the Hub

We want to strengthen our presence in Romania in all the regions and especially Bucharest.

Working area

Currently, members of EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Romania specialize in:

- EDUCATION/STARTUP ACCELERATION/ COMMUNITY ACTIVATION thanks to actions undertaken by the 2 members

We want to develop our competence in EDUCATION, INNOVATIONS, RESEARCH, STARTUPS, LOCAL/REGIONAL POLICY ETC.

Thematic framework

EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Romania wants to focus on the following Innovation Impact Goals specified in the EIT Climate-KIC strategy: *Transition, in time. EIT Climate-KIC Strategy 2019-2022:*

- Goal 1: Promote retrofit and decentralised energy: Drive a significant increase in urban retrofit rates and enable district-scale clean energy production, paving the way for deep cuts in emissions;
- Goal 2: Nurture nature-based resilience for cities: Create more liveable resilient cities through substantially increasing the introduction of nature-based solutions and enhancing natural systems;
- Goal 3: Accelerate sustainable urban mobility: Trigger the switch to clean urban mobility to achieve considerable cuts in urban transport emissions;
- Goal 4: Make agriculture climate – smart: Instigate a substantial increase in the application of climate-smart agriculture solutions;
- Goal 5: Reform food systems: Transform climate-damaging food value chains and enhance the climate resilience of food supply;
- Goal 7: Build circular material flows: Catalyse a switch to a circular economy and transform production for fossil-energy intensive materials;
- Goal 8: Reduce industry emissions: Partner with key industry stakeholders in cutting Scope 3 [1] emissions to reach science-based targets;
- Goal 9: Reboot regional economies: Transition carbon-intensive regions to become zero-carbon innovation hotspots;

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[1] The GHG Protocol Corporate Standard classifies a company's GHG emissions within three 'scopes'. Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy. Scope 3 emissions are all indirect emissions (not included in scope 2) that occur in the value chain of a company, including both upstream and downstream emissions.

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Climate-KIC

We are looking for organizations that have profound knowledge and considerable experience in:

- Goal 2: Nurture nature-based resilience for cities: Create more liveable resilient cities through substantially increasing the introduction of nature-based solutions and enhancing natural systems;
- Goal 3: Accelerate sustainable urban mobility: Trigger the switch to clean urban mobility to achieve considerable cuts in urban transport emissions;
- Goal 4: Make agriculture climate – smart: Instigate a substantial increase in the application of climate-smart agriculture solutions;
- Goal 5: Reform food systems: Transform climate-damaging food value chains and enhance the climate resilience of food supply;
- Goal 7: Build circular material flows: Catalyse a switch to a circular economy and transform production for fossil-energy intensive materials;
- Goal 8: Reduce industry emissions: Partner with key industry stakeholders in cutting Scope 3 2 emissions to reach science-based targets;
- Goal 9: Reboot regional economies: Transition carbon-intensive regions to become zero-carbon innovation hotspots;

Selection criteria

The following minimum criteria are used for the assessment and recruitment of new members of EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Romania:

Criteria
1. Thematic alignment: The potential member of EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Romania is able to demonstrate commitment to the low carbon agenda and can show clear low carbon priorities.
2. Track record in innovation: The potential member of EIT Climate-KIC Hub must be able to demonstrate a track record in *(PLEASE FILL IN IN ACCORDANCE WITH INFORMATION GIVEN IN "WORKING AREA", "THEMATIC FOCUS" AND "TERRITORIAL SCOPE" PARTS OF THE DOCUMENT)* as well as the capacity to carry out activities across the entire innovation framework, working across the knowledge triangle (education, research, business).
3. Capacity: Every entity acting as an EIT Climate-KIC Hub should demonstrate its capacity to work with local knowledge triangle actors (education, research, business) and national/local authorities, both in terms of resources as well as in terms of network.   With the view to ensuring the successful management and delivery of activities in the relevant EIT RIS country, the future member of EIT Climate-KIC Hub should demonstrate (i) an appropriate level of commitment of the required resources, and (ii) its capacity to leverage its existing network of knowledge triangle actors, including ways to develop the network (iii) its capacity to undertake activities related to selected EIT Climate-KIC Climate Innovation Impact Goal in CEE.
4. Relations with national/local authorities: Access to policy makers will strengthen synergies and complementarities at all governance levels. In this respect, the potential members of EIT Climate-KIC Hub should be able to demonstrate whether it has existing relations and enjoys the support of policy makers in national or local authorities. If this is not the case, a realistic and relevant plan to establish

contact with national or local policy makers, within the framework of EIT RIS activities, should be described.

