



European Institute of Innovation & Technology

A body of the European Union



2024 CATALOGUE OF EIT KICS BUSINESS CREATION (BC) PROGRAMMES

LAST UPDATE: JANUARY 2024





The European Institute of Innovation and Technology's (EIT) Knowledge Innovation Community (KIC) Business Creation activities at a glance:¹

- 500+ partners from business, industry, education, and research
- Approximately EUR 350 million provided in EIT funding for business creation activities (2017-2022)
- EUR 7.1 billion in investment attracted by EIT KIC supported start-ups and scale-ups (2017-2022)
- 7 860 start-ups and scale-ups supported (2017-2022)
- 900+ supported start-ups in modest to moderate innovation countries (2017-2022)
- Strong links to local, national, regional, and European Union (EU) level investors and partners, including in modest to moderate innovation countries
- International expansion of EIT Community activities to Silicon Valley, South Korea, Japan, and Israel
- Representation in the Forbes 30 under 30 Europe list

2022 in numbers:

- Approximately EUR 54 million in EIT funding for business creation activities
 - Nearly EUR 1.32 billion in investment attracted by EIT KIC-supported start-ups and scale-ups
 - 2 414 start-ups and scale-ups supported
 - 433 innovations launched on the market
-

YouTube

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](#)

¹ Figures in this section are based on EIT (2020, 2021, 2022) KPIs 2017-2020 / 2021-2022 [Data file] Retrieved internally.



GLOSSARY

A2F: Access to Finance

BC: Business Creation

CCSI: Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries

EIC: European Innovation Council

EIF: European Investment Fund

EIT: European Institute of Innovation and Technology

EU: European Union

GO: Global Outreach

IVDR: In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation

IPO: Initial Public Offering

KIC: Knowledge and Innovation Community

MDR: Medical Devices Regulation

MVP: Minimum Viable Product

RIS: Regional Innovation Scheme

SME: Small and Medium-sized Enterprise

siaas: System Innovation As A Service

USA: United States of America

VC: Venture Capitalist

VCoE: Venture Centre of Excellence

DISCLAIMER

Please note all programmes contained in this Catalogue are offered or are planned to be offered at the time of publishing. This may be subject to change. Please refer to the individual KICs' websites for the most up to date information on their programmes and details for applicants/beneficiaries.



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Business Catalogue 2024! Here, you will discover the EIT Community's business creation programmes for budding entrepreneurs, start-ups, scale-ups, and corporations looking to innovate for a more sustainable, resilient, and competitive Europe. The EIT empowers innovators to turn their best ideas into products, services, and jobs. A key objective of the European Union (EU) is the stimulation of innovation to create jobs through fast-growing and innovative companies. The EIT has been spearheading this mission since 2008. **It is the largest innovation ecosystem in Europe, supporting all those looking to create and run innovative businesses.**

Innovative entrepreneurship is a vector for overcoming global societal challenges like climate change, sustainable energy solutions, and public health and wellbeing. Through the **Business Creation (BC)** programmes run by its **Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)**, the EIT fosters the next generation of entrepreneurs. It helps innovators and companies develop forward-thinking ideas that they can then bring to the market. EIT KICs are unique in that they address business creation at the EU level, bridging the gap between knowledge and business within a given sector and doing so with a pan-European perspective. Their BC programmes provide entrepreneurs with access to finance, customers, markets, vital business skills, and networks, which help ground-breaking ideas translate into thriving ventures.

FOR ENTREPRENEURS

The EIT KICs aim to decrease the average time it takes to bring innovations to the market. They offer opportunities tailored to each stage of developing an idea or business: Pre-seed, Seed, Scale-up, and Series A-B. [Discover the offer](#) from the EIT KICs based on the global challenges you are addressing and the industries you are targeting.

FOR INVESTORS

Investors are integral to the success of the EIT KICs' business creation agenda. The EIT KICs have extensive relationships with angel and venture capitalist (VC) investors from around the world. They ensure that partnerships are productive and growth-centred for programme participants and investors alike. Partnering with our EIT KICs on their Business Creation programmes provides you with access to investment, talent, and unrivalled networking opportunities with industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and researchers developing the innovations of tomorrow.



SUCCESS STORIES

UNICORNS

Northvolt, supported by EIT InnoEnergy: The Swedish Northvolt is the EIT Community's first Unicorn. Northvolt is on a mission to build the greenest battery in the world with a minimal carbon footprint. Its high ambitions in battery recycling contribute to the European transition to renewable energy. In 2017, EIT InnoEnergy invested EUR 3.5 million in Northvolt, and a further EUR 5.8 million was invested by EIT InnoEnergy and the EU in 2019. In June 2021, Northvolt raised USD 2.75 billion (EUR 2.3 billion) in equity, a key milestone in Europe's industrial ramp up to achieve the European Green Deal objectives.

Lilium Aviation, supported by EIT Climate-KIC: The German Lilium Aviation is the world's first electric vertical take-off and landing jet allowing you to travel with zero operational emissions. Lilium introduced the world's first commercially available all-electric vertical take-off and landing jet. It became part of EIT Climate-KIC's network in 2014 when it completed Stages 1 and 2 of its Accelerator programme in Germany. Under EIT Climate-KIC's watch, Lilium's electric plane took to the skies in 2017 and completed a EUR 224 million internal funding round in 2020. It has also built a network of global brands including Tencent and LGT. In June 2021, Lilium joined Europe's club of 'unicorn' start-ups (start-ups with a valuation of over USD 1 billion).

Verkor, supported by EIT InnoEnergy: Launched in 2020 with the support of EIT InnoEnergy, the French start-up Verkor aims to ramp up low-carbon battery manufacturing in Europe to meet growing demand for electric vehicles and stationary storage. The industrial start-up secured more than EUR 2 billion in a Series C investment round to launch the construction of their first gigafactory in Dunkirk, France, and the manufacture of high-performance low-carbon battery cells. Verkor has also been able to accelerate the technological development at the Verkor Innovation Centre (VIC) for new manufacturing technologies and new state-of-the-art product.

SWORD Health, supported by EIT Health: SWORD Health offers virtual care for patients with musculoskeletal (MSK) pain by matching them with digital therapists that facilitate pain management with exercise. The team has experienced impressive growth in recent years, making history in Portugal by becoming its first health Unicorn. In 2021, they reached a USD 2 billion valuation (EUR 1.69 billion). SWORD Health has been supported by EIT Health since 2018 through SwitHome, an EIT Innovation project, and the EIT Health Accelerator programmes including Bridgehead. Both have helped the company expand globally.

Owkin, supported by EIT Health: Owkin, a French company, harnesses AI to boost the quality and reduce the time it takes to identify treatments for patients, run clinical trials, and develop new diagnostics in clinical practice. EIT Health selected Owkin along with four other start-ups in June 2021 as one of the most viable innovative businesses in its competitive Gold Track workshop. As one of the chosen five, Owkin received individualised and tailored mentoring by industry giants in EIT Health's network. Soon after its Gold Track experience, Owkin secured a USD 180 million equity investment from healthcare giant Sanofi in support of oncology efforts with their digital clinical research platform. This investment pushed Owkin over the USD 1





billion valuation threshold to become a 'unicorn'.

Ÿnsect, supported by EIT Climate-KIC: Ÿnsect, was selected via CleanTech Open France to take part in EIT Climate-KIC's Accelerator programme in 2015, entering Stage 3 of the acceleration process. The French company offers a natural, long-term, and protein-packed solution to the growing global demand for food. Ÿnsect uses patented low-footprint vertical farms to breed mealworm beetles. EIT Climate-KIC provided Ÿnsect with venture development services and EUR 50 000 in financial support through the accelerator programme and the company has raised over USD 625 million to date through major investors like Crédit Agricole and BPI France. Ÿnsect is fast becoming the global leader in insect-based ingredients.



OTHER SUCCESS STORIES

Bound4blue, supported by EIT Climate-KIC: bound4blue is a European technology developer of automated wind-assisted propulsion systems for maritime transport. It has secured a EUR 15.9M Series A funding round from the European Commission and other corporate investors. This success has been complemented by a EUR 4.1M grant from the Innovation Fund Program, awarded by the European Climate, Infrastructure, and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) in 2022, and an additional grant of EUR 2.4M previously awarded in 2021 by the European Innovation Council (EIC) Accelerator Program, bringing the total financing to EUR 22.4M.

Boldr, supported by EIT Climate-KIC: Boldr is making the home a vital component of the distributed energy landscape by retrofitting home heating and cooling. By enabling connected home electrification and supporting grid stability, the start-up is accelerating the green energy transition. Boldr participated in the EIT Climate-KIC Baltics & Slovakia ClimAccelerator programme in 2022. The start-up has since brought on EIT Climate-KIC as a strategic investor and joins our portfolio of nearly 100 climate start-ups. In 2023, Boldr secured a USD 1.2M seed round with participation from inclusive investor Ada Ventures to help them empower more homes to manage their energy consumption efficiently.

Sensoneo, supported by EIT Digital: Sensoneo is a pioneering provider of smart waste management solutions headquartered in Slovakia and an alumnus of the EIC-EIT Digital Venture Acceleration Programme. In 2023, it announced the successful attainment of EUR 6.2 million in series A funding with international investors. Sensoneo is commercialising cost-efficient enterprise-grade SaaS solutions that manage end-to-end waste lifecycles, foster traceability, and significantly contribute to the transition towards a circular economy. One of its solutions is enabling the recycling of plastic bottles in several European countries, solving the complex challenge of involving different stakeholders in a heterogenous value chain while gratifying the citizens contributing to a cleaner Europe.

Ariadne Maps, supported by EIT-Digital: Ariadne Maps, a shining star in EIT Digital's Equity Portfolio, developed an indoor localisation technology which uses smartphone-generated signals on various frequencies (GPS, Wi-



Fi, GSM, Bluetooth and others) to anonymously analyse people's movements. It has successfully raised a USD 7 million Series A funding round. The funding will fuel the start-up's growth and solidify its position as a technology leader in the sector. Ariadne was launched in March 2019 within the 'People Movement Analysis and Optimisation of Infrastructure' innovation activity of the EIT Digital Open Innovation Factory. It has gone off to a flying start.

ReCatalyst, supported by EIT RawMaterials: Slovenian start-up ReCatalyst was able to convince an international group consisting of HTGF, xista science ventures, and OCCIDENT, along with Slovenian investors, to invest EUR 1.7 million. The funding will enhance market readiness and accelerate process development for ReCatalyst's next-generation proton exchange membrane (PEM) fuel cell catalysts, which are expected to grow to a USD 45 billion market by 2030. With the race to 'net-zero', hydrogen and proton exchange membrane (PEM) fuel cells will play a critical role in decarbonisation of both the energy and transport sectors. Fuel cells technology is expected to decarbonise heavier applications such as heavy-duty trucks, buses, trains, airplanes, and ships.



Kheos, supported by EIT Manufacturing: Across Europe, dormant stocks and surpluses currently hold an estimated value of EUT 3 billion. 90% of these stocks are destroyed due to the lack of a simple and automated solution for identification and qualification. By reintegrating these resources into the economy, Kheos offers substantial economic and environmental benefits, including saving 3.5 million tons of raw materials and avoiding 450 thousand tons of CO2 emissions. Kheos technology can rapidly scan maintenance parts stocks, identifying each reference. What would take months to accomplish manually, Kheos achieves in seconds. The solution has undergone extensive testing and is currently in use by over 400 customers, including industrial giants such as Michelin and EDF. Kheos has been supported by EIT Manufacturing since March 2023.

Elonroad, supported by EIT Urban Mobility: The Swedish start-up Elonroad, one of EIT Urban Mobility's equity portfolio start-ups since 2020, develops a 100% automated electric road system auto charging for all types of electric vehicles when parked as well as when driving. This solution is an enabler for the electrification of vehicles, comparable to what fiber has been for digitalisation. The 2023 EIC Accelerator awardee is testing their solution in a 2.5km motorway trail in Paris and, if successful, plans to build up to 4 000m by 2030. Elonroad has clients such as APM Terminals (Denmark), the Municipality of Lund (Sweden), and AISIN (Belgium), among others. In 2021, Elonroad completed a funding round totalling SEK 22M (USD 2.6M).

