

# EIT Awards nominations recognise Europe's top entrepreneurs and innovations

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) announces the 21 nominees for the EIT Awards 2017 and women entrepreneurs make up 38% of the nominees.

The awards ceremony will be held on 16 October during the EIT's annual Innovation Forum, INNOVEIT, in Budapest. The 21 nominations represent Europe's most promising entrepreneurs and innovators. Each nominee has been selected for driving European innovation through ground-breaking products, services and processes that address global challenges in the fields of climate, energy, digitalisation, health and raw materials.

The nominees come from the following countries: Germany (6), Netherlands (3), Sweden (3), Switzerland (2) and one each from Austria, Denmark, France, Hungary, Iran, Latvia and UK.

In response to the nominations, Martin Kern, EIT Interim Director, said: *'We are proud to power the most promising entrepreneurs to take their innovations from ideas to products, start-ups and jobs that bring solutions to today's major challenges. The EIT Awards help to identify the European entrepreneurs that can compete on the global stage.'*

The 2017 EIT Awards nominees have been selected from among the most successful start-ups and projects supported by the EIT Community in the following categories: EIT Change, EIT Innovators and EIT Venture.

The 21 nominees will now go through to a final selection for the three awards and the winner of each will be announced at the EIT Awards Ceremony in Budapest on 16 October.

This year's selection of change makers stands out for its high percentage of women entrepreneurs. Of the 21 nominees announced today, 8 are women – an increase of 20% over last year.

Martin Kern added: *'Women are Europe's biggest untapped innovation potential and we are very pleased to see a significant increase in women nominees this year. This is real recognition of the many women who are part of the EIT Community and our efforts to promote women's entrepreneurship – it is starting to happen!'*

Budapest, 24 July 2017

Martin Kern concluded: *'The EIT Awards, and the entire nomination process, represent a prime opportunity to recognise today's brilliance and showcase tomorrow's Europe.'*

The full list of EIT Awards nominees can be found [here](#). [Download the infographic](#) with information on the EIT Awards 2017 and its nominees.

### **Media contact and media registration for the EIT Awards ceremony in Budapest on 16 October:**

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### **Background**

#### **EIT – Europe's largest innovation community**

The EIT is an independent EU body set up to power innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe. The EIT Community brings together leading companies, universities and research labs to form dynamic cross-border partnerships – Innovation Communities – that develop innovative products and services, start new companies, and train a new generation of entrepreneurs. We are active in the areas of climate ([EIT Climate-KIC](#)), digitisation ([EIT Digital](#)), energy ([EIT InnoEnergy](#)), health ([EIT Health](#)), raw materials ([EIT Raw Materials](#)) and food ([EIT Food](#)). Next year, new innovation communities will join us in the areas of urban mobility and added value manufacturing.

The EIT Community powers entrepreneurs across Europe to turn their best ideas into products, services and jobs. To date, it has supported the creation of more than 287 innovative start-ups, 481 new products and services, 2,062 business ideas, and entrepreneurship training for 1,190 graduates that completed EIT degrees programmes.

#### **About INNOVEIT**

INNOVEIT is the EIT's annual Innovation Forum. It showcases the most promising European start-ups and innovations and gathers the European innovation community to discuss the future of innovation and entrepreneurship in Europe.

The upcoming INNOVEIT will be held in Budapest on 16 and 17 October and will welcome more than 600 participants from across Europe. Register for INNOVEIT 2017 [here](#).

For more information visit: <https://eit.europa.eu/innoveit#awards>

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