



EIT

**MAKING GENDER-SMART
INNOVATION HAPPEN!**

**DISCOVER HOW WE'RE CLOSING THE
GENDER GAP ACROSS EUROPE**



DIVERSITY EMPOWERS!

Here at the EIT Community we believe in the power of diversity and gender equality. We are Europe's largest innovation network, uniting various nationalities, ages, abilities, and genders. Every day we foster a sense of belonging, we listen, and engage with diverse communities across Europe. We are convinced that for European innovation to thrive, we need more women innovators, entrepreneurs, and more women in decision making. Diversity powers us to bring the best solutions to pressing global challenges, and to make innovation happen.

GENDER EQUITY IS NO SMALL JOB BUT WE'RE TACKLING IT HEAD ON

Only 15% of European start-ups are founded by women and only 13% of venture capital partners are women. This creates a dearth of support for women who want to join tech and business. Across Europe today, only 2% of venture capital goes to all-women teams and only 5% goes to gender-mixed teams. The persistent gender gap in entrepreneurship continues to hamper the global economy.

The EIT Community addresses all of these issues by increasing women's participation in European innovation and entrepreneurship through dedicated programmes and activities. And our efforts have been recognised: in 2023, we were awarded the EU Agencies Network (EUAN) [Diversity & Inclusion Award](#) for the way we promote outstanding women innovators and entrepreneurs.

AT THE EIT COMMUNITY, WOMEN MAKE UP:

25%

of CEOs/owners of EIT
KIC-supported start-ups
and scale-ups

24%

of CEOs/owners of
start-ups created

35%

of graduates from our EIT
Labelled-education
programmes

38%

of the EIT's own
management

57%

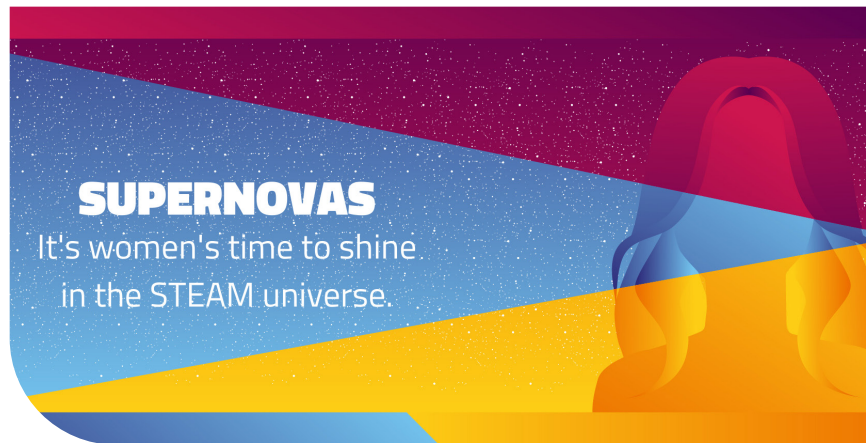
of participants in non-EIT
Labelled education
programmes and trainings



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

SUPERNOVAS

EIT Food, EIT Manufacturing, and EIT Urban Mobility joined forces to create [Supernovas](#), our EIT Community programme to bring more women into the world of entrepreneurship and investment. Supernovas empowers women-led start-ups and future role models for women in business while at the same time fuelling talent to the next generation of women VCs and angel investors.



GIRLS GO CIRCULAR (GGC)

EIT RawMaterials, EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Food, EIT Digital, EIT Health, EIT Manufacturing, and EIT Urban Mobility are collaborating to catch girls' interest in innovation and entrepreneurship at a critical moment in their choice of careers: secondary school. [GGC](#) has the goal of equipping at least 40 000 girls aged 14-19 across Europe with digital and entrepreneurial skills. Participants in GGC learn through an online programme that also teaches them about the circular economy, gearing their digital skills towards the tech of a greener tomorrow.

GGC also includes the Women and Girls in STEM Forum, which annually gathers researchers, policymakers, and influential stakeholders in tech and business, connecting them with GGC students.





