EIT RIB Poland 2026/27

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This document answers frequently asked questions about RIB Poland 2026/27. Questions are grouped by theme. The FAQ does not replace or amend the Call conditions. For questions not covered here, contact calls@eithealth.eu.

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Change log

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PROGRAMME & SUPPORT

1. What is RIB Poland 2026/27?

RIB Poland is a coaching and mentoring programme for mature Polish ventures preparing for market entry in Germany, Spain or the Nordic region. Up to 25 successful applicants will receive at least 22 hours of online support. The programme supports market-entry preparation and connections with relevant EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs); it is not a grant or an automatic investment route. See Section 2.1 of the Call.

2. Who coordinates the programme?

EIT Health coordinates the Call and programme delivery on behalf of the EIT Community Regional Innovation and Internationalisation Cluster. Participating KIC representatives may contribute relevant thematic, market, technology and investment knowledge. See Sections 1 and 12 of the Call Document.

3. How are the 22 hours of support structured?

The first two hours are a mentoring-planning session with an assigned mentor. The venture prepares an Action Plan identifying its target market, support needs, priority questions and allocation of the remaining mentoring time. This is followed by at least 20 hours of tailored market-entry mentoring with a matched expert. The support is provided to the company, not separately to each representative. See Sections 2.1 and 4.1 of the Call.

4. What will the RIB Poland Buddy do for my company?

The Buddy is an expert mentor matched to the venture's chosen market and agreed needs. The work follows the action plan created in the first two hours of mentoring and may cover market intelligence, customer or partner mapping, market-entry preparation, sector or technology input, and readiness for relevant KIC processes. This is a defined mentoring engagement, not an employee placement or an unlimited business-development service. Sales, partnerships, funding and investment are not guaranteed. See Section 2.1 of the Call Document.

5. Who from the company can participate?

Each selected venture may nominate up to two representatives. At least one must be the CEO or a senior manager authorised to take decisions on market-entry priorities. That person must attend the initial two-hour planning session. This participation arrangement does not replace the separate eligibility requirement to have a CEO working full time for the company. See Sections 2.1 and 3.2 of the Call.

6. Where and when will mentoring take place?

Coaching and mentoring will be delivered fully online. The programme schedule is set out in Section 4.1 of the Call. Selected ventures will receive contracting, kick-off and session-scheduling information from EIT Health. The initial planning session is followed by tailored mentoring against the agreed Action Plan.

7. Will selected companies receive a grant or reimbursement of expenses?

No. This Call offers acceptance onto a coaching and mentoring programme only; it does not provide participant funding. The grant budgets, co-funding percentages, eligible-cost calculations and grant-payment mechanisms described for other EIT Health calls do not apply to RIB Poland. See Section 2.1 of the Call.

8. Does taking part guarantee entry into another KIC programme or an investment?

No. After completing the programme, participants will receive feedback on potential follow-up opportunities available at the time. Any onward support, KIC programme admission, grant or investment remains subject to the receiving KIC's own eligibility rules, application route, assessment, due diligence and decisions. A referral is not an approval or an investment commitment. See Sections 2.1 and 12 of the Call.

ELIGIBILITY & APPLICANTS

9. Which companies can apply?

Applicants must be a single legally registered, for-profit micro, small or medium-sized enterprise established in Poland and meet the EU SME definition. They must have at least one FTE on the payroll and a full-time CEO; at least EUR 150,000 in qualifying prior private investment; the required IP ownership or exclusive commercialisation rights; a solution at TRL 7 or above; credible thematic relevance to a participating KIC; and a credible rationale for entry into Germany, Spain or the Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland). All admissibility, eligibility and exclusion conditions apply. See Chapter 3 of the Call.

10. Can several organisations submit a joint application?

No. The applicant must be one eligible Polish legal entity, and only one application may be submitted per company. The application should describe that company and its proposed solution, rather than a joint project submitted by several organisations. See Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of the Call.

