Call for Proposals

**Research Mobilities**

EIT Manufacturing – Slovakia – X – Fund

EIT MANUFACTURING EAST GmbH

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# Call summary

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| **Research Mobilities Call Main Features** | |
| **Dates** | **Call opening:** 11 December 2024  **Cutt-off dates:**  Applicants are invited to send their proposals at any time and before any of these cut-off dates:  1st cut-off date: 20 January 2025   * **Eligibility and admissibility check:** 24 January 2025 * **Evaluation of applications**: 27 January 2025 * **Communication of results:** 28 January 2025 * **Implementation period:** between 10 February and 30 June 2025   2nd cut-off date: 20 March 2025   * **Eligibility and admissibility check:** 24 March 2025 * **Evaluation of applications**: 27 March 2025 * **Communication of results:** 28 March 2025 * **Implementation period:** between 18 August and 31 December 2025   3rd cut-off date: 20 May 2025   * **Eligibility and admissibility check:** 24 May 2025 * **Evaluation of applications**: 27 May 2025 * **Communication of results:** 28 May 2025 * **Implementation period:** between 18 August and 31 December 2025   4th cut-off date: 20 July 2025   * **Eligibility and admissibility check:** 24 July 2025 * **Evaluation of applications**: 27 July 2025 * **Communication of results:** 28 July 2025 * **Implementation period:** between 18 August and 31 December 2025   **Important: In case of allocating the full available budget to applicants in the first cut-off dates, EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to close the call and not provide funding in the rest of the cut-off dates.** |
| **Introduction** | EIT Manufacturing East GmbH launches the “Research Mobility” call, aimed at supporting master and doctoral students from Slovakia who wish to enhance their academic and professional skills through international research opportunities. This initiative seeks to foster collaboration and innovation by enabling Slovak students to undertake research mobilities at universities and research institutes across Europe.  Selected applicants will be given the opportunity to conduct research projects in their field of expertise at renowned institutions, contributing to the advancement of knowledge and gaining valuable experience in a global academic environment. Applicants will compete for funding that supports their travel, living costs, and research activities during the mobility period.  The selected applicants will receive grant to help them maximise the impact of their mobility, while also facilitating their integration into European research networks. |
| **Total budget allocated to this call** | 60,000 EUR |
| **Link to the submission portal** | The submission platform will be available from 11 December 2024, 12:00 AM CET until the call closing date. |
| **List of documents to be submitted** | * Application form available on the submission platform |
| **List of documents to take into consideration** | * [EIT Manufacturing Strategic Agenda](https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/eit-manufacturing_revised-agenda_21-27.pdf) * Receiving University Confirmation Letter * Research Mobility - Contract * Research Mobility – Completion Report * Research Mobility – Certificate * Declaration of Honour |
| **Evaluation criteria** | *Evaluation criteria assessed by expert evaluators*:   * Excellence, novelty, and innovation * Impact * Quality and efficiency of the implementation * Strategic fit. |

# General conditions

Manufacturing innovations are set to transform every facet of manufacturing businesses, from research and development, design, and production to supply chain, logistics management, and even sales, marketing, and end-of-life management. These innovations foster the development of highly intelligent, information-driven factories and distributed business models capable of rapidly adapting to change, offering new, customised smart products and services.

EIT Manufacturing’s mission is to foster innovation by translating knowledge from universities and research institutes into practical industrial applications. We support research and innovation activities that aim to bring breakthrough solutions with high business growth potential to market, particularly in the manufacturing sector. EIT Manufacturing believes that empowering individuals and start-ups with innovative solutions can play a key role in driving sustainability in the manufacturing industry.

EIT Manufacturing recognises the importance of supporting innovations originating from Slovakia, helping them scale and enter European and global markets. Through this initiative, we aim to facilitate research mobility opportunities that will allow Slovak students to engage with cutting-edge knowledge and technologies across European universities and research institutes. This exposure will strengthen Slovakia's innovation ecosystem, foster cross-border collaboration, and enhance the resilience of the European economy in the face of future challenges.

This call is made possible through the collaboration of the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development, and Informatization of the Slovak Republic and EIT Manufacturing under the joint programme known as the EIT Manufacturing – Slovakia – X Fund. This initiative focuses on supporting research mobility activities designed to enhance digital transformation processes in Slovakia, in alignment with the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization of the Slovak Republic 2021 – 2027.