Circu Li-ion, supported by EIT Urban Mobility: In 2021, Circu Li-ion (Luxembourg) embarked on the journey to revolutionise the battery value chain by automating and scaling the disassembly of batteries and the diagnostic of cells for a more economical and ecological battery recycling. The company holds a clear commitment to sustainability and recycling benchmarks with the ultimate goal of upcycling 3 billion batteries by 2035. Circu Li-ion, one of EIT Urban Mobility's equity portfolio start-ups, has been an awardee of the 2023 EIC Accelerator.



That same year, the company raised EUR 8.5M in a seed round.

JUMP TO BUSINESS CREATION OPPORTUNITIES ADDRESSING A SPECIFIC GLOBAL CHALLENGE





JUMP TO BUSINESS CREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOCUSING ON SPECIFIC TOPICS





1. EIT CLIMATE-KIC BUSINESS CREATION PROGRAMMES

[EIT Climate-KIC](#) brings together 350+ partners from business, academia, the non-profit and public sectors to create networks of expertise in which innovative products, services, and systems are developed, brought to the market, and scaled-up for impact.² The 2 500+ start-ups supported by EIT Climate-KIC have secured EUR 3.2 billion in investments and created 15 000+ new green jobs.³ System Innovation as a Service (SlaaS) and demand-driven partnerships are at the forefront of EIT Climate-KIC entrepreneurship programmes, helping bring about a zero-carbon, climate-resilient Europe. By shaping the innovation demands of large-scale challenge owners across Europe, they connect them with scalable green innovations, which have been accelerated, and in many cases invested in through their work in climate entrepreneurship. EIT Climate-KIC provides entrepreneurs with ideation support, business skills, access to networks, investors, and mentorship opportunities, covering the entire pipeline of start-up development to unleash business solutions at the scale and speed required for systemic change.



Europe,
incubated,

PROGRAMMES

²EIT Climate-KIC (2022) *Annual Report 2022*, p.5

³ *Ibid.*, p.4.



CLIMATHON

[Climathon](#) events bring citizens together to raise awareness and inspire local climate challenges and action.

A Climathon event is planned and coordinated by independent, local organisers such as universities, businesses, NGOs, citizen collectives, or the municipality itself. It can happen in-person, hybrid or virtually, and the event typically lasts 12-48 hours where participants focus on collaboratively tackling local climate challenges.

Climathons result in:

- Greater awareness of local climate challenges and greater sharing of climate-relevant learnings
- New or strengthened local ecosystems
- Inspiring new projects and climate action that address systemic problems leading to climate change locally

Since 2015, Climathons have had around 600 organisers, 1 000 events and over 30 000 participants worldwide.

Learn more about [Climathons](#) and how to become a [Climathon organiser](#).

CLIMATELAUNCHPAD

Now in its 10th year of operation, [ClimateLaunchpad](#) is the world's largest green business ideas competition. Its mission is to unlock the world's cleantech potential, helping people take their first steps in developing their own ideas to address climate change. The programme follows a standardised format of an online mini-course, followed by three half-days of virtual boot camp, follow-up coaching, and pitching competitions at national and regional levels.

All cleantech ideas are welcome to join one of our eight themes:

- Adaptation & Resilience
- Urban Solutions
- Circular Economies
- Clean Energy
- Sustainable Mobility
- Food Systems
- Blue Economy



- **The Next Big Thing**

The competition creates a stage for ideas to flourish; participants receive training on entrepreneurial thinking, business planning and pitching, and learn how to navigate the cleantech field.

ClimateLaunchpad has a powerful network – in 2023 it ran in 50 countries worldwide, implemented by over 40 local Enterprise Support Organisations on the ground in each location. Over the last ten years the programme has attracted around 15 000 applications, incubated around 5 000 cleantech ideas, and participating start-ups have gone on to raise over EUR 480 M in funding for their innovations.

Learn more about [ClimateLaunchpad](#).

CLIMACCELERATOR

[ClimAccelerator](#) is a global open licence programme to help start-ups innovate, catalyse, and scale the potential of their climate solutions. Through its global community of organisers, ClimAccelerator offers theme-based and place-based acceleration programmes in and outside of Europe. Its steady supply of innovation is an essential component of the Deep Demo model, developing connections between the world's industry experts and systems to break new ground in carbon reduction, adaptation, and resilience.

The ClimAccelerator partnership network is powered by an end-to-end ecosystem shaped by over 10 years of experience through the ClimAccelerator Operating System. It empowers change agents globally to successfully run accelerator programmes. Partnering with ClimAccelerator offers opportunities with measurable climate impact, facilitating linkages and building products that grow into successful solutions.

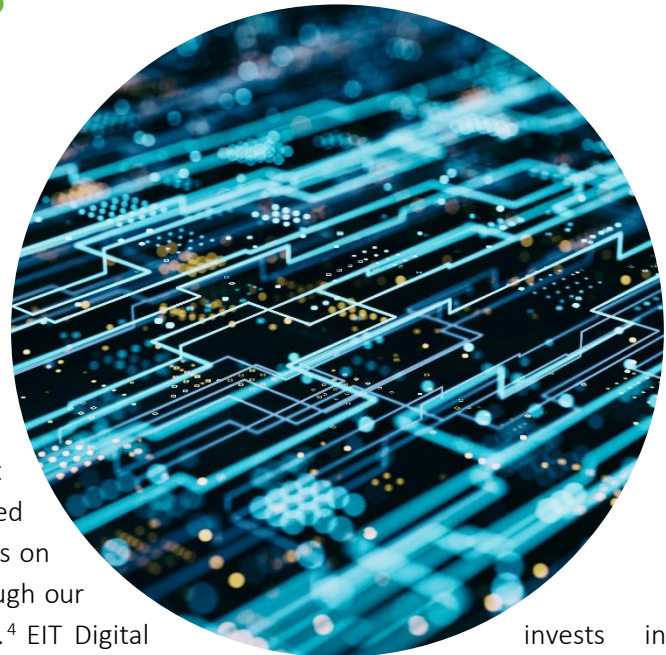
Once start-ups have successfully completed the programme, EIT Climate-KIC invests in the most promising climate companies that can demonstrate the highest impact potential. These companies receive support services in exchange for future equity.

Learn more about [ClimAccelerator](#).



2. EIT DIGITAL BUSINESS CREATION PROGRAMMES

[EIT Digital](#) is building a strong Digital Europe by creating world players in strategic areas, contributing to European digital sovereignty. EIT Digital uses a student-to-unicorn innovation funnel approach that equips talent with both the entrepreneurial and deep tech skills needed to start their own ventures (a term we dubbed ‘unipreneurship’). After skills development, we focus on building and scaling new and existing ventures through our incubation, acceleration, and growth programmes.⁴ EIT Digital



invests in strategic areas to accelerate the market uptake and scaling of research-based digital technologies (deep tech) focused on Europe’s main societal challenges: Digital Tech, Digital Cities, Digital Industry, Digital Wellbeing, and Digital Finance.

EIT Digital has a growing, open ecosystem of over 300 partners in 2022, which is expected to further grow to more than 400 in 2023-2024 with a focus on industry and SMEs and by driving the geographic expansion to [Regional Innovation Scheme](#) (RIS) countries. EIT Digital’s Growth Services supported 450+ companies in their growth. The total investment raised through private investors by these companies exceeds EUR 1.5 billion, with over EUR 100 M directly facilitated by EIT Digital Growth Services. In 2023-2024, EIT Digital foresees support for over 200 scale-ups with an additional EUR 130 M in facilitated investment.

⁴ EIT Digital Business Plan 2023-2024. https://www.eitdigital.eu/fileadmin/2023/ecosystem/downloads/EIT-Digital_BP2023-2024.pdf



PROGRAMMES

OPEN INNOVATION FACTORY

The [EIT Digital Open Innovation Factory](#) is the core of the EIT Digital innovation pipeline.⁵ The programme boosts early-stage European start-ups interested in gaining market traction for their products and services.

The programme is looking for world-class digital deep tech activities developed by corporations, research and technology organisations, and/or universities together with early-stage ventures that have demonstrated market and investor traction. These organisations will be able to use the programme to boost their growth even further. The innovation activities it selects are then embedded in EIT Digital's pan-European ecosystem, where they receive financial support and professional guidance to package their technology and attract customers and investors.

The Open Innovation Factory has created and supported 100+ ventures and launched 400+ products. By the end of 2022, EIT Digital has acquired more than 220 equity positions. 2023-2024 will see 30 new equity positions created from the venture activities in the Open Innovation Factory and 100 new equity positions will be created by the Venture Programme, totalling about 350 equity positions gathered for EIT Digital by the end of 2024, of which more than 250 cases have provided equity to EIT Digital as of end of 2023. The overall valuation of the portfolio companies is steadily growing: from EUR 116 M at the end of 2020, the EIT Digital equity portfolio companies will reach an overall valuation of more than EUR 400 M at the end of 2024.

The EIT Open Innovation Factory invites European innovators and entrepreneurs to jointly build digital innovations and create new ventures in one of the following strategic areas: Digital Industry, Digital Cities, Digital Finance, Digital Wellbeing, and Digital Tech.

Learn more about [EIT Digital Open Innovation Factory](#) and visit the dedicated page for the [2023 call](#).

GROWTH SERVICES

The [Growth Services](#) programme enables companies seeking EUR 2-30 M to receive unparalleled fundraising support. Our team of expert advisors help European deep tech companies gain access to the financing they need to scale their businesses. Previously known as the EIT Digital Accelerator programme, EIT Digital Growth services works with fast-growing companies in the fields of digital industry, digital tech, digital cities, digital wellbeing, and digital finance.

The EIT Digital Growth Services team of fundraising experts and digital growth specialists support deep tech companies with a minimum annual revenue of EUR 300 000 or a cumulated minimum of EUR 2 000 000 in

⁵ EIT Digital Business Plan 2023-2024.



investments looking to raise EUR 5-25 million. The Growth Services supported 450+ companies in their growth. The total investment raised through private investors by these companies exceeds EUR 1.5 billion, with over EUR 100 million directly facilitated by the EIT Digital Growth Services. Support for over 200 scale-ups is foreseen for the 2023-2024 period with an additional EUR 130 million in facilitated investment.

Learn more about the [EIT Digital Growth Services](#).

EIT DIGITAL CHAMPIONS

[EIT Digital Champions](#) is a pan-European competition to help digital deep tech scale-ups become the next European success story. The competition has attracted thousands of applications from over 33 European countries, many moving on to become internationally successful companies. The top 50 participating companies are invited to pitch in front of a panel of investors and the 20 finalists take part in the VIP matchmaking dinner with corporations and investors at the kick-off event for the winning cohort.

The best 20 companies also receive one year of tailored growth support worth EUR 50 000, including help raising their next Series A or B round from international investors. They also receive strategic advice and access to EIT Digital's network of 350+ partners. In 2023, 450+ companies from 31 countries applied to the EIT Digital Champions (previously the EIT Digital Challenge).

Learn more about the [EIT Digital Champions](#).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

DEEPHACK

[DeepHack](#) is an open innovation event in a challenge (hackathon) format. DeepHack focuses on creating solutions to complex digital tech problems and building ecosystems around a technology. Participants get to use their skills to solve real life problems, learn about state-of-the-art digital product platforms, and enjoy effective mentoring sessions. Partners can explore alternatives for their innovation challenges, build an ecosystem of European partners around their solution, and secure access to global talent and experts. The Deephack is an integral part of the first phase of EIT Digital's innovation pipeline.

In April 2023 a Deephack with the theme of 'Smart Industry - Transforming manufacturing with Edge Computing and Cloud Data Integration' attracted 71 participants from 17 countries distributed over 14 teams (26% women), including 15 EIT Digital students.

Learn more about [DeepHack](#).

EIC ACCELERATOR FAST TRACK

Thanks to the collaboration between the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) and the



European Innovation Council (EIC), entrepreneurs can now apply to the competitive EIC Accelerator through the [EIT Digital – EIC Fast Track programme](#) and be directly channelled to Step 2.

Under the Fast Track programme, EIT Digital companies that apply and are selected will be given the opportunity to skip the EIC Accelerator short application evaluation – Step 1 – and proceed directly to the full application – Step 2, receiving support from the EIT Digital EIC mentoring team.