11. Can a company registered outside Poland apply?

Not as an applicant under this Call. The applying legal entity must be established in Poland and meet every other Call condition. Eligibility is assessed for the applying entity, not simply the location of its founders, investors, customers or target market. General eligibility for other EIT Health or Horizon Europe calls does not replace the Polish-entity requirement. See Section 3.2 of the Call.

12. This call is run by EIT Health, does that mean the Call is only for health innovations?

No. RIB Poland is cross-KIC. The proposed solution must address an unmet need with credible relevance to at least one participating KIC, as described in Sections 3.2 and 12 of the Call. The listed themes include health, food, digital innovation, clean technology and energy, raw materials, urban mobility, and culture and creativity. There is no general requirement for the solution to use AI.

13. How many employees must the company have?

The current Call requires at least one full-time equivalent (FTE) on the payroll and a CEO working full time for the company. FTE refers to working time, rather than headcount. Work that is not on the company's payroll does not satisfy the payroll requirement. See Section 3.2.1 of the Call.

14. What prior investment is required, and do grants count?

The applying company must have secured at least EUR 150,000 in prior private investment through equity, convertible loans or other dilutive sources. Grants do not count towards this threshold. Upload the fully executed investment agreement required by the Call and provide the investment information requested in the Application Form. See Sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.3 of the Call.

15. Can I apply with only an unsigned investment agreement?

An unsigned draft does not meet the Call's requirement to upload a fully executed investment agreement. The company must also meet the minimum prior-private-investment threshold; a proposed future investment alone does not establish that condition. See Section 3.2.3 of the Call.

16. What intellectual property rights must the applicant hold?

The applying entity must hold full ownership or exclusive commercialisation rights over the IP of the proposed solution, including the rights necessary to develop and market it. Applicants must provide the information and evidence requested in the Application Form. Participation does not transfer ownership of the company's existing IP to EIT Health. See Sections 3.2.4 and 9.7 of the Call.

17. What is the minimum Technology Readiness Level?

The proposed solution must be at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 7 or above. Applicants self-assess their TRL in the application, but the claimed maturity will also be reviewed during evaluation. Applicants may be marked down or excluded if evaluators disagree with the stated TRL. A lower-TRL solution does not qualify solely because it is expected to become more mature later. See Section 3.2.5 of the Call.

18. Which target markets are supported?

The Call supports preparation for entry into Germany, Spain or the Nordic countries. The application must identify the intended EIT RIB Poland target market and explain the rationale and market-entry needs. The initial planning session then defines the mentoring priorities for that chosen market. A general ambition to expand internationally is not a substitute for the required market rationale. See Sections 2.1 and 3.2.6 of the Call.

19. Can my solution be relevant to more than one KIC?

Yes. The Call states that a solution may be relevant to more than one participating KIC. Explain the relevant thematic links in the application. Relevance to several KICs does not create an automatic right to their programmes, funding or investment. See Section 3.2.2 of the Call.

20. Do applicants have to be members of EIT Health?

EIT Health membership is not listed as an eligibility requirement for this Call. Non-member companies may apply if they satisfy all admissibility, eligibility and exclusion conditions. See Chapter 3 of the Call.

21. Can a company that previously applied to another EIT Health call apply?

Yes. A previous application to another call does not in itself establish or prevent eligibility for EIT RIB Poland. The company must submit a new, complete application under this Call and satisfy call conditions, including the restriction of one application per company. Previous submissions, evaluations or programme participation do not replace the EIT RIB Poland application or create a right to selection. See Chapter 3 of the Call.

APPLICATION PROCESS

22. How do I apply?

Apply through EIT Health's Smart Simple application platform, using the application link provided in the Call. The company must use a valid nine-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC). If it does not already have one, register it in the EU Funding & Tenders Portal. Complete all mandatory fields and upload all required documents. Applications submitted by email or other means are inadmissible. See Sections 3.1 and 4 of the Call.

