

EIT STEM Talent

Funded by the European Union

EIT STEM Tech Talent Induction

Open Call for Proposals 2026

Building Future-Ready STEM Talent

Applications open until 14 December 2026, 17:00 CET

28DIGITAL | Brussels, October 2026

EIT STEM Talent

Funded by the European Union



Rachel Cooper
EIT STEM Talent Strategic Partnerships Manager



Maxi Torau
Interim EIT STEM Talent Project Manager



Oana Neagu
EIT STEM Talent Call for Proposals Manager

Agenda

I **The initiative**
Why EIT STEM Talent Induction

II **Call at a glance**
Key figures and dates

III **Projects to be funded**
Domains, formats, learners

IV **Who can apply**
Consortium and eligibility

V **Implementation**
Phases, KPIs and funding

VI **Evaluation**
Criteria and how to apply

VII **Q&A**
Your questions answered

EIT STEM Tech Talent Induction

Strengthening Europe’s STEM talent pipeline

eit STEM Talent
Funded by the European Union



Policy Context and Background

Launched in 2025, the European Commission's Union of Skills advances STEM education and skills development through the STEM Education Strategic Plan, promoting STEM careers, addressing the 2 million workforce STEM skills gap, gender imbalances, and preparing a future-ready workforce.

In response, the EIT (European Institute of Innovation and Technology) is implementing EIT STEM Tech Talent Induction,

*"**a community** of education & training providers, enterprises, Member States and institutional partners, financial partners and networks **that work together to promote STEM skills development in Europe, reporting number of talents trained,** if applicable."*

EIT STEM Talent

At a Glance

Funded by the European Union

What: Skill, upskill and reskill talents to create a European talent pool in STEM disciplines.

How:

- Developing, scaling and promoting pan-European STEM training programmes on our course catalogue.
- Engaging organisations through the upcoming EIT STEM Talent Pledge to support STEM skills development across Europe.
- Promoting cross-collaboration among the community (co-developed trainings, joint research, industry/academic partnerships, etc.)
- Mobilising Pledgers to contribute through training, expertise and sharing the Initiative and relevant opportunities (like the Call) with associated networks.

When: October 14th marked the official launch of the stand-alone initiative. EIT STEM Talent will operate until the end of 2028.

EIT STEM Talent

Progress to Date

1

Call for Proposals Launched

2M

Available in funding for up to 25 projects

140

Already signed up for the Pledge Waitlist

EIT STEM Talent

Funded by the European Union



Welcome Message

EIT STEM Talent Interim Project Manager
Maxi Torau

SECTION II

The call at a glance

Budget, scale and key dates

Key information on the call

€2M
total EIT funding for this Call

Up to 25
projects to be funded

€80,000
maximum funding per project

1,200
minimum successful participants per project

10 hours
minimum structured learning per course

9 months
delivery window: 1 April to 31 December 2027

Induction activities

Induction activities are:

structured learning or engagement activities that introduce learners to STEM subjects, technologies, skills or career pathways, and support their progression towards further STEM learning, training or employment.



Co-created with industry

Designed with business around a real skills gap, shaping the content, contributes real-world challenges and validates the skills taught.



Enable transitions

Open pathways into further STEM learning and employment



Promote inclusion

Widen participation among learners from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds

Call timeline

14 Oct 2026
Call opens and submission system goes live

26 Oct 2026
Info session 1

19 Nov 2026
Info session 2

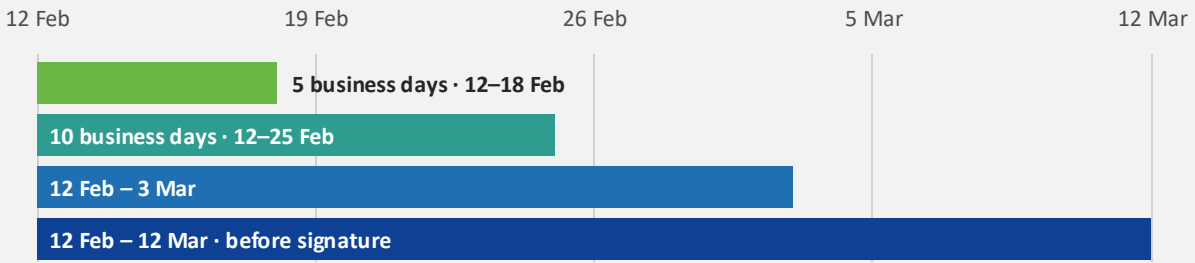
14 Dec 2026, 17:00 CET
Proposal submission closes

