

207 ground-breaking innovations and ventures awarded €60 million from EIT Crisis Response Initiative

08 September 2020, Budapest, Hungary – As part of the EU’s efforts to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology is proud to announce the EIT Crisis Response Initiative results: €60 million awarded to 207 innovation projects and ventures from 32 countries.

As part of the ‘*Pandemic Response Projects*’, 62 new innovation projects bringing together 212 partners from 25 countries are developing solutions directly tackling COVID-19 related challenges. The ‘*Venture Support Instrument*’ is supporting 145 start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs from 23 countries that have been enormously impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, responsible for the EIT said: ‘*The €60 million provided by the EIT Crisis Response Initiative is part of the EU’s comprehensive response to the COVID-19 crisis, including substantial support to innovation. Thanks to the EIT, 62 innovation projects and 145 entrepreneurs have been given the support they need to contribute tangible products and services in the face of the pandemic. Their projects are deploying rapid solutions, equipping us with new technologies to help combat the virus and save lives. The EIT Community’s efficient mobilisation is a valuable contribution to Europe’s efforts to overcome this pandemic.*’

The selected innovations provide immediate solutions within the EIT’s key focus areas, from health and digitisation to food and urban mobility, to meet the wide array of challenges posed by the crisis. The 207 projects and ventures supported include effective solutions such as biotechnology and diagnostics, using 3D prototypes to re-configure congested parts of the city and co-working areas, supporting food supply chain disruptions, and solutions to reduce airborne contaminants. More information on selected projects and ventures offering innovative solutions can be found here.

Gioia Ghezzi, Chair of the EIT Governing Board, said: ‘*I am thrilled with the response to the EIT’s call to action: innovation will play a key role in Europe’s road to recovery and our innovators are united in their vision of a stronger, sustainable Europe. I am proud to see results from the EIT Crisis Response Initiative already emerging: for example, EIT Health’s ‘Digital Control Centre’ in Spain has documented a fifty per cent reduction in mortality rate among COVID-19 patients thanks to the use of their developed AI tool. We must continue to innovate, ensuring that this leads Europe on its path to a more resilient society.*’

Through the rapid mobilisation of the EIT Community, the EIT is delivering short-term innovation projects while powering long term investments into Europe’s recovery by helping to secure critical funding for start-ups, scale-ups, and SMEs that are experiencing significant difficulties, including loss of capital and customers.

Tom Sam, head of Affix Labs and a recipient of the EIT RawMaterials’ ‘Venture Support Instrument’ said: ‘*The €200 000 support from the EIT Crisis Response Initiative is crucial to ensure we stay on track with our initiatives. Our product Si-Quat, an anti-microbial surface coating developed to kill viruses and proven to be effective against coronavirus, is now launching in new markets around the world thanks to this critical funding. Our goal is to roll out Si-Quat globally to help communities re-open in a safe and sanitary way, and thanks to the EIT Crisis Response Initiative, we are speeding up our production and the development of a variety of flexible solutions.*’

By deploying a rapid response mechanism, all EIT Crisis Response activities will be completed by the end of 2020 to help Europe recover.

BACKGROUND: EIT- MAKING INNOVATION HAPPEN!

What is 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 2020, 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.

EIT powers innovative solutions to global challenges

The EIT's eight Knowledge and Innovation Communities work to accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy (*EIT Climate-KIC*), drive Europe's digital transformation (*EIT Digital*), lead the global revolution in food innovation and production (*EIT Food*), give EU citizens greater opportunities to lead a healthy life (*EIT Health*), achieve a sustainable energy future for Europe (*EIT InnoEnergy*), strengthen the competitiveness of Europe's manufacturing industry (*EIT Manufacturing*), develop raw materials into a major strength for Europe (*EIT RawMaterials*), and solve the mobility challenges of our cities (*EIT Urban Mobility*). Together with their leading partners in Europe, the EIT Community offer a wide range of innovation and entrepreneurship activities across Europe: entrepreneurial education courses, business creation and acceleration services and innovation driven research projects.

In line with the European Commission's [plans for the EIT in 2021 to 2027](#), a Call for a new *EIT Culture and Creativity* Knowledge and Innovation Community will be [launched](#) then.

EIT Facts & Figures

- **Europe's largest innovation network:** 1 500+ partners from top business, research and education organisations across Europe in 60+ innovation hubs across Europe
- **Europe's tried, tested and proven innovation engine:** powered more than 3 100 start-ups and scale-ups, created more than 1 170 new products and services that have gone to raise more than EUR 3.3 billion in external capital. More than 3 100 students have graduated from EIT labelled master and doctoral programmes and over 10 000 have participated in EIT Community entrepreneurial trainings.

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



*figures August 2020

EIT Success Stories

The EIT Community powers talented innovators, entrepreneurs and students. These include [Diabeloop - D4Kids](#), an artificial intelligence system to improve type 1 diabetes management for children, supported by EIT Health; [CorPower Ocean](#), supported by EIT InnoEnergy, which is developing a unique Wave Energy Converter to efficiently and sustainably harvest wave energy, revolutionising the world of renewable wave energy; and [Lilium](#), the world's first electric vertical take-off and landing jet, supported by [EIT Climate-KIC](#).

Discover EIT Community innovators:

[EIT Community COVID-19 solutions](#) & [EIT Community Success Stories](#)

