



# AT A GLANCE: EIT COMMUNITY BUSINESS CREATION & ACCELERATION ACTIVITIES

## WHO WE ARE

The **European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT)** is an independent body of the European Union established in 2008 to deliver innovation across Europe. The EIT brings together leading business, education, and research organisations to form dynamic cross-border partnerships, forming our EIT Knowledge & Innovation Communities (KICs)<sup>1</sup>. EIT KICs develop innovative products and services, start new companies, and train new generations of entrepreneurs. Together, we form the EIT Community – powering innovators and entrepreneurs across Europe to turn their best ideas into products, services, jobs, and growth.<sup>2</sup>

EIT KICs bridge the gap between research and business creation in their given sectors. They have the unique advantage of being able to do this at the EU level.<sup>3</sup>

Each EIT KIC focuses on a **specific global challenge**:



### EIT Climate-KIC

Accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy



### EIT Digital

Drive Europe's digital transformation



### EIT InnoEnergy

Achieve a sustainable energy future for Europe



### EIT Health

Give EU citizens greater opportunities for a healthy life



### EIT RawMaterials

Develop raw materials into a major strength for Europe



### EIT Culture & Creativity

Unite Europe's creatives



### EIT Urban Mobility

Smart, green and integrated transport



### EIT Manufacturing

Strengthen and increase the competitiveness of Europe's manufacturing industry



### EIT Food

Lead a global revolution in food innovation and production

<sup>1</sup> EIT, *About Us* (2022). Last accessed: 20/12/2022. [European Institute of Innovation & Technology \(EIT\) \(europa.eu\)](https://www.eit.europa.eu/)

<sup>2</sup> EIT, *2023 EIT KICs Business Catalogue of Business Creation (BC) Programmes* (2023)

<sup>3</sup> PPMI, "Evaluation study of the European Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation for an Innovative Europe – RTD/2021/SC/19 – Case Study 9: EIT Business creation" (August 2022)



Through the KICs, 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. The EIT enables the transition from:



## EIT BUSINESS CREATION & ACCELERATION ACTIVITIES

### 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 business creation services for entrepreneurs, start-ups, scale-ups, and corporations - from **pre-incubation** to **business acceleration** - are offered in the key fields related to climate change, digitalisation, sustainable energy, food, health, raw materials, manufacturing, urban mobility, and the cultural and creative sectors. The EIT KIC business creation programmes provide entrepreneurs with access to finance, customers, markets, vital business skills, and networks, helping ground-breaking ideas translate into successful, socially impactful ventures.

## Key Facts

- EUR 550+ million provided in EIT funding for business creation activities (2017-2021)<sup>4</sup>
- EUR 5.8 billion in investment attracted by EIT KIC-supported start-ups and scale-ups (2017-2021)<sup>5</sup>
- 5 479 start-ups and scale-ups supported (2017-2021)<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> EIT (2020). Partner costs [Data file]. Retrieved internally.

<sup>5</sup> EIT (2020). KPIs [Data file]. Retrieved internally.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.



- 900<sup>7+</sup> (56%) of the EIT's supported start-ups are from the [EIT Regional Innovation Scheme](#) (RIS) countries (2017-2021). The EIT RIS boosts the innovation performance of countries with moderate or modest innovation scores as defined by the [European Innovation Scoreboard](#).
- Strong links to local, national, regional, and European Union (EU) level investors and partners<sup>8</sup>

## EIT COMMUNITY BUSINESS CREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The EIT Community provides opportunities and activities for all business development stages of innovators, entrepreneurs, start-ups, and scale-ups through Pre-seed, Seed, Scale-up and Series A-B.



**EIT Climate-KIC** provides ideation support, business skills, access to networks, finance, and mentorship opportunities, covering the entire pipeline of start-up development. [Climathon](#) helps innovators plant the first seeds of innovation through citizen activation and ideation. Their incubator, [ClimateLaunchpad](#), then helps innovators turn ideas into eco-friendly businesses. [ClimAccelerator](#) scales and accelerates these start-ups.



**EIT Digital** helps build the next generation of digital ventures, products, and services for start-ups through its [Deephack](#), [Venture Programme](#), [Innovation Factory](#), and [Accelerator programmes](#).



**EIT Food** helps entrepreneurs launch, accelerate, and scale agri-food businesses across Europe. It drives innovation to meet big food-related challenges and create a healthier, more trusted and sustainable food system. EIT Food's services include the [Seedbed Incubator](#), [EIT Food Accelerator Network](#), [RisingFoodStars](#) and [TeamUp](#).



