

EIT RED KALYNA 2025

Terms & Conditions

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1. THE DESCRIPTION AND STRUCTURE OF THE EIT RED KALYNA INITIATIVE

Description of EIT Red Kalyna

What is the EIT Red Kalyna Initiative?

The EIT Red Kalyna is a flagship initiative of the EIT Community, dedicated to recognising exceptional Ukrainian women entrepreneurs, researchers, and leaders who have developed innovative products and services or transformed their businesses through innovation.

Each year, up to 10 outstanding role models from Ukraine are inducted into the Red Kalyna Hall of Fame, which is widely published and promoted. These women receive the prestigious Red Kalyna Award from the EIT Community, symbolising their strength, resilience, and impact.

The initiative is open to external partners who wish to support and empower Ukrainian women entrepreneurs. Launched in 2023, the project has already attracted 15+ partners and received over 100 high-quality nominations, showcasing inspiring women leaders from Ukraine.

Who are the participants?

Ukrainian women entrepreneurs who have developed innovative products or solutions or have transformed their businesses into innovative ones. We also look for inspiring women leaders who mentor and guide others in innovation and entrepreneurship. Through the Red Kalyna initiative, the EIT Community aims to empower women in Ukraine and provide them with a platform for recognition on a pan-European level, networking and access to Europe's largest network of innovators – the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology](#).

Structure of EIT Red Kalyna Initiative

This project is divided into several phases:

Phase 1: Submission of applications and selection to the Awarding Ceremony

The application deadline for the programme is 1st September 2025 23:59 CET¹. Please apply through our [online application platform](#). The applicants should emphasise the citizenship and current location of the nominee (preferably Ukraine), novelty and innovation, willingness to share experience and inspire and empower other women, contribution to the Ukrainian economy or rebuilding efforts, and stage of development and scalability, links to their social media pages.

These selection criteria ensure a comprehensive evaluation process that reflects the objectives of the EIT Red Kalyna in promoting innovation, economic development, and women's empowerment in Ukraine.

The submitted applications will be carefully assessed by a team of experts. Once the Call is closed, the Evaluation process commences, and the evaluation results are expected to be finalised **by 1 October 2025**. The outcome will be communicated to the nominators via email through the EIT Health InnoStars Project Coordinator.

After completing the evaluation, evaluators submit their signed scorecards to the EIT Health InnoStars Project Coordinator. Subsequently, a meeting is scheduled with all the jury members to discuss the results and select up to 10 candidates. The final summarised scorecard, endorsed by all the jury members, serves as the basis for awarding the finalists.

The letters with invitations to the Awarding Ceremony will be sent to participants directly by the respective EIT Community Project Coordinator. They will also contain information about the embargo of disclosing this

¹ 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.

information via social media, press releases or other channels available for wide, external audiences until the Awarding Ceremony event.

Please note that by confirming your participation in the EIT Red Kalyna Initiative, you agree to [the EIT Health terms](#) and our commitment to GDPR compliance.

Phase 2: Awarding Ceremony

Based on the aforementioned evaluation procedure, the organisers will invite up to 10 individual nominees along with the partners who supported the Initiative financially to the [EIT Jumpstarter](#) Grand Final event. The invitations will be sent to participants directly by the EIT Red Kalyna Project Coordinator. This event will be organised for the selected up to 10 finalists and 1 organisation. The preliminary agenda comprises the following elements:

- Awarding Ceremony: Announcement of the Hall of Fame to recognise and honour the most remarkable nominees and organisations among the participants.
- Additionally, all finalists will have the chance to participate in networking activities organised during the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Final.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

For individuals:

Nominations can be submitted by third parties aiming to nominate someone or by the individuals themselves who wish to be nominated. Only applications sent **via [the online platform](#)** will be accepted for further evaluation.

The minimum eligibility criteria for the individual candidates are:

- a. Application must be submitted in English. Applications in other languages will not be accepted.
- b. Applications must be submitted before the deadline; all late applications will be rejected.
- c. The candidate must be a female citizen of Ukraine.

Please note that if it turns out that the application form was filled out with false information and as a result, a selected person does not meet the eligibility criteria listed above, she can be excluded from the Initiative with immediate effect, and any financial support paid up to that point must be returned.

3. EIT COMMUNITY'S REPRESENTATION

In accepting the award, the finalist commits to supporting the visibility and promotion of the programme, providing organisers with testimonials (video, audio or text), as well as giving their consent to video recording and photography for the programme's purposes only. After the Awarding Ceremony, some participants might receive an interview request from a medium through the organisers, then can either accept or decline the request.

Awardees are encouraged to portray the programme positively and promote it as ambassadors within their local networks.

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 organisers of the programme. EIT visual guidelines must be respected in this case. Guidelines will be provided to the participants during the programme and upon request.

