

Call for Expression of Interest for members of Cross-KIC Strategic Regional Innovations Cluster's Advisory Board for Ukraine

1. Introduction

EIT InnoEnergy, co-funded by the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\)](#), a body of the European Union (EU), acting on behalf of the EIT Community Strategic Regional Innovations (SRI) Cluster and within its framework, is leading activities aimed at supporting the innovation ecosystem of Ukraine in line with EU policy priorities.

In order to implement the activities of the EIT Community SRI Cluster in a way most adjusted to the actual needs of Ukrainian innovation ecosystem, EIT InnoEnergy is looking to establish an Advisory Board.

The main role of this Advisory Board for Ukraine will be to help EIT Community SRI Cluster to:

- Better understand the needs of the Ukrainian market in order to better fit the actions that are already planned or will be implemented as result of channeling other EIT Community actions;
- Facilitate contacts with relevant stakeholders in Ukraine;
- Help to identify priority areas, where actions will be most impactful;
- Support the promotion of the EIT and its Knowledge and Innovation Communities in Ukraine;
- Help to solve potential problems with implementation of actions (especially caused by the fact that Ukraine is currently in a state of war).

The Advisory Board will be composed of natural persons representing:

- Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and R&I institutions.
- Industry;
- Start-ups and SMEs (through their associations or other forms of representation).

2. Context

2.1. About InnoEnergy

[EIT InnoEnergy](#), co-funded by the EIT, is one of the [Knowledge and Innovation Communities \(KICs\)](#). It operates at the centre of the energy transition and is the leading innovation engine in sustainable energy, bringing the technology and skills required to accelerate the Green Deal and Europe's decarbonisation goals.

Recognised globally as the most active sustainable energy investor and one of the largest climate tech and renewable energy tech investors in 2020, EIT InnoEnergy backs innovations across a range of areas. These include, energy storage, transport and mobility, renewables and sustainable buildings and cities – leveraging its trusted ecosystem of 500+ partners and 29 shareholders.

The 300 portfolio companies are on track to generate €72.8 billion in revenue and save 1.1G tons of CO_{2e} annually by 2030.

2.2. About EIT Community Strategic Regional Innovation cluster

EIT Community SRI Cluster is a joint activity of several KICs, funded by the EIT, to implement cross-sectoral actions to boost innovation in Europe's emerging economies, including those countries eligible for support under the [EIT Regional Innovation Scheme \(RIS\)](#). The KICs that actively take part in the EIT Community SRI Cluster are:

- [EIT Climate-KIC](#): Working to accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy;
- [EIT Digital](#): Driving Europe's digital transformation;
- [EIT Food](#): Leading a global revolution in food innovation and production;
- [EIT Health](#): Giving EU citizens greater opportunities to enjoy a healthy life;
- [EIT InnoEnergy](#): Achieving a sustainable energy future for Europe;
- [EIT Manufacturing](#): Strengthening and increasing the competitiveness of Europe's manufacturing industry;
- [EIT RawMaterials](#): Developing raw materials into a major strength for Europe;
- [EIT Urban Mobility](#): Smart, green and integrated transport.

The EIT Community SRI Cluster flagship activity is the [EIT Jumpstarter](#) – an award-winning pre-accelerator programme for young innovators, since 2023 the programme has a special cohort on Rebuilding Ukraine. This year the EIT Community SRI Cluster is concentrating much of its efforts on supporting the Ukrainian innovation ecosystem and EIT InnoEnergy is coordinating these actions.

2.3. About the EIT Community SRI cluster actions for Ukraine

The actions of the EIT Community SRI Cluster will aim to address the needs of the Ukrainian innovation ecosystem that were identified based on independent studies, reviewed by independent experts, and consulted with representatives of Ukrainian NGOs that are actively working with the ecosystem.