# Call specific conditions

## Call thematic and expected results

#### Purpose

The **“Research Mobility“** is one of the activities under the EIT Manufacturing – Slovakia – X Fund, a joint initiative of EIT Manufacturing East GmbH and the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development, and Informatization of the Slovak Republic. This programme focuses on enhancing digital transformation processes in Slovakia aligned with the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization of the Slovak Republic 2021 – 2027. Through research mobility, Slovak students are exposed to international environments, fostering knowledge exchange and collaboration with leading research institutions across Europe, thereby enhancing their skills and broadening their perspectives on global innovation trends.

#### Topic description

**“Research Mobility” Call** is open to master and doctoral students currently enrolled in a university in Slovakia. The research topic conducted as part of the Research Mobility **need to fit one of the following EIT Manufacturing** [**focus areas**](https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/focus-areas-flagships/):

* **Flexible Production Systems for Competitive Manufacturing**

Emerging technologies enable nearly limitless flexibility in product design and production, facilitating full customisation.

* **Low Environmental Footprint Systems & Circular Economy for Green Manufacturing**

New technologies reducing resource, energy, and material consumption in production systems, enabling innovative circular business models.

* **Digital & Collaborative Solutions for Innovative Manufacturing Ecosystems**

Collaboration and business on digital platforms and value networks empower companies to create new, highly efficient value chains.

* **Human-Machine Co-Working for Socially Sustainable Manufacturing**

Smart integration of automation and robotics enhances workplaces, supports flexible production, and promotes sustainable human work.

#### Applicants profile

The applicants must meet the following conditions:

* The applicant must be a **master or** **doctoral student currently enrolled at a Slovak university**.
* The application must include **a complete application form**, providing all necessary details.
* The applicant **must arrange the research mobility independently**. The mobility must take place at a university located in the **Horizon Europe associated countries**. Selecting a university from the [EIT Manufacturing network](https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/about-us/partner-network/) will be considered positively. EIT Manufacturing East GmbH can provide support by connecting students with universities within its network.
* The funding can be used only for research mobilities **that do not receive any other grants or funding**, as double funding, which is not permitted under EU regulations, would occur.
* The applicant must **provide the Receiving University Confirmation Letter** to prove that selected receiving university agrees to the research mobility in a duration and as stated in the application form.
* The duration of the mobility must be between **2 and 4 months**.

## Budget and Funding

The total maximum funding allocated to this call is up to **€60,000**. The maximum funding per applicant is **€10,000**. Depending on the available budget, a maximum of 6 applicants will receive the grant.

The grant can be used to cover the following expenses:

* Living costs in the host country, reflecting the cost of living in the selected country.
* Travel costs related to traveling to the receiving university.
* Costs associated with using research infrastructure at the receiving university, which **cannot exceed €1,000**.

The grant will be provided as a lump sum contribution no later than 5 days before the start of the research mobility.

All applicants must provide a detailed cost estimation in the application form, which should be an approximation of the actual costs. The estimation provided must be:

* Detailed in terms of cost allocation: applicants must identify the budget assigned to each cost unit.
* Must align with usual practices.
* Must be reasonable and not excessive.
* Must align with the necessary activities proposed.

The non-completion of the mandatory deliverables may affect the grant payment and could result in grant reduction.

## Mandatory Deliverables

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| Deliverables | Value Assigned to Deliverables Regarding the  Total Funding to Be Received | Approximate Time of Payment |
| **DEL 1: Signed Research Mobility – Contract, and Declaration of Honour** and provided **Confirmation Letter** from the receiving university | 100% of the funding | No later than 5 days prior to the start of the Research Mobility |
| **DEL 2: Research Mobility Completion Report** and provided **Research Mobility Certificate** from the receiving university**.** | Non-compliance can result in withdrawal of the grant | No later than 10 days after the Research Mobility completion. |

The templates for the deliverables will be provided by EIT Manufacturing.

# Application preparation and submission

All applications and supporting documents must be submitted in English using the application form linked on the [**EIT Manufacturing website**](https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/calls/research-mobility-slovakia/) and send to – no paper submissions will be considered.

