

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

EIT CLIMATE-KIC HUB IN BULGARIA

UNDER THE EIT REGIONAL INNOVATION SCHEME

Overview

Programme

EIT Regional Innovation Scheme

Date Published

31.12.2020

Online Application Form**Submission Deadline**

15.01.2021, 18.00 EET via [Application Form](#)

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In the subject line, please write “Call for EIT Climate KIC Hub Member in BULGARIA”.

Short Description

EIT Climate-KIC Hub in BULGARIA is representing EIT Climate-KIC, Europe’s largest public-private innovation partnership focused on climate change, is launching a call to recruit additional members of EIT Climate-KIC Hub in BULGARIA 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 BULGARIA

The Bulgarian innovation community presented its candidature to partner with EIT Climate-KIC back in 2016. The Hub in Bulgaria, led by Cleantech Bulgaria, acts as a catalyst of innovation solutions for the public and private sector. Cleantech Bulgaria provides common ground for collaboration and co-creation of the local stakeholders using cluster approach and thematic alignment with the CKIC objectives.

The EIT Climate KIC Hub in Bulgaria has delivered significant results in all three areas of the knowledge triangle – science, education and business, combining these with a strong public sector support actions. The Hub in Bulgaria has successfully developed and delivered a large portfolio of activities that support the innovation process tackling climate change and transition to circular economy.

Network development and leadership: EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Bulgaria has successfully created and developed a network of partners that let create Climate-KICs effective platform for collaboration and innovation support also in Bulgaria. Through the years EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Bulgaria has developed tailor made tools and mechanisms in order to identify, support and explore the innovation potential of the country and in the same time unlock new opportunities for the KTI actors. In terms of coordination and administration, the opportunities, activities, and results of the Hub are shared and achieved through active partnership and involvement of a high-level stakeholder organizations from both public and private sectors.

EIT Climate-KIC Community in Bulgaria is instantly visible and easy to track through the years as it remains not only relatively constant as composition, but demonstrates sustainable results with growing impact. All stakeholders involved in Climate-KIC activities in Bulgaria demonstrate multi-annual and long-term collaboration (CKIC RIS Accelerator, Pioneers into Practice, Deep Demonstration process ect.). The growing commitment on behalf of the governmental institutions in the country also shows trust and recognition of the EIT Climate-KIC efforts.

Prominent cases include the partnership with the Ministry of Economy of Bulgaria dating since the application process, which through the years grew from institutional endorsement, support in selected events and initiatives of the Hub, through involvement of key experts into EIT Climate-KIC educational and capacity building formats to participation in collaborative innovation projects. This collaboration culminates in the involvement in Circular Economy Deep Demonstration which is running its second phase in 2020 managing to place the topic at highest state level by the establishment of the Inter-ministerial working group on Circular economy and concentrating efforts to introduce CE indicators and measures at National operation program level which potentially means direct impact to the entire Bulgarian economy.

Engagement on regional level is demonstrated and developed through the constant engagement of growing number municipalities, which through the coordination of the EIT Climate-KIC Hub finds many fruitful forms throughout the years.

Evolving collaborations can be demonstrated also in the field of higher education as the EIT Climate-KIC Hub involves constantly the leading Bulgarian universities and their students, including through the especially developed Start-Up Universiade (two editions implemented with Sofia University, the University of National and World Economy, University of Architecture, Civil Construction and Geodesy and the Technical University of Sofia) Green House Pre-Incubation format executed in the Sofia University and in the University of National and World Economy.

In addition, in 2018, together with the University of Finance, Business and Entrepreneurship - VUZF, EIT Climate-KIC Hub realized the Master Program on Circular Economy and Sustainable Management targeting active professionals. The Program enjoyed strong support from the business community including sharing expertise, scholarships, and commitment (of employees) of companies like Philips (Netherlands), ING Bulgaria, IKEA Bulgaria, The Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Deloitte, Solvay Sodi, etc.

Entrepreneurship and breakthrough innovation by the involvement of many start-ups and spin-offs (academic entrepreneurship) in Pathfinder and other types of innovation projects, some of which delivered new products and services on the local market.

Through the Climate KIC RIS Accelerator, in 5 consecutive years (2016-2020), Cleantech Bulgaria has attracted interest of over 200 applicants and has supported over 30 promising start ups in all 3 stages of the programme. The additional funding (follow up investments) that the start ups from the Climate KIC accelerator amounts over 4,5 million EUR.

Among the flagship projects realized by the EIT Climate-KIC Hub which demonstrates clearly the distributed opportunity is the Sofia Urban Challenge project – phase 1 and phase 2 realized with the inclusion of Sofia municipality and the Eljoy start-up company, and supported by many local companies and organizations. The pilot e-bike public sharing system continues to operate at present, enjoys positive public interest and was chosen among the best practices of Climate-KIC for 2018.