5. Partnership: Partners are the backbone of CKIC community and make climate innovation happen. For that reason, organizations that are EIT Climate-KIC partners or declare their interest in being CKIC partners will receive additional points.

More information about EIT Climate-KIC partnership: **https://www.climate-kic.org/get-involved/partnership-opportunities/**

6. Plans to use other sources of funding: The EIT Climate-KIC Hub must outline plans to mobilise and use "other sources of funding", such as national and regional funding, including EU Structural Funds, pre-accession assistance money and own resources, to participate in the EIT RIS and create synergies. The contribution of the potential EIT CKIC Hub member should be described. Ideally, the potential EIT CKIC HUB member has a track record in mobilising such funds.

About this Call

EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Romania is looking to extend its geographic scope via the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS), the EIT Community's outreach scheme. We are targeting innovative organisations from Romania to join our network of partners and act as EIT Climate-KIC Hubs in Romania. The EIT RIS connects EIT Climate-KIC with selected partnerships from business, higher education and research, as well as regional policy-makers, public entities and other stakeholders to spur innovation across Europe.

Call Duration

The call opens on 16.12.2020, 08.00 EET.
The call closes on 29.01.2021, 24.00 EET.
Late applications will not be accepted.

Target countries

Only organisations based in Romania are eligible to apply under the current call.

Selection Criteria, Process and Timeline

Applications have to be sent via a dedicated online form and will be assessed against selection criteria. The selection criteria correspond to the above specified criteria:

No	Criterion	Max. score
1	Thematic alignment	10
2	Track record in innovation	10
3	Capacity	10
4	Relations with national/local authorities	10
5	Partnership	10
6	Plans to use other sources of funding	10
		60

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Climate-KIC

All complete and eligible applications received until 29.01.2021, 24.00 EET,   via the online form will be assessed against the selection criteria. The threshold to pass the first assessment round is set at 40 points. The minimal score that must be achieved per criterion may not be less than 5.

!!!Please be aware that entities that reach the threshold of 40 points during the first assessment round will be asked to send the scanned duly signed version of the submitted application.

After this first round of assessments based on submitted application forms, EIT Climate-KIC Hubs in Romania will schedule bilateral calls with the candidates whose applications were scored with 40 or more points and who sent the scanned duly signed version of the submitted application. During the calls the applicants will have the opportunity to present themselves. This will be followed by a round of questions. The selection panel will be composed of representatives of EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Romania and EIT Climate-KIC.

The most qualified applicants will be selected to become members of EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Romania.

Please be aware that the selection panel's decision is final. There is no appeal procedure.

Timeline

Time	Action
29.01.2021	Call closes
05.02.2021	1st assessment round (based on the written applications)
12.02.2021	2nd assessment round (interviews via videoconferencing)
15.02.2021	Communication of selection results

The results of the selection will be communicated to all applicants no later than 15.02.2021. All applicants will receive confirmation in writing.

Business Background

About EIT Climate-KIC Hubs
EIT Climate-KIC Hubs carry out the following main tasks:

- Identify and map relevant local stakeholders across the knowledge triangle and closely cooperate with them, putting special emphasis on local, regional and national authorities. Special focus should be given on stakeholders who may help achieve at least one EIT Climate-KIC CEE Climate Innovation Impact Goal.
- Function as interaction point between EIT Climate-KIC and local stakeholders.
- Organise regular events and outreach activities to inform local stakeholders how to get involved in EIT Climate-KIC activities and engage them.
- Source local talent (students, startups, innovators) and enable them to participate in EIT Climate-KIC activities.
- Cooperate with other EIT Hubs (both internationally - within EIT Climate-KIC - and nationally - cross-KIC) as necessary and regularly participate in EIT Climate-KIC organised meetings and calls to further refine EIT RIS strategy and goals.
- Provide EIT Climate-KIC with access to local, regional and national authorities and policy makers.

- Participate in high-level events to present the EIT RIS to relevant stakeholders and networks in Brussels and across Europe.
- Develop intelligence on EU, regional and national funding instruments and how these can be synergised with EIT RIS.

In all EIT RIS countries EIT Climate-KIC is working with EIT Climate-KIC Hubs to serve as entry points for interacting with local players, mobilising and internationalising local networks as well as facilitating Knowledge Triangle Integration. Going forward, EIT Climate-KIC Hubs are acting as the main local 'champions' in the EIT RIS countries.

About EIT Climate-KIC

EIT Climate-KIC is the EU's climate innovation initiative, working to accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon and resilient world by enabling systems transformation. Headquartered in Amsterdam, it operates from 13 co-location centers across Europe and is active in 39 countries. EIT Climate-KIC was established in 2010 and is predominately funded by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union.