18 Dec – 11 Feb
Evaluation of proposals

12 Feb 2027
Results and feedback to all applicants

1 Apr 2027
Activities start

After Award



SECTION III

What we fund

STEM domains, formats, target groups and quality



eit STEM Talent
Funded by the European Union

STEM domains and priority areas

Strategic STEM domains (ISCED fields)

05 Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics

06 Information and communication technologies

07 Engineering, manufacturing and construction

Interdisciplinary activities are welcome, e.g. health, where they have a clear STEM component.

Particular attention to

Space applications

In line with the Vision for the European Space Economy

Artificial Intelligence

As a subject and an enabler of adaptive learning, used responsibly

STEAM and transversal skills

Creativity, design and entrepreneurship that complement the STEM focus

Educational formats

How training can be delivered

Setting: online, offline or blended

Mode: synchronous, asynchronous or semi-synchronous

Online and in-person components can be combined to balance scale and quality, while keeping learning outcomes meaningful and outreach targets in view.

Example formats

- **Short induction programmes:** modular, short-duration introductory courses
- **Embedded STEM content:** integrated into existing VET or higher education curricula and adapted to regional or sectoral needs
- **Industry challenge-based learning:** company-defined challenges, hackathons, design sprints, engineering competitions or prototype development
- **Regional Industry–STEM Labs:** light, scalable formats such as lab-in-a-box, robotics kits, mobile or virtual labs and maker activities
- **Transition and re-induction:** bridge courses, preparatory STEM modules or career transition tracks
- **Platform-integrated training:** online or blended environments with virtual labs, simulations, AI-supported tools or self-paced modules

Target groups

Primary focus: ISCED levels 3–5

- **ISCED 3** Upper secondary
- **ISCED 4** Post-secondary non-tertiary
- **ISCED 5** Short-cycle tertiary and higher VET

Special reach: learners from rural areas, from disadvantageous backgrounds, women and girls who are underrepresented in traditionally male-dominated sectors, adult learners transitioning from declining economic sectors.

40%

30%

learners from RIS countries

Core quality standard requirements

1 Outreach and recruitment

How learners find out about the course and how they are recruited

2 Entry and onboarding

Entry requirements, inclusive access, and information shared with learners

3 Programme design

Curriculum/programme, STEM content and learning hours, EQF level, expected learning outcomes

4 Delivery

What actually happens in the room or online, and who facilitates the learning activity

5 Assessment

How learners demonstrate they have achieved the intended learning outcomes

6 Certification

What learners receive on successful completion.

7 Progression and transition

Point learners to next steps in STEM study, jobs or innovation pathways

8 Support and safeguarding

Clear help routes, safeguarding for under-18s, GDPR-compliant data

9 Feedback and complaints

Collect learner feedback and give a clear route to raise concerns

Other requirements

10+ hours of structured learning per course, with practical components; hours must be proportionate to the expected outcomes

Develop all three dimensions of the EIT STEM Competence Framework

Conceptual foundations
The knowledge component

Procedural application
Practical, tool- and method-based skills

Innovation mindset
Transversal, interdisciplinary and entrepreneurial skills

Language of training

- Deliver in English and/or local or regional languages, whichever best supports access and engagement
- The proposal and key project documents must be in English: deliverables, programme descriptions, monitoring and reporting
- Materials in local languages may need an English summary for monitoring and evaluation

SECTION IV

Who can apply

Consortium composition and eligibility

Consortium composition

At least one education provider

Schools, VET networks, universities, EdTech, bootcamps, NGOs, training providers

+

At least one business or industry partner

Enterprises, startups, clusters, digital innovation hubs, research centres, incubators

