

Warsaw, 25 September 2018

Innovate with us! Polish innovators invited to join the EIT Community

Warsaw, Poland, 25 September 2018 – Poland’s innovation potential is receiving an adrenaline boost. The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is showcasing its innovation cooperation opportunities during an Awareness Day in Warsaw. This event is organised with NCP Poland under the Patronage of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

Europe’s future is connected to its power to innovate. Its competitive edge has never been more important. Poland has enormous potential to expand its innovation capacity ([Poland Factsheet – European Innovation Scoreboard](#)), and the EIT stands ready to support Polish innovators. That’s the role of the EIT – to support students, researchers and entrepreneurs to help them grow their businesses, creating jobs, and improving the lives of citizens across Europe. As a global player, the European Union, through the EIT, is focused on powering innovators to turn their best ideas into products, services and jobs for Europe.

Piotr Dardziński, Secretary of State, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, remarked: *‘Poland has substantially expanded its innovation base in recent years. This is not in the least due to the EIT Community’s concerted efforts across Poland and its unique support to Polish innovators. I am particularly proud of the 81 organisations that are already part of the EIT’s thriving innovation network and all six EIT Innovation Communities.’*

Martin Kern, EIT Interim Director, added: *‘The EIT is a key driver for innovation in Europe. We power entrepreneurs and provide them with unique support for their products to succeed. Our approach not only creates sustainable innovations but also accelerates job creation and economic growth. Today, we invite Polish innovators to connect and benefit from access to the EIT, Europe’s largest innovation community. We look forward to enriching our collaboration in the years to come.’*

The EIT Awareness Day in Warsaw will showcase the EIT’s unique innovation model that sets up dynamic pan-European partnerships between leading universities, research labs and companies ([programme of the day](#)). These are called Innovation Communities and they support entrepreneurs and innovators in bringing ideas to market, turning students into entrepreneurs and, most importantly, stimulating innovation.

The EIT’s six Innovation Communities tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing our societies from climate change to sustainable energy to healthy living and active ageing. They will present how organisations and innovators and Poland can join their wide range of activities to drive innovation.

The event will be opened by **Piotr Dardziński**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, with an introductory message from **Zygmunt Krasieński**, Director, National Contact Point for Research programmes of the EU. Members of the EIT Community in Poland, together with Polish entrepreneurs that work with the EIT, will then present their wide range of innovation support activities. During the afternoon, a panel discussion will explore *‘Experiences and future perspectives– how the EIT Community can assist in enhancing innovation capacity in Poland?’*



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EIT COMMUNITY IN POLAND

EIT Community activities are thriving in Poland with all Innovation Communities running activities across Poland, including five Innovation Hubs. There are 81 participating organisations in the EIT Community from Poland. Over 33 percent of these are SMEs, well above Horizon 2020's goal of 20 percent. Find out more [about our success stories and activities in Poland](#).



EIT BACKGROUND

What is the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)?

The EIT was created in 2008 to strengthen Europe's ability to innovate. The EIT is a unique EU initiative, the only one to fully integrate business, education and research. The Institute supports the development of dynamic pan-European partnerships between leading universities, research labs and companies. These are called Innovation Communities and each focuses on a specific global challenge.

More information: [EIT in a nutshell Infographic](#) and [EIT Community Success Stories](#)

What challenges do the EIT's Innovation Communities focus on?

The first six Innovation Communities work to mitigate and adapt to climate change (*EIT Climate-KIC*), create sustainable sources of energy and increase its supply (*EIT InnoEnergy*), accelerate the digital transformation (*EIT Digital*), support healthier and longer living (*EIT Health*), including the provision of sustainable and healthier food (*EIT Food*), and manage our planet's raw materials in an efficient, secure and sustainable way (*EIT Raw Materials*). Together with their partners, they offer a wide range of innovation and entrepreneurship activities. This includes education courses that combine technical skills with entrepreneurial ones, business creation and acceleration services, run innovation driven research projects.

The EIT – Making Innovation Happen!

For more information visit eit.europa.eu & follow the EIT on Twitter [@EITeu](#) [#EITCommunity](#) [#EUinnovation](#)

For photos from the event: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/eiteu/albums>.

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