

Call for Training Proposals 2025

1. Eligibility

- **Can EIT KICs apply? Can I create a consortium and submit a proposal with an EIT KIC?**

No. As mentioned on page 8 of the Call for Proposals Guidelines, EIT KICs cannot apply, either as a main applicant or as partners of a consortium.

- **Can we apply if we have received Horizon Europe funds, including through the HEI Initiative, related to the same action?**

No. The same action cannot be funded twice through different Horizon Europe funds. A situation like this would be considered double funding and this is not admissible.

- **Can we apply if we have received previous funding through the DTTI?**

No. Applicants should not have received funding from the DTTI Prize 2023 or from DTTI Call for Training Proposals 2024 for the actions of the application of the Call 2025.

- **Are individuals eligible?**

No, only legal entities are eligible.

- **If we apply as a consortium of two entities to the call for proposals, does this mean both entities should also apply to become Pledgers?**

Yes.

- **If an organisation has its main office and activities in one country, but it is registered as legal entity in another, what would be its country of origin?**

The eligibility of a participant is determined by the country in which they are legally established. This means that an organization's legal registration governs its country of origin, irrespective of where its operations are physically carried out.

- **If an organisation is not a training provider, but an association where some of the members are training providers, is it still possible to participate in this call for trainings?**

Yes, however you still need to find a suitable partner to meet the Call objectives.

- **Can one big institute acquire multiple PICS and therefore submit multiple proposals? Can they acquire multiple PICS, even if they form one legal entity?**

To apply you must have a PIC number, which is a requirement for any EU funded programme.

However, there are some cases where big organisations/institutes have multiple PICs, and are therefore treated as different organisations. However, we do not handle this matter directly, you should refer to the rules as explained in the EC website [Participant Register](#).

- **If my proposed course in cybersecurity training starts in the coming months but ends in 2026, is it still possible to apply?**

All project funded under this Call for Training Proposals must finish end of 2025. This is a requirement written in guidelines, and the activities are limited to the timeframe of June-December 2025.

- **Can an institution apply for more than one project or be a partner in multiple projects?**

There is no limit to the number of proposals a legal entity can submit (even with the same PIC number), as long as the proposals are distinct from each other.

2. The Pledge

- **What does it mean "Become a Pledger"?**

You can find all the information about becoming a Pledger [here](#).

- **Do all partners in consortium need to be Pledgers?**

Yes, all partners of the consortium **must have signed the [EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative Pledge](#)** and had it **approved**, at least two weeks before the call deadline.

- **Is there a fee associated to becoming a Pledger?**

No.

- **Who must sign the Pledge on behalf of a university?**

A legal signatory of the university.

- **When signing the Pledge Agreement, do Pledgers have to state how many courses they will organise before they are sure to be granted funding?**

Prospective Pledgers need to state how many courses they wish to upload on the platform to become a Pledger, as well as how many talents they are planning to train until the end of 2025. However, this is not legally binding, and if funding is secured, they can develop more courses and train more talents!

- **If we become Pledgers in March this year, will the first reporting be in June? What if there aren't yet many activities to report?**

Pledgers who have joined in 2025 must submit their reports as a pre-condition for pre-financing, if successful. If there were no relevant activities during the pre-pledge period, you can indicate this in the reporting section on our platform.

- **Is an organisation considered a Pledger if they already have a course on the platform?**

Any organisation is considered Pledger when they have their Pledge submitted and approved, irrespective of whether they have a course in the catalogue or not. All information on becoming a Pledger can be found [here](#).

- **Is our Pledge status contingent on successful application for DTTI funding?**

No. You will not be eligible to apply for the Call for Training Proposals 2025, unless you are a Pledger, *but* you do not need to get funding in order to become a Pledger.

- **Are there any requirements/conditions to become a Pledger?**

There are some restrictions, most notably, an organisation activity should be relevant to deep tech, and should train people in EU and HE associated countries. You can find all the information [here](#).