Applicants’ representatives must register and validate the account if this is the first time accessing the platform. If applicants’ representative has already created an account, the representative can proceed to log in. Once logged in, start a new application. During the application all compulsory fields must be filled.

The following documentation must be submitted by the applicants through the submission platform no later than each round’s **deadline at 23:59 CET.**

* Application Form
* Receiving University Confirmation Letter

In the applications, the applicants shall:

• Describe the research project that will be undertaken during the research mobility at the foreign university, along with the expected outcomes.

• Provide information about the supervising professor at the receiving university.

• Provide a budget estimation for the research mobility that reflects the cost of living in the host country.

**NOTE**: Only applications submitted through the online link (as noted above) before the deadline will be accepted and considered. The organizers reserve the right to extend the submission deadline; any extension of the deadline will be communicated to the public on the call page of the EIT Manufacturing website.

**Any documentation missing or considered as incomplete may be a reason for application rejection**. If any documentation is missing, you will be notified and asked to send missing information within 3 days of this notification.

#### Call Contact Email

All applicants may contact EIT Manufacturing to ask questions and clarify any points on general or technical procedures and call content by sending an email message to [lubica.sebenova@eitmanufacturing.eu](mailto:lubica.sebenova@eitmanufacturing.eu).

# Application evaluation and selection process

## Eligibility and admissibility check

A submission will be considered admissible if:

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| --- | --- |
| **Completeness** | The submission is complete, submitted on time, in English, and includes all mandatory sections, and compulsory documents included (Application Form, Receiving University Confirming Letter). |

Admissible submissions will be considered eligible if:

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| --- | --- |
| **Applicant profile** | The applicant’s profile is in line with the requirements presented under point 3.1 “Applicants profile”. |

Applications containing one or more inadmissible or ineligible elements will receive an official communication from EIT Manufacturing East GmbH setting out the outcome of the eligibility and admissibility check and explaining why the proposal failed to meet the criteria.

## Evaluation of applications

The evaluation of applications will be conducted in one step:

Applications will be reviewed by a panel composed of at least one external expert evaluator and one EIT Manufacturing evaluator, with equal weighting of scores.

Each evaluator will score each application based on four standardized criteria: Excellence, Impact, Implementation, and Strategic fit.

Evaluators will assess each sub-criterion according to the following scores on a scale from 1 to 5.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Score | Description | |
| *1* | *Extremely poor or*  *None* | The information provided is considered irrelevant or inadequate compared to the specific call provisions. |
| *2* | *Bad* | The information provided lacks relevant quality and contains significant  weaknesses, compared to the specific call provisions. |
| *3* | *Average* | The overall information provided is adequate, however, some aspects are  unclearly or insufficiently detailed, compared to the specific call provisions. |
| *4* | *Good* | The information provided is adequate with sufficiently outlined details,  compared to the specific call provisions. |
| *5* | *Excellent* | The information provided is outstanding in its details, clarity, and  coherence, compared to the specific call provisions. |

The scores shall be given at the criteria level and are then summed to calculate a final score per criterion.

Thresholds apply to individual criteria and the total score. The maximum score for an application is 20. The default threshold for individual criteria is 3, and the default overall threshold is 12.

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| **Evaluation criteria** | **Excellence** | **Impact** | **Implementation** | **Strategic fit** | **TOT** |
| The applicant demonstrates a clear research project that aligns with the objectives of the research mobility programme, showing innovation and scientific quality. The project must outline the expected outcomes and its potential to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and technology within the applicant’s field. | The application is addressed to specific academic or research areas and/or industrial sectors, and the proposed research demonstrates a clear advantage or contribution compared to existing knowledge or practices in the field. | The proposed research mobility should outline a feasible and realistic plan for carrying out the project at the receiving university. | The proposed research should align with the strategic objectives and focus areas of EIT Manufacturing. |  |
| **Score** | **1 to 5** | **1 to 5** | **1 to 5** | **1 to 5** | **1 to 5** |
| **Pass threshold** | **3** | **3** | **3** | **3** | **12** |

The evaluators will assess each startup submission. The Submission Management System [SUBMITTABLE](http://www.submittable.com) will create an average score per application based on the individual evaluators’ scorings and produce an Individual Evaluation Report (IER) per application (each application is evaluated two times.