Also encouraged

- Regional or public actors to sustain long-term transitions
- Partners from another region or country, where feasible

Eligible for funding

- EU Member States, including outermost regions
- Overseas Countries and Territories
- Countries associated to Horizon Europe
- Certain low- and middle-income countries
- Not eligible: entities under EU restrictive measures, or established in Russia, Belarus or non-government-controlled areas of Ukraine

Good to know

- Open call: KIC membership is not required

SECTION V

Implementation and funding

From design to deployment and reporting



eit STEM Talent
Funded by the European Union

Implementation timeline



Deliverables and KPIs

Two key deliverables

Final Education Programme and Implementation Package

The complete, industry-validated programme: course documentation, educator guides, assessment tools, certificate template, delivery and communication plans.

Programme Evaluation

Participation and completion rates, achievement of learning outcomes, learner and industry feedback, and progression potential.

Key performance indicators

1,200+

successful participants per project

Also plan for

- KPI EITHE08.1 Reporting data requirements
- Learner gender, citizenship and residence data
- Custom indicators, e.g. completion rates

Funding and payment arrangements

Four instalments, each released once the linked deliverables are approved



May 2027
Pre-financing at start

Aug 2027
DEL Programme package and monitoring report

Mar 2028
DEL Programme evaluation

Aug/Sep 2028
Balance after final and financial reports

Reimbursement of actual costs

Personnel · Subcontracting · Travel and subsistence · Equipment · Other goods, works and services

Indirect costs: 25% flat rate on eligible direct costs, excluding subcontracting and support to third parties

Practical tips

- Allocate every cost to a task in the submission system
- Commit at least 0.2 FTE per partner and task leader
- Use financial support to third parties sparingly
- Keep supporting evidence for at least 5 years

SECTION VI

Evaluation and how to apply

Award criteria, procedure and submission



eit STEM Talent
Funded by the European Union

Award criteria

Excellence — 30%

- Alignment with the Initiative and Call objectives, prioritising ISCED 3–5 and VET learners
- Quality of the learning design
- Diversity, inclusion and gender built into design, delivery and learner recruitment

Min. 6 / 15

Impact — 30%

- Potential to raise interest in STEM and support progression to further education, careers or innovation
- Potential for the training to be replicated, transferred or scaled beyond the project

Min. 4 / 10

Implementation — 30%

- Quality and feasibility of the work plan, responsibilities, KPIs and budget
- Learner outreach, recruitment and retention strategy, including underrepresented groups Consortium composition and expertise of the project team

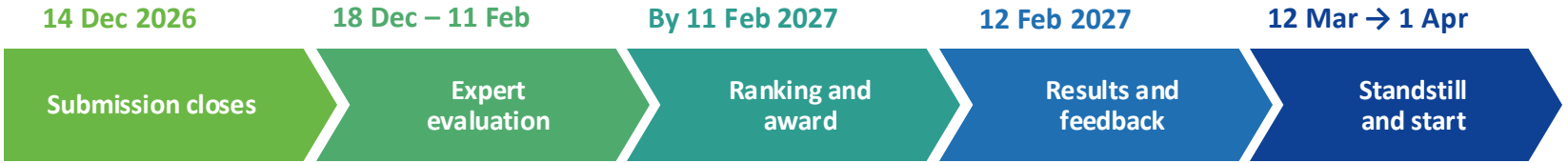
Min. 6 / 15

Strategic fit — 10%

- Geographical coverage and RIS objectives
- Focus on strategic technologies such as space-related applications and Artificial Intelligence

No minimum

Evaluation process



- Admissibility check: on time, complete, correct forms
- Eligibility check: entities and consortium
- Late proposals are inadmissible

- **Independent experts** score each proposal individually
- **Review gate**: panel agrees on a consensus score
- Scored on excellence, impact, implementation and strategic fit

- **Selection Committee** ranks proposals based on score
- **Management Committee** validates the awards based on ranking/score & reserve list valid 3 months

- All applicants receive their assessment and score
- 5 business days for adjustments
- 10 days to appeal

- 21-day standstill period
- Legal entity validation
- Projects start 1 April 2027

Submission procedure

1

Get your PIC number

Register your organisation on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal to obtain a nine-digit Participant Identification Code.