- **How long does it take to have our Pledge approved?**

Pledger processing can take up to a week, and you will receive two emails once your Pledge has been approved. Please remember to check your email Spam folder, and if you haven't heard, please contact us by email info@eitdeeptechtalent.eu

- **How can I invite some other people from my organisation to Agora to increase interaction?**

We can invite the additional contact person to Agora. Please send a request email to info@eitdeeptechtalent.eu.

- **Can we incorporate networks such as enterprises, startups, NGO's and other supporting partners in the Call for Proposals without them pledging?**

No, in order to apply to the call, all consortium members must be Pledgers.

- **If partners have co-created the training, do they still need to submit separate pledges?**

Yes. All partners are required to sign the Pledge separately.

- **Is it possible to see existing courses before being accepted as a Pledger?**

Yes. Please see our current course catalogue [here](#).

3. Consortium Composition

- **What is the maximum number of parties allowed in a consortium?**

There is no maximum number of parties. For practical reasons, however, we do not recommend including more than five partners in a consortium.

- **Are municipalities eligible?**

Yes, they can apply as institutional Pledgers.

- **For this call, can you join in more than one consortium?**

If an organisation is made of different legal entities, they can apply several times under those different legal entities. In the proposal submission, the organisation's PIC number is required to check this.

- **Is a consortium comprising an HEI and a start-up spin-off from that HEI eligible?**

Yes, if they are two separate legal entities.

- **Do the consortium members have to be from different countries?**

The consortium must include minimum 2 independent legal entities, coming from at least 2 different eligible countries, and respecting the following conditions:

- At least one partner must come from a Member State (MS).
- The other partner can be from either MS or Associated Countries (AC).

The reason for this pan EU dimension is to help continue spirit of EU collaboration by training people across Europe.

- **Is possible that third countries can participate in a consortium?**

The rules of Horizon Europe apply in this call.

That is, any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organisations, is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation have been met, along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call topic.

Regulation: (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1)

- **What kind of collaboration do you expect between project partners (at the least 2 different partners from 2 countries)? Could you give some examples?**

As mentioned in the Call text, working with different countries consortia, would allow your existing courses to be enhanced, improved, and expanded.

Improvements may include digitalisation, enhancing accessibility, increasing participation of women and other underrepresented groups, scaling up, fostering international collaboration, localising content to different languages, establishing new academia /industry /NGO / government / etc partnerships, or updating programmes with new deep tech curriculum and more ambitious and impactful KPIs, inter alia.

- **Since a consortium of at least two entities must be formed originating from at least two different countries. Does that mean that the course that is submitted also be offered by those two entities? Or can both entities offer variations of courses?**

Both are possible.

Make sure you clearly explain the difference between the two versions when you submit the quality check application.

Contact quality-check@eitdeeptalent.eu before you start you application for advice on how to proceed.

- **For efficient match making, we need access to Agora, however, it seems to take a few days to get credentials. Is there a possibility to speed this process up?**

As soon as you pledge, you will receive an invitation email for Agora, meanwhile, you can look for potential partners on our website [here](#).

- **Can the consortium be made of 2 SMEs?**

Yes.

- **Can Ukrainian and Swiss SMEs apply?**

Ukraine can as it is an associated country to Horizon Europe.

For Switzerland, following the announcement of the conclusion of successful negotiations between the European Commission and Switzerland on Switzerland's association with Horizon Europe, it is important to note that the transitional arrangements in place while waiting for the signature of the Switzerland's Association Agreement do not apply to cascading funding of the EIT KICs (Financial Support to Third Parties). Therefore, Swiss entities can apply to this call for proposals but will not be eligible and awarded any funding before the signature of said Association Agreement. The signature of the Association Agreement will not have retroactive effects to 1 January 2025 for cascading grants. The eligibility of Swiss partners for EIT funding will be assessed at the end of the selection process of the call.

- **Can Ukrainian and Swiss SMEs apply as a consortium?**

No, there should be at least one EU member state in the consortium.