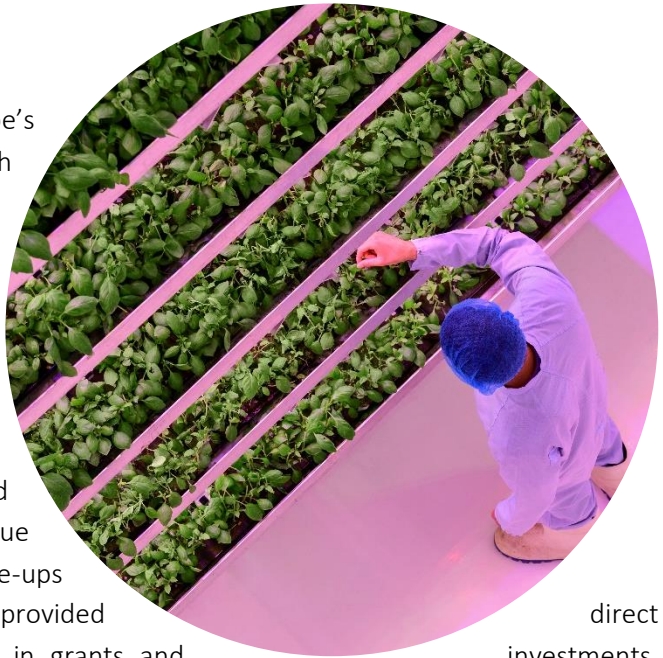
In 2023, we received 34 applications, 11 of which passed the external reviewers gate and will be awarded the EIC fast track.

Learn more about the [EIC Accelerator Fast Track programme](#) at EIT Digital.



3. EIT FOOD BUSINESS CREATION PROGRAMMES

[EIT Food](#) brings entrepreneurs together with Europe’s leading agrifood companies, universities, and research organisations, creating a powerful ecosystem of training programmes, world-class networking, high-impact pilot projects and a community supporting entrepreneurs at all stages of their journey. EIT Food is driving systemic transformational impact in the agrifood sector. It tackles key challenges by marketing innovations, training students, fostering new start-ups, and forging strong partnerships and engagement with people throughout the food value chain.⁶ In 2022, EIT Food supported start-ups and scale-ups which attracted EUR 227.4 million in investment. It provided financial support of more than EUR 70.9 million in grants and launched 55 innovations on the market, and supported 533 start-ups.⁷ Learn more about [EIT Food](#) and its [entrepreneurship programmes](#).



direct investments,

PAN-EUROPEAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMMES

LAUNCH	ACCELERATE	SCALE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Seedbed incubator •For aspiring entrepreneurs and researchers looking for market-validated business propositions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Food accelerator network •For impactful agrifood startups looking for tech validation and commercial acceleration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Risingfoodstars •For aspiring scaleups looking to successfully upscale their commercial capabilities

⁶ EIT Food BP 2023-2025

⁷ [EIT Food | Annual Impact Report 2022](#) “2021 In Numbers”



SEEDBED INCUBATOR

The [EIT Food Launch Seedbed Incubator](#) is a six-months-long market discovery programme for researchers and aspiring entrepreneurs. It supports innovations designed to solve complex challenges facing the global food system.

Participants receive 1:1 business coaching, expert advice, and world-class training to learn entrepreneurship skills and start-up business strategies. EIT Food offers equity-free funding for all teams to connect with its agrifood network and 100+ potential customers across Europe, allowing them to test their innovations and explore collaboration opportunities.

By the end of the programme, each team will have identified the best product-market fit and the most viable commercial routes to transform their ideas and research breakthroughs into scalable agrifood businesses. They will be ready to explore investment options with EIT Food, as well as programmes that can offer higher-level business growth.

Learn more about the [EIT Food Launch Seedbed Incubator](#) eligibility rules and application timeline.

EIT FOOD ACCELERATOR NETWORK

The [EIT Food Accelerator Network](#) is a 2-3-month-long, theme-based programme, delivered through five unique innovation hubs in Europe and Israel: Helsinki, Paris, Bilbao, Munich, and Haifa. It supports European (pre-)seed start-ups that have an innovative solution/product responding to one of the following themes:

- Food bioprocessing
- Next generation of plant sources solutions
- Sustainable food packaging
- Future proof agriculture
- Food as medicine

The programme enables the most promising AgriFoodTech start-ups to accelerate, further validate their technology, and advance their investment and commercial readiness to achieve their ultimate goal: a successful market adoption.

Participants of the programme get the opportunity to 1) (re-)shape their product technology development roadmap and win up to EUR 50 000 to implement their project; 2) grow and succeed with access to top-notch master classes, coaching and mentoring; 3) partner with experts and key players from EIT Food's network of 200+ leading corporates, investors and research centres.

Learn more about the [EIT Food Accelerator Network](#) eligibility rules and application timeline.



RISINGFOODSTARS

[EIT Food RisingFoodStars](#) identifies the most promising Agrifood and FoodTech scale-ups embarking on a transformative journey to scale-up and boost their chances of business success. The programme supports start-ups at every step of their scaling journey: mission crystallisation and communication, definition and implementation of strategic priorities, investment and Go-To-Market readiness, new leadership skills, access to the right partners, and more.

RisingFoodStars (RFS) are impact-driven, aspiring scale-ups that demonstrate the desire, potential and readiness to begin their transformational journey to unlock their commercial potential and achieve rapid and sustainable growth with the aim to become a food star of tomorrow. They have the ambition to improve any part of the agriculture or food supply chain and are thus committed to building a future-fit food system that is healthier and more sustainable. You can only become a RisingFoodStar upon submission of an eligible application.

Scaling up is a delicate phase of venture development during which even the most solidly established start-ups can be vulnerable. It poses important and often unexpected challenges to companies trying to accelerate their growth. EIT Food RFS empowers ventures to challenge, refine, and drive their own roadmap to successfully overcome their barriers to growth by helping them:

- Articulate their 'why' through persuasive story telling
- Crystallise their vision and business model and update their pitch
- Define their strategic priorities and focus on scaling up
- Build their fundraising strategy and attract the most relevant investors
- Attract the right talent and commercial partners
- Build their leadership and management capabilities
- Transform from a product/service-oriented venture to a commercially driven organisation
- Develop organisational structure, processes, and performance culture

Ventures who are already generating revenues from strategic customers and are poised for significant growth and global scale are supported by RFS to grow and scale their impact faster by providing them the know-how, the tools and connections to corporate partners and investors network across the agrifood industry.

Learn more about the [EIT Food RisingFoodStars programme](#).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

FOOD IMPACT FUND

[EIT Food Impact Fund](#) provides financial and business support to high impact and high growth potential start-ups and scale-ups to help them realise their economic and societal impact objectives. Access to finance (A2F)



provides direct funding to the most promising companies with an initial investment of up to EUR 500 000 per venture. Promising companies are those whose innovation activities contribute to making the global food system more sustainable, healthy, and trustworthy. A2F also reserves follow-on capital that it can invest on a case-by-case basis, depending on the milestones achieved since receiving its first investment. The funding opportunity is open to all EU agrifood start-ups that are alumni or currently participating in one of the EIT Food pan-European entrepreneurship programmes ([Seedbed Incubator](#), [EIT Food Accelerator Network](#), or [RisingFoodStars](#)). In addition to capital, A2F offers selected candidates access to the EIT Food network, coaching, and scale-up support.

Learn more about the [EIT Food Impact Fund programme](#).

CORPORATE VENTURING SERVICES

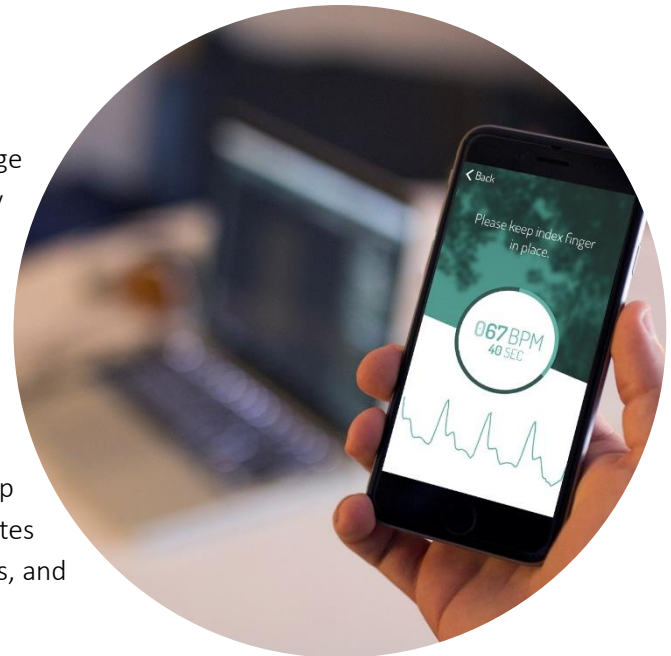
[Corporate Venturing Services](#) (CVS) facilitate corporate innovation by connecting world-leading industry with impactful agrifood start-ups. Through a tailored matchmaking approach, we can help established companies solve immediate challenges, lower costs, identify new product lines, and drive value creation for corporations sharing our mission to transform the global food system.

Learn more about the EIT [Food Corporate Venturing Services](#).



4. EIT HEALTH BUSINESS CREATION PROGRAMMES

[EIT Health](#) sparks, shapes, and moulds cutting-edge health innovations. It is transforming the way healthcare is delivered in Europe by building an ecosystem in which fresh thinking in healthcare can thrive. Their network connects world-class organisations across Europe from business, research, and education, forming a strong community of innovators dedicated to improving the lives of people and patients. By bridging the gap between industry and academia, EIT Health facilitates better citizen health, strengthens healthcare systems, and supports a sustainable health economy.



ACCELERATOR PROGRAMMES

EIT Health accelerator programmes are aimed at SMEs, start-ups, entrepreneurs, and innovators who want to connect with European health experts to fast track their business ideas in health innovation. They catalyse new business growth to deliver transformative products and services.

EIT Health Bootcamps give start-ups the chance to explore their full market potential and connect with a network of fellow entrepreneurs and innovators across Europe. Start-ups can better analyse their competition, identify their USPs, and engage with customers to take their business to the next level.

BRIDGEHEAD

[EIT Health Bridgehead](#) brings together European health scale-ups who want to grow their business beyond their home market with the world's top incubators and accelerators. Participants are matched with an incubator or accelerator from EIT Health's network. Together, they plan how to access new markets quickly and decisively, tap into local partner and client networks, access infrastructure, and understand new regulatory systems.



Learn more about the [EIT Health Bridgehead programme](#).

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP BOOTCAMP

The [EIT Health Women Entrepreneurship Bootcamp](#) programme connects early-stage, women-led or co-led healthcare start-ups to an unparalleled network of mentors to nurture and support rapid growth. Participants receive intensive and personalised training and mentoring from expert entrepreneurs in the health technology industry. They can also boost their visibility through extensive networking opportunities with EIT Health's network of over 140 partners. The Bootcamp is hosted in Galway (Ireland), Coimbra (Portugal), and Barcelona (Spain).

Learn more about the [EIT Health Women Entrepreneurship Bootcamp](#).

PATIENT INNOVATION BOOTCAMP

The [EIT Health Patient Innovation Bootcamp](#) supports the development and launch of innovative solutions created by healthcare patients who can contribute their unique experience and insights into the health issues their innovations are addressing. It offers a unique combination of mentoring and on-site and online training. The aim is to move their solutions from ideas to prototypes through to market-ready innovations.

Participants in the Patient Innovation Bootcamp will receive mentoring and on-site training in Lisbon, medical and technology validation and development in Barcelona, implementation and diffusion in Copenhagen, and online training in business model design in between these activities.

Learn more about the [EIT Health Patient Innovation Bootcamp](#).

MEDTECH BOOTCAMP

The [EIT Health MedTech Bootcamp](#) is a six-week programme helping early-stage medtech or digital health start-ups get a clear and valid proof of concept to launch their business into a European market. Participants receive business training, tailored coaching, and support to better understand medical device regulations and how these apply to their projects. To give them the best chance of success, they are given intensive training throughout the programme and the ability to perfect their pitch to investors.

Learn more about the [EIT Health MedTech Bootcamp](#) programme.