The actions include:

1. Exploring and establishing strategic alliances. Establishment of the EIT Community SRI representation on-the-ground in form of an EIT Community RIS Hub, managed by a National Secretary. The EIT Community RIS Hub will help to strengthen the activities of the EIT Community SRI Cluster, as well as the activities run by EIT KICs individually, especially by connecting the EIT Community with relevant Ukrainian stakeholders, assisting in the preparation of EIT Community events, participation in national-level events to promote the EIT Community, scouting for high-potential Ukrainian startups and talent, etc.
2. Support the transformation of Ukrainian enterprises. This includes training and coaching for Ukrainian startups and future entrepreneurs in Ukraine, both on the ground and online.
3. Upskilling/reskilling talents into entrepreneurs and paving the way towards increased uptake into EU programmes through the [EIT Jumpstarter](#). From 2023, there is a special cohort "Rebuild Ukraine" which is open solely to the Ukrainian participants. All other thematic cohorts are also open to Ukrainian citizens.
4. [Red Kalyna](#) initiative. This aims to recognise outstanding female entrepreneurs who developed innovative products or solutions, or transformed their businesses into innovative ones. We also look for inspiring female leaders who mentor and guide others in innovation and entrepreneurship. Ten Ukrainian role models are inducted into the Red Kalyna Hall of Fame every year. The label "Red Kalyna by EIT Community" symbolises their strength and resilience. They will be exposed to the EIT Community's pan-European network, the largest innovation ecosystem in Europe, gaining recognition and visibility.

5. The establishment of an Advisory Board to support implementation of the Ukraine support activities of the Cross-KIC SRI Cluster.

The main focus of the Ukraine support activities of the Cross-KIC SRI Cluster will be laid upon deep tech solutions in the fields covered by the KICs listed in point 2.2. This doesn't exclude other areas.

Apart from these activities the EIT Community SRI Cluster in close cooperation with other EIT Community Clusters and individual EIT KICs will maintain an overview of the implementation status of all EIT Community Ukraine, support actions to identify potential further EIT Community Ukraine actions for joint delivery and, as appropriate, take forward the development of these actions into joint proposals. The Cluster will also drive the EIT Community's efforts to explore synergies with pan-European programmes and organisations also supporting Ukraine.

3. The call

3.1. *Activities of the Advisory Board*

The main role of the Advisory Board for Ukraine is to help the EIT Community SRI Cluster to:

- Better understand the needs of the Ukrainian market in order to better fit the actions that are already planned or will be implemented as result of channeling other EIT Community actions;
- Facilitate contacts with relevant stakeholders in Ukraine;
- Help to identify priority areas, where actions will be most impactful;
- Support the promotion of the EIT and its KICs in Ukraine;
- Help to solve potential problems with implementation of actions (especially caused by the fact that Ukraine is currently in a state of war).

The Advisory Board will undertake its activities in the context of actions described in point 2.3. The Advisory Board members will act as representatives of the institutions or organisations that recommended them.

Advisory Board will meet twice a year using remote communication means (Internet) and one platform such as MS Teams, Zoom or WebEx. The meetings will be recorded but will remain confidential. The working language of the Board will be English. The Advisory Board members will be informed about upcoming meetings and subjects for discussion by email. Additional subjects for discussion may be introduced by the members of the Advisory Board at their initiative by submitting these to the Advisory Board Secretariate, a role to be covered by EIT InnoEnergy for consideration by the EIT Community SRI Cluster.

A detailed Terms of Reference will be drawn up, however, during the meetings the members of the Advisory Board will, *inter alia*, be expected to:

- Express opinions on different aspects of the EIT Community SRI Cluster activities relating to Ukraine;
- Advise on the implementation of different EIT Community SRI Cluster actions including recommendations regarding specific approaches to different actions;
- Suggest new solutions that should be implemented to complement actions of the EIT Community SRI Cluster in Ukraine;

Apart from the regular meetings, EIT Community SRI Cluster may seek the opinion, advice or input individually or collectively from members of the Advisory Board on different subjects within the scope of the actions described above.

All opinions, discussions, resolutions will remain confidential unless otherwise declared by the Advisory Board secretary.

The Advisory Board members will act on a voluntary basis, without remuneration. However, in case travel, including international travel outside of Ukraine will be required, their travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the EIT Community SRI Cluster.

The estimated workload is circa 32 hours per year. However, this may vary depending on circumstances and the willingness of the individual Advisory Board members. The Advisory Board will remain in place until the end of 2025. Any member of the Board may resign earlier by notifying the Secretariate of the Advisory Board by email. The Secretariate after consultations with EIT Community SRI Cluster will decide on the replacement of resigning member.

The Board will be composed of a maximum 6 members representing the following types of stakeholders, representing the Knowledge Triangle:

- Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and R&I institutions.
- Industry;
- Start-ups and SMEs (through their associations or other forms of representations).