2

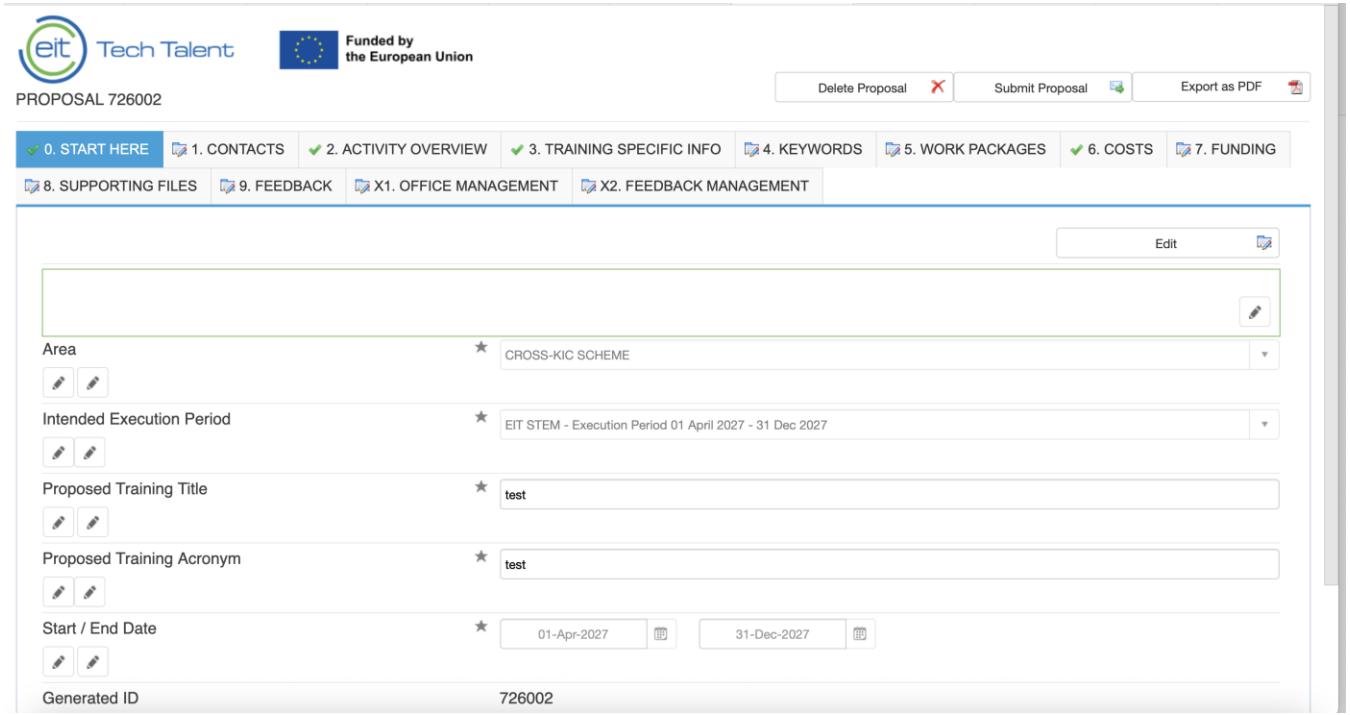
Submit via the 28DIGITAL platform

Create an account and submit the complete application in English.

DEADLINE

14 December 2026, 17:00 CET

Quick Tutorial



SECTION VII

Questions and answers

Your questions about the call

eit STEM Talent

Funded by the European Union

Thank you.
For more questions on the call:

Oana Neagu
Education Lead, 28DIGITAL

Email:
oana.neagu@28digital.eu
proposal_support@28digital.eu

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

eit STEM Talent

Funded by the European Union

For additional questions about the Initiative:

info@eitstemtalent.eu

Register for Pledge Waitlist

Sign up for Newsletter