REGULATORY PATHWAY TO MARKET BOOTCAMP

The [EIT Health Regulatory Pathways to Market Bootcamp](#) is a 10-week online programme that supports early-stage start-ups to design a smooth go-to-market path. Throughout the programme, participants acquire theoretical and practical knowledge on important topics for their successful entry into the market. That



includes Medical Devices Regulation (MDR), In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation (IVDR), and reimbursement strategies and health technology assessment. By the end of the Bootcamp, with the support of industry experts, start-ups will be able to design a complete go-to-market path.

Learn more about the [EIT Health Regulatory Pathway to Market Bootcamp](#) programme.

VENTURE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (VCOE)

Encompassing EUR 2 billion in investment capabilities, the [Venture Centre of Excellence \(VCOE\)](#) is a public-private co-investment programme to empower finance for European health SMEs. It is provided by EIT Health and the European Investment Fund (EIF).

The VCOE connects life science investors with high investment capacities such as venture capital funding, corporate or industrial firms, Technology Transfer Offices, insurers, and more. It does so through highly qualified pan-European SMEs using an exclusive AI platform that brings all members together.

SMEs receive fundraising support and have key access to services provided by EIT Health in support of their Series A, B, and up to pre-IPO fundraising rounds. They also receive complementary financial support (non-dilutive funding), visibility, and access to qualified expert investors across all health sectors. SMEs have their company support needs and investment readiness level assessed with VCOE's customised vetting process.

Learn more about the [Venture Centre of Excellence \(VCOE\) programme](#).

CATAPULT

[EIT Health Catapult](#) is a unique competition and training programme, showcasing life sciences and health-tech start-ups to leading experts and investors across Europe. The programme is a rigorous, rewarding competition spotlighting start-ups that offer best value to users and customers. Start-ups receive intensive training as they build their credibility and visibility through pan-European exposure. EIT Catapult has supported 272 start-ups, involved over 450 active investors, over 3 500 healthcare professionals, and provided EUR 1 million in-kind sponsor prizes.

Participants receive world-class business training, acceleration services, and networking opportunities with other ambitious healthcare start-ups and leading life sciences and health-tech companies from EIT Health's substantive partner network. Finalists pitch at the Bits & Pretzels HealthTech event as they go head-to-head for cash and industry prizes, and the opportunity to be displayed on the New York Nasdaq Tower.

Learn more about the terms and eligibility for the [EIT Health Catapult programme](#).



MENTORING AND COACHING NETWORK

Whether starting up or scaling up, the [Mentoring and Coaching Network](#) gives healthcare businesses access to EIT Health's world-leading pool of over 200 healthcare industry experts – all ready to share their knowledge and help leverage new, exciting connections. Having a mentor could make all the difference in growing a business successfully. The programme allows businesses their pick of diverse mentors in EIT Health's network. Start-ups choose mentors, receive one-on-one mentoring and pitch training, and access to exclusive webinars with the latest information from across the healthcare industry.

Learn more about [the Mentoring & Coaching Network programme](#).

FINANCE BOOSTER

[EIT Health Finance Booster](#) is a four-week programme that provides healthcare start-ups with support in their investment journey. It includes three online group training sessions on highly requested start-up topics related to finance. Throughout the duration of the programme, participants receive training on funding strategy, term sheets, and stacking up figures in business plans. Participants receive individualised feedback and gain access to seasoned investors and healthcare fundraising experts.

Learn more about the timeline and eligibility rules of the [EIT Health Finance booster programme](#).

USER VALIDATION LABS (ULABS)

The [EIT Health User Validation Labs](#) (ULabs) connects start-ups with EIT Health partners in Europe that can help organise and execute a validation study for their innovation. The ULabs include living labs, accelerators, hospitals, and innovation centres that allow access to and feedback collection from future end users. Start-ups can test their product or service with patients, clinicians, and medical staff. Participants get an opportunity to test their innovation with the intended user through the partner selected by a personalised matchmaking process. The programme also includes online training on essential user validation topics from top-notch experts.

Learn more about the [EIT Health Ulabs programme](#).

DIGINNOVATION PROGRAMME

The DiGinnovation programme selects the top digital health micro and small enterprises and links them with international entities to create a consortium. This new consortium will improve healthcare systems by accelerating the uptake of digital health applications by healthcare professionals and patients and expediting the market launch of the innovation while easing the reimbursement process. Selected start-ups are provided a matchmaking opportunity with clinical sites able to support the validation of their solution. EIT Health then provides a grant to finance such collaboration.

Learn more about [DIGInnovation Programme](#).



TESTING AND EXPERIMENTATION FACILITIES FOR HEALTH AI (TEF HEALTH)

The Testing and Experimentation Facility (TEF) for Health AI and Robotics provides real world testing facilities by which AI developers demonstrate the interoperability and functionality of their software or hardware in real world settings (<https://tefhealth.eu>). Over the next four years, from 2024 onwards, TEF Health AI will issue calls for start-ups and SMEs to submit projects that validate AI in real health environments. Those selected will receive support for such validation and for market access (e.g., standardised certification processes).

Learn more about the [TEF Health AI](#).



5. EIT INNOENERGY BUSINESS CREATION PROGRAMMES

[EIT InnoEnergy](#) is on a mission to contribute to the energy transition and a more sustainable world. These objectives influence everything they do: any activity undertaken and any company they support should contribute by reducing costs in the energy value chain, reducing CO₂ emissions, and/or securing the operability of the energy system. EIT InnoEnergy is now the leading sustainable energy innovation engine that follows the principles of open and collaborative innovation. This includes four layers: people, corporations, value chains, and the ecosystem. The interconnection between these layers makes synergy and innovation happen. EIT InnoEnergy acts as an investor, providing exchange for equity. It provides cash plus added-value services to accelerate the business case and boost its speed and scale at lower risk. Through their global network, EIT InnoEnergy reduces the time it takes to market, de-risks innovation, and creates commercially attractive solutions. EIT InnoEnergy was named in 2023 as one of Europe's top 10 most active deeptech investors by Sifted and recognised in 2022 as Europe's leading impact investor in cleantech by Startup Genome.



EIT InnoEnergy backs innovations across a range of areas. These include energy storage, transport and mobility, renewables, energy efficiency, hard to abate industries, smart grids and sustainable buildings and cities, amongst others. It has supported over 500 companies and has a portfolio of 200 companies, three of which are unicorns (start-ups that have reached over USD 1 billion in valuation), is on track to generate EUR 110 billion in revenue and save 2.1G tonnes of CO₂ cumulatively by 2030. Collectively, these companies have raised EUR 9.7 billion in investment to date and saved 2.1 gigatonnes of CO₂ cumulatively by 2030. EIT InnoEnergy's network spans over 1 200 partners from 18 different countries. From researchers to business leaders and policymakers, EIT InnoEnergy has access to organisations that drive the global energy sector. It is



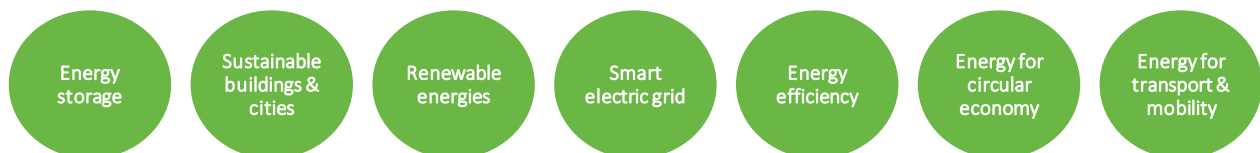
always looking for innovators – whether start-ups, scale-ups, or corporations – with ambitious ideas for global impact. Since its inception, EIT InnoEnergy has screened more than 7 000 start-ups, launched more than 300 products to market, and overseen its portfolio companies filing over 370 patents.

FOR INNOVATORS

EIT InnoEnergy supports long-term business creation with global vision and purpose. Participants receive tailored support in product development and testing, value chain analysis and improvement, evaluation of business case and market positioning, commercialisation strategies and finding their first customer, support on enhancing the team, as well as introductions to funding opportunities. Companies have access to EIT InnoEnergy’s community of top European venture capital firms, through which entrepreneurs gain one-on-one access to some of Europe’s most important investment executives. This increases their chances of succeeding when raising funds from an average success rate of 2% in the wider VC industry to about 15%.⁸ Added value services include market intelligence, technology enhancement, customer and growth, supply and industrialisation, governance strategy, social acceptance and citizen engagement, regulation, access to finance, and access to human capital.



EIT InnoEnergy works in seven critical thematic fields:



Learn more about how [EIT InnoEnergy is fostering innovation](#) and browse their [start-ups portfolio](#).

⁸ EIT InnoEnergy (2022) *Ecosystem – Business Creation*. [Ecosystem - Business Creation \(innoenergy.com\)](https://www.innoenergy.com) Last accessed: 26/10/2023.



6. EIT MANUFACTURING BUSINESS CREATION PROGRAMMES

[EIT Manufacturing](#) brings together a growing network of top-tier industrial partners, leading academic and research institutions from across Europe, as well as innovative start-ups, scale-ups, and SMEs. It aims to ensure that global manufacturing continues to be led by Europe. Just as importantly, it contributes to making Europe and its manufacturing sector more sustainable. EIT Manufacturing supports start-ups, SMEs, and corporations in the manufacturing sector to realise their ambitions and invest in new businesses to fuel their growth, leading to sustainable socioeconomic impact.



EIT Manufacturing is Europe's largest manufacturing innovation network, connecting its more than 85 members from industry, academia and research, alongside a growing network partnership of key players from around Europe, into an innovation ecosystem. In addition, its growing portfolio of activities and services address industry pain points and better connect the manufacturing innovation ecosystem, such as up- and reskilling tools, open innovation, digital transformation, and sustainability.

Learn more about the Business Creation opportunities at [EIT Manufacturing](#).

PROGRAMMES

VENTURE BUILDING PROGRAMME

The [EIT Manufacturing Venture Building](#) programme aims to launch the next generation of high-growth industrial start-ups. This dynamic initiative offers a 9-week virtual venture building programme equipped with expert workshops, mentoring, and networking events on business development, market validation and investment readiness. The virtual Venture Building programme is designed for industry start-ups, including



expert workshops and mentoring on business development, finance, and market access.

Learn more about the EIT Manufacturing [Venture Building programme](#).

EIT Manufacturing also offers Access-to-Market services and B2B industrial tech start-ups and scale-ups with innovative solutions and technologies that address critical challenges in the manufacturing sector. They are helping the European manufacturing sector become more efficient, resilient, green, and globally competitive.

ACCELERATE PROGRAMME

The [EIT Manufacturing Accelerate programme](#) has as its primary objective to support, scale, and accelerate industry start-ups into impactful players in the European manufacturing ecosystem. Accelerate supports and grants financing to start-ups and scale-ups with innovative solutions and technologies that address critical challenges in the manufacturing sector and are helping the European manufacturing sector become more efficient, resilient, green, and globally competitive.

EIT Manufacturing aims to build European industry start-ups that show high growth and impact and addresses all range of technologies and business models, show incremental improvement, and create disruption. EIT Manufacturing encourages inclusive and gender-balanced teams to apply for this funding.

The purpose of this call is to support start-ups with an innovative product/service that addresses at least one of [our Strategic Agenda's objectives](#).

Learn more about the benefits of the [EIT Manufacturing Accelerate programme](#).

TRANSFORM PROGRAMME

The Transform programme seeks to support the application of innovative technologies in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), mid-cap companies, and corporations. It works both horizontally along existing supply chains as well as vertically by integrating them into existing systems. The programme focuses on addressing the innovation needs of well-established companies, such as manufacturing corporations and SMEs. Transform supports them in solving industrial and innovation challenges by implementing new technologies from start-ups that could be further co-developed and integrated into their business operations and production.

The purpose of the Transform Call is to support pilot projects between manufacturing corporations or SMEs and start-ups on a specific industrial challenge. Through a structured process, the EIT Manufacturing Business Creation team will support this collaboration with the most compatible start-up partners for further development and pilot project implementation, providing guidance, support, and financing. The programme has the dual goal of providing innovative solutions for the corporations and SMEs and opening new market opportunities for start-ups.



Learn more about eligibility and application for the [EIT Manufacturing Transform programme](#).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

BOOSTUP!

BoostUp! is a unique European Business Competition for start-ups and scale-ups that is contributing to a sustainable, resilient, and socially impactful manufacturing. It identifies and supports promising ventures, getting them to a stage where they can thrive.