4. KEY DATES

- Deadline for submitting the application: 1 September 2025 at 23:59 CET²
- Selection of the finalist and invitation to the Awarding Ceremony: by 1 October 2025
- Awarding Ceremony: 29 November 2025 (to be confirmed)

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

5. FUNDING TERMS

Financing is based on **individuals**. Up to the 10 role models will be reimbursed using eligibility criteria and reporting documents.

Successful applicants are eligible to receive support for covering their travel, and accommodation costs:

1. Awarding Ceremony phase: Each of the selected finalists will have a budget of an additional EUR 1,000 to cover their own individual travel and accommodation costs to attend the Awarding ceremony in person.

The basic eligibility criteria for funding is **to sign the consent form or the financial support agreement**. Additional information and guidance will be provided during the programme on how to get and use this support.

In case selected finalists cannot receive the financial grant (e.g. resign), the next eligible nominee in the ranking is entitled to receive the respective grant.

Finalists of the former editions of the EIT Red Kalyna cannot be selected for the programme and receive any financial support at any stage of the competition.

Please note that if it turns out that the application form was filled out with false information and, as a result, a selected finalist does not meet the eligibility criteria listed above, they can be excluded from the Initiative with immediate effect, and any financial support paid up to that point must be returned.

6. OVERVIEW OF THE ORGANISING KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION COMMUNITIES

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is an independent EU body that is boosting Europe's ability to innovate. The EIT nurtures entrepreneurial talent and supports new ideas, bringing together the "knowledge triangle" of leading companies, universities and research centres to form dynamic cross-border partnerships called Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). EIT Health acts as a leader of the Red Kalyna Initiative within EIT Community Strategic Regional Innovations Cluster.

The EIT Community Strategic Regional Innovations Cluster is a horizontal project providing a platform for the KICs to share best practices and KIC initiatives and identify joint activities within those Emerging European regions, eligible for the [EIT Regional Innovation Scheme](#), the Western-Balkans and Moldova.

At the EIT Community we believe in the power of diversity and gender equality. We are Europe's largest innovation network, uniting various nationalities, ages, abilities, and genders. We are convinced that for innovation to thrive, we need more women innovators, entrepreneurs, and more women in decision making. Diversity powers us to bring best solutions to pressing global challenges, and enables us to make innovation happen.

² 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.

7. HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

For general programme-related questions, please get in touch with us [here](#)

More information on EIT Red Kalyna web page: [Red Kalyna by EIT Community](#)

8. APPEALS PROCEDURE

- Applicants to EIT Red Kalyna may appeal the process for the selection. Similarly, the participants of the programme may appeal for errors in the programme execution, following the EIT Red Kalyna 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), and Human/technical errors made by EIT KICs staff.
- Scores awarded in the evaluation process, regardless of the programme's phase, do not constitute grounds for an appeal.
- Applicants should send their appeals in writing to diana@berezna@eithealth.eu as soon as they identify an error, but no later than 21 days after the error occurred.
- EIT Red Kalyna Programme Lead assesses the claim and delivers a first response
- If there are grounds for appeal, EIT Red Kalyna Programme Lead will attempt to remedy the consequences (e.g. if a technical error of EIT Red Kalyna prevented the submission of a proposal or application, a late submission may still be accepted as eligible)
- The Steering Committee of the EIT Community Strategic Regional Innovations Cluster is notified about the matter if:
 - the applicant does not accept a rejection of the appeal or the remediation suggested by the EIT Red Kalyna 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 Strategic Regional Innovations Cluster.

9. AUDIT RIGHTS

Participants are aware that EIT Red Kalyna 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.

10. OVERVIEW OF EIT COMMUNITY AND EIT HEALTH INNOSTARS

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 Climate-KIC:** Tackling climate change through innovation.
- **EIT Digital:** Fostering digital transformation.
- **EIT InnoEnergy:** Leading the transition to sustainable energy.
- **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.

The [EIT Community Strategic Regional Innovations Cluster \(EIT RIS\)](#) 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.

10.1. Overview of the EIT Climate-KIC

Climate-KIC is Europe's leading climate innovation agency and community, dedicated to creating climate-resilient societies and combating climate breakdown. Focused on building better futures for local communities worldwide, it works collaboratively with countries, regions, cities, and businesses to drive systemic change through innovation. By bridging the gap between climate commitments and current realities, Climate-KIC orchestrates solutions, facilitates learning, and accelerates ambitious climate action in partnership with a diverse network of stakeholders.

10.2 Overview of EIT Culture & Creativity

EIT Culture & Creativity is the ninth Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) established by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). This initiative aims to strengthen and transform Europe's cultural and creative sectors and industries (CCSI) by enhancing their innovation capacity and competitiveness.

