AT A GLANCE: EIT COMMUNITY INNOVATION ACTIVITIES

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WHO WE ARE

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

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

Each EIT KIC focuses on a specific global challenge:

EIT Climate-KIC
Accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy

EIT Digital
Drive Europe's digital tranformation

EIT InnoEnergy
Achieve a sustainable energy future for Europe

EIT Health
Give EU citizens greater opportunities for a healthy life

EIT RawMaterials
Develop raw materials into a major strength for Europe

EIT Culture & Creativity
Unite Europe's creatives

EIT Urban Mobility
Smart, green and integrated transport

EIT Manufacturing
Strengthen and increase the competitiveness of Europe's manufacturing industry

EIT Food
Lead a global revolution in food innovation and production

Through the KICs, the EIT offers a wide range of innovation and entrepreneurship activities. This includes education courses that combine technical and entrepreneurial skills, business creation and acceleration services, and innovation-driven research projects. The EIT enables the transition from:

EIT INNOVATION PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Main Features

Innovation is at the heart of all the EIT's activities. From idea to product and service, from student and researcher to entrepreneur, from lab to the market, the EIT is triggering a change towards a more innovative and entrepreneurial mindset in Europe.

Activities

- Open Innovation
- Knowledge Triangle integration
- Product and Service development
- Rapid prototyping
- De-risking investment
- User engagement and validation
- Collaboration with industry

The KICs go beyond the basic administration of funding and the facilitation of the co-creation process, especially compared with existing initiatives at EU and Member State levels. They are also characterised by a unique ability to be adaptive and responsive to market and societal trends. The EIT's KICs have facilitation and networking competencies that can accelerate the development of innovation, leading to the effective commercialisation of research results. Through their pan-European approach, KICs can link innovation stakeholders from specific environments with others. They help spread the dynamics of established ecosystems across Europe and link up otherwise isolated pockets of excellence in less central regions. The EIT model is well positioned to overcome fragmentation and to encourage activities that, for reasons of market, systems, and orientation failures, would otherwise not have happened.

EIT Innovation Principles[1]

- Each innovation/research project **should lead to clear outputs**: new products/services/processes, contributing to the KIC's strategic objectives

- Each innovation/research project should have a formal procedure for post-funding monitoring of a minimum of five years to follow the project's impact

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[1] *in force until end of 2022.

- Each innovation/research project **should have a clear commercialisation strategy for its output**, with the close cooperation of clients/citizens, potential financial returns, and potential contribution of the project towards achieving the KIC's financial sustainability

- Each innovation/research project **should have a dissemination and communication plan that follows EIT guidance** (including elements such as a naming convention or information on the EIT funding)

- **The mandatory KIC co-funding level for the innovation activities should be at least 30%** (average for the pillar).

Key Facts

- EUR 1.3 B in grants to innovation activities (2014-2022) with total costs of EUR 2.1 B[2]
- EIT Ecosystem Map[3]
- 2400+ partners from research, academia, and industry[4]
- 60 Innovation Hubs in Europe and beyond[2]
- 900+ supported start-ups in modest to emerging innovation countries (2017-2022)[2]
- Strong links to local, national, regional, and European Union (EU) level investors and partners, including in modest to emerging innovation countries
- Reshaping of Europe's innovation landscape through the successful creation of highly impactful sustainable innovation ecosystems in the eight different KIC sectors
- Tackling of Europe's biggest societal challenges through highly impactful innovation ecosystems - as characterised by key stakeholders in the KIC's latest assessment reports

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DISCLAIMER: Please note all programmes contained in this Factsheet 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 latest up-to-date list of programmes and their associated details for applicants/beneficiaries.

EIT Community Innovation Programmes

The individual KICs have been given a large degree of autonomy in defining their internal organisation, composition, agendas, and working methods, allowing them to choose the approach and range of activities that are best suited to meeting their strategic innovation goals. EIT funding for innovation projects is aimed at supporting the integration of the knowledge triangle (higher education, research, and

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[2] MAKING INNOVATION HAPPEN FOR A STRONG & RESILIENT EUROPE - RESULTS OF THE EIT STAKEHOLDER FORUM 2020 (https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/sf_2020_report_final_0.pdf)
[3] https://eit.europa.eu/eit-ecosystem-map
[4] https://eit.europa.eu/news-events/news/eit-knowledge-and-innovation-communities-kics-receive-positive-reviews

business) in specific innovation projects. These funded activities are generally selected by the KICs through open calls.

Discover the KICs' selection of their most high-performing innovation programmes in 2023:

EIT CLIMATE-KIC   EIT RAW MATERIALS   EIT INNOENERGY

EIT DIGITAL   EIT CULTURE & CREATIVITY   EIT URBAN MOBILITY

EIT FOOD   EIT MANUFACTURING   EIT HEALTH

EIT Community's contribution to the European Green Deal

The EIT plays a pivotal role in realising the European Green Deal. As Europe's largest innovation community, it has the power to propel green businesses forward, cultivate climate-minded research and educate the next generation of climate innovators in Europe. The EIT empowers climate-minded entrepreneurs to test their ideas, build their businesses, and scale up their innovations. For example, EIT InnoEnergy powers ventures in the green hydrogen and offshore wind sectors through its Highway and Boostway programmes. Cross-border research projects are championed as well. For instance, EIT RawMaterials gathers and guides innovators with Lighthouses, large-scale programmes focused on circular economies, sustainable materials

and resource supply security. The EIT supports cutting-edge educational programmes in green innovation. The EIT Climate-KIC Journey, hosted by universities and in 13 cities across Europe, has a 10-year legacy and has trained over 3 000 youths from more than 30 countries to be climate leaders.

EIT Climate-KIC coordinates the NetZeroCities, a centrepiece of the Horizon Europe '100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030' Mission, which actively contributes to the goals of the European Green Deal. The project will support European cities in drastically cutting down greenhouse gas emissions to achieve climate neutrality, one of the biggest challenges our society faces today.

Promoting the values of a circular economy is a major EIT initiative to reduce waste, ensure the secure supply of resources, and increase Europe's competitiveness. The EIT has set up a circular economy collaboration group with the European Commission to provide input in policy making and ensure that the EIT Community activities are fully aligned with European policies and activities in the area.

EIT Digital's contribution to the Digital Transition Agenda

EIT Digital, which was established in 2010, is currently in the phase out stage as part of the first wave of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). It contributes to the New European Innovation Agenda by promoting innovation ecosystems and addressing the innovation divide in the EU. Under Horizon Europe, EIT Digital has adjusted its objectives to achieve global impact through European innovation driven by entrepreneurial talent and digital technology. It aims to identify and nurture promising European digital technologies within its ecosystem and support the attraction and education of digital talent. The organisation emphasises the importance of T-shaped entrepreneurial digital talent and focuses on accelerating the market uptake and scaling of research-based digital technologies, particularly those addressing Europe's strategic societal challenges. Under Horizon Europe, the focus is placed on fostering a multi-stakeholder open innovation ecosystem to ensure European