The BoostUp! competition series seek to identify and support promising start-ups focused on scaling their solutions to solve today's most pressing manufacturing challenges. In addition to the competition, BoostUp! events convene investors, policymakers, start-ups, corporations, and key industrial players to discuss some of the most topical issues within the manufacturing domain. Participants get the latest on industrial technologies coming from the start-up community. The pan-European corporate edition, BoostUp! Europe aims to foster the collaboration of corporations and SMEs with highly innovative start-ups. The event will celebrate the best projects being implemented among manufacturing start-upscorporations, and SMEs. It will provide new market opportunities for the start-ups and innovative solutions for the larger companies.

The BoostUp! finalists receive between two and four-months of business development support and the winning start-ups and scale-ups receive between four and six-months of support and financial prizes to nurture their growth. BoostUp! competitions strengthen the pipeline of start-ups and scale-ups for Business Creation programmes.

The [EIT Manufacturing BoostUp! Europe 2023](#) competition was a call for mature European start-ups to solve five industrial business challenges disclosed by partners – Volkswagen AG, Dana Inc., Talgo, voestalpine Böhler Aerospace, and Berg Propulsion. EIT Manufacturing used BoostUp! Europe 2023 to promote relationships between innovative start-ups and industrial corporations and SMEs. The total 2023 budget for this programme was EUR 150 000 and the top five start-ups receive a EUR 30 000 lump sum grant to implement a proof of concept (PoC) of their innovative solution to solve an industrial partner's challenge.

The programme is a pan-European Open Innovation competition for solutions to relevant industrial challenges addressing at least one of the following Strategic Agenda's objectives:

- Put people at the center of manufacturing.
- Accelerate green manufacturing.
- Foster sovereignty and competitiveness.

ACCESS2TECH EUROPE

Access2Tech Europe aims to connect leading manufacturing corporations with some of EIT Manufacturing's best-performing start-ups and scale-ups. Selected start-ups will be invited to physical and online events, where



they have the chance to connect with pre-selected corporations for the purpose of supporting their transformation and bringing value to their manufacturing processes.

The mission of the Access2Tech programme is to provide participating corporations with access to a diverse range of cutting-edge technologies that enhance operational efficiency, elevate product quality, and drive sustainability initiatives. By engaging in this programme, corporations will not only benefit from valuable connections to European Industry 4.0 and 5.0 start-ups and scale-ups, but also gain access to industrial innovations, forge new business partnerships, and explore investment opportunities tailored to their specific technology focus areas.

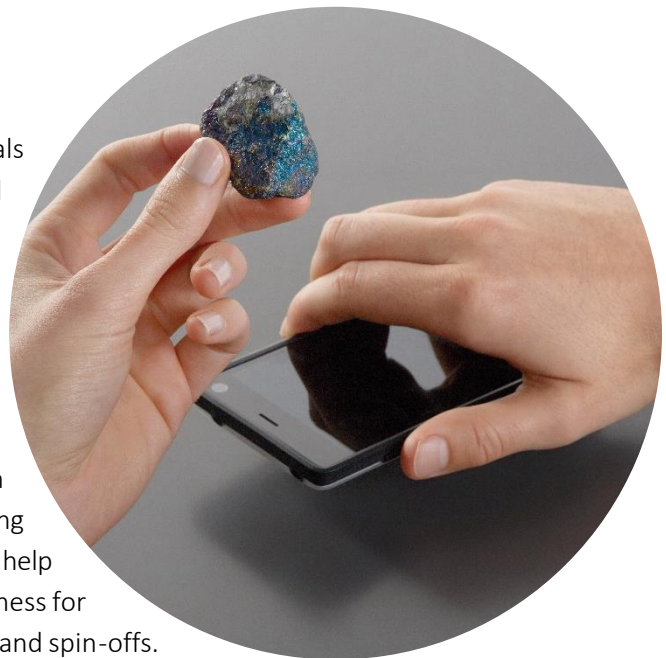
The physical events will take place in technology hubs for a specific European region. By working with these successful ecosystems, EIT Manufacturing aims to also support other regions across Europe to engage with local manufacturing leaders and tap into the potential of European industry start-ups and scale-ups. This programme is a unique opportunity to improve production processes, boost competitiveness, and explore new innovative technologies.

Learn more about the benefits of the [EIT Manufacturing Access2Tech Europe programme](#).



7. EIT RAWMATERIALS BUSINESS CREATION PROGRAMMES

[EIT RawMaterials](#) is the world's largest raw materials innovation community, enabling the sustainability and competitiveness of the European minerals, metals, and materials sector. By placing strong focus on business creation and access to finance, EIT RawMaterials supports the realisation of business and investment opportunities for start-ups and scale-ups. It provides funding and entrepreneurship coaching to early-stage start-ups with an emphasis on idea-to-market relevance for partners (including getting their first customer). Their Business Creation activities help transform innovative ideas and projects into new business for existing companies (large and small) and new startups and spin-offs.



Learn more about [EIT RawMaterials](#).

PROGRAMMES

JUMPSTARTER (JS)

The Jumpstarter is a pre-accelerator for innovators in the raw materials industry. We help innovators and entrepreneurs build a viable business model around innovative products or service ideas, validate it, and if proven to be sustainable we encourage them to register their company.

The programme targets young innovators – scientific project teams, idea holders, scientists, and PhD and master's students – and helps them refine their dealmaking skills, market segmentation, customer value proposition, financials, investment, and legal expertise.



Learn more about the [EIT RawMaterials Jumpstarter](#).

BOOSTER CALL

The EIT Booster Call supports start-ups and SMEs developing innovative products and services that offer sustainable solutions for the raw materials sector. The programme accelerates the market entry of their solutions and facilitates product portfolio diversification, enabling product adaption or new product features to address a concrete market need. The Booster Call has supported over 100 early-stage start-ups, launched over 50 products and services, and raised more than EUR 130 million in estimated external investment.

The Booster Call provides financial support of up to EUR 500 000 and access to the EIT RawMaterials partner network for businesses who are scaling up. Besides funding and customised services, select companies also join the EIT RawMaterials partner network to participate in their networking events and gain visibility through EIT RawMaterials network channels.

Learn more about the [EIT RawMaterials Booster Call](#).

EUROPEAN RAW MATERIALS ALLIANCE (ERMA)

The European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA) aims to make Europe economically more resilient by diversifying its supply chains, attracting investments to the raw materials value chain, fostering innovation, and contributing to the best enabling framework for raw materials and the circular economy worldwide.

The Alliance addresses the challenge of securing access to sustainable raw materials, advanced materials, and industrial processing know-how. By 2030, ERMA's activities will increase the production of raw and advanced materials and address circular economy needs by boosting the recovery and recycling of critical raw materials. More specifically, the Alliance will:

- Bolster the creation of environmentally sustainable and socially equitable innovations and infrastructure
- Facilitate the access to finance for strategic projects
- Support Europe's raw materials industry ability to extract, design, manufacture, and recycle materials
- Promote innovation, strategic investment, and industrial production across specific value chains

Learn more about the [European Raw Materials Alliance \(ERMA\)](#).

Through the Booster, and ERMA programmes, EIT RawMaterials offers different services to start-ups such as:



- Introductions to strategic investors, partners, suppliers, and off-takers for projects at the national and international levels
- Equity placement services assisting start-ups in raising capital
- Advisory services for projects

INNOVATION PROGRAMMES

EIT RawMaterials fosters growth and innovation with a focus on raw materials. Their extensive network in local innovation ecosystems covers the entire raw materials value chain. Combined with technical and market intelligence, EIT RawMaterials is ideally placed to develop open innovation initiatives across Europe. Their open innovation services help corporations unlock new opportunities and connect with the start-up community. It also gives start-ups a platform to demonstrate ground-breaking solutions.

Learn more about [EIT RawMaterials Open Innovation Services](#).

LAB2MARKET

EIT RawMaterials Lab2Market is a programme which scouts EIT Label students, raw materials PhD candidates, businesses (finance, marketing, and sales), as well as digital transformation engineers and helps them become entrepreneurs. Lab2Market consists of three phases: Ideation, Start-up Development, and Incubation. Each phase has specific objectives, deliverables, and key performance indicators. They help participants generate innovative ideas, transform them into sustainable products, and commence business and product development. Teams graduating from Phase 2 compete in the final Pitching event, and the best four start-ups are awarded prizes up to €10,000 in total. Teams entering in Phase 3, with the pre-condition to launch a new start-up, receive funding from €3,000 up to €17,000 each.

Learn more about the [Lab2Market](#) programme.



8. EIT URBAN MOBILITY BUSINESS CREATION PROGRAMMES

[EIT Urban Mobility](#) aims to make urban spaces more liveable by engaging cities and citizens, putting new mobility solutions into practice, and reclaiming public space for public use. EIT Urban Mobility brings talent to business, innovations to the market, and helps start-ups scale-up through acceleration, investment, and value-added services.⁹ The Business Creation unit of EIT Urban Mobility can be found under [Impact Ventures](#). Impact Ventures activities aim to become the market reference for supporting and funding gender-balanced urban mobility start-ups. The offering focuses on providing start-ups with:

- Financial support
- Venture building, acceleration and scale-up support
- Networking and hot lead introductions as exclusive support services, mainly targeting EIT Urban Mobility equity portfolio companies

A cornerstone of Impact Ventures is the provision of financial support to the most successful urban mobility start-ups. The investment policy strives to achieve a strong growing venture equity portfolio, with equal weight on impact and financial return. A key focus of EIT Urban Mobility Impact Ventures is promoting positive impact solutions across all regions in Europe, as well as more team diversity and women founders¹⁰ to support gender-balanced start-ups.



⁹ EIT Urban Mobility Business Plan 2023-2025

¹⁰ Ibid.



STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

EIT Urban Mobility provides [financial support](#) of up to EUR 500 000 for solutions that contribute positively to at least one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to mobility, sustainable cities and communities, clean energy, and climate action. Furthermore, EIT Urban Mobility encourages inclusive and gender-balanced teams to apply for this funding on green mobility.

To stimulate the talent and entrepreneurial mindset across Europe, EIT Urban Mobility pays special attention to start-ups incorporated in the Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) geographic area, “where framework conditions can sometimes be less conducive to fostering innovation when compared to other parts of Europe”. After their application, start-ups from these countries will be invited to a specific investment committee to ensure the channelling of the additional financial support available to RIS start-ups.

The objective of the Start-up Investment Open Call is to provide financial support and hands-on support to the selected investees to foster their growth, help them gain visibility, and strengthen their national and international market position. For ventures coming from Horizon Europe Associated Countries and willing to stretch their outreach, it opens doors to European markets and the mobility ecosystem.

As an impact investor offering smart money, EIT Urban Mobility offers additional support for select start-ups. It fast-tracks introductions to the largest pan-European mobility network, which includes cities, corporations, and other sister European organisations such as the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Innovation Council (EIC), and the European Investment Fund (EIF). It also offers mentoring and hands-on support to scale the company and increase its visibility. EIT Urban Mobility-invested start-ups also get access to exclusive funding opportunities to scale sustainably via city pilots, funding through innovation projects, and follow-on investment opportunities.

Learn more about what to expect as a start-up of the [EIT Urban Mobility’s equity portfolio](#).

GROWTH LAB

EIT Urban Mobility [Growth Lab](#) is the largest community for urban mobility start-ups. The Growth Lab online platform gathers a community of peers and targeted opportunities to grow start-up businesses. It combines funding opportunities (including from the EIB, EIC, and EIF via investors, advisory on public funding opportunities), calls for projects with cities, connections with your peers, events, and educational contents. Furthermore, the Growth Lab offers special benefits for its members, with partners providing SaaS products. The programme is open for start-ups that are registered in the EU or Horizon Europe associated countries and have an innovative product or service contributing to at least one of the EIT Urban Mobility’s focus areas: Integrated Mobility, Sustainable City Logistics, Future Mobility, Mobility and Energy, and Smart Infrastructures.

The Growth Lab is the entry point for any entrepreneur aiming to connect with Impact Ventures activities dedicated to start-ups/scale-ups.



Learn more about the largest community of mobility entrepreneurs here: [Growth Lab](#).