**EIT Health** sparks, shapes, and moulds cutting-edge health innovations, transforming the way healthcare is delivered. They run several activities that support entrepreneurs. [Bridgehead](#) supports scale-ups that want to grow beyond their home market (Europe, Global, Inbound). EIT Health's [Bootcamps](#) give start-ups a chance to explore their full market potential in areas like patient innovation and med-tech. It also carries out investment programmes, such as the [Venture Centre of Excellence](#) and the [EIT Health Investor Network](#).



**EIT InnoEnergy** is the leading sustainable energy innovation engine that follows the principles of open and collaborative innovation. They help innovators through tailored product development support, value chain analysis, commercialisation strategies, finding their first customer, and more. EIT InnoEnergy has supported 500+ companies and have one of the largest sustainable energy investment portfolios worldwide, with 180+ investee companies.

---

<sup>7</sup> EIT (2021). KPIs [Data file] Retrieved internally. Note: Figure includes 64 non-validated (by EIT) start-ups reported by EIT InnoEnergy

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.



**EIT Manufacturing** offers business creation activities that are channelled through four programmes: [Pre-Accelerator](#) for early stage start-ups and [BoostUp!](#), [Supercharge](#), and [Transform](#) for scale-ups .



**EIT RawMaterials** offers services to SMEs and start-ups in the raw materials sector. It mainly works through programmes. The [RawMaterials Accelerator](#) introduces start-up teams to potential customers from their partner network. [Booster Call](#) provides support to start-ups and SMEs. [Lab2Market](#) equips scientists and researchers with new knowledge to help them turn their ideas into new products and services.



**EIT Urban Mobility** business creation activities aim to become the reference in the market for supporting and funding gender-balanced start-ups within urban mobility. It has five EIT Urban Mobility Accelerator Programmes (funded by the EU and implemented through partners) designed to take early-stage mobility start-ups to the next level: [5G Turbo](#), [E+ Mobility](#), [Energy and Public Realm](#), [UAM Plaza](#), and [ScaleUp](#) .

**EIT Culture and Creativity** is the EIT's newest KIC. It is dedicated to strengthening and transforming Europe's Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI) by connecting creatives and organisations to Europe's largest innovation network. Stay up to date with their programmes, which will be launched in 2023 on [LinkedIn](#) and their [website](#).

**[New European Bauhaus Booster 2.0](#)** seeks out the most innovative ventures developing solutions that make Europe more sustainable, inclusive, and improves citizens' quality of life. **As a joint programme between EIT Digital, EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Food, EIT Manufacturing, and EIT Urban Mobility**, European start-ups or scale-ups driving sustainable change for cities, industries, climate, food, wellbeing, and overall quality of life are encouraged to apply.

## EIT RIS BC PROGRAMMES

- The [EIT Digital Venture Programme](#) provides international growth support for RIS-based entrepreneurs. In the last five years, the programme has supported the creation of 124 digital and digital deep tech start-ups and over 200 entrepreneurs in their early-stage business development.
- [EIT Food Challenge Labs](#) are pan-European workshops designed to find solutions to current and future challenges facing food and agriculture. They bring together students, technologists, scientists, professionals, companies, and consumers.
- The [EIT Food Sales Booster](#) helps innovative start-ups from EIT RIS eligible countries explore and enter new agrifood markets in Europe. The programme provides start-ups with customised training, coaching, expert advice, and networks to develop and grow in new markets.



- In [EIT Food Empowering Women in Agrifood \(EWA\)](#), 130 talented female entrepreneurs from 13 RIS countries go through a six-month entrepreneurial programme. They get tailored help with creating business solutions for specific challenges in agrifood.
- [EIT Health InnoStars Awards](#) is an acceleration programme for early-stage start-ups from Central, Eastern and Southern Europe. It's transforming prototypes and MVPs into health solutions or products and helps bring them to the market.
- [EIT Manufacturing EVO-R program](#) helps bring small scale manufacturing-related solutions to the EU and international markets by providing business mentoring and dedicated support for project facilitation, conceptualization, and implementation.
- [EIT Jumpstarter](#) is a Cross-KIC pre-accelerator programme supporting early-stage idea holders from across the EIT RIS-geographic area, as well as the Western Balkan region. It turns research results into commercially viable products and services. It also helps idea holders start their deep-tech venture in cutting-edge fields. Ventures are offered tailored training and mentoring, helping them validate their business model and prepare them for the next steps in their entrepreneurial journey.
- [EIT Manufacturing LEADERS](#) is a competition aiming to support the best women innovators from EIT RIS countries. The selected women play a leading role in developing solutions or initiatives addressing manufacturing-related challenges with strong financial, environmental, or societal impact.
- [EIT RawMaterials Regional Innovation Competition](#) is a programme aimed at supporting business idea holders and pre-seed start-ups from EIT RIS countries with funding support, workshops, coaching-mentoring vouchers, and local support from EIT RawMaterials RIS Incubators. This helps start-ups become competitive in the European market landscape.