The evaluators will assess each application using the evaluation form.

A rapporteur will prepare a Summary Evaluation Report for each application, based on the evaluations from the two evaluators, as outlined in the Individual Evaluation Reports. In the event of notable discrepancies between the evaluations, the evaluators will meet in a consensus meeting to discuss and reach an agreement. In this case, the rapporteur will address any significant differences in their evaluations and will prepare the final Evaluation Summary Report for the applications.

A maximum of 6 applications will be selected, based on the evaluation criteria.

## Communication of results

The results will be communicated to the applicant's email address from which the application was submitted.

Non-selected applicants will receive a rejection letter or email, while selected applicants will receive a letter or email confirming that their application has been accepted for funding.

## Selected applicants and follow-up

Selected applicants will have to diligently collaborate to in the following steps that will be taken after closing the call:

* Signature of a Declaration of Honour (see point 6.7) which can be downloaded from the [Call page of the EIT Manufacturing website](https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/calls/research-mobility-slovakia/).
* Signature of the Research Mobility - Contract agreement.
* Within 10 days from the completion of the Research Mobility: filled in Research Mobility – Completion Form and Research Mobility – Certificate which can be downloaded from the [Call page of the EIT Manufacturing website.](https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/calls/research-mobility-slovakia/)

# Other terms and Conditions

## Communication, Dissemination, Visibility of funding

Applicants awarded the Research Mobility grant must promote the funding and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public). As part of this, applicants may be asked to create a video or write an article about their research mobility experience. These communication activities must acknowledge EU support and display the logos of EIT Manufacturing and the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development, and Informatization of the Slovak Republic. The emblems must remain distinct and separate, and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands, or text. Apart from the emblems, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EIT Manufacturing and Ministry’s support. When displayed alongside other logos (e.g., sponsors), the emblems must be at least as prominent and visible as the other logos.

For the purposes of these obligations, applicants awarded funding may use the emblems without first obtaining approval from EIT Manufacturing. However, this does not grant them exclusive rights to the emblems. Furthermore, applicants may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or any other means. Any communication or dissemination activity related to the funding must use factually accurate information.

EIT Manufacturing may use information related to the funding, as well as photos or audiovisual material received from the applicants (including in electronic form), and photos or videos taken in preparation for or during dedicated EIT Manufacturing events, for their communication and publicity activities. EIT Manufacturing will publish the names of both shortlisted and selected applicants.

## Intellectual Property Rights

Selected applicants retain full and exclusive ownership of their prior information and intellectual property (IP) rights. By submitting their application, participants affirm that they hold ownership or have legally secured the right to use all elements of their research, data, or other intellectual property related to the research project conducted within the research mobility. Selected applicants agree to indemnify and hold harmless EIT Manufacturing, EIT Manufacturing East GmbH, and/or any assignee or affiliate from any third-party allegations or claims of intellectual property rights infringement related to their research activities or outcomes during the research mobility period.

Participants shall have the right to further develop, use, and license their intellectual property rights for academic, research, or commercial purposes, including creating, making, marketing, and distributing products, services, and technology derived from their research work.

Participants also agree to respect the [EIT Manufacturing IP Policy](https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/EIT-Manufacturing-IP-Policy-final.pdf).

## Withdrawal of the grant

EIT Manufacturing East GmbH may withdraw the grant after its award, if it finds out that:

* false information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain it; or
* the selected applicants were not eligible or should have been excluded or were not able to meet the mandatory deliverables.

## Data protection

EIT Manufacturing East GmbH, being a subsidiary of EIT Manufacturing, ensures that any processing of personal data shall be performed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and in accordance with Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). As a data subject you have the right of access, the right to rectification, the right to erasure, the right to restrict processing, the right to data portability, the right to object and the right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing.

The collected personal data will be used solely for the procedure and assessment of the applications and the management, completion, organization, dissemination of information and publicity of the Research Mobility programme. The data controller is EIT Manufacturing East GmbH and/or EIT Manufacturing.

Personal data shall be deleted 5 years after the announcement of the Research Mobility Grant receivers.

Applicants have the possibility to indicate that EIT Manufacturing East GmbH may grant access to parts of their submission to trusted investors and partners.