MOBILITY CORPORATE VENTURE BUILDER

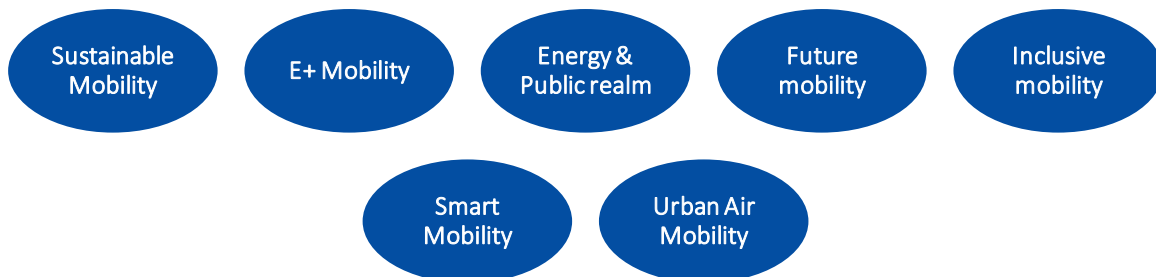
Impact Ventures expands its activities to trigger the creation of new companies based on novel technologies, products, business models, and more in the field of urban mobility. It also replicates business models that have a proven track record in the field of urban mobility.

The Mobility Corporate Venture Builder is developing a venture model that systematically produces new mobility companies, addressing innovation problems that corporations face. Corporations can also explore, build, and invest in new and untapped markets and innovative business models. They will be able to capitalise on their current resources and capabilities, such as agility, speed, and access to top-tier talent.

This Mobility Corporate Venture Builder covers the entry point for any entrepreneur to Impact Ventures activities dedicated to start-ups/scale-ups.

MARKET READINESS ACCELERATORS

The EIT Urban Mobility [Market Readiness Accelerators](#) encompasses five thematic EU-funded programmes implemented through partners to take early-stage mobility start-ups to the next level. The Market Readiness Accelerators support entrepreneurs from the very beginning of their start-up journey. The main objective is to validate their business approach with a focus on product-market fit. Additionally, the Market Readiness Accelerators set up the basis for successful fundraising strategies and prepares businesses for the scaling-up phase. The five thematic Market Readiness Accelerators are:



A minimum of 10 start-ups will be supported at each one of the thematic Market Readiness Accelerators. Each selected start-up receives six months of uniquely designed support, EUR 30 000-worth of support services, a EUR 2 500 grant, six months paid subscription to the GrowthLab, tickets to the Tomorrow. Mobility 2024 event, an impact assessment, and access to other EIT Urban Mobility opportunities.

Market Readiness Accelerators are the first stage of the EIT Urban Mobility start-up journey and a source of qualified leads for EIT Urban Mobility investment activities.



Learn more about the offering, eligibility standards, and the timeline of the application process here: [Market Readiness Accelerators](#).

INVESTMENT READINESS PROGRAMME

The EIT Urban Mobility [Investment Readiness Programme](#) (IRP) is an outsourced programme designed for urban mobility companies registered in EU27 and Horizon Europe associated countries who are currently fundraising or planning to fundraise throughout 2024 or 2025.

The Investment Readiness Programme aims to enhance the fundraising capabilities of early-stage companies by providing them with resources, training, and coaching over a period of six months. It also facilitates networking opportunities with other entrepreneurs, mentors, corporations, and investors, fostering partnerships and creating new market opportunities.

The provider of the Investment Readiness Programme offers access to a wide network of contacts including business angels, venture capital firms, corporations, institutional investors, and European funding organisations.

Participating companies agree to allocate 1% of their equity to EIT Urban Mobility. This is mandatory for any company to be accepted in the programme. In addition, participating companies have the option to request financial support by the end of the programme and upon graduation. This financial support ranges from EUR 10 000 to EUR 40 000. In exchange for this financial support, companies are required to allocate an additional 1% of their total shares to EIT Urban Mobility for every EUR 10 000 of additional financial support requested. Therefore, by the end of the programme, companies that choose to receive the EUR 40 000 financial support will have to issue 4% of their fully diluted shares to EIT Urban Mobility, on top of the initial 1% required to enter the programme. The maximum equity that participating companies can give out in exchange for their participation in the IRP programme and with the maximum financial support request is 5%.

The Investment Readiness Programme is the second stage of the EIT Urban Mobility start-up journey.

Learn more about the offering, eligibility standards, and timeline of application process here: [Investment Readiness Programme](#).

SCALE-UP PROGRAMME

The [EIT Urban Mobility Scale-Up Programme](#) helps scale-ups that already have sustainable and commercialised urban mobility solutions ramp-up their business. The Scale-Up Programme focuses on expanding commercialisation and internationalisation of companies. Supported companies will benefit from a strengthened market position, increased visibility, and a unique networking event with corporations and investors which closes out the programme.



A minimum of 12 scale-ups will be supported at the Scale-Up Programme. Each selected scale-up receives six months of uniquely designed support, EUR 30 000 worth of support services, a EUR 2 500 grant, six months paid subscription to the GrowthLab, tickets to Tomorrow.Mobility 2024 event, an impact assessment, and access to other EIT Urban Mobility opportunities.

The Scale-Up Programme is the third and last stage of the EIT Urban Mobility start-up journey and a source of qualified leads for EIT Urban Mobility investment activities.

Learn more about the application timeline and rules of [the EIT Urban Mobility Scale-up programme](#).

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

Through Strategic Alliances, EIT Urban Mobility works to create ties of collaboration with its Ecosystem Agents, the best stakeholders within the most successful mobility start-up ecosystems in Europe. The goal of this activity is to expand EIT Urban Mobility's outreach to the leading European start-up ecosystems via the Network Approach – focusing on post-investment support by connecting start-ups and ecosystem actors around the continent. This approach strengthens the links that form the pan-European ecosystem while building on the thesis that a diverse, well-functioning, and dynamic ecosystem is crucial for start-up growth. Such an environment of interdependent actors is characterised by, and dependent on, access to market, industry leaders, support organisations, talent, knowledge, and capital.

By the end of 2023, EIT Urban Mobility has developed four main Strategic Alliances with Ecosystem Agents. With Via ID, leading investor in the French mobility ecosystem that powers the Moove lab start-up accelerator based in Station F Paris, we have developed activities to support our equity start-ups' access to the French market and ability to scale in other European countries. 8200 impact, an impact tech accelerator based in Tel Aviv, Israel, and CityZone, Tel Aviv's urban tech start-up lab, have been chosen to support inclusive mobility start-ups in Europe and Israel and create a bridge between both ecosystems. We also collaborate with Micromobility Industries, a global community of thought leaders that brings together institutions and start-ups that believe that light electric vehicles can transform our cities. Finally, we work with the European Startup Prize for Mobility, helping them achieve their ambition of bringing together the most relevant urban mobility actors to empower sustainable mobility and micromobility start-ups. Strategic Alliances continues to expand urban mobility start-up ecosystems in Europe.

ACCESS TO FUNDING

EIT Urban Mobility supports invested start-ups as well as start-ups which are below and above its investment thesis in accessing funding from external funding sources.



This includes access to EIB Venture Debt for companies that manage to scale up and that can put at least EUR 30 M on the table for an impactful urban mobility project. EIB Thematic Impact Finance then provides a minimum of EUR 15 M in funding.

EIT Urban Mobility can also help deep tech companies access stage 2 of EIC Accelerator via EIC Fastrack. Starting in 2024, Access to Funding will be developing adjacent writing services to support high-potential companies access EIC Accelerator and possibly other funding streams of the EIC, namely EIC Pathfinder.

EIT Urban Mobility provides free advice to its companies on accessing public funding. This includes Horizon Europe, Interreg, and other funding opportunities. And from 2024 onwards, EIT Urban Mobility will be developing a specialised support for accessing private investment.

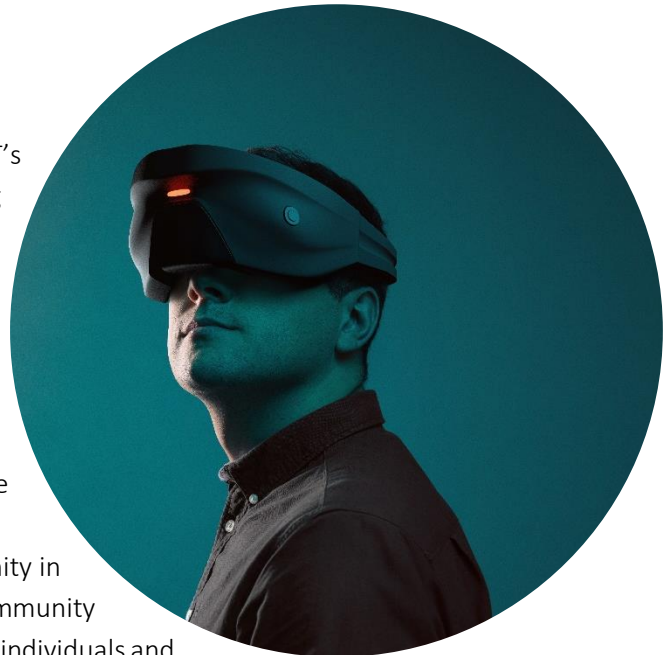


Culture & Creativity

9. EIT CULTURE & CREATIVITY BUSINESS CREATION PROGRAMMES

Launched in 2022, [EIT Culture & Creativity](#) is the EIT's ninth KIC, 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. Culture and creativity have the power to improve lives, transform communities, generate jobs and growth, and create spill-over effects into other sectors, ensuring that Europe becomes the powerhouse of innovation in the world.

EIT Culture & Creativity is an open innovation community in which all stakeholders in the CCSI are welcome. The community offers a broad range of benefits and services fit for both individuals and organisations regardless of their size, mission, or subsector. EIT Culture & Creativity's value proposition harnesses the power of its innovation community, tapping into the diversity of CCSI across 15 sectors and 30 countries to help each of its members achieve goals they cannot achieve alone, while contributing to their shared endeavour.



PROGRAMMES

INNOVATION CALLS

EITCC will focus on three CCSI priority areas to address the innovation and growth challenges: Fashion, Architecture and Cultural Heritage, and the Audio-Visual Industry. Open calls will support innovations building on creative solutions to tackle the major challenges facing the CCSI as well as global challenges addressed by CCSI. We are looking for projects that develop disruptive products and services that can be used in the CCSI and beyond, primarily targeting the five high impact markets listed above.



CREATIVE PIONEERS PROGRAMME

EIT Culture & Creativity's strategy for its Business Creation programme is to support starting and mature ventures, especially SMEs, scale-ups, or spinoffs in larger corporations. The KIC helps them innovate, scale their business, and reach customers and audiences within a global competitive landscape. EIT We also helps these companies with their content and services through early adoption of emerging technologies. To ensure their success brings returns to EIT Culture & Creativity, our financial sustainability mechanism will involve securing equity in companies, start-ups, mature scale-ups, or SMEs in return for our acceleration support. Where appropriate, we will also explore payment of success fees or sharing of revenue arrangements as a return mechanism.

The Creative Pioneers Programme is a comprehensive initiative closely coordinated with the Investments Network (see below) and encompasses all facets of business creation and support activities within the CCSI. The Creative Pioneers programme has the following two strands:

Outreach/Funnel for dealflow purposes:

100 to Watch is a list of the published 100 most innovative CCSI companies, chosen by a panel of experts with a track record of business success. To be listed represents a value-added for every company in the CCSI. Companies can apply to be listed and receive this recognition. The call for 100 to Watch is launched annually. It also serves to attract, scout, and funnel companies to the EIT CC Accelerator.

Creative Pioneers Accelerator:

Creative Pioneers Accelerator is the KIC's key acceleration, training, and business support programme. Acceleration support will be delivered through a two–three-month sprint in cohorts by EIT Culture & Creativity teams with expertise in SME markets, supported by a pool of experts and mentors brought in to provide additional specialist support and market knowledge in each intervention area. In addition, training sessions and events will be held at the Co-Location Centres and RIS Hubs. The accelerator services (e.g. necessary business support tools, access to markets, recommendation to potential first clients, experts, and capital) are designed to enhance the growth trajectory of participating start-ups while guiding them towards becoming investment-ready for private and follow-on capital. The services will be designed to align with the three chosen intervention areas: Fashion, Architecture and Cultural Heritage, and Audio-visual, Media, and Gaming.