## EIT COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE

The EIT Community has been taking steps to actively support and involve Ukrainian partners, students, entrepreneurs, and businesses in its activities. Affiliated individuals and partners were immediately identified to provide support at all levels of the EIT Community. As a result, more than EUR 2 million for the period 2022-2023 has been allocated to bolster the Ukrainian innovation ecosystem.<sup>9</sup> Special focus was put on education, job opportunities, and entrepreneurship and innovation support. These activities provide opportunities for Ukrainian students, entrepreneurs, researchers, higher education institutions, businesses and start-ups.

---

<sup>9</sup> Natalija Dolya, email message to Katerina Sereti, October 5, 2022.



## #EITinAction: Success Stories



**Northvolt, supported by EIT InnoEnergy:** Northvolt - a European supplier of sustainable, high-quality battery cells and systems - is the EIT Community's first Unicorn. 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 recyclability. EIT InnoEnergy supported Northvolt by opening up its network to the start-up in tandem with a EUR 3.5 million investment. In July 2020, Northvolt signed a long-term supply contract with the BMW Group worth EUR 2 billion for battery cells.

**KONUX, supported by EIT Digital:** KONUX, an EIT Digital Challenge winner and EIT Digital Accelerator alumnus, is becoming one of the largest AI scaleups in Europe in the field of sustainable transportation. KONUX's Industrial IoT solution helps minimise train delays by efficiently maintaining railway switches. According to the company, switches are responsible for a fifth of infrastructure-related train delays in Europe. In 2021, KONUX secured EUR 65.7 million in Series C funding. Following their participation in EIT Digital's 2014 programmes, KONUX grew extremely quickly, raising millions in funding in every following year.<sup>10</sup>

**Mowoot, supported by EIT Health:** Mowoot participated in the Bridgehead Global Programme and provided services through the Catalyser: Medical Valley. Its target market was the U.S. and it specifically worked on an FDA breakthrough device application.

**Neuron Soundware, supported by EIT Manufacturing:** Neuron Soundware, a Czech company backed by companies such as T-Systems and Siemens, has been ranked among the Top 5 in AI-powered audio diagnostics (DCASE global challenge, 2020 & 2021) and a Top 5 innovator in IoT devices (Hannover Messe, 2021). Using sound analysis and other physical parameters in combination with AI for the monitoring and control of machinery, Neuron Soundware is one of only a handful companies in the world that ensures that machinery operates at the highest and most accurate level of efficiency. A BoostUp! Winner, they received business development support like access to finance and markets from EIT Manufacturing. In 2022, Neuron Soundware was selected as a recipient of EIC's Accelerator programme.

## EIT WOMEN IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP & LEADERSHIP



A key objective of the EIT is **to empower women entrepreneurs and nurture women leaders**. The EIT is committed to creating an inclusive innovation and entrepreneurship landscape. The EIT is proud to host a thriving community of women innovators, entrepreneurs, and students, forging a more inclusive and diverse network of innovation for Europe and beyond. The dedicated Cross-KIC EIT women entrepreneurship and leadership **SUPERNOVAS** contribute to this mission.

<sup>10</sup>: EUR 1.6M in 2015, EUR 6.2M in 2016, EUR 7.4M in 2017, EUR 16.5M in 2018, and EUR 11.5M in 2019



Supernovas bring new talented women to the European entrepreneurial and investment ecosystem and help them join deep tech fields.

[EIT Food Empowering Women in Agrifood \(EWA\)](#) empowers more than a hundred talented female entrepreneurs from the EIT RIS countries through a 6-month entrepreneurial programme tailored to create business solutions for specific challenges in agrifood.

[EIT Health Women Entrepreneurship Bootcamp](#) connects early-stage, women-led or co-led healthcare start-ups to an unparalleled network of mentors to nurture and support rapid growth.

[EIT Manufacturing LEADERS](#) supports the best women innovators from EIT RIS countries. The selected women play a leading role in developing solutions or initiatives addressing manufacturing-related challenges with strong financial, environmental, or societal impact.