Another important artifact of the encompassing character of the EIT Climate-KIC Hub is the organization of the high-level International Forum in Circular Economy and Clean Technologies as part of the official agenda of the Bulgarian presidency of the European Council, under the patronage of the Ministry of environment and water of Bulgaria and with the support of the EIT, holding the first EIT Cross-KIC activity where five out of the currently established six KICs participated (EIT Climate KIC, EIT InnoEnergy, EIT Food, EIT Health, EIT Raw Materials), over 200 international participants attended, and sponsored and/or supported by 8 local business and public organizations among which Deloitte, Solvay Group and the Confederation of Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria.

Target Group

Organizations interested in becoming member of the EIT Climate-KIC Hub in BULGARIA 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 BULGARIA is represented by CLEANTECH BULGARIA.

The EIT Climate-KIC Hub Bulgaria is looking to expand its reach, achieve better integration on national level and enrich competences, capacity and opportunities.

The call is open for any type of legal entities that represent the higher education and research, municipal administration, business and industry players and/or their formations, non-governmental organisations that are able to commit to the cooperation within the model of the Knowledge Triangle Integration in order to contribute to the accomplishment of the vision and goals of the Hub.

Previous involvement in actions undertaken by Climate-KIC will be treated as an asset during assessment process.

Hub members' are expected to be a dynamic part within the Climate-KIC Hub and collaborate on specific projects as long as they find such activities in accordance with their strategy and operating capability.

Territorial scope

Currently, Cleantech Bulgaria leading the EIT Climate-KIC Hub is based in Sofia but the Hub is active in all the country thanks to numerous stakeholders involved in Hub's actions.

We would like to further strengthen our presence in whole the country, as we see big potential in the cooperation on national, but also on regional and local level.

Working area

Currently, EIT Climate-KIC Hub in BULGARIA specializes in:

- EDUCATION - thanks to actions undertaken by the EIT Climate-KIC Hub in collaboration with the leading Bulgarian universities – Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, the University of National and World Economy, University of Architecture, Civil Construction and Geodesy, Technical University of Sofia, Forestry university, Burgas University “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov”, Agricultural university Plovdiv, the University of Finance, Business and Entrepreneurship (VUZF) and many others;
- RESEARCH - thanks to actions undertaken by the EIT Climate-KIC Hub in collaboration with leading scientific institutes and research facilities part of the Bulgarian Academy of Science such as: Institute of Physical



Chemistry "Academician Rostislav Kaishev"; Institute of Organic Chemistry with Center for Phytochemistry; Institute of Microbiology "Stefan Angelov" and many others;

- STARTUP ACCELERATION thanks to actions undertaken by the EIT Climate-KIC Hub in collaboration with leading start up ecosystem supporting organizations such as: Bulgarian Start up Association - BESCO (Cleantech Bulgaria is among the co-founders); most well known co-working spaces in the country such as Premium Coworking, Betahouse, Puzl etc.; as well as with all existing Angel investors networks, Start up Funds and Venture Capital funds in the country;
- BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY- the HUB sees its work with the business and industry as vital for its future development. Being one of the tips of the Knowledge triangle, the HUB wants to intensify its support to the business for uptake of climate innovation through fostering dynamic relationships that enable synergies, concrete collaborations on projects and opportunities to build up capacity and ultimately equip the business and industry to successfully transit towards circular economy and resilient value chains.
- The combination of digital technologies and introduction of resource efficient solutions on industry level may be seen as an opportunity for the EIT Climate KIC Hub to co-create future wave of innovation projects in the field of renovation, energy efficiency and build environment.
- NGOs AND INNOVATION CLUSTERS - thanks to actions undertaken by Cleantech Bulgaria as manager of the EIT Climate-KIC Hub and its co-founding role in leading Bulgarian cluster cooperations such as the Export Hub of Bulgaria (led by the Bulgarian Executive Agency for Promotion of the Small and Medium enterprises), the Health & Life Sciences Cluster Bulgaria, AgrohUB.BG, Bulgarian Hydrogen Association and many others;

Besides the proven track record of partnerships, realized joint initiatives and collaborations, one bonding and overarching topic emerges for all and this is the successful transition towards circularity of the Bulgarian economy. This challenge can be tackled with joint forces, open approach and in coordinated manner. During the years and various interactions of the EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Bulgaria with the major stakeholders unite around the vision of achieving at least one pilot innovation activity in targeted industry sectors by 2023. In order for this vision to be achieved, there are several concrete steps already defined:

- ✓ Working towards harmonized integration of circular economy topic (in terms of priority, indicators and supportive measures) in the new operational programming,
- ✓ By intensifying the dialogue between the country and the EU institutions like the EIB, EBRD and the EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth to identify how to unlock synergetic funding for circular economy in Bulgaria and the region
- ✓ By fostering the connection within the Knowledge triangle and in particular by helping to equip the business with the proper skilled workforce through dedicated educational programs and supportive measures of strategical and tactical level.