- **Can Kosovo and Finland apply in a consortium?**

Yes

- **We are consortium of Swiss and German entities and our course is for university learners in Ukraine and Kenya. Is this allowed?**

Germany is a member State of the EU, so satisfies part of the eligibility criteria for consortium. For Switzerland, please see the above explanation on the current status.

Kenya is not an associated country.

Courses should be designed to train learners residing in EU member states and Horizon Europe-associated countries.

4. Training

a. Who can be trained?

- **What is considered a learner?**

Learners are participants who have successfully completed the training.

- **How can an applicant determine that 30% of the learners are female?**

The winners will need to report data on their learners, including demographics, as per the Pledge Agreement.

- **What types of students are considered learners for this call?**

Learners should come from the following categories covered by the Initiative:

- Students of Higher Education with a need for more specialised training in deep tech;
- Adult Learners in companies and on the job market who need additional skills in deep tech.

- **Are deep tech degree programme students eligible to be reported to the participants, or do these persons need to be external to university programmes?**

Both internal and external programmes are eligible for reporting. The KPI is for at least 300 participants to be trained through the specific project you are applying for.

- **By Talents, do you mean students from a university point of view that undertake courses, or does it include scientific workers as well?**

By talent we mean any type of beneficiary of your courses. If you are a university then probably it will be students, if you are a training provider it could be also professionals or people willing to re-enter the job market

- **Are there any geographical limitations for learners? Could they be from out of the EU?**

EU residents and Horizon Europe associated country residents are eligible.

- **For this specific call, it says that trainees should be over 18 (university students) or other adults (e.g., employed individuals). Can we include trainees under aged 16-18 yrs in the proposal?**

No. This Call for Training Proposals is looking to fund courses for learners over 18 only.

- **To meet the pan-European outreach requirement, is it sufficient if the training participants come from two different European countries?**

Yes.

b. Training Courses

- **Are online courses eligible?**

Yes.

- **The training course developed must be available through the EIT Deep Tech Talent Platform? Or can be accessed through another method? Can applicants use and develop their own LMS systems for the training?**

The EIT Deep Tech Talent Platform acts as a window front for Deep Tech courses. Training providers can use any learning system they use and use any delivery method. Once it passes the Quality Check, the course will be added to the platform catalogue with its individual page, and learners will be directed to the course from that page.

- **Is it possible this year to apply with a pre-existing course and enhance it with the help of EIT funding?**

Yes.

- **Is it possible to apply with a transversal course (i.e., not technology specific, but for example regarding tech-transfer training)?**

Yes, if tech-transfer training is focused on applying it to one of the eligible deep tech fields.

- **Can we apply with the improvement of the courses which are already registered and approved on the platform? How do we edit the information and re-apply for the quality check then?**

Contact quality-check@eitdeeptalent.eu for advice.

- **Are we expected to create a unique training course, or can we implement an already existing curriculum?**

The Call is looking for organisations to collaborate on training deep tech talents by enhancing or expanding deep tech training programmes.

- **Can we create a new course from scratch if we have experts but no previously existing programme in this area?**

No. The aim of this Call is to redesign already existing courses

- **For our proposed course to be eligible, does it need to be based on a course that we already have in our portfolio, or can it be built on an existing course from the platform?**

Both, it can be based on a course already in your portfolio, or can be built on an existing course from the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative platform.

- **Would it be possible to have the practical part of the deep tech training (workshops, summer school) earlier, for example in September 2025?**

The earliest start date would be mid-September, if the project successfully passed the Quality Check

- **Are the courses that we have to redesign limited to the ones that are currently in the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative Course Catalogue?**

No, you can redesign any existing course you or Consortium Partners already have.

c. Sectors

- **What specific sectors are covered by this call?**

The proposals must support trainings in **any of the 15 deep tech areas** specified on the Deep Tech Talent Initiative website:

