

Evaluation of proposal

EIT Manufacturing relies on the professional expertise of independent experts to ensure that only proposals of highest quality and significance are selected for funding. Those independent experts must not represent any organization involved in the current call for proposal.

The evaluation is performed by the independent experts using the evaluation criteria mentioned in this document. In addition, EIT Manufacturing checks all proposals regarding their eligibility to Horizon Europe and EIT and EIT Manufacturing criteria.

Selection and appointment of independent experts

EIT Manufacturing management team is responsible for the selection of the independent experts. Candidates may be proposed to the management team which decides independently about acceptance. Experts may come from countries other than the Member States or countries associated to Horizon Europe. EIT Manufacturing strives to carry out the selection considering gender balance, geographical diversity across the EU and associated countries as well as regular rotation of experts, consistent with the appropriate balance between continuity and renewal. The independent experts must have:

- appropriate skills and knowledge relevant to the areas of activity in which they are asked to assist.
- high level of professional experience (public or private sector) in scientific research, innovation management, technology transfer, education or business creation.
- appropriate language skills required for the tasks to be carried out.
- other skills may also be required (e.g. such as managing or evaluating projects; international cooperation in science and technology).

The names of the independent experts assigned to individual proposals are not made public. Any direct or indirect contact about the evaluation of an EIT Manufacturing call between an applicant legal entity or a person submitting a proposal on behalf of an applicant legal entity, and any independent expert involved in the evaluation under the same call, in view of attempting to influence the evaluation process is strictly forbidden. Such a contact can constitute an exclusion situation.

Evaluation results, selection and rejection of proposals

Based on the results of the evaluation and with the aim of creating a balanced and strategically effective portfolio, the EIT management team selects proposals that will be included in the Business Plan. Further constraints like budget and LTP limits as well as performance indicators in case of ongoing multi-annual projects are taken into account additionally.

- A list of proposals which fully meet the EIT Manufacturing requirements. If the call establishes indicative budgets for pillars separate retained lists may be prepared for each such pillar.
- A list of proposals which may eventually receive funding due to eventualities such as withdrawals of proposals and availability of budget.
- A list of proposals which are not retained for funding. This list includes those proposals found to be ineligible; proposals considered not to achieve the required threshold of quality after the

evaluation; proposals that lead to an exceeding of a specific partner budget or LTP limit; multi-annual proposals that do not meet the performance criteria

Feedback to applicants

Following the evaluation, the EIT Manufacturing provides feedback through the EIT Manufacturing intranet to the activity leader submitting the proposal. The aim is to inform applicants about the result of the evaluation by experts and the decision of EIT Manufacturing management team about inclusion of proposals to the EIT Manufacturing Business Plan 2021.

Appeal and redress procedure

The applicant may wish to lodge an appeal against a rating of a proposal. The redress procedure is not meant to call into question the judgement made by the independent experts. It will consider only procedural shortcomings and factual errors. Objections may be raised in case of suspected shortcomings in the way a proposal was evaluated or assumed incorrections in the results of the eligibility checks.

Requests for redress must be made within 30 days of receipt of the evaluation feedback sent by EIT Manufacturing and should to be sent to redress@eitmanufacturing.eu. Request must

- address complaints against the evaluation process or the eligibility check.
- provide a clear justification for the appeal.

A reply will be provided no later than 3 weeks after the redress was received by EIT Manufacturing. The redress is examined by the management team of EIT Manufacturing. It will ensure a coherent interpretation of requests and equal treatment of applicants. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the management team may review the evaluation report, the individual comments and examine the CVs of the independent experts. If there is clear evidence of a shortcoming that could affect the funding decision, it is possible that all or part of the proposal may be re-evaluated. Unless there is clear evidence of a shortcoming there will be no follow-up or re-evaluation. The Supervisory Board of EIT Manufacturing will be informed of any redress procedures in due course.

In order to avoid possible misunderstandings, proposers are kindly asked to note the following points:

- This procedure is concerned with the evaluation and/or eligibility checking process. Decisions made by the management team in case of portfolio selection, budget and LTP limits cannot be appealed.
- The management team will not call into question the judgment of the independent experts, whose qualifications have been already assessed and validated.
- A re-evaluation will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that affects the quality assessment of a proposal. This means, for example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if a proposal has failed anyway on the other criteria.
- The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. It may be lower than the original score.
- Only one request for redress per proposal will be considered by the committee.
- All requests for redress will be treated confidentially.