As a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC), it brings together more than 400 partners from business, academia, the public and non-profit sectors to create networks of expertise, through which innovative products, services and systems are developed, brought to market and scaled-up for impact.

About the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

Innovation is the key to growth, competitiveness and social well-being in the 21st century. The capacity of a society to innovate is crucial in an ever more knowledge-intensive economy.

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) aims to enhance Europe's ability to innovate, which translates into adapting quickly to the fast pace of development, being one step ahead in providing solutions to rapidly emerging societal problems and developing products that meet the demands and desires of consumers.

Europe is facing a significant innovation challenge, where despite an excellence research base, dynamic companies and creative talent, good ideas are too rarely turned into new products or services. Europe needs a real change of mind-set towards the promotion of a more innovative and entrepreneurial culture.

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is a body of the European Union based in Budapest, Hungary. It was established by the Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008. It became operational in 2010 in its premises of the EIT Headquarters. The EIT currently employs approximately 50 members of staff and its Director is Martin Kern.

EIT Climate-KIC is one of the current eight Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) set up by the EIT:

EIT Climate-KIC	http://www.climate-kic.org
EIT Digital	https://www.eitdigital.eu
EIT Food	https://www.eitfood.eu
EIT Health	https://www.eithealth.eu
EIT InnoEnergy	http://www.innoenergy.com
EIT RawMaterials	https://eitrawmaterials.eu
EIT Urban Mobility	https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/
EIT Manufacturing	http://eitmanufacturing.eu/

You can find out more about the European Institute of Innovation and Technology on its website: https://eit.europa.eu/

About the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS)

The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS) is the EIT Community's outreach scheme. The scheme enables the transfer of good practices and know-how from the EIT's unique approach to boosting innovation. The EIT Regional Innovation

Scheme was introduced in 2014 to share good practices and experience emerging from EIT Community activities and to widen participation in our activities across Europe.

The objective of the EIT RIS is to contribute to boosting the ability to innovate of countries and regions in Europe that belong to the groups of so-called 'modest and moderate' innovators (according to the European Innovation Scoreboard).

Each KIC designs its own EIT RIS Strategy, fully aligned with its objectives and activities. EIT Climate-KIC started to implement the EIT RIS in 2014 – since then we have gradually extended our geographic reach. Our EIT RIS currently covers twelve countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. In each of the countries we work with a partnership of organisations across the Knowledge Triangle of business, research and education. In 2017 we have designated EIT Climate-KIC Hubs in each of the countries to cooperate with local innovators - individuals (e.g. students, researchers, entrepreneurs) and organisations (e.g. SMEs, universities, research labs, regions, NGOs and cities) - in our activities in education, business creation and acceleration, and innovation-driven research.

Find out more about the EIT RIS:

https://eit.europa.eu/our-activities/outreach/eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris

EIT RIS Guidance Note:

https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit_ris_guidance_note_2018-2020.pdf

Links between the EIT RIS and Smart Specialisation

The EIT RIS has been conceptualised in a way that allows for synergies and efficiency gains for regions that have been designing Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3) and are looking for a better integration of the Knowledge Triangle as a driver on enhanced innovation capacity at regional level. We see Smart Specialisation as providing a strategic framework for investments in research and innovation funded by the European Regional Development Fund by:

- Setting out the main priorities for investment,
- Listing other policies and programmes that support businesses to invest in innovation,
- Helping regions and their partners to identify opportunities and collaborate across nationally and beyond, and
- Helping to align the activities of European Structural Investment Fund with other research and innovation programmes.

The EIT RIS is fully aligned with that and we create a space for our EIT Climate-KIC Hubs to capitalise on synergies and complementarities with their RIS3 (and equivalent) and constantly encourage them to do so.

Complementarity with our Strategies

EIT Climate-KIC aims to have impact in all EU member states, covering clusters of countries across Europe. The EIT RIS is our strategic instrument to:

1. **Target the climate mitigation needs and challenges** within EIT RIS eligible countries, noting that they encompass some for Europe's largest greenhouse gas emitters in the industrial and manufacturing context and through poor energy transition in the industrial and urban contexts. In addition, southern and eastern Europe faces some of the most acute climate adaptation risks and projected economic and societal costs, particularly regarding impact on agri-food.