[Girls Go Circular](#) targets the gender gap in the EU digital and entrepreneurship sectors by increasing the number of women involved. The programme develops their entrepreneurship skills through challenge-based exercises focused on the circular economy.

## EIT YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Explore the EIT's business creation activities and impact on the EIT's YouTube channel:

- [EIT - Business Creation - YouTube](#)
- [EIT: Making innovation happen! - YouTube](#)
- [EIT - Innovation Projects - YouTube](#)
- [New EIT Strategy to power Europe's largest innovation network - YouTube](#)
- [EIT Culture & Creativity: Webinar on new innovation opportunities - YouTube](#)

## FOR INVESTORS

Interested in becoming a partner on one of the Business Creation programmes and help the EIT accelerate sustainable economic growth in Europe?

Explore the EIT KICs relevant to your business area [here](#)

Learn more about the EIT's funding model [here](#)





## ANNEX: List of and Links to the EIT KICs' Programmes

Who	What	Programme name	Link
EIT Climate-KIC	Pre-Seed	Climathon	<a href="https://climathon.climate-kic.org">https://climathon.climate-kic.org</a>
	Pre-Seed	ClimateLaunchpad	<a href="https://climatelaunchpad.org">https://climatelaunchpad.org</a>
	Scale-Ups	ClimAccelerator	<a href="https://www.climate-kic.org/programmes/entrepreneurship/accelerator/">https://www.climate-kic.org/programmes/entrepreneurship/accelerator/</a>
EIT Digital	Pre-Seed	Deep Hack	<a href="https://www.eitdigital.eu/deephack/">https://www.eitdigital.eu/deephack/</a>
	Pre-Seed/Seed	Innovation Factory	<a href="https://www.eitdigital.eu/innovation-factory/">https://www.eitdigital.eu/innovation-factory/</a>
	Pre-Seed	Venture Programme	<a href="https://www.eitdigital.eu/venture-program/">https://www.eitdigital.eu/venture-program/</a>
	Scale-Ups	EIT Digital Challenge	<a href="https://www.eitdigital.eu/challenge/">https://www.eitdigital.eu/challenge/</a>
	Scale-Ups	Digital Accelerator	<a href="https://www.eitdigital.eu/accelerator/">https://www.eitdigital.eu/accelerator/</a>
EIT Food	All stages	Food Impact Fund	<a href="https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/access2finance">https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/access2finance</a>
	Pre-Seed	EIT Food Seedbed Incubator	<a href="https://www.eitfood.eu/entrepreneurship/projects/seedbed">https://www.eitfood.eu/entrepreneurship/projects/seedbed</a>
	Pre-Seed	Empowering Women in Agrifood	<a href="https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/ewa-empowering-women-in-agrifood-2022">https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/ewa-empowering-women-in-agrifood-2022</a>
	Seed	Sales Booster	<a href="https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/sales-booster">https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/sales-booster</a>
	Seed	EIT Food Accelerator Network FAN	<a href="https://www.eitfood.eu/entrepreneurship/projects/eit-food-accelerator-network">https://www.eitfood.eu/entrepreneurship/projects/eit-food-accelerator-network</a>
	Scale-Ups	RisingFoodStars	<a href="https://www.eitfood.eu/entrepreneurship/projects/risingfoodstars">https://www.eitfood.eu/entrepreneurship/projects/risingfoodstars</a>
EIT Health	Pre-Seed	Wildcard	<a href="https://wildcard.eithealth.eu">https://wildcard.eithealth.eu</a>