START-UP & SME FUNDING CALLS

There are always open calls for start-ups and SMEs in Fashion, Architecture and Cultural Heritage, and the Audio-Visual Industry. These calls will be focused on supporting scalable businesses to avail growth opportunities. These investments are intended to help companies develop the capability to become scaling players in global markets by capitalising on opportunities arising out of the emergence of technologies and contribute to the future growth and overall resilience of the European CCSI in global markets. The first call to be launched in Q1 2024 will target the Audio-Visual sector.



INVESTMENT NETWORK

EIT Culture & Creativity's Investment Club provides businesses with opportunities to engage with investors and take part in pitching events and matchmaking with ventures and capital. The investment club also provides coaching and training for ventures and investors, new services for investor engagement, training for CCSI investors, and high-profile exposure for the most innovative and promising CCSI businesses.

Learn more about the [EIT Culture & Creativity Investment Network](#).

Browse the [EIT Culture & Creativity website](#) to learn more about our business creation services and programmes.



10. REGIONAL INNOVATION SCHEME

Established in 2014, the [EIT Regional Innovation Scheme \(RIS\)](#) aims to advance the innovation performance of countries with moderate or modest innovation scores according to the [European Innovation Scoreboard](#). The EIT RIS, which is steered by the EIT and implemented by the KICs, has successfully led to a significant expansion of EIT activities to more countries and regions across Europe, contributing to a pan-European spread of EIT Community engagement opportunities and networks.



Learn more about the [EIT RIS and eligible countries and territories \(2021-2024\)](#).

The EIT KICs provide business creation programmes and activities to support start-ups, scale-ups, and corporations in and for RIS-eligible countries.

PROGRAMMES

VENTURE PROGRAMME – EIT DIGITAL

The EIT Digital Venture Program is a two-stage competition whose mission is to support the establishment of deep technology-based ventures by helping innovators in developing and finalising their Minimum Viable Product (MVP)¹ and in establishing their company. The programme is executed and delivered by Innovation Partners of EIT Digital.

In 2023, the programme was delivered in nine editions over 22 countries. In the last five years, the EIT Digital



Venture Program has invested in the creation of 164 deep tech start-ups, supporting more than 250 entrepreneurs in their early stages of development.

The Venture Program 2023 call was open to residents in:

- EU Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain.
- H2020 Associated Countries in Europe: Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine.

Learn more about the benefits of the [Venture Programme](#) at EIT Digital.

CHALLENGE LABS – EIT FOOD

The [EIT Food Challenge Labs](#) are designed to tackle the big problems faced by the agrifood sector by bringing together diverse groups of people: graduate and postgraduate students, technologists and scientists, experienced professionals, consumers and companies. Challenge Labs also builds capacity among the participants to develop entrepreneurial skills.

Through ideation and design thinking methodologies, the Challenge Labs will spark co-founder relationships, lead to the creation of new businesses and build links between industry, academia, and start-ups. The core of the activity seeks to fully understand the perspective of the problem-holder, understand their needs, get to know their challenges and check whether the designed solution (service, product, system, or process) really meets these needs. EIT Food has successfully carried out over 20 Challenge Labs at the national level in Europe in the past three years with over 600 participants. Teams with the best solutions are awarded prizes of EUR 2 000.

Learn more about the [EIT Food Challenge Labs project](#).

SALES BOOSTER – EIT FOOD

The [EIT Food Sales Booster](#) custom-made programme 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. The Sales Booster is designed for two types of innovative start-ups: agrifood start-ups with impactful solutions in an EIT Food focus area and start-ups from other sectors with solutions that can be applied in the agrifood industry.

Start-ups are introduced to leading agrifood experts and companies, new European markets, and potential customers and partners. They also create a robust plan to support their own expansion outside their home market.



Learn more about the benefits of the [EIT Food Sales Booster project](#).

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN AGRIFOOD (EWA) – EIT FOOD

In [EIT Food Empowering Women in Agrifood \(EWA\)](#), hundreds of talented women entrepreneurs from 11 RIS-eligible countries go through a six-month entrepreneurial programme tailored to create business solutions for specific challenges in agrifood. EWA equips participants with the required knowledge, confidence, and support to meet and exceed their aspirations, leading them to successfully start and develop sustainable businesses. EWA is designed for women regardless of age, family situation, and business experience. Up to 2023, more than 260 female entrepreneurs have received support, mentoring and training from EWA between 2020-2022. 20 new female led businesses have been registered through and after the programme (next 3 years) and more than EUR 12 M attracted by EWA entrepreneurs and start-ups on investment. During 2023, the programme received 329 applications from 6 countries (Estonia, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Romania and Ukraine).

Learn more about the [EWA programme](#) and the eligibility rules. [Meet participants of the EWA programme](#).

TEST FARMS – EIT FOOD

[EIT Food Test Farms](#) links agricultural start-ups with farmers and testing land. The programme helps agritech innovators validate and test their products and services. It then helps them showcase their businesses to customers and investors and technologically transform European agriculture.

EIT Food offers Test Farms to start-ups in both the RIS as well as some non-RIS countries under certain conditions. Check out the [EIT Food Test Farm programme](#) for more information on benefits and eligibility.

DRIVE – EIT HEALTH

The [EIT Health Drive programme](#) equips health and life science start-ups with the tools to become the next local change agent. Participants learn how to design validated, sustainable support programmes for health and life science start-ups tailored to regional needs. As part of the two-phase programme, they gain insight into identifying and engaging key community stakeholders to create meaningful change. The programme includes study visits and access to a network of acceleration managers from similar ecosystems and top innovation experts. There is also an option to secure co-funding of up to EUR 50 000 to implement a start-up support programme.

The programme is open to organisations in countries where the EIT Health RIS is present through its network of hubs. The applicant organisation is expected to provide incubation and acceleration support for entrepreneurs (e.g. mentoring, matchmaking, validation support, training, among other services) for at least a year. They must be interested in establishing a comprehensive health and life science start-up support programme.

Learn more about the application rules and financial support available in the [EIT Health Drive programme](#).



ATTRACT TO INVEST – EIT HEALTH

The [EIT Health's Attract To Invest programme](#) prepares companies for successful investment rounds. During the programme, teams receive smart money, learn practical fundraising skills, gain funding for improving their products or services, and extend their professional network. The selected top 20 start-ups receive EUR 25 000 that need to be used on mentoring services, traveling expenses, and for the start-up's projects.

The programme includes a Fundraising Bootcamp, where participants get hands-on experience creating an investment strategy, finalising business planning, defining USP, optimising pitch content, establishing and managing investor relations, and optimising term sheet and investment conditions. In the second half of the programme, there are Board Meeting Simulations sprints, where dedicated consultants and investors pose real life questions and challenges.

This programme is suitable for micro, small enterprises, spin-offs, and start-ups that are registered as a legal entity in one of the RIS-eligible countries.

Learn more about the application rules and timeline of the [EIT Health Attract to Invest programme](#).

INNOSTARS AWARDS – EIT HEALTH

The [EIT Health InnoStars Awards](#) is an acceleration programme for early-stage start-ups from Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe. The programme helps transform prototypes and MVPs into health solutions or products and bring them to the market. Over the last seven years, more than 100 start-ups have been trained and more than half have found success in the market. The InnoStars Awards is also a unique place for investors looking for gems in biotech, med-tech, and life sciences.

Participants receive EUR 25 000 in smart money or EUR 4 000 in mentoring value. They also benefit from 1:1 mentoring, bootcamps, the opportunity to pitch to top-notch investors, as well as access to EIT Health's investor network and ULabs. Applicants must be legal entities from RIS-eligible countries.

Learn more about the eligibility rules and benefits of the [EIT Health InnoStars programme](#).

EVOLUTION OF RIS INNOVATIONS (EVO-R) – EIT MANUFACTURING

The [EIT Manufacturing RIS EVO-R programme](#) supports activities undertaking innovative small-scale manufacturing solutions from the demonstration stage (TRL 7) through to market uptake (TRL 8-9). The grant is awarded to activities and/or individuals that were already have selected under regional or national funding programmes in RIS countries and who aim to scale up into European and global markets.

The call is open for research teams (and individuals), SMEs, start-ups, universities, research and technology organisations (RTOs), and university-owned research foundations registered or residing in EIT RIS eligible



countries and have an innovative solution with a demonstration stage (TRL 7) addressing manufacturing-related challenges and with a convincing financial, environmental, and societal impact potential.

Learn more about the application rules and timelines of the [EIT Manufacturing RIS EVO-R programme](#).

RIS LEADERS – EIT MANUFACTURING

The [EIT Manufacturing LEADERS programme](#) is a competition that supports the best women innovators (professionals, researchers, and entrepreneurs) from EIT RIS countries. Women are selected for playing a leading role in developing solutions or initiatives addressing manufacturing-related challenges with strong financial, environmental, or societal impact. With this prize, EIT Manufacturing seeks to raise awareness of the need for more women innovators in manufacturing and create role models for girls and women everywhere.

Top-ranking applicants are invited to a grand final awarding ceremony where three winners receive publicity and prizes of EUR 10 000 for first place, EUR 7 500 for second, and EUR 5 000 for third.

Learn more about the application rules and benefits of the [EIT Manufacturing LEADERS programme](#).

RIS INCLUSIVENESS – EIT MANUFACTURING

[RIS Inclusiveness](#) is an activity to attract, select, and support entities coming from EIT RIS countries towards developing innovative solutions that make work in the manufacturing industry more inclusive for individuals with disabilities. The activity provides financial support to the selected applicants. In addition, the selected applicants receive support services provided by the EIT Manufacturing RIS team aimed at supporting the implementation of their project.

Learn more about the eligibility rules of the [EIT Manufacturing RIS Inclusiveness activity](#).



11. EIT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

EIT Community projects are programmes based on collaboration between several EIT KICs to drive enhanced progress on strategic areas of work. These cross-cutting projects amplify the EIT Community's resources and ability to boost innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe.

EIT JUMPSTARTER

[EIT Jumpstarter](#) is a well-established EIT Community pre-accelerator programme supporting early-stage idea holders from across the EIT RIS-eligible geographic area, as well as the whole Western Balkans region, plus Moldova starting in 2024. EIT Jumpstarter helps turn their research results into commercially viable products, services, and deep-tech ventures. Ventures are offered tailored trainings and mentoring, which helps them validate their business model and prepare them for the next steps in their entrepreneurial journey.



The strategic aim of this programme is to create a sustainable impact in the Central-Eastern and Southern-European Regions, as well as the EU Outermost Regions by boosting innovation and entrepreneurship within this part of Europe. These Regions face similar challenges: they have enormous innovation potential with bright scientific minds, but often suffer from limited opportunities to bring products from the lab to the market. In 2023, EIT Jumpstarter was managed by seven KICs: EIT Health, EIT Digital, EIT RawMaterials, EIT Food, EIT InnoEnergy, EIT Manufacturing, and EIT Urban Mobility. They will be joined by EIT Culture & Creativity in 2024. They bring together businesses, research centres, and universities as partners creating a favourable environment for creative thought and innovation to flourish.

Graduates of the programme possess the skills and knowledge to launch their companies. As part of the alumni community, they receive further support and dedicated advice from the EIT Community regarding the next



stage of their start-up journey. The programme has trained more than 750 start-up teams since 2017, and interest in our competition is growing. In 2019, EIT Jumpstarter won the Best Association Training Initiative Award of the European Association Awards and in 2020 the Emerging Europe Award in the Young Empowerment Initiative category.

Learn more about the eligibility rules and application timeline for the [EIT Jumpstarter programme](#).

STRATEGIC ACCESS TO FINANCE (A2F)

Strategic Access to Finance (A2) develops synergies between the EIT Community, the European Innovation Council (EIC), and the European Investment Fund (EIF) to facilitate investments (access to finance) for KICs' supported ventures (start-ups/scale-ups) or innovation projects that contribute to the KICs' financial sustainability and diversification of revenues from return of investment or equity.

A2F is offered by many EIT KIC Business Creation programmes, as specified on the programme websites.

A2F notably facilitates:

- financial and non-financial support to KIC-supported ventures to accelerate their growth
- developing a pipeline of innovative projects and ventures supported by the EIT Community that could benefit from EIC, European Investment Bank (EIB), and EIF support
- developing synergies between the EIT Community and the EIF by preparing and launching an open innovation platform/investment instrument bringing together key players (corporations, private VC firms, and public entities) and addressing key social, economic, and environmental issues
- developing the capacity and expertise available to the EIT Community in accessing EIF and EIC support, including for EIT RIS countries and women-led ventures.

