

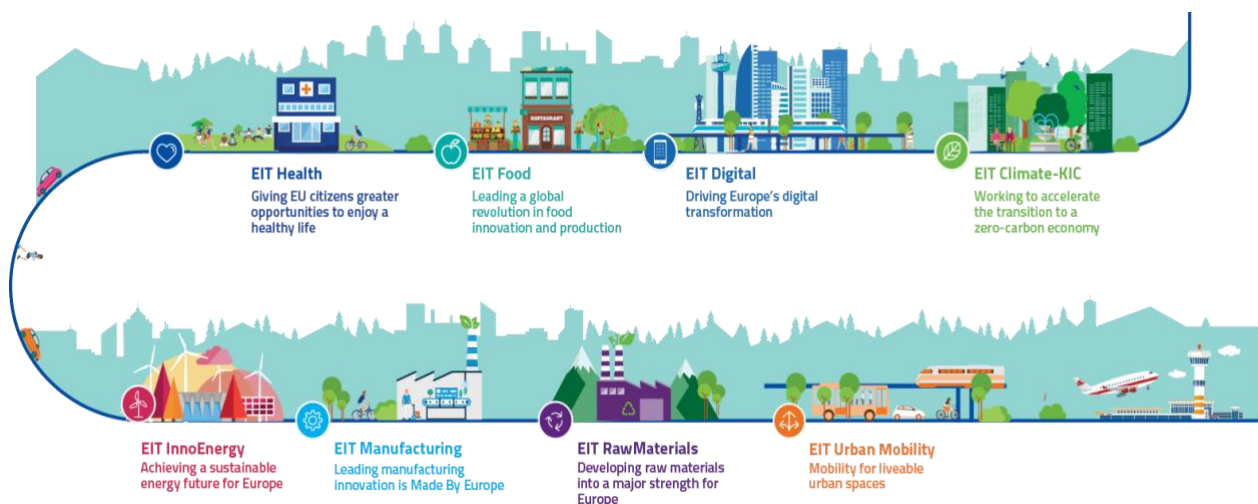
## AT A GLANCE: EIT Community Business Creation & Acceleration activities

Date: 03 May 2021

### WHO WE ARE

The **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)** was created by the EU in 2008 to power Europe's ability to innovate by tackling global challenges. The EIT is the only EU initiative which brings business, education and research organisations together across Europe to create unique opportunities for Europe's students, entrepreneurs and innovators to turn their best ideas into products and services for the EU and its citizens.

The Institute boosts the development of dynamic pan-European partnerships between leading companies, research labs and universities in EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities. Each focuses on a specific global challenge:



Through its partnerships, the EIT offers 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 to enable the transition from:



### ENGAGING IN EU POLICY

Since the EIT was set-up, the Institute has gathered a wealth of experience through its innovation activities that can inform policy makers. With over 2000 partners from business (industry and SMEs), education and research, the EIT can serve as a valuable platform for policy advice and input. The EIT Community is currently developing its capacity to **contribute more strongly to policy makers and EU level policy priorities.**

**Recent initiatives** in this area include:

- EIT Crisis Response Initiative has been launched as part of the EU's collective efforts to tackle the COVID-19 crisis

- EIT InnoEnergy leading the coordination of the [European Battery Alliance](#)
- Artificial Intelligence, identified as a cross-cutting driver of innovation, EIT brings together key industry partners, start-ups and research organisations to boost [AI innovations](#)
- EIT takes a leading role on [women entrepreneurship](#) and contributes to the [Digital Education Action Plan](#)
- EIT Digital has published '[Digital Transformation of European Industry - A Policy Perspective](#)'
- EIT launched two new cross-KIC activities: Shared Services and the Higher Education Initiative Capacity

## BUSINESS CREATION & ACCELERATION

### Activities

- Sourcing start-ups & scale-ups
- Acceleration services
- Activities combining Business Creation & Education or Business Creation & Innovation
- Business Creation support from EIT KICs partners

### Benefits

- Market orientation
- Shorter time-to-market
- Bridging the gap between academia and business
- Proximity to finance sources: seed funding, VC, Angels etc.

### Types of companies being served

Pre-seed start-ups, Seed, Scale-ups, Series-A-B, Spin-offs/Spin-outs

### Main features

The EIT Community offers a wide range of integrated business creation services to entrepreneurs, start-ups and scale-ups from **pre-incubation** to **business acceleration** in the key fields and industry sectors related to climate change, digitalisation, sustainable energy, food, health, raw materials, manufacturing, and urban mobility.

**2020, the EIT has powered over 3 200 innovative ventures: start-ups and scale-ups. These have gone on to raise more than raised EUR 3.3 billion in external investment. billion in external investment.**

These external investments were raised thanks to the EIT's Innovation Communities strong links to local, regional, national and

European level investors. They were also facilitated by successful international Business Development missions to Silicon Valley, China, Israel, Korea and Japan.

Among the supported start-ups, 565 are from the EIT RIS countries (2017-2019). Consequently, 23% of all the Knowledge and Innovation Communities' supported start-ups come from the EIT RIS countries and there has been a clear **increase of the number of start-ups supported from the EIT RIS countries** over the past three years.