23. When does the Call open and when is the application deadline?

The scheduled Call opening is 25 November 2026. The application deadline is 27 January 2027 at 16:00 CET. Submit a complete application through Smart Simple before the deadline and check the official Call page for any published updates. See Section 4.1 of the Call.

24. In which language must I complete the application?

All mandatory Application Form fields must be completed in English. Supporting documentation must be uploaded in the format required by the Application Form, and any upload templates provided in the platform must be used without alteration. Follow the form's instructions for individual document requirements. See Section 3.1 of the Call.

25. Which supporting documents are required?

The Call identifies the prior-investment agreement, cap table, profit and loss (P&L) statement, financial projections, pitch video and pitch deck. The investment agreement must be fully executed. The Application Form specifies the complete requirements and formats; all mandatory supporting documents must be uploaded and all links must be accessible. Use the provided templates wherever required. See Sections 3.1, 3.2.3 and 4 of the Call.

26. What happens if my application is incomplete or submitted late?

Applications must satisfy all admissibility conditions, including timely submission, completion of mandatory fields and provision of mandatory supporting documents in the required format. An application that does not meet the applicable requirements will not progress to Remote Evaluation. Any request for clarification must respect equal treatment and must not materially change the application; it is not a general opportunity to rewrite a submission after the deadline. See Sections 3.1 and 5.2 of the Call.

27. Where can I get help with Smart Simple or a technical submission problem?

Contact calls@eithealth.eu and include "EIT RIB Poland" and your application reference, if available, in the subject line. Report technical problems promptly and explain what happened. Begin the application at least two weeks before the deadline, as recommended in the Call; technical support during the final week cannot be guaranteed. Reporting a problem does not automatically extend the deadline. See Sections 4, 7 and 8.3 of the Call.

28. Is there an applicant webinar?

Yes. The Call presentation webinar is scheduled for 2 December 2026 at 11:30 CET. It introduces the programme, eligibility conditions and application process. Use the registration link provided in the Call. See Section 8.1 of the Call.

29. Can I use generative-AI tools to help prepare my application?

The Call permits this, but the applicant remains responsible for the accuracy, originality, relevance and completeness of all submitted content. Critically review outputs and references, avoid plagiarism, protect confidential and personal data, and ensure you have the rights needed to use submitted material. Disclose use where material to understanding the application or underlying solution, and follow the Application Form's instructions. See Section 4.2 of the Call.

EVALUATION & SELECTION

30. Who checks whether applications are admissible and eligible?

EIT Health carries out the initial completeness, admissibility, eligibility and exclusion checks. Only applications satisfying all applicable requirements progress to Remote Evaluation. Clarifications may be requested only where compatible with equal treatment and without materially changing the application. See Sections 3 and 5.2 of the Call.

31. Who evaluates eligible applications?

Under the Remote Evaluation process in Section 5.2 of the Call, each eligible application is reviewed by two external evaluators and one EIT KIC specialist. Applications are assessed against the published criteria and ranked by their final scores. There is no separate pitch-evaluation selection stage under this Call.

32. What are the evaluation criteria and weights?

The current Call specifies Excellence (25%); Impact (20%); Quality and Efficiency of Implementation (10%); and KIC Portfolio Strategic Fit and Compliance with the Financial Sustainability Principles (45%). Criteria are scored from 0 to 5, with 0.5 increments permitted, and weighted to produce a total out of 100. The final application score is the mean of the valid total scores awarded by the evaluators. See Sections 5.1 and 5.2 of the Call.

33. Does scoring 70 out of 100 guarantee a place?

No. A score of at least 70/100 is required to be considered for admission, but selection also depends on ranking and compliance with the Call conditions. Up to 25 of the highest-ranked eligible applications will be invited to participate. Meeting the minimum score does not guarantee a programme place or funding. See Sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the Call.