The main goals of EIT Culture & Creativity include:

- **Fostering Innovation:** Encouraging new ideas and technologies within the cultural and creative sectors.
- **Supporting Collaboration:** Bringing together education, research, business, and cultural players to create long-term partnerships.
- **Enhancing Competitiveness:** Helping cultural and creative industries become more competitive on a global scale.
- Promoting Sustainability: Integrating green and digital transitions into the cultural and creative sectors.

www.eit-culture-creativity.eu

10.3. Overview of EIT Digital

EIT Digital embodies the future of innovation by mobilising a pan-European multi-stakeholder open-innovation ecosystem of more than 300 top European corporations, SMEs, startups, universities and research institutes, where students, researchers, engineers, business developers and investors address the technology, talent, skills, business and capital needs of digital entrepreneurship. EIT Digital builds the next generation of digital ventures, digital products and services and breeds digital entrepreneurial talent, helping businesses and entrepreneurs to be at the frontier of digital innovation by providing them with technology, talent, and growth support.

Since its launch, EIT Digital has equipped more than 3,500 students with the skills to innovate and become entrepreneurs; we have supported more than 780 startups and scaleups to grow internationally, created more than 265 new ventures, and launched more than 530 products and services commercially. EIT Digital continues to build on these strong achievements and in the coming years will further accelerate its venture creation activities to further develop its stand-up, start-up, scale-up innovation funnel.

The core of this funnel is the Innovation Factory, which creates ventures from open innovation activities carried out by the EIT Digital partnership. This is complemented by the DeepHack, the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) Venture Programme and Innovation and Entrepreneurship activities in the education programmes. The EIT Digital Accelerator is focused on scaling these ventures by supporting them in their growth especially with respect to access to finance and access to market.

10.4. 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, organisations, 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/>

10.5. Overview of the EIT Health and EIT Health Innostars

EIT Health is one of the biggest European public-private partnerships in healthcare innovation. Comprised of approximately 150 Partners, EIT Health is a unique European network of top companies, universities, research and development centers, and hospitals and institutes. EIT Health's role is to build an ecosystem that enables future healthcare development so that European citizens can live longer and healthier lives. EIT Health upgrades the skills of healthcare professionals throughout Europe, investing in Europe's best talents, and facilitates the commercialization of innovative health products/solutions within the EU. It is co-funded by the EIT, a body of the European Union. For more information, visit: www.eithealth.eu

EIT Health InnoStars, one of the eight geographical areas within EIT Health, focuses on modest and moderate/emerging innovator countries in Europe, as identified by the European Innovation Scoreboard. It plays a critical role in supporting innovation and entrepreneurship in regions with significant potential for growth. For more information, visit their InnoStars section: [InnoStars](#).

10.6. Overview of EIT 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 €110 billion in revenue and save 2.1G tonnes of CO₂e accumulatively by 2030. Collectively, these companies have raised more than €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 Center](#) (EGHAC) and the [European Solar Photovoltaic Industry Alliance](#) (ESIA).

10.7. Overview of EIT Manufacturing

EIT Manufacturing is an Innovation Community within the EIT – that connects the leading manufacturing actors in Europe. Fuelled by a strong interdisciplinary and trusted community, we will add unique value to European products, processes, and services – and inspire the creation of globally competitive and sustainable manufacturing.

EIT Manufacturing will establish an innovation community and build a network of ecosystems where people can acquire skills and find opportunities; and where innovators can attract investors and accede venture capital. For that purpose, the EIT Manufacturing community boasts more than 130 members and network partners, including leading industry players, universities, and research institutes. For more information visit: www.eitmanufacturing.eu

10.8. Overview of EIT RawMaterials

Minerals, metals and advanced materials 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 and advanced 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/>

10.9. 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

ANNEX 1. SCORING CRITERIA

Eligibility criteria:

- Full name of the nominee (indicated/ not indicated)
- Link to the LinkedIn or Facebook profile of the nominee (indicated/ not indicated)
- Ukrainian citizenship (yes/no)
- Current location (indicated/ not indicated)
- Focus area (indicated/ not indicated)
- Application format: Did the nominator fulfil the application format as set out in the T&C?) - yes/no

Selection criteria:

- 2.A Novelty and Innovation level of the nominee's activity/approach (3 = Very Strong, 2 = Medium, 1 = Weak)
- 2.B. Willingness and possibility to Share Experience and Inspire Others (3 = Very Strong, 2 = Medium, 1 = Weak)
- 2.C. Contribution to the Ukrainian Economy or Rebuilding Efforts (3 = Very Strong, 2 = Medium, 1 = Weak)
- 2.D. Stage of Development and Scalability (3 = Very Strong, 2 = Medium, 1 = Weak)
- 2.E. Leadership and Influence (3 = Very Strong, 2 = Medium, 1 = Weak)

ANNEX 2. EIT RED KALYNA CODE OF CONDUCT

EXCLUSION CRITERIA – CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Participants 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