

Vilnius, 29 March 2019

Calling Lithuanian entrepreneurs: join the EIT Community and innovate with us!

Vilnius, Lithuania, 29 March 2019 – In its mission to power innovation across Europe, the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) reaches out to Lithuanian innovators. During an Awareness Day in Vilnius, co-organised with the Ministry of Economy & Innovation, the EIT is inviting entrepreneurs to join Europe's largest innovation network and support the development of innovative solutions to tackle pressing global challenges.

As economic competitiveness increases across the globe and the need for more sustainable societies becomes ever clearer. Europe's future looks increasingly dependent on its ability to innovate. Lithuania's innovation performance increased relative to that of the EU and the ease of starting a business is 78.3 points compared to 76.9 in the EU according to the [European Innovation Scoreboard](#). Yet untapped opportunities for Lithuania to expand its innovation capacity remain.

The EIT is focused on powering innovators to turn their best ideas into products, services and jobs for the benefit of citizens. The EIT Community supports students, researchers and entrepreneurs in growing their entrepreneurial skills and ventures to tackle some of our most pressing global challenges from climate change and sustainable energy to healthy living and innovative food solutions. We want more Lithuanian innovators to join our activities.

Gintaras Vilda, Vice Minister of Economy & Innovation, said: *'Looking to the future, Europe is faced with a number of great challenges. But great challenges also present great opportunities. Today is about getting that message out to Lithuanian innovators: by joining the EIT Community and linking up with partners, they can turn their ideas into reality, help shape our future and positively impact the lives of citizens.'*

Laima Kauspadiene, Member of the EIT Governing Board and CEO Sunrise Valley Science and Technology Park, added: *'The EIT makes innovation happen, equipped with the largest innovation network, gathering more than 1000 partners from business, education and research dedicated to finding innovative solutions to global challenges facing our society. We want to create more opportunities for innovators in Lithuania by enabling them to develop their skills, turn their ideas into real solutions for citizens, creating jobs and growth. To all of them, I say: innovate with us and make a difference!'*

The EIT Awareness Day in Vilnius will showcase the EIT's unique innovation model that sets up dynamic and long term pan-European partnerships between leading companies, universities and research labs ([programme of the day](#)). These EIT Innovation Communities support entrepreneurs and innovators in bringing ideas to market, turning students into entrepreneurs and, most importantly, stimulating innovation. They will present how organisations and innovators in Lithuania can join their activities to drive innovation.

The event will be opened with a press point featuring **Gintaras Vilda**, Vice Minister of Economy & Innovation, **Martin Kern**, EIT Interim Director and **Laima Kauspadiene**, Member of the EIT Governing Board and CEO Sunrise Valley Science and Technology Park in Lithuania; as well as introductory messages from **Arnoldas Prancėvičius**, Head of Representation of the European Commission to Lithuania, **Ramojus Reimeris**, Acting Director the [Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis Centre \(MOSTA\)](#).



EIT COMMUNITY IN LITHUANIA

EIT Innovation Communities are thriving in Lithuania with all of them running activities across the country, including three (soon to be four) innovation hubs. Find out more in this [factsheet about our success stories and activities in Lithuania](#).

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.

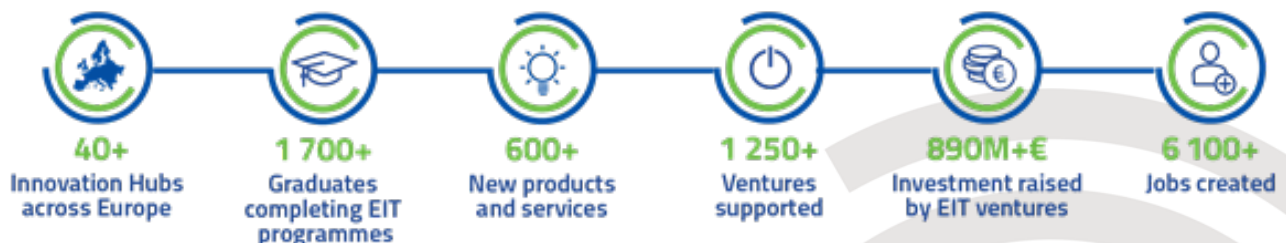
More: [EIT in a nutshell Infographic](#)

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](#)

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

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