34. Can a company above the threshold but outside the top 25 still be invited?

The Call allows applicants scoring 70/100 or above but outside the top 25 to be contacted if a selected applicant does not sign the Participation Agreement. This is a possibility, not a guaranteed place. See Section 5.3 of the Call.

35. How will I receive the result and feedback?

Results are communicated in writing by email through the application platform. Applicants evaluated remotely receive their overall score and feedback from each panel member. Add @eithealth.eu to your safe-senders list and check the relevant inbox and spam folder. The evaluation and notification schedule is provided in Section 4.1; follow any published Call updates. Further clarification of an evaluation result may be requested by email. See Section 5.4 of the Call.

36. Can I appeal a decision?

Appeals are limited to the grounds in Section 7, such as process errors, technical problems beyond the applicant's control, errors by EIT Health staff, or decisions not following the EIT Health Code of Conduct. Disagreement with an evaluation score alone is not a ground for appeal. Send an appeal in writing to appeals@eithealth.eu as soon as the error is identified, and no later than 21 days after the error occurred. See Section 7 of the Call.

PARTICIPATION, REPORTING & DATA

37. What agreement must selected applicants sign?

Selected applicants must sign the EIT RIB Poland Participation Agreement before beginning the programme. Follow any conditions and onboarding instructions communicated with the selection result. The agreement-signing process follows the standstill period specified in the Call. See Sections 3.6, 5.4 and 5.5 of the Call.

38. What outputs and reports must participants provide?

The Call requires a Mentoring Planning Action Plan, a communications and dissemination plan, a mentoring record and report, and a Final Action and Market-Entry Summary. The initial Action Plan guides the mentoring. The final summary records updated priorities, next steps and relevant non-binding follow-up opportunities, where available, and must be submitted within 10 working days after completion of mentoring sessions. EIT Health also collects participant feedback. See Sections 2.1.1 and 6.1 of the Call.

39. Do applicants need an individual KPI plan or grant cost reports?

No individual Key Performance Indicator (KPI) plan is required from applicants, and programme monitoring is not grant cost reporting. Selected ventures may be asked for information on delivery and outcomes. Six months after programme completion, EIT Health may request a short, non-confidential update on the Action Plan, market or partner engagement, additional support, and commercial or investment outcomes where available. Further reasonable follow-up may take place under the Participation Agreement and data-protection requirements. See Sections 2.1.2 and 6.1 of the Call.

40. How will application information and personal data be handled?

Application information is handled under the Call's data-protection and confidentiality provisions and the application platform's legal notice and terms. EIT Health is the data controller. Confidential information must be expressly labelled as such. Information may be accessed by the authorised people involved in the Call, including relevant participating KICs and independent experts, subject to the stated purposes and confidentiality obligations. The Call does not give unrestricted permission to distribute confidential application files to third parties. For personal-data questions, contact DataPrivacy@eithealth.eu. See Sections 9.3 and 9.4 of the Call.

41. Will my company keep its intellectual property?

Applicants retain their existing information and IP rights. They remain responsible for holding the rights and permissions required for the proposed solution and for complying with the Call's IP provisions. Mentoring or a possible KIC referral does not itself transfer IP ownership or constitute an investment agreement. See Sections 3.2.4 and 9.7 of the Call.

42. What communication and visibility obligations apply?

Participants must prepare the communications and dissemination plan required by the Call. Programme-related communications must be factually accurate, acknowledge EU support and include the European flag and applicable funding statement. EIT Health must be informed before communication or dissemination activities take place, as set out in the Call. Obtain the relevant branding guidance from the programme team. See Sections 2.1.1 and 9.12 of the Call.

43. Where should I send a question not covered in this FAQ?

Email calls@eithealth.eu. Include "EIT RIB Poland 2026/27" and your application reference, if available, in the subject line. Consult the Call and Application Form before submitting an enquiry. The FAQ explains the Call; it does not replace or modify its conditions. See Section 8.3 of the Call.