1. Advanced Computing / Quantum Computing
2. Advanced Manufacturing
3. Advanced Materials
4. Aerospace, Automotive and Remote Sensing
5. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, including Big Data
6. Biotechnology and Life Sciences
7. Communications and Networks, including 5G
8. Cybersecurity and Data Protection
9. Electronics and Photonics
10. Internet of Things, W3C, Semantic Web
11. Robotics
12. Semiconductors (microchips)
13. Sustainable Energy and Clean Technologies
14. Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Metaverse
15. Web 3.0, including Blockchain, Distributed Ledgers, NFTs

- **Will the Target Deep Tech thematic categories of the initiative remain as they are? For example, will other deep tech categories (e.g., Greentech) be added or have to be fit in some of the aforementioned?**

Greentech can be qualified under clean technologies, or any other category, depending on the focus of your training.

- **Is there a risk that there might be overlapping/repetitive training content proposed? How will this be tackled by your team?**

There will be some proposals that will cover similar content. We try to distribute the funds across all 15 deep tech areas specified on the Deep Tech Talent Initiative website.

d. Accreditation

- **Does the course have to be accredited at the end of the project runtime? Or is this just to indicate the duration?**

The course should be a training programme with the objective of upskilling and reskilling talent, it does not have to be an accredited university course. However, a Quality Check will be conducted by the DTTI team during Phase 1 of the project, according to the procedure specified on the [DTTI website](#).

During Phase 1 of the Call, all funded projects must submit their redesigned courses to the Quality Check (QC) team by 4 August 2025, and the QC team will hold a panel meeting to evaluate the submitted courses on 1 September 2025. A second QC panel meeting will be held in late September/early October 2025 for those courses that required minor changes or full revisions. Any course failing the second quality check will not be able to continue its implementation under the DTTI funding.

- **How long does it take for a course to pass the quality check and be published on the DTTI platform?**

In general, up to 6 weeks depending on when you upload it.

- **Will initiatives that have already been started be seen more favourably than new initiatives?**

All proposals will be evaluated by independent experts according to the criteria specified in the call text.

- **Could you clarify the certification requirements for the participants? Does this imply that the course must be accredited, or would a certificate of completion from the training provider be sufficient?**

The course will go through a [Quality Check](#) process in order to be able to advance to phase 2 of the project.

However, the course provider must issue a verifiable certificate of achievement of quality - i.e., all students passed have the achieved learning outcomes and have learner records that demonstrate certificate validity.

- **For the Call for Training Proposals 2025, the quality check takes place after the proposal has been approved for funding. Is that correct?**

Yes. The Quality Check process takes place during Phase 1. Once a project has been approved, it can proceed to Phase 2 'Implementation'.

- **Is it mandatory for at least one consortium member to be able to give a certificate of attendees or is the EIT DTTI certificate enough?**

The EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative doesn't award learners certificates. The training providers do that using the template given to them when the course gets approved.

The certificates can be awarded by only one partner in the consortium that takes on this task for the entire consortium.

- **I am a training provider but I don't currently have a graduation certificate, at least not one that is recognised in the European Union, is this a basic requirement?**

You will need to comply with all the regulation for providing courses in the country you operate. But the certificate does not need to be a higher education certificate. It can also be a professional or vocational education certificate

But it is crucial that whoever awards a certificate has the power to do so according to the relevant regulations in that country.

e. KPIs & Reporting

- **What are the reporting efforts required once being granted the Call? Any other efforts/time required next to preparing and offering the training?**

Chosen applicants are expected to report the following data for their learners by the end of 2025: course content and learner objectives and the data on successful graduates. The data submission should meet the reporting requirements of EIT Impact Framework for Participants in non-labelled education and training (https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit_impact_framework_2022-2027.pdf).

- **The KPI to have 300 trained talents seems ambitious. What is the timeframe to achieve this? We understand this number has been decreased by the EIT for the 2025 call. Is this easily achieved by beneficiaries in past calls?**

The KPI of training 300 individuals **must** be achieved and reported by the end of 2025. The 2024 Call winners have reported strong demand for their courses, exceeding the 500 trained talent KPI.