The application submission and evaluation process will be done via [SUBMITTABLE](http://www.submittable.com/), an online Submission Management System by “Submittable Holdings Inc”.

YOUR CONSENT TO THE USE OF SUBMITTABLE AS SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION TOOL: By submitting your application within this challenge you implicitly state your consent to the [Terms and Conditions](http://www.submittable.com/terms) as well as the [Privacy policy](http://www.submittable.com/privacy) of the Submission Management System SUBMITTABLE.

YOUR CONSENT TO THE USE OF PERSONAL DATA: By submitting your application within this competition you consent that EIT Manufacturing will collect, transfer, process, store and delete your data in accordance with the aforementioned conditions.

If you have a question about personal data processing or want to exercise your data subject rights, you can contact our external Data Protection Officer at clever data GmbH: [kurt.berthold@cleverdata.at](mailto:kurt.berthold@cleverdata.at).

For further information, please refer to the [GDPR policy of EIT Manufacturing East](https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/2024-07-23-gdpr-policy-ic-east.pdf).

## Acceptance of the Guidelines

By sending the application form, the applicant agrees to these Guidelines and its Annexes, which form part of the submission. Participants agree that they have no legal entitlement to a grant.

EIT Manufacturing East GmbH reserves the right to make reasonable amendments to these Guidelines. Amendments and additions to these Guidelines shall be valid only if communicated in writing or otherwise made available to the participants on the [call page of the EIT Manufacturing website.](https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/calls/research-mobility-slovakia/)

EIT Manufacturing East GmbH also reserves the right to cancel or declare the Call unsuccessful provided all applicants are informed and sufficient justification is given (for example no applications received, or all applications do not pass the default thresholds).

## Confidentiality

EIT Manufacturing East GmbH has a data sharing agreement with EIT Manufacturing. EIT Manufacturing East GmbH undertakes to use any Confidential Information shared by the applicants solely for the purposes of the Research Mobility call. Additionally, EIT Manufacturing East will share this information with EIT Manufacturing as part of the collaboration within the scope of the call. Confidential information shall mean data and/or information that is proprietary to, or possessed by, the applicants and not generally known to the public, or that has not yet been revealed whether in tangible or intangible form, whenever and however disclosed and might also be included in the application form. Confidential information must be expressly labelled as such in the application form.

Applicants agree that EIT Manufacturing East GmbH, EIT Manufacturing and its subsidiaries can disseminate, publish, and make use of non-confidential information regarding the call, to promote the activities of EIT Manufacturing or establish reports or other necessary documents for EIT.

The applicants agree that data and information in the application form not labelled as confidential may be disclosed in connection with the activities of EIT Manufacturing.

Considering the confidential nature of the data and information referred to above, EIT Manufacturing East GmbH also undertakes to (i) not disclose them in any way and in any form, without prior written authorization of the company concerned; and (ii) not to use them for purposes other than those strictly necessary for the Research mobility call.

Confidential Information may be shared among EIT Manufacturing and its subsidiaries (e.g. ICs) solely for the purposes of the Research Mobility Activity. EIT Manufacturing East GmbH undertakes to impose this confidentiality obligation on its employees and the employees of its subsidiaries and its collaborators, as well as on Rapporteurs and independent experts and all subjects who, by virtue of participating in the call for proposal as members of the Selection Committees or Jury, will take knowledge of or may have access to such confidential data and information.

## Exclusion Criteria

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the call if they are in any of the situations of exclusion defined in [Article 136 of the EU Financial Regulation](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32018R1046&rid=6#d1e9593-1-1). All selected applicants shall sign a Declaration of Honour to confirm that they respect the above-mentioned criteria at the application stage. Failure to provide adequate documentation may result in the exclusion of the applicants concerned.

## Applicable Law

The present guidelines are governed by the applicable European Union laws (i.e. the EIT Regulation, the EU Financial Regulation and the Horizon Europe Regulation) and is complemented, where necessary, by the law of Austria. The applicants agree to observe the obligations set forth in the [(Model) Grant Agreement](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf) signed between the EIT and EIT Manufacturing and particularly Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping). These obligations will also be mentioned in contracts to be signed if the application is successful.