

# Pioneers 2022 – Call for Action

Applications open: 8th November to 10th January 2022

Co-funded by the  
European Union



# About EIT and Climate-KIC

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## About EIT


The [European Institute of Innovation & Technology](#) (EIT) is an independent body of the European Union set up in 2008 to deliver innovation across Europe. The EIT brings together leading business, education and research organisations to form dynamic cross-border partnerships. These are called Innovation Communities and each is dedicated to finding solutions to a specific global challenge.

## About Climate-KIC

[EIT Climate-KIC](#) is a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC), working to accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon, climate-resilient society.

Supported by the EIT, we identify and support innovation that helps society mitigate and adapt to climate change. We believe that a decarbonised, sustainable economy is not only necessary to prevent catastrophic climate change, but presents a wealth of opportunities for business and society.





**The Pioneers programme equips organisations with the proven Pioneers methodology, Systems Innovation expertise, guidance, tools, and a network of partners connected by innovating to fight climate change.**

**Pioneers partners design and deliver place-based Systems Innovation learning experiences to professionals; while building a network of people with the mindset and competencies to drive the transition towards a zero-carbon, climate-resilient society.**

# The partners we are looking for

In 2022, the Pioneers programme seeks partners that **co-design, -prepare, -deliver, -evaluate and -fund a place-based Pioneers programme** to at least 150 participants across Europe.

We invite organisations such as **consultancies, networks and hubs (e.g. around climate change, sustainability, green technology, innovation and systems innovation), energy agencies, governmental institutions** and **universities** with a professional education portfolio to apply.

Your organisation brings **climate change education** and **professional education experience** as well as the **respective network**? That's a plus!

Your organisation will propose a Pioneers programme **targeting** professionals working in **the systems „Cities“, „Value chains“, „Land use“, „Finance“ or „Maritime“**? That's another plus!

Please note that the map represents 2021's Pioneers partners.  
Visit <https://pioneers.climate-kic.org/> to learn more about this year's Pioneers partners.



# Partners benefit from...



# References



The Pioneers programme is a great opportunity *to change your perspective, open your mind and experience new situations*. For AESS, it is an opportunity to equip participants with the tools to tackle climate change and create *new, positive relationships* with people working all over Europe.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Lisa Sentimenti, AESS

Pioneers partner, Italy, 2019 and 2020





# Available funding

The Pioneers programme offers to cover a part of the partners' costs with the allocated **EIT grant** (see maximum amounts and co-funding rates below) and creates the conditions for current and new partners **to continue or join** as a partner **co-designing programmes with the power to unlock additional sources of financing**.

|                          | EIT funding, depends on total budget resulting from chosen programme design | Co-funding rate      |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|
| EIT partner, non-RIS     | max. 9,000 Euros  | At least 70 %        |
| EIT partner, RIS         | max. 10,000 Euros   | At least 45 %        |
| Non-EIT partner, non-RIS | max. 9,000 Euros  | On a voluntary basis |
| Non-EIT partner, RIS     | max. 10,000 Euros   | On a voluntary basis |



# Join the Pioneers programme without EIT funding

We convinced your organisation of the Pioneers programme and its impact and you want to bring the programme to your region or country but either don't rely on the EIT grant or aren't eligible to receive EIT funding because you're based outside a Horizon Europe-associated country?

Express your interest in joining by submitting the **MS Forms available on the Pioneers website** and wait for the Pioneers team to contact you!

## **Why you should join without EIT funding?**

- MS Form makes it easy to express interest
- Access to the proven Pioneers methodology, Systems Innovation expertise, guidance, tools and network
- Co-funding flexibility



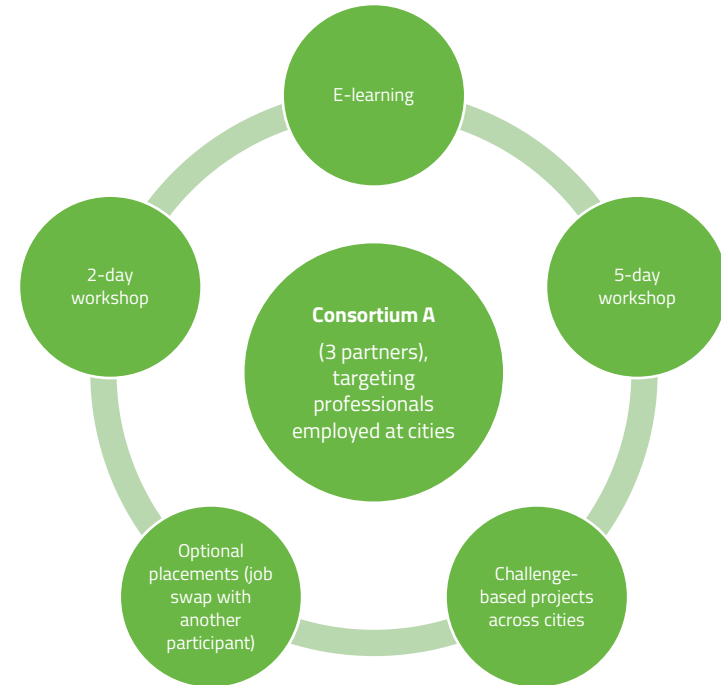
# EIT Climate-KIC and partners co-deliver the Pioneers foundation and additional building blocks