A balance between representative of the types of Knowledge Triangle stakeholders, as well as gender balance between the members of the Advisory Board, will be sought. EIT Community SRI Cluster reserves rights to change the number of the Advisory Board members. However, it shall not be smaller than 4 nor higher than 9.

3.2. Requirements for the Advisory Board members

General requirements:

- Natural person, citizen of Ukraine. *This will be verified in CV;*
- Good knowledge and understanding of the Ukrainian innovation ecosystem. *This will be verified in motivation letter and an interview;*
- Good analytical skills and easiness in expressing opinions backed up by facts. *This will be verified in motivation letter and an interview. This will be verified in motivation letter and an interview;*
- Very good command of English. *This will be verified in an interview;*
- Readiness to devote time without additional remuneration. *This will be verified in motivation letter and an interview;*
- Representation of wide group of stakeholders. *This will be verified by number and quality of recommendation letters.*

Requirements for representatives of Higher Education Institutions and Research and Innovation institution:

- Employee of a HEI or R&I institution. *This will be verified in CV and recommendation from mother institution;*
- Doctoral degree in one of the fields relating to the areas of interest of KICs in the Cross-KIC SRI Cluster. *This will be verified in CV;*

- Proven experience in innovation (patents, other IPR). *This will be verified in CV;*
- Knowledge of the innovation ecosystem of Ukraine. *This will be verified in motivation letter.*

Requirements for representatives of industry:

- Employee of a large enterprise (above 250 employees) whose main area of activity is one of the areas of interests of the KICs. *This will be verified in CV and recommendation from mother institution;*
- Working with innovations as part of the work for at least three years. *This will be verified in CV and recommendation from mother institution;*
- Knowledge of the innovation ecosystem of Ukraine. *This will be verified in motivation letter.*

Requirements for representatives of start-ups and SMEs (NGOs):

- The candidate must work for an NGO whose mission is to support the development and strengthening of innovative entrepreneurs in Ukraine. *This will be verified in CV and recommendation from mother institution;*
- At least three years entrepreneurial experience. *This will be verified in CV and recommendation from mother institution;*
- Knowledge of the innovation ecosystem of Ukraine. *This will be verified in motivation letter.*

3.3. What we offer

The EIT Community SRI Cluster offers:

- Opportunity to help shaping the EIT Communities' efforts to support Ukraine;
- Opportunity to help Ukraine become more innovative and strengthen its ability to rebuild;
- Opportunity to speed up the process of European integration for the Ukrainian innovation ecosystem;
- Possibility to better understand how EU institutions work in practice;
- Networking with like-minded people and institutions throughout Europe;
- KICs expert support in resolution of problems regarding subjects of work of the Advisory Board;
- In case of travel – covering travel and accommodation costs.

3.4. Required documents

All candidates must submit within the deadline:

1. A Motivation letter;
2. An updated CV;
3. Recommendation from at least 3 institutions that the candidate wants to represent. One of them as an obligatory one must be from mother organisation. All of them need to be signed by authorised representative. Candidates willing to represent start-ups and SMEs must provide recommendation letters from relevant NGOs. However, additional recommendations from startups/SMEs will be considered advantageous.

The Motivation Letter and CV must be provided in English, while recommendations may be in the Ukrainian language (English language ones will be appreciated, but will not influence the evaluation).

3.5. Application procedure

All application need to be submitted via email to following addresses:

piotr.pawelec@innoenergy.com

katarzyna.machowska@innoenergy.com

The subject of mail should state: *Expression of interest for the position in x-KIC SRI cluster's Advisory Board for Ukraine*

Two candidates per category will be chosen.

All applicants shall express their acknowledgment of [GDPR](#) rules and consent to the processing of personal data by Cross KIC Strategic Regional Innovations cluster members for the purpose of the application procedure and work as the Advisory Board member.

The recommendations must be provided in scanned version, but the Cross KIC SRI cluster members reserve right to ask for the original which should then be provided.

The deadline for submission of applications is 8th May 2023 23:59 (CET).

The secretary of the Advisory Board will inform the candidates on date and hour of interview (on MS Teams platform). This will be no later than 8th of May 2023, when successful candidates will be nominated to the Advisory Board. The procedure will finish with official nomination letter confirming their Advisory Board membership.

Questions and inquiries on the procedure

All questions and inquiries shall be addressed to:

Piotr Pawelec, RIS and Cross KIC manager at EIT InnoEnergy
email: piotr.pawelec@innoenergy.com mobile: +48 721 850 400