



Valetta, 31 October 2018

Innovate and grow! Malta's innovators invited to join the EIT Community

Valetta, Malta, 31 October 2018 –To help power Malta's innovators, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is showcasing its innovation cooperation opportunities during an Awareness Day in Kalkara. This event is being organised together with the Maltese Council for Science and Technology.

Europe's future is connected to its power to innovate. A competitive edge has never been more important, especially for smaller Member States. Malta has great potential to expand its innovation capacity (Malta Factsheet – European Innovation Scoreboard), and the EIT stands ready to support Maltese innovators. That's the role of the EIT – to support students, researchers and entrepreneurs to help them grow their entrepreneurial skills and 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.

Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando, Executive Chairman, Malta Council for Science and Technology remarked: *'Malta is a resourceful, determined and ambitious country. As a small nation continually adapting our economy to modern challenges, we have the advantage of being able to change quickly, to collaborate effectively and to advance our economy in new directions as global markets shift. Working closely with the EIT, Malta's innovators, and our great researchers, now have a strong partner to accelerate new ideas, products and services. We see this Awareness Day as a stepping stone to create jobs, growth and a stronger global reputation.'*

Martin Kern, EIT Interim Director, added: *'The EIT offers a one-stop shop for innovators, and we want to increase access to our unique resources and opportunities in Malta. The EIT focuses on solutions to global challenges through our six Innovation Communities that bring together more than 1000 partners from business, education and research. Our unique innovation model creates sustainable innovations and accelerates innovative ideas, which ultimately leads to job creation and economic growth. Today, we invite Malta's innovators to connect and benefit from access to the EIT, Europe's largest innovation community.'*

The EIT Awareness Day in Kalkara will showcase the EIT's unique innovation model that sets up dynamic pan-European partnerships between leading companies, universities and research labs (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 in Malta can join their wide range of activities to drive innovation.

The event will be opened by **Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando**, Executive Chairman, Malta Council for Science and Technology followed by a video message from **Silvio Schembri**, Parliamentary Secretary for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation. Members of the EIT Community, together with innovators that work with the EIT, will then present their wide range of innovation support activities.





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EIT BACKGROUND: Europe’s future is connected to its power to innovate!

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](#)

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*), provide sustainable and healthier food (*EIT Food*), and manage our planet’s raw materials in an efficient, secure and sustainable way (*EIT RawMaterials*). Together with their leading 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.

In December 2018, the EIT will select new Innovation Communities in the areas of urban mobility and added value manufacturing.

What has the EIT Community achieved?

European Institute of Innovation & Technology

- 890+ million EUR investment raised
- 6000+ jobs created
- 1700+ graduates
- 1250+ ventures supported
- 1000+ partners
- 640+ new products
- 40+ innovation hubs

#EITCommunity #EUInnovation #HorizonEU The EIT is a body of the European Union

More information: [EIT Community Success Stories](#)

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>.

Contact:

Caroline Vandenplas - E: caroline.vandenplas@eit.europa.eu **T:** +36 1 481 9371

Giselle Calleja | Senior Public Relations Executive | T: +356 23602173 | **E:** giselle.calleja@gov.mt