| Foundation or building block | Programme element                        | EIT Climate-KIC   | Partner   |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>Building blocks</b>       | Workshop or workshop series              |   | X   |
|                              | Challenge-based projects and coaching    |   | X   |
|                              | Placements                               | Manages Europe-wide placement marketplace.<br>Please note that EIT Climate-KIC will publish the placement marketplace at a pre-defined date and recommend to schedule the matchmaking and placement period accordingly. | Recruits host organisations and oversees matchmaking and placement period |
|                              | Additional competency-related coaching   |   | X   |
|                              | Networking and community building        | European level  | Regional or national level  |
|                              | <b>Foundation</b>                        | Systems Innovation Fundamentals e-learning  | X   |
|                              | Systems Innovation competency assessment | X   |   |



# Examples of place-based Pioneers programmes



# Timeline for partners co-funded by EIT

| Timeline for partners co-funded by EIT  |  | 2021 |   |   | 2022 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 2023 |   |   |
|---|--|------|---|---|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|---|
| Please note that partners co-design the timeline and that EIT Climate-KIC reserves the right to change the proposed timeline. |  | O    | N | D | J    | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | J    | F | M |
| <b>Who?</b>   | <b>What?</b>   |      |   |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |
| Partner   | Prepare and submit proposal  | ■    | ■ | ■ |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |
| Partner   | Assess and secure additional sources of funding                                    | ■    | ■ | ■ | ■    | ■ | ■ |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |
| EIT Climate-KIC   | Assess proposals and select partners   | ■    | ■ | ■ | ■    | ■ |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |
| Partner   | Recruit coach(es), if needed   |      |   |   | ■    | ■ |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |
| Both  | Onboard and train partners   |      |   |   | ■    | ■ | ■ |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |
| Partner   | Recruit participants   |      |   |   |      |   | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |
| Partner   | <i>Recruit external challenge owners, if applicable</i>                            |      |   |   |      |   | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |
| Both  | <i>Recruit hosts, if applicable</i>  |      |   |   |      |   | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |
| Both  | Deliver foundation and building blocks according to the partner's programme design |      |   |   |      |   | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |   |      |   |   |
| EIT Climate-KIC   | Publish Europe-wide placement marketplace  |      |   |   |      |   |   |   |   | ■ |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |
| Partner   | <i>Match Pioneers to hosts, if applicable</i>                                      |      |   |   |      |   |   |   |   |   | ■ | ■ |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |
| Partner   | <i>Oversee placements, if applicable</i>   |      |   |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | ■ | ■ | ■ |   |      |   |   |
| Both  | Report   |      |   |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | ■ | ■    | ■ | ■ |



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[www.pioneers.climate-kic.org](http://www.pioneers.climate-kic.org) | [pioneers@climate-kic.org](mailto:pioneers@climate-kic.org)



# ANNEX 1

## The Pioneers partners' impact

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# Professionals benefit from...



# The Pioneers programme is guided by a...

## (Systems Innovation) Competency Framework

Competencies are the fusion of knowledge, skills and mindsets/attitudes/personal values. They are all about **doing** things; hence the EIT Climate-KIC systems innovation competency framework focuses on **actions**. The competencies are grouped into five clusters. The programmes' foundation and building blocks build and strengthen competencies in the systems innovation processes' five clusters. Visit slide 15 for further details.

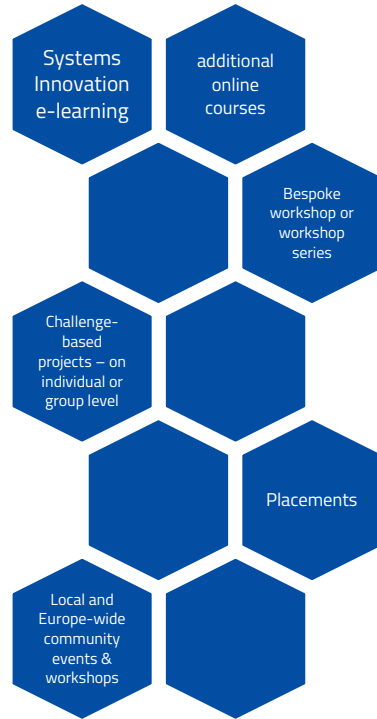
## Blended learning approach

Combining asynchronous online and in person modules (e.g. e-learning or project) and synchronous online and in person modules (e.g. workshop) results in Pioneers programmes meeting the learners' circumstances and needs. Visit EIT Climate-KIC's free **Digital Learning Toolkit** to learn more about blended learning.

