



# EIT TO SKILL ONE MILLION TECH INNOVATORS – JOIN THE PLEDGE!

11 October 2022 – Budapest, Hungary – The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) has announced the launch of the Deep Tech Talent Initiative – inviting partners to join its efforts to skill one million people within deep tech fields over the coming years. The Deep Tech Talent Initiative was unveiled today at the conclusion of the EIT's INNOVEIT WEEKS event series, Europe's largest innovation event of the year. Deep tech stakeholders are now invited to express their interest to join the Pledge and invest in the talent pool for Europe's future.

The Deep Tech Talent Initiative is a pioneering programme that will skill one million people within European deep tech fields over the next three years. Deep Tech innovations – cutting-edge technology solutions combining fields of science and engineering in the physical, biological and digital spheres – are indispensable in creating solutions to the most pressing global challenges. However, Europe lacks the talent and skilled labour force necessary to properly leverage the new technologies to enable its green and digital transition. The EIT aims to address this gap, in line with the European Commission's [New European Innovation Agenda](#), by developing a strong deep tech talent pool across all Member States. As Europe's largest innovation ecosystem, the EIT is best placed to mobilise its network of 3 400+ partners and 70+ hubs across Europe to develop state-of-the-art deep tech education programmes. The new initiative will not only ensure the development of a skilled labour force, but also the retention of high-growth companies active in the deep tech fields to maintain and expand their operations in Europe.

**Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth**, said: *'Fostering, attracting, and retaining deep tech talents is crucial to enable the green and digital transitions and harness a new wave of innovation in line with the New European Innovation Agenda. As Europe's largest innovation ecosystem, along with its network of 3 400 partners across Europe, the EIT is best placed to develop the deep tech education programmes the EU needs and to train 1 million European talents under the Deep Tech Talent Initiative. The initiative will ensure that Europe is in the vanguard of global cutting-edge technological advancements, and I encourage all European deep tech stakeholders, from educators and employers to Member States, to make a Pledge to support it.'*

The new programme will be open to all European talents from all education levels, from secondary school students through to higher education students, professionals and entrepreneurs, and all education and training providers. It will have a particular focus and incentives ensuring a strong participation of women, as well as countries with lower innovation capacity. The initiative was launched on 11 October at the EIT Summit in Brussels – the culmination of the EIT's flagship event series, INNOVEIT WEEKS – which attracted over 6 000 attendees across ten events throughout Europe.



**Nektarios Tavernarakis, Chair of the EIT Governing Board**, said: *“The EIT has been at the forefront of integrating education into the innovation landscape through the support and services we offer to thousands of innovators, students, and entrepreneurs. The EIT Community is now ready to scale its best practices and offer new industry-led education programmes in deep tech fields, to secure the future of Europe’s competitiveness. We call on the European innovation community and our partners to join our skills initiative and to help identify, create, scale up, and roll out a full array of deep tech education opportunities for all Europeans.”*

The Deep Tech Talent Initiative will build on the EIT's existing entrepreneurship education activities, including those already targeting tech skills, among others, the [EIT Label degrees](#), the [European Battery Alliance Academy](#), and the [EIT Higher Education Initiative](#), which together have trained more than 15 000 talents in 2022 alone.

### Pledge to join the initiative

By encouraging partners to make a Pledge, the EIT will connect public and private organisations, industry representatives, education providers and investors to help achieve the initiative's aim. This Pledge system will allow potential partners and sponsors to support the initiative, as well as help identify the best existing deep tech courses and training.

Those wanting to join the development of the skills programme will be able to choose which category of support they would pledge to, e.g., training provision, programme content development, financial support, dissemination. EIT Manufacturing, an EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community, will be coordinating the implementation of the initiative on behalf of the EIT Community.

The Deep Tech Talent Initiative website and Pledge form can be found [here](#).

### INNOVEIT WEEKS 2022 sees record levels of participation

Alongside the announcement of Deep Tech Talent Initiative, the EIT Summit also featured the 2022 EIT Award Ceremony, with full information on the finalists available [here](#). The Summit, which took place in Brussels, Belgium, was the final event in the EIT's flagship event series, [INNOVEIT WEEKS](#), featuring ten events across Europe.

As Europe's largest innovation event of the year, INNOVEIT WEEKS put the EIT on full display with:

- **10** policy-led events spread across Europe, from Stockholm to Paris, from Bilbao and Athens.
- A total of **6 000** top industry players, EIT-supported entrepreneurs, policymakers, students, and other innovators attending either in person or online.
- Over **175** speakers ranging from experts, start-ups, first class innovators, and leaders.



## **BACKGROUND: EIT – DRIVING INNOVATION FORWARD**

### **ABOUT THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)**

The EIT strengthens Europe's ability to innovate by powering solutions to pressing global challenges and by nurturing entrepreneurial talent to create sustainable growth and skilled jobs in Europe. The EIT is an EU body which is an integral part of Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Institute supports the development of dynamic pan-European partnerships - EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities - among leading companies, research labs and universities. To date, the Institute has supported eight Innovation Communities in the fields of: climate, digitalisation, food, health, energy, manufacturing, raw materials, and urban mobility. More recently, the EIT has established its newest Innovation Community, EIT Culture & Creativity, to power solutions in the cultural and creative sectors and industries.

As Europe's largest innovation ecosystem, the EIT brings together over 3 400 partners across more than 70 innovation hubs in Europe and beyond. It is the only innovation body with a presence in every EU country. The EIT uses a unique approach to supporting innovators, putting them front and centre to cater to their needs and connecting business, research, and education to share knowledge.

Over the past decade, the EIT has supported more than 5 600 ventures and helped create over 1 670 products and services. It has also played a part in generating over 17 400 jobs. As of August 2022, it has helped start-ups raise more than EUR 6 billion in external investment and 4 600 Master's and PhD students have graduated from EIT training programmes with thousands more enrolled!

### **DEEP TECH TALENT – MAKE A PLEDGE AND JOIN THE INITIATIVE!**

The Deep Tech Talent Initiative is a pioneering programme aiming to skill 1 million people within European deep tech fields over the next three years (2023-2025). Under the initiative, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) will roll out pan-European talent and skills development programmes based on the needs and requirements of fields within the deep tech sector, including advanced materials and manufacturing, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, blockchain, robotics, aerospace, photonics, electronics, quantum computing, sustainable energy, and cleantech.

Open to all European talents – from school pupils through to higher education students, professionals and entrepreneurs – the Deep Tech Talent initiative will redress the European skills shortage within deep tech fields and encourage high-growth companies in the sector to maintain and expand their operations in Europe. All European deep tech stakeholders are invited to make a Pledge to support the initiative's aims and join its new skills development alliance. For more information, please visit: [eitdeeptechtalent.eu](https://eitdeeptechtalent.eu)