

Join us in innovation! The EIT is calling on all Latvian innovators

Riga, Latvia, 28 March 2019 – Promoting innovation, showcasing cooperation opportunities and inviting Latvian innovators to join Europe’s largest innovation network. This is what the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) offers during its Awareness Day in Riga today. The event is co-organised with the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science.

Europe’s future is connected to its power to innovate. Competitiveness is high on the agenda for Latvia, with the birth of new enterprises lying at two percent compared to 1.5 percent in the EU and the ease of starting a business is 79.3 points compared to an average of 76.9 in the EU according to the [European Innovation Scoreboard](#). The scoreboard defines Latvia as a moderate innovator with great potential to expand its ability to innovate.

The EIT stands ready to support Latvian innovators with different entrepreneurial activities run across Latvia to tackle some of our most pressing global challenges from climate change and sustainable energy to healthy living and raw materials dependency. We empowers students, researchers and entrepreneurs to grow their entrepreneurial skills and turn their best ideas into products and services for Europe, creating jobs and improving the lives of citizens across Europe.

Ilga Šuplinska, Minister of Education & Science, said: *‘I am pleased to support the EIT’s unique innovation opportunities. We are working closely together and the hubs for EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Health and EIT InnoEnergy here empower Latvian innovators. Hygen, Alina and PVStream are just three of examples of successful start-ups supported by the EIT Community who all showcase the potential for innovation in Latvia. May they be an inspiration for many more!’*

Martin Kern, EIT Interim Director, commented: *‘The EIT is a key driver for innovation in Europe, delivering through our unique model that finds innovative solutions to global challenges facing our society. From entrepreneurial education courses to business creation and acceleration services, the EIT’s long-term approach covers the entire innovation value chain, creating jobs and growth. Today, we are calling on Latvian innovators to join our activities, bring their ideas and let them flourish in the fertile ground of the EIT ecosystem.’*

The EIT Awareness Day in Riga will showcase the EIT’s unique innovation model that sets up dynamic pan-European partnerships between leading companies, universities and research centres ([programme of the day](#)). It will present how organisations and innovators in Latvia can join their wide range of activities to drive innovation.

The event will be opened with a press point featuring **Ilga Šuplinska**, Minister of Education & Science, and **Martin Kern**, EIT Interim Director; as well as introductory messages from **Andris Kužnieks**, Acting Head of the European Commission Representation in Latvia, **Laima Kauspadiene**, Member of the EIT Governing Board and CEO of the Sunrise Valley Science & Technology Park in Lithuania; and **Andris Ozols**, Director of the Investment & Development Agency of Latvia. Members of the EIT Community, together with innovators 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 Latvia?’*. A networking coffee will close the discussions.

Riga, 28 March 2019

EIT COMMUNITY IN LATVIA

EIT Innovation Communities are thriving in Latvia with all of them running activities across the country, including three (soon to be four) hubs. Four million Euro in EIT grants have been allocated to Latvian projects between 2014 and 2017, which means the country is among the top 6 beneficiaries relative to population size in 2017. Find out more in this [factsheet about our activities in Latvia](#).



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 drive 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 among leading universities, research labs and companies. These are called Innovation Communities and each focuses on a specific global challenge.

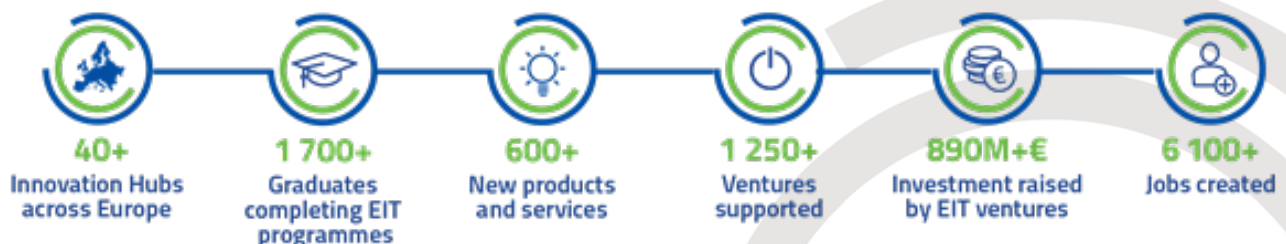
More: [EIT in a nutshell Infographic](#)

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*), accelerate the digital transformation (*EIT Digital*), create sustainable sources of energy and increase its supply (*EIT InnoEnergy*), provide sustainable and healthier food (*EIT Food*), support healthier and longer living (*EIT Health*), 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 and entrepreneurial skills, business creation and acceleration services and innovation driven research projects.

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

What has the EIT Community achieved?



[EIT Community Success Stories](#)

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