2. **Recognise local challenges spawn innovation to meet local needs.** Our experience is we find astounding innovators and organisations wherever we work. We expect to learn how local actors and ecosystems are facing their challenges and learn from that. At the same time, well will ensure the best of the experience and skills in our programmes and partnership are ready to support the EIT RIS countries in facing their part of Europe's climate change challenges.

Europe is where we build strong ecosystems at national and sub-national levels to grow impact in line with the EIT Climate-KIC strategy: *Transition, in time*. *EIT Climate-KIC Strategy 2019-2022.* Climate-KIC strategy where 12 EIT Climate-KIC's Climate Innovation Impact Goals are specified:

1. Goal 1: Promote retrofit and decentralised energy: Drive a significant increase in urban retrofit rates and enable district-scale clean energy production, paving the way for deep cuts in emissions;
2. Goal 2: Nurture nature-based resilience for cities: Create more liveable resilient cities through substantially increasing the introduction of nature-based solutions and enhancing natural systems;
3. Goal 3: Accelerate sustainable urban mobility: Trigger the switch to clean urban mobility to achieve considerable cuts in urban transport emissions;
4. Goal 4: Make agriculture climate – smart: Instigate a substantial increase in the application of climate-smart agriculture solutions;
5. Goal 5: Reform food systems: Transform climate-damaging food value chains and enhance the climate resilience of food supply;
6. Goal 6: Nurture forests in integrated landscapes: Grow carbon sequestration in forests and linked value chains, while avoiding deforestation and protecting ecosystem services;
7. Goal 7: Build circular material flows: Catalyse a switch to a circular economy and transform production for fossil-energy intensive materials;
8. Goal 8: Reduce industry emissions: Partner with key industry stakeholders in cutting Scope 3[3] emissions to reach science-based targets;
9. Goal 9: Reboot regional economies: Transition carbon-intensive regions to become zero-carbon innovation hotspots;
10. Goal 10: Mainstream climate in financial markets: Advance metrics, standards and instruments that enable transparent, true-cost and benefit accounting for a well below 2^0 C pathway.
11. Goal 11: Democratise climate risk information: Enhance access to risk information through capacity building and a major expansion of the climate services market.
12. Goal 12: Foster bankable green assets in cities: Develop capacity in preparing projects and investment vehicles to boost the availability of sustainable investment assets in cities.

We expect the interplay between the EIT RIS and regular EIT Climate-KIC countries to be dynamic and attractive to EIT RIS countries and entities, encouraging them to get involved in the range of Climate-KIC activities and progress to partnership where this is deemed strategic.

EIT Climate-KIC approach to innovation expressed in the *Transformation, in time EIT Climate-KIC Strategy 2019-2022* can be described through our value proposition, particularly:

1. **Systems innovation & ecosystem building** – integrated and coordinated interventions in economic, political and social systems and along whole value chains through a portfolio of deliberate and connected innovation

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[3] The GHG Protocol Corporate Standard classifies a company's GHG emissions within three 'scopes'. Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy. Scope 3 emissions are all indirect emissions (not included in scope 2) that occur in the value chain of a company, including both upstream and downstream emissions.

experiments (i.e. a *portfolio approach*). Such an approach is designed to generate viable pathways to change through identification of options, social and behavioural inflexion points, and scaling of transformative solutions.

i) **A portfolio approach** means supporting many different but connected initiatives, less on their individual potential, and more as a spread of options for exploring alternatives and connections and test our way forward.

ii) **Learning by doing enables actions**: experience, exploration and sense-making across multiple, connected experiments and demonstrations can generate alternative business and industrial models and create options and pathways for choice and momentum.

iii) **Understanding and using the properties of systems is the key to transformation**. Cities, land use, materials, finance, human societies are all complex adaptive systems, which means they have self-transforming properties – they change in dynamic ways in response to different interventions. Systems innovation is innovation designed to engage those properties, intervening on levers of change around financing models, policy and regulatory frameworks, perception and social norms, skills and capabilities, technologies, citizen participation and behaviour, business models, and production systems

2. **Demand-Led Model** – "Deep Demonstration" – catalysing systemic change through innovation means connecting a supply of innovation with demand-side actors: problem-owners and whose with high ambition for change. A breakthrough demand-led approach starts by identifying the complex nature of the problem and the necessary scale for intervention. It encourages us to cast innovation challenges as mission that capture imagination and inspire action across boundaries and contexts. It highlights the importance of understanding and addressing underlying assumptions that determine habits, behaviours and value generation models. And it favours using a combination of solutions – and working on multiple drivers of change – to create deep demonstrations that enable different futures. Innovation that involves these actors working together in ways that bridge multiple contexts is more successful in tackling social challenges than innovation that generates solutions in silos.