GLOBAL OUTREACH (GO)

The [EIT Global Outreach](#) (GO) programme links business, research, and education to create connections and market opportunities in key locations outside of Europe. It enables the EIT Community to develop world-class solutions to societal challenges, create jobs, and deliver sustainable economic growth opportunities. A key goal of the GO is to position the EIT's Knowledge Triangle Integration (KTI) model at the international level, thereby strengthening the EIT Community and the EU brand globally.

GO has Hubs in Tel Aviv (Israel) and Silicon Valley (USA). The hubs work with the EIT KICs to leverage synergies between the EIT Community, Israel, and the Silicon Valley innovation ecosystems.

Visit the [EIT Hub Israel](#).

Visit the [EIT Hub Silicon Valley](#).

GO Israel offers the following Business Creation programmes:



- [Calling2Scale](#): a three-month tailor-made start-up support programme. It enables participating start-ups to penetrate and scale into new global markets by leveraging its network of partners and international experts.
- [Connect & Experience](#): a full immersion and ecosystem training programme for ecosystem leaders. It is an interactive platform for peer-learning and collaboration, aimed at enhancing start-up growth and open innovation in the ecosystem.

Explore the [full GO Israel programme offer](#) and upcoming programmes such as the Mind the Gap, Lab-to-Market, and its commercialisation programme.

GO Silicon Valley offers the following Business Creation programme:

- [Connect & Experience](#): a programme which provides an introduction to top industry players and leading start-up programmes, access to state-of-the-art best practices, a model in ecosystem development, and co-funding opportunities.

GO Silicon Valley has other programmes in development. Browse and follow [their dedicated opportunities page](#) for further information.

SUPERNOVAS - WOMEN LEADERSHIP & ENTREPRENEURSHIP (WEL)

[Supernovas](#) is a joint venture between EIT Food, EIT Manufacturing, and EIT Urban Mobility. It promotes an entrepreneurial ecosystem where more women can shape innovations in the market. Participants receive financial support, information, education recommendations, and networking opportunities. It includes the following initiatives:

- [Rocket up](#): helps women-led start-ups enter a new European market with a solid strategy and local validation of the product and service to maximise their growth and fundraising potential.
- [Women2Invest](#): helps women with Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) studies start their careers in venture investment by training them in the fundamentals of this profession and matching them with investors (venture capital, corporate venture capital or corporate venturing units) for internship opportunities.
- [Mentoring for women leaders](#): offers EIT Community women access to a broad network, along with mentoring, coaching, and training opportunities to take their managerial and leadership skills to the next level.
- [Women Investment Network](#): provides women working in VC (junior or senior positions) and women business angels (active or aspiring) with training, networking opportunities, and access to dealflow, particularly in women-led tech start-ups.

Learn more about the benefits of the [EIT Community Supernovas initiative](#).



12. EIT ALUMNI

[EIT Alumni](#) brings together an interdisciplinary, multicultural community of change agents who share a common vision for tackling societal challenges and creating positive impact through innovation and entrepreneurship. The EIT Alumni Community consists of members of the Alumni Communities of the EIT's KICs, including graduates of their Education, Business Creation, and Innovation programmes. Its strengths lay in network effects and in the strong societal impact that EIT Alumni Community members can have. Many members of the EIT Alumni Community are founders and co-founders of start-ups and scale-ups, and often participate in the EIT KICs' Business Creation activities.

Learn more about the [EIT Alumni](#).



For more information about the KIC's individual Alumni Community, please see:

- [EIT Climate-KIC - Our Alumni](#)
- [EIT Digital – Alumni: Home](#)
- [EIT Food – Alumni Community](#)
- [EIT Health – Our Network: Alumni](#)
- [EIT Manufacturing - Alumni](#)
- [EIT RawMaterials – Alumni](#)



13. ENHANCING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LEADERSHIP (WEL)

Gender equality is a core value of the EU. It is also essential for Europe's sustainable economic growth. The EIT, as a body of the EU and an integral part of Horizon Europe, plays a significant role in supporting the EU's objectives of empowering women entrepreneurs and nurturing women leaders.

Women are Europe's largest untapped innovation and entrepreneurship talent pool. Only 15% of start-up founders in Europe are women. At the same time, multiple research reports, including 2023 analyses and reports coming from within the EIT Community, confirm a strong business case for gender diversity. The EIT Digital European Women in VC 2023 Report states that management teams

mostly composed of women exceeded the performance of men-only teams by 9.3 percentage points average, with each 10% increase in the representation of women associated with a 1.3% increase in the internal rate of return of a VC fund. The Dealroom & SUPERNOVAS: The Landscape of Women Founded Scaleups Study shows that women-founded tech scale-ups in Europe increased their value 6.5x, growing 1.2x faster than their competitors over the past five years.

The EIT set a minimum target of 25% women among CEOs and business owners among EIT Community-supported start-ups by the end of 2024. Thanks to EIT Community initiatives and programmes tailored to overcome the specific barriers women face in the European entrepreneurship landscape, this target has been already reached.

The EIT Women Leadership Award (now transformed into the [European Prize for Women Innovators](#), presented in association with the EIC, and also [SUPERNOVAS](#) are just a few examples of the EIT Community's efforts to empower women entrepreneurs and leaders in Europe's innovation landscape.

Learn more about [how the EIT supports women entrepreneurs and leaders](#).

Discover the [EIT Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan](#) here.

Explore the EIT Community's dedicated women entrepreneurship and leadership programmes:

- [EIT Food Empowering Women in Agrifood \(EWA\)](#) empowers hundreds of talented women





entrepreneurs from RIS countries at an early stage of business development through a six-months-long entrepreneurial programme tailored to create business solutions for specific challenges in agrifood.

- [WE Lead Food](#) is a network of women leaders from across the entire food value chain, enabling its participants to draw on knowledge and insights from parts of the sector they might not currently be able to access in order to successfully tackle new challenges.
- [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 their rapid growth.
- [EIT Manufacturing Strada](#) empowering Women in Manufacturing and was successfully executed in several European countries. It focuses on supporting women MSc and PhD students in engineering and women in the manufacturing industry by equipping them with skills to start and grow their own business or develop their professional careers in academia or industry. It also guides them towards rising to management and leadership positions.
- [Girls Go Circular](#) is an initiative responding to the urgent need to close the gender gap in the EU digital and entrepreneurship sectors by increasing the number of women active within them. Girls Go Circular develops participants' entrepreneurship skills through challenge-based exercises with a focus on the circular economy.
- The [WeClimEqually Handbook](#) is a resource from EIT Climate-KIC that allows entrepreneurship support organisations a step-by-step guide to being more gender-smart in their organisation, with the end goal of supporting more women-led innovations in their work.



ANNEXES

ANNEX I. TABLE: EIT KIC BUSINESS CREATION PROGRAMMES

Who	What	Programme name	Link
EIT Climate-KIC	Pre-Seed	Climathon	https://climathon.climate-kic.org/
	Pre-Seed	ClimateLaunchpad	https://climatelaunchpad.org/
	Scale-Ups	ClimAccelerator	https://climaccelerator.climate-kic.org/
EIT Digital	Pre-Seed	Deep Hack	https://www.eitdigital.eu/deephack/
	Pre-Seed/Seed	Open Innovation Factory	https://www.eitdigital.eu/open-innovation-factory/
	Pre-Seed	Venture Programme	https://www.eitdigital.eu/venture-program/
	Pre-Seed/Seed	Equity Portfolio	https://www.eitdigital.eu/equity-portfolio/
	Scale-Ups	EIT Digital Champions	https://www.eitdigital.eu/champions/
	Scale-Ups	Growth Services	https://www.eitdigital.eu/growth-services/
	Scale-Ups	EIC Accelerator Fast Track	https://www.eitdigital.eu/fast-track/
EIT Food	All stages	Food Impact Fund	https://www.eitfood.eu/entrepreneurship/investment-opportunities
	Pre-Seed	EIT Food Seedbed Incubator	https://www.eitfood.eu/entrepreneurship/launch-seedbed-incubator
	Pre-Seed	Empowering Women in Agrifood	https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/ewa-empowering-women-in-agrifood-2022
	Seed	Sales Booster	https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/sales-booster
	Seed	EIT Food Accelerator Network	https://www.eitfood.eu/entrepreneurship/accelerate-food-accelerator-network
	Scale-Ups	RisingFoodStars	https://www.eitfood.eu/entrepreneurship/scale-risingfoodstars
EIT Health	Pre-Seed	Wildcard	https://wildcard.eithealth.eu
		Bootcamps (<i>some accept Seed</i>)	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/bootcamps/
		Finance Booster	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/finance-booster/
		User Validation Labs (<i>also Seed</i>)	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/ulabs/



		DIGInnovation	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/diginnovation/	
		Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEF)	https://tefhealth.eu	
	Seed, Series A		Catapult	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/catapult/
			Mentoring and Coaching Network (all)	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/mentoring-and-coaching-network/
			Drive	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/drive/
			Attract to Invest	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/attract-to-invest/
			InnoStars Awards	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/innostars-awards/
			Investor Network	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/investor-network/
			Gold Track	https://eithealth.eu/goldtrack/
	Scale-Ups		Bridgehead	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/bridgehead/
		VCoE	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/venture-centre-of-excellence/	
EIT InnoEnergy	Seed/Scale-Ups	Innovators	https://www.innoenergy.com/for-innovators/	
EIT Manufacturing	Pre-Seed/Seed	Venture Building	https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/business-creation/opportunities/venture-building/	
	Start-ups	Accelerate	https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/calls/accelerate-2023/	
	Start-Ups/Scale-Up	Transform	https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/calls/transform-2023/	
	Scale-Up	BoostUp!	https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/calls/boostup-europe-2023-call/	
	Start-ups/Scale-ups	Access2Tech	https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/business-creation/services/access2tech/	
EIT RawMaterials	Idea-holders/ Teams	Jumpstarter	https://eitrawmaterials.eu/eit-jumpstarter/	
	Idea-holders/ Teams	Lab2Market	https://eitrawmaterials.eu/lab2market/	



	Seed/Scale-Up	Booster Call	https://eitrawmaterials.eu/booster-call/
	Start-ups	Open Innovation Services	https://open-innovation.eitrawmaterials.eu/
	Start-ups	European Raw Materials Alliance	https://erma.eu/
EIT Urban Mobility	Pre-seed / Seed	Strategic Investments	https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/impact-ventures/eit-urban-mobility-startup-investments/
	All stages	Growth Lab	https://growthlab.eitum.eu/
	Idea-holders/ Teams	Mobility Corporate Venture Builder	https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/request-for-proposals-mobility-corporate-venture-builder/
	Pre-Seed / Seed	Market Readiness Accelerators	Sustainable Cities and Clean Mobility: https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/impact-ventures/accelerator/city-logistics/
			Future mobility: https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/impact-ventures/accelerator/future-mobility/
			Inclusive mobility https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/impact-ventures/accelerator/inclusive-mobility/
			Smart Mobility: https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/impact-ventures/accelerator/smart-mobility/
Seed	Investment Readiness Programme	https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/investment-readiness-programme/	
Scale-Ups / Series A	Scale-Up Programme	https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/impact-ventures/scale-up-programme/	
EIT Culture & Creativity	All stages	Investment Network	https://eit-culture-creativity.eu/investmentclub/
EIT Community	Pre-Seed	Jumpstarter	https://eitjumpstarter.eu/
	All stages, Innovation	Supernovas	Rocket up: https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/supernovas/rocket-up Women2Invest: https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/supernovas/women2invest



			<p>Mentoring for women leaders: https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/supernovas/mentoring-for-women-leaders</p> <p>Women Investment Network: https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/supernovas/investors-network</p>
	Innovation Ecosystem	Connect & Experience	<p>Global Outreach Israel https://go-eit.eu/eit-israel-hub/connect_experience/</p> <p>Global Outreach Silicon Valley https://go-eit.eu/eit-silicon-valley-hub/connect_experience/</p>
	Scale-up	Calling2Scale	https://go-eit.eu/eit-israel-hub/calling2scale/



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





DISCLAIMER

Please note all programmes contained in this Catalogue are offered, or are planned to be offered, at the time of publishing. This may be subject to change. Please refer to the individual KICs' websites for latest up-to-date offered programmes and their associated details for applicants/beneficiaries.