EIT InnoEnergy		Bootcamps ( <i>some accept Seed</i> )	<a href="https://eithealth.eu/programmes/bootcamps/">https://eithealth.eu/programmes/bootcamps/</a>	
		Finance Booster	<a href="https://eithealth.eu/programmes/finance-booster/">https://eithealth.eu/programmes/finance-booster/</a>	
		User Validation Labs ( <i>also Seed</i> )	<a href="https://eithealth.eu/programmes/ulabs/">https://eithealth.eu/programmes/ulabs/</a>	
	Seed, Series A		Catapult	<a href="https://eithealth.eu/catapult/">https://eithealth.eu/catapult/</a>
			Mentoring and Coaching Network ( <i>all</i> )	<a href="https://eithealth.eu/programmes/mentoring-and-coaching-network/">https://eithealth.eu/programmes/mentoring-and-coaching-network/</a>
			Investor Network	<a href="https://eithealth.eu/programmes/investor-network/">https://eithealth.eu/programmes/investor-network/</a>
			Gold Track	<a href="https://eithealth.eu/goldtrack/">https://eithealth.eu/goldtrack/</a>
	Scale-Ups		Bridgehead	<a href="https://eithealth.eu/bridgehead/">https://eithealth.eu/bridgehead/</a>
			VCoE	<a href="https://eithealth.eu/programmes/venture-centre-of-excellence/">https://eithealth.eu/programmes/venture-centre-of-excellence/</a>
	Seed/Scale-Ups		Innovators	<a href="https://bc.innoenergy.com">https://bc.innoenergy.com</a>
EIT Manufacturing	Pre-Seed/Seed	Pre-Accelerator	<a href="https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/business-creation/opportunities/">https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/business-creation/opportunities/</a>	
	Pre-Seed	EVO-R	<a href="https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/regional-innovation-scheme-ris/opportunities-and-calls/evo-r-supporting-promising-scaleups/">https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/regional-innovation-scheme-ris/opportunities-and-calls/evo-r-supporting-promising-scaleups/</a>	
	Scale-Up	Supercharge	<a href="https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/business-creation/opportunities/for-scaleups/">https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/business-creation/opportunities/for-scaleups/</a>	
	Start-Ups/Scale-Up	Transform	<a href="https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/business-creation/opportunities">https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/business-creation/opportunities</a>	



	Scale-Up	BoostUp!	<a href="https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/news-events/activities/boostup/">https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/news-events/activities/boostup/</a>
EIT RawMaterials	Idea-holders/ Teams	Lab2Market	<a href="https://eitrawmaterials.eu/lab2market/">https://eitrawmaterials.eu/lab2market/</a>
	Pre-Seed/Seed	Regional Innovation Competition	<a href="https://eitrawmaterials.eu/regional-innovation-competition-2022/">https://eitrawmaterials.eu/regional-innovation-competition-2022/</a>
		RawMaterials Accelerator	<a href="https://eitrawmaterials.eu/accelerator/">https://eitrawmaterials.eu/accelerator/</a>
	Seed/Scale-Up	Booster Call	<a href="https://eitrawmaterials.eu/booster-call/">https://eitrawmaterials.eu/booster-call/</a>
EIT Urban Mobility	Pre-Seed	Energy and Public Realm	<a href="https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/business-creation/accelerator/energy-public-realm/">https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/business-creation/accelerator/energy-public-realm/</a>
	Pre-Seed/Seed	Investment Readiness Accelerator	<a href="https://investmentreadinessaccelerator.com/">https://investmentreadinessaccelerator.com/</a>
	Pre-Seed	Urban Air Mobility UAM Plaza	<a href="https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/business-creation/accelerator/urban-air-mobility/">https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/business-creation/accelerator/urban-air-mobility/</a>
	Seed	Sustainable City Logistics	<a href="https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/business-creation/accelerator/city-logistics/">https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/business-creation/accelerator/city-logistics/</a>
	Seed	E+ Mobility	<a href="https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/business-creation/accelerator/e-mobility/">https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/business-creation/accelerator/e-mobility/</a>
	Scale-Up	Scale-Up Programme	<a href="https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/business-creation/scale-up-programme/#:~:text=EIT%20Urban%20Mobility%20Scale%2Dup,for%20their%20international%20growth%20phase.">https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/business-creation/scale-up-programme/#:~:text=EIT%20Urban%20Mobility%20Scale%2Dup,for%20their%20international%20growth%20phase.</a>
	Mature Start-Ups	Accelerate2Move	<a href="https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/impact-ventures/accelerator/future-mobility/">https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/impact-ventures/accelerator/future-mobility/</a>
	Start-Ups	Smart Mobility	<a href="https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/impact-ventures/accelerator/inclusive-mobility/">https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/impact-ventures/accelerator/inclusive-mobility/</a>



	Start-Ups	Better Mobility	<a href="https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/impact-ventures/accelerator/inclusive-mobility/">https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/impact-ventures/accelerator/inclusive-mobility/</a>
All KICS	Pre-Seed	Jumpstarter	<a href="https://eitjumpstarter.eu/">https://eitjumpstarter.eu/</a>



## ANNEX II. PUBLIC DATABASES OF EIT KIC SUPPORTED START-UPS

EIT CLIMATE-KIC – [SEE HERE](#)

EIT DIGITAL – [SEE HERE](#)

EIT FOOD – [SEE HERE](#)

EIT HEALTH – [SEE HERE](#)

EIT INNOENERGY – [SEE HERE](#)

EIT MANUFACTURING – *NOT YET AVAILABLE*

EIT RAWMATERIALS – *NOT YET AVAILABLE*

EIT URBAN MOBILITY – [SEE HERE](#)