- **Can you count participants from any kind of activities under the 300 trained talents KPIs or do they all have to pass the quality checked course?**

For this Call, 300 refers to the number of TRAINED learners via the project you submit, of which at least 30% women.

- **Do we need to have trained 300 talents before April 8th?**

April 8th is the deadline to apply to this Call for Proposals, not to train the learners. For the projects funded under this call for proposals, 300 talents should be trained by December 2025.

- **Are there any consequences if successful projects fail to train 300 learners by December 2025?**

Sometimes unforeseeable things happen, and a failure to train 300 learners will be treated as a deviation, similar to other EU projects.

However, you should give a detailed reason why, explain what you did to mitigate risk and deviation, and what will you do in the upcoming periods if something similar happens.

- **If both partners are new pledgers and have not yet published any course on the platform, in the Relation to Previous Trainings part of the proposal can they refer to existing courses they have implemented but not published on the platform, or should they only refer to existing courses available on the platform?**

Yes, they can refer to existing courses they have implemented but not published on the platform.

- **If an organisation joined during 2024, but still doesn't have any training delivered which complies with EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative, should it submit a report?**

Yes. All pledgers should submit a report if joined before the end of 2024, even if no training has been delivered.

- **What if we are a pledger from earlier than 2024, but have not submitted any training materials on the platform yet? Are we still eligible for the call?**

Yes. However, if you are already a Pledger and you've joined the Initiative before 31 December 2024, you must have fully completed your 2023-2024 reports by the time of application submission, otherwise you won't be considered eligible to apply.

- **When I registered as a Pledger, I committed to training 400 people by the end of 2025 as part of a project under the current Call. When I collaborate with another Pledger for the Call, should they also pledge 400 participants in their commitment, or should they list 0, since we are referring to the same group of trainees?**

The training targets you submitted in your Pledge reflect not only the specific targets for the current call for proposals but also your broader contribution to skilling, re-skilling, and upskilling 1,000,000 people in deep tech areas. When collaborating with another Pledger for the Call, each organisation should submit their own training targets, as they are responsible for their individual contributions.

5. Funding

- **Is it possible this year to apply with a pre-existing course and enhance it with the help of EIT funding?**

Yes.

- **What are eligible costs that can be funded?**

The projects fall under Horizon Europe, and the general regulations regarding funding and cost eligibility are governed by the Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement (AGA).

- **What is the funding rate of the project/is own funding required?**

The EIT funding covers up to 100% of the eligible costs. Co-funding is not required.

- **Is it possible to co-fund EIT with a national fund for companies?**

Yes. Applicants may provide additional funding from their own resources or other sources to enhance the project's scope and impact. Consortia may include partners that bring with their own funding.

- **The payment scheme is 25% and then 75%, that may be challenging for SMEs to finance the course development. It is anticipated that the payment scheme will be reviewed?**

These are the current rules of this type of call. SMEs will need to critically evaluate their cashflow capabilities before implementation. The Deep tech Talent Initiative will try and streamline the process for all Call winners.

- **Should all members of the consortium be financial beneficiaries, and if so, how should the grant be distributed between them?**

There is no specific requirement in terms of how to distribute the budget among the beneficiaries. The funding grant is paid to the consortium coordinator to distribute as set out in the proposal.

However, it is possible for some consortium partners to receive financial support and for others not to, but it depends on the consortium details.

- **Are there any constraints on sharing the total budget of €60,000 between the two (or more) consortium partners?**

There are no constraints. You can distribute between consortium partners as you wish, as long as you meet the requirements set by call.

- **What percentage of the total budget can the budget for a subcontractor (not a partner) be if available?**

There is no limit on portion of budget to allocate to sub-contractor. However, preferably it shouldn't constitute a significant percentage. We prefer to give priority to proposals that don't have large sub-contracting costs which can be difficult to track down. It's preferable for someone to be part of the consortium, but if this is not possible, the sub-contracting budget shouldn't be substantial.

- **The total budget per consortium is set at €60K. Is this the maximum amount? Would it be encouraged to be less or it can be exactly this amount?**

€60k is maximum amount of funding available per proposal.