In total, the KICs have supported start-ups from 45 different countries, including the EU, Horizon2020 Associated countries and third countries.

Along these regular activities, the EIT tackles local and global crisis, like the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, with specific programs. Start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs have been enormously impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, with investment drying up and significant cash flow issues emerging. Additional EIT support through a Venture Support Instrument (financing, technical assistance and network) will help highly innovative ventures weather the crisis and accelerate their growth.



\* figures August 2020

The EIT Community is making concerted efforts to increase the participation of women entrepreneurs and innovators in their business creation and acceleration programmes for start-ups and scale-ups, including in industry sectors that tend to be more male-dominated such as energy and raw materials.

## WOMEN IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP & LEADERSHIP



The EIT's long term objective is to **both to empower women entrepreneurs while nurturing current women leaders**. In this way, it aims to increase the number of girls aged 12 to 18 interested in technology, innovation, digitalisation, entrepreneurship and leadership. In parallel, the EIT aims to support the female students, entrepreneurs, innovators, engineers to develop their skills, start-ups and businesses by developing programmes and networks. The institute has taken several actions towards an effective response to gender mainstreaming, culminating in 2020 with the **adoption of the EIT's Gender Mainstreaming Policy**. In order to implement this the EIT & its KICs have launched several initiatives including:

- **Girls Go Circular:** an online learning programme on the circular economy, that aims to contribute to closing the digital gender gap, particularly in those countries defined as modest and moderate innovators.
- **Digital Education Action Plan (DEAP):** EIT contributes to the implementation of the European Commission's DEAP through a series of activities on digital and entrepreneurial skills organised throughout Europe for girls in primary and secondary education.
- **EIT Woman Awards** a category for women innovators which recognises the outstanding achievements of women entrepreneurs and leaders from our Innovation Communities.
- **The EIT Alumni's Women@EIT initiative - Women@EIT** is a community that brings together women students and alumni of the EIT and promotes women leadership and empower women to become the next generation of women leaders in innovation, business, entrepreneurship and technology.
- **EIT RawMaterials' ENGIE project**
- The CommUnity by InnoEnergy's **Womzen 4 Tech event**
- EIT Health's **WE Health project**

## #EITinAction: Success Stories

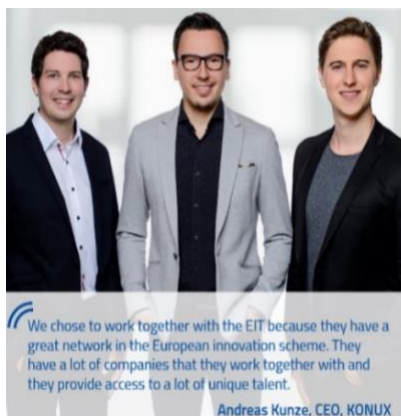
**Northvolt supported by EIT InnoEnergy:** Northvolt is the EIT Community's first Unicorn: a European supplier of sustainable, high-quality battery cells and systems. To enable the European transition to a decarbonized future, the company aims to deliver the **world's greenest lithium-ion battery** with a minimal CO2 footprint and the highest ambitions for recycling. EIT InnoEnergy supported Northvolt by opening up its network to the start-up in tandem to a € 3.5 million investment. In July 2020, Northvolt signed a long-term supply contract BMW Group worth €2 billion for battery cells.



**FeJuice supported by EIT Jumpstarter, jointly ran by EIT Health, EIT Food and EIT RawMaterials** is Serbian start-up led by a female team of researchers at the University of Novi Sad. The team has developed an innovation in the area of functional foods– juices that increase iron levels in the blood. Their innovation helps pregnant women, and women in general, to defeat anaemia. As part of the EIT Jumpstarter training, the team benefiting from boot camp and coaching sessions and made it to the Grand Final Pitching in Budapest. In 2019, EIT Food provided an opportunity to reach the next step and transform a scientific idea into a commercially viable product tested with 100+ potential customers.



**WW Wohnwagon GmbH supported by EIT Climate KIC and InnoEnergy** develops natural, ecological living solutions with water circulation systems and independent energy production. They offer inspiration (through projects like the Wohnwagon), knowledge (through our free blogs as well as planning and consulting services), and products and kits for the implementation of new housing solutions. The team joined the EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator, to develop their business model, and find ways to develop a scalable model and multiply their impact. EIT InnoEnergy also supported the start-up to access future investors as well as professionalisation of their sales strategy, reporting, controlling, contact with business partners, and intense coaching.



**Konux supported by EIT Digital:** KONUX empowers industrial and rail companies to reach a new level of asset performance helping to digitise the rail industry by offering a smart sensor solution for industrial Internet of Things (IoT) applications and intelligently networked systems. As part of the EIT Digital Accelerator, KONUX benefited from sales training across Europe and expanded its network in the US through a supported roadshow, which brought in substantial investments.

## EIT Business Creation Opportunities

The EIT Community provides opportunities and activities for all different stages: Pre-seed, Seed, Scale-up and Series A-B.

[EIT Climate KIC](#) - [EIT InnoEnergy](#) - [EIT Food](#) - [EIT Digital](#) - [EIT Health](#) - [EIT Raw Materials](#) - [EIT Manufacturing](#) - [EIT Urban Mobility](#) - [Jumpstarter](#)