EUROPEAN PRIZE FOR WOMEN INNOVATORS

#WiPrizeEU



THE EUROPEAN PRIZE FOR WOMEN INNOVATORS

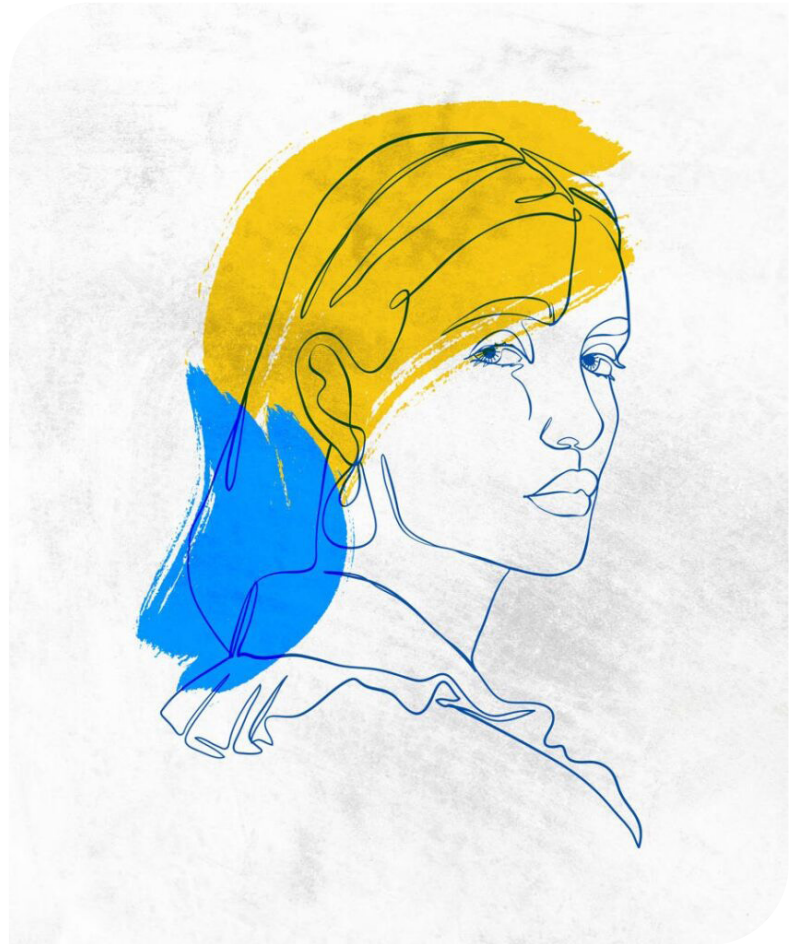
The European Prize for Women Innovators is a joint undertaking between the EIT and the European Innovation Council (EIC). The prize celebrates the women entrepreneurs behind Europe's most ground-breaking innovations, driving positive change for people and planet. Nominees compete in three categories:

- **WOMEN INNOVATORS: OPEN TO ALL WOMEN WHO ARE FOUNDERS AND CO-FOUNDERS OF BUSINESSES ACROSS THE EU AND ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES**
- **RISING INNOVATORS: OPEN TO PROMISING YOUNG INNOVATORS UNDER 35**
- **EIT WOMEN LEADERSHIP: OPEN TO THOSE WITH A DIRECT LINK TO THE EIT COMMUNITY**



RED KALYNA

[EIT Jumpstarter's Red Kalyna](#) recognises outstanding women entrepreneurs from Ukraine who have developed innovative products or solutions or have steered their businesses towards innovation. Every year, ten role models from Ukraine will be inducted into the Red Kalyna Hall of Fame and receive the 'Red Kalyna by EIT Community' title.



EIT CLIMATE-KIC GENDER MAINSTREAMING PROGRAMME

We cannot achieve a climate-resilient future without the experience and expertise of women. EIT Climate-KIC and Irish Aid [are helping](#) a diverse group of entrepreneurship support organisations from Africa and Latin America mainstream gender in their organisations, bringing more sustainable climate impact to their local communities.



EMPOWERING WOMEN IN AGRIFOOD

[EIT Food's Empowering Women in Agrifood \(EWA\)](#) provides women entrepreneurs from the agrifood sector in 'emerging' to 'moderate' innovation countries with training, mentoring, and networking opportunities. The goal is to help them create business solutions for specific challenges in agrifood and overcome agrifood's gender gap.





WE LEAD FOOD

EIT Food's [WE Lead Food](#) brings together a network of women leaders from across the entire food value chain to drive change, innovation, and sustainability within the food sector.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP BOOTCAMP

EIT Health's [Women Entrepreneurship Bootcamp](#) is a five-week programme that provides intensive training, mentoring, and networking opportunities. It connects early-stage healthcare start-ups with all-women or mixed leadership to a network of mentors to nurture and support rapid growth.



LEADERS

EIT Manufacturing's [Leaders](#) is a competition that supports the best women innovators (including professionals, researchers, and entrepreneurs). Competitors are chosen for playing a leading role in developing impactful solutions for manufacturing challenges from a financial, social, or environmental angle. The Leaders competition focuses on women in regions of Europe that are still considered 'modest' or 'emerging' innovation communities.



STRADA – EMPOWERING WOMEN IN MANUFACTURING

EIT Manufacturing's [Strada – Empowering Women in Manufacturing](#) is a leadership development programme for women in the manufacturing sector. The objective is to equip women with the skills and confidence to drive innovation wherever they work, as well as boost their entrepreneurship skills.

DID YOU KNOW?

Women-led start-ups are growing faster in value than the European average (6.5x vs. 5.5x)

Investment in start-ups founded by women perform 63% better than those founded by men

VC funds with a majority of women in senior management significantly outperform those with only men, achieving up to +9.3% in median internal rate of return

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF GENDER EQUITY? DISCOVER EIT COMMUNITY RESEARCH:

SUPERNOVAS

The Landscape of Women Founded Scaleups Study: Find out what women are accomplishing in the world of European scale-ups and how they are driving the next wave of disruption and innovation in European tech

EIT FOOD FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS SURVEY

Learn about women's experience in the agrifood tech sector, including how women-owned tech start-ups are more likely to be successful than their male counterparts

EIT DIGITAL

European Women in VC 2023 Report: Learn why it is important to end obstacles against women's participation in venture capital, including the increased value women bring to managed funds

GET THE IN-DEPTH PICTURE OF OUR GENDER EQUALITY POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

[EIT Gender Equality Plan 2023 Implementation Report](#)
[EIT Gender Equality Policy 2022-2027](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA



eit.europa.eu