## Experiential learning approach

Experiential learning focuses on learners reflecting on their experience of doing something. **David A. Kolb's Experiential Learning Theory** is an important foundational concept that can underpin all forms of learning, development and change. Pioneers provides concrete experiences in the form of workshops, projects and placements that enable the experiential learning cycle four-step learning process to be applied multiple times in every interaction and experience: **Experience – Reflect – Think – Act.**

# ...resulting in varying blended learning journeys consisting of...





# References: Achieved impact from group projects and placements



Kadri-Mai, Karl, Mariel and Triin –  
**The Green Mythbusters** –  
tackled sustainability  
misconceptions

Visit [https://pioneers.climate-kic.org/stories/?\\_sft\\_category=group-projects](https://pioneers.climate-kic.org/stories/?_sft_category=group-projects) to discover more stories about Pioneers' group projects.



**Satu Turula** paused her job in a Finnish municipality to work in a start up

Visit [https://pioneers.climate-kic.org/stories/?\\_sft\\_category=placements](https://pioneers.climate-kic.org/stories/?_sft_category=placements) to discover more stories resulting from Pioneers' placements.

# More stories from the Pioneers community



**Melanie Amato** helped Soria, Spain, to become climate-neutral through systems innovation



Visit <https://pioneers.climate-kic.org/stories/> to discover more stories from the Pioneers community.



**Péter Vigh** became a climate entrepreneur himself

A large, diverse group of young adults, likely students or researchers, are posed in a staircase. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The group consists of men and women of various ethnicities and ages, all smiling or looking towards the camera.

# ANNEX 2

## Deep dive into the Pioneers programme's methodology

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# Systems Innovation Competency Framework

EIT Climate-KIC's **systems innovation approach** functions as the basis for Pioneers. The programmes' elements build and strengthen competencies in the systems innovation processes' five areas **"Exploring", "Framing", "Designing", "Implementing" and "Strengthening"**.

| A. Exploring: Making sense of the system and its interconnectedness | B. Framing: Envisioning system innovation and its potential pathways | C. Designing: From Ideas to Strategies | D. Implementing: From experimenting to make things happen | E. Strengthening: Learning from, adapting and deepening innovations |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| A1. Systems Thinking  | B1. Defining Challenges  | C1. Developing Ideas                   | D.1 Testing & Piloting                                    | E.1 Monitoring and learning   |
| A.2 Knowing Capabilities & Resources                                | B.2 Identifying Opportunities  | C.2 Evaluating Potential Solutions     | D.2 Motivating & Mobilising Others                        | E.2 Reflecting and adapting   |
| A.3 Network Development   | B.3 Facilitating Collective Creativity                               | C.3 Setting Goals                      | D.3 Coordinating Action                                   | E.3 Showing Perseverance  |
| A.4 Transdisciplinary Communication                                 | B.4 Shared Visioning   | C.4 Formulating Strategies             | D.4 Driving Entrepreneurship                              | E.4 Scaling-Up  |



# Short description of Pioneers foundation and building blocks



## **ANNEX 3**

# **Pioneers partner's team and responsibilities**

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# Pioneers partner's team and responsibilities

**Partner brings a project manager and recruits at least one coach.**

| Project Manager with blended learning design experience  | Coach(es) trained in facilitating System Innovation  | Additional experts   |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruit and manage coach(es) (on demand)</li> <li>Co-design of a place-adjusted blended Pioneers programme</li> <li>Secure co-funding and/or -financing</li> <li>Promote, recruit and manage participants, challenge owners and placement hosts (if applicable)</li> <li>Prepare, co-deliver and evaluate the programme's foundation and building blocks</li> <li>Report</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjust Learning Management System Brightspace</li> <li>Design and deliver workshop or workshop series</li> <li>Coach challenge-based project process</li> <li>Provide additional competency-related coaching</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add content / knowledge, e.g. around climate change mitigation and adaptation or sustainability management, to the partner's programme</li> </ul> |

**Thank you!**

For more information you are welcome to join the  
Pioneers programme's information sessions in  
November and December 2021.