Thematic framework

This vision of the EIT Climate-KIC Hub Bulgaria is aiming to achieve is to become a focal point for climate innovation dialogue and platform to enable Circular Economy transformation of the Bulgarian economy.

The Hub envisages to achieve this through integration of the Knowledge Triangle and walking concrete steps with the involvement of the key actors to

- work towards harmonised integration of circular economy topic on strategic and operational level;
- intensifying the dialogue between the country and the EU institutions to identify how to unlock synergetic funding for circular economy in Bulgaria and the region;

- foster the connection within the Knowledge triangle and by helping to equip its representatives with facilitation, knowledge and capacity building towards unfolding the full national potential for climate innovation and achievement of low-carbon future.

Focus: EIT Climate-KIC Hub in Bulgaria is focussing on the following Innovation Impact Goals specified in the EIT Climate-KIC strategy: [Transformation, 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 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 31 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 BULGARIA:

Criteria
<p>1. Thematic alignment:</p> <p>The potential member of EIT Climate-KIC Hub in BULGARIA is able to demonstrate commitment to the low carbon agenda and can show clear low carbon priorities.</p>
<p>2. Innovation as a Priority and/or Track record in innovation:</p> <p>The potential member of EIT Climate-KIC Hub must be able to demonstrate that developing innovation is among its priorities as strategic focus as well as the capacity or clear willingness to build capacity to carry out activities across the entire innovation framework, working across the knowledge triangle (education, research, business).</p>
<p>3. Focus & Capacity:</p> <p>Every entity acting as an EIT Climate-KIC Hub member 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.</p> <p>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:</p>

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.

- (i) an appropriate level of commitment of the required resources (cofunding in terms of in-kind and direct support) and
- (ii) its capacity to leverage its existing network of knowledge triangle actors, including ways to further develop the network
- (iii) its capacity to undertake activities related to above listed and selected EIT Climate-KIC Climate Innovation Impact Goals for Bulgaria and [EIT Climate KIC's Transformation in Time strategy](#)

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.

Candidates that can demonstrate previous collaborations with the EIT Climate-KIC Hub Bulgaria as third parties, key stakeholders or other form of support will be encouraged.

6. Plans to use other sources of funding:

The EIT Climate-KIC Hub members 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 BULGARIA 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 BULGARIA to join our network of partners and act together with Clenattech Bulgaria (as a lead entity) as members of the EIT Climate-KIC Hub in BULGARIA. 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 Thursday 31.12.2020

The call closes on Friday 15.01.2021

Late applications will not be accepted.

Target countries

Only organisations based in BULGARIA 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 Where 1 is poorly justified alignment, and 10 is alignment demonstrated on strategic, administrative, resource and operational level.	10
2	Prioritizing innovation Where 1 is poorly justified visibility of the priority, and 10 is visible demonstration of prioritizing innovation through strategy activity and track record.	10
3	Capacity Where 1 is poorly demonstrated internal capacity and 10 is capacity demonstrated both as inhouse availability, and potential to outreach and impact nation- or region-wide	10
4	Relations with national/local authorities Where 1 is absence of relations and of plan for building them, and 10 is visible demonstration of relations through strategy activity and track record.	10
5	Partnership Where 1 is absence of partnership and of plan to building it, and 10 is visible demonstration of partnership through strategy activity and track record.	10
6	Plans to use other sources of funding Where 1 is poorly presented and vague plan and 10 is well justified plan with concrete suggestions/ideas for complementing instruments, combining sources and capacity or sustainable model development.	10
		60

All complete and eligible applications received until 15.01.2021 – 18.00 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 BULGARIA 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 BULGARIA and EIT Climate-KIC.

The most qualified applicants will be selected to become members of EIT Climate-KIC Hub in BULGARIA. Please be aware that the selection panel's decision is final. There is no appeal procedure.

Timeline

Time	Action
15.01.2021	Call closes
22.01.2021	1st assessment round (based on the written applications)
01.02.2021	2nd assessment round (interviews via videoconferencing)
05.02.2021	Communication of selection results

The results of the selection will be communicated to all applicants no later than 05.02.2021. 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 of 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, we 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 3² 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 2⁰C 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 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.

² 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.

- 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 adaptative 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 those 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.