Proposals should show how money will be used in a way to create an impact and create a project efficiently, they will not 'lose points' during the evaluation stage if they are requesting the maximum grant amount of €60k.

- **What percentage is the pre-payment?**

The pre-financing payment is 25%, dependent on the proposal passing quality check and moving to phase 2 of the project. The remaining 75% will be distributed at end of project.

- **If an entity is already involved as a partner in another project that has recently received EIT funding, is it still eligible to participate in this grant program as a partner or as a leading organisation?**

Yes, if the activities to be funded are not already being funded under the other project. This means it can participate with a project which is unrelated to the one already funded by EIT.

- **For Pledgers who are not academic institutions that are unsuccessful in receiving funding and are therefore unable to reach their initial Pledge training target, can they revisit/reduce/eliminate their Pledge target?**

Pledgers who are not academic institutions and are unsuccessful in receiving funding may revisit their training targets. While maintaining the commitment to skilling and upskilling in deep tech, we encourage exploring alternative ways to achieve the targets despite funding limitations.

6. General

- **Is the implementation timeline flexible?**

No. It is a fixed timeline that successful projects must adhere to.

- **Where can I find information relating to this Call?**

All the information relating to this Call can be found in the [dedicated Call web page](#). This is the main point of reference where you will find the application link, related material, links to events, etc.

- **Is there anyone who can support me in the application?**

There is no pre-proposal submission checking assistance available. All call documents are self-explanatory and can be consulted [here](#). We have put together this FAQs to support and guide on additional questions. There are three info-sessions where applicants can ask more specific questions, registration links can be found [here](#).

- **How is the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative linked to the EIT HEI Initiative?**

The EIT HEI Initiative is another joint activity of the EIT community, coordinated by EIT Raw Materials. It recognises higher education institutions (HEIs) as the pivotal actors in regional and European innovation ecosystems.

The EIT HEI Initiative is uniquely designed to enhance the innovation capacity and entrepreneurial mindset of HEIs and foster collaboration between academia, industry, research institutions, public authorities and governmental organisations.

Through competitive calls for proposals, the initiative offers non-reimbursable grants to consortia formed by HEIs and their partners to work on innovation and entrepreneurship, but also on other dimensions of strategic interest for Europe, such as deep tech.

- **Where on the website can I find the Deep Tech talents and their CVs?**

You will need to log in as a Pledger on the Deep Tech Talent Initiative platform, where you can update your organisational data and course descriptions, if applicable.

On the left-hand side of the platform, you will find the "Talents" section, where you can access the information

- **Could you clarify whether the project proposal should be prepared directly on the website using a provided template, or if we need to upload a separate document? If a template is available, where can we access it?**

There is no template, the project proposal should be completed directly on the NetSuite platform. However, it doesn't need to be completed in one sitting, you can input details across several sessions, saving your progress each time.

- **Where can I find partnership opportunities**

If you are already a Pledger, publish your partner search in the Matchmaking space on AGORA. If you haven't received your Agora invitation email, please contact info@eitdeeptechtalent.eu.

- **Where will the presentations be available?**

The links to all Call Information Session recordings will be added to the Call website, and can be found [here](#).

- **What about the practical part and implementation of the courses? The deadline for reviewing and submitting the courses (Phase 1) is September, this means the actual launch of the courses would be as of October 2025, is this deadline flexible?**

No, this deadline not flexible. However, this is the final deadline, ideally initial course proposals should be submitted by 1 August, and project team members should be available throughout August to make any modifications. Projects will receive an answer by the beginning of September as to whether they can proceed to Phase 2.

If the project is not approved, they will be given guidance on what to do to resubmit and pass for the October 2025 Phase 2 start date.

If Quality Check does not approve the course after the 2nd submission, this means it cannot proceed to Phase 2, and won't receive the remaining 75% of funding.

- **I'm having problems with NetSuite, is there anyone who can support me?**

Contact the technicians by completing this [form](#).