The Green. The Digital. The Healthy. Cutting-edge tech innovations compete for EIT Awards 2020.

Budapest, Hungary, 20 October 2020 - The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is celebrating 28 entrepreneurs from across Europe nominated for the EIT Awards 2020. These outstanding innovators have been nominated for their endurance and creativity, recognising their ground-breaking products and services accelerating Europe's transition to a greener, healthier, and more digital future.

This year's Awards ceremony will be held virtually on 08 and 09 December, showcasing the achievements of successful graduates, entrepreneurs and innovators supported by the EIT Community. The EIT Awards highlight the entire innovation pipeline powered by the EIT, from student to entrepreneur, from lab to market, and from idea to solutions for Europe. This dynamic innovation approach creates a unique environment where nominees develop and scale innovative solutions to tackle pressing global challenges in the fields of climate, energy, digitalisation, food, health, manufacturing, mobility and raw materials.

The EIT Awards 2020 nominees show the EIT Community's diversity, with many backgrounds represented: Belgium (1), Denmark (2), France (1), Germany (5), Hungary (2), Italy (1), Netherlands (2), Poland (1), Portugal (2), Spain (4), Sweden (2), Switzerland (3), and the United Kingdom (2). The full list of nominees and their innovations can be found here.

Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth said: *'Through the EIT, the EU invests in its brightest innovators as they help to create a greener, healthier, and more sustainable society for Europe's citizens. The nominees for this year's Awards are based in 13 countries and are a testament to the EIT's ability to identify and drive the most promising innovation projects. I congratulate them all on reaching this stage and I look forward to the EIT Awards 2020 ceremony in December.'*

Gioia Ghezzi, Chair of the EIT Governing Board, said: *'This year's EIT Awards not only recognise the impressive achievements of the innovators we support, but also their resilience during these difficult times. This year's innovations range from new, more sustainable technologies to health care diagnostics and smart data analysis across sectors. The EIT Award nominees embody what Europe needs to face its current challenges: innovators who can quickly mobilise to transform ideas into pragmatic solutions.'*

The 28 nominees will compete in the following four categories that represent the driving dynamics of entrepreneurship in Europe:
- EIT CHANGE Award, recognising top graduates from EIT entrepreneurial education programmes
- EIT Innovators Award, highlighting teams and individuals that have developed high-impact products and services
- EIT Venture Award, showcasing start-ups and scale-ups that have benefited from business acceleration and creation support by the EIT Community
- EIT Woman Award, putting the spotlight on inspiring female entrepreneurs and leaders

Each award comes with a monetary prize of EUR 50 000 (first place), EUR 20 000 (second place), and EUR 10 000 (third place). The public will also be able to have its say with the fifth category, the EIT Public Award, giving everyone a chance to vote for their top innovation. Online voting will commence on 16 November at eitawards.eu

The final selection of nominees will pitch their innovations publicly online on 8 December, and the winners of the five categories will be announced in a live award ceremony on 9 December.

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 offers 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 soon.

EIT Facts & Figures

- **Europe's largest innovation network**: 2 000+ 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

| 60+ Innovation Hubs across Europe | 2 000+ Partners across Europe | 3 100+ Graduates completing EIT programmes | 1 170+ New products and services | 3 200+ Ventures supported | 3.3B€ Investment raised by EIT ventures | 13 000+ Jobs created |

*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

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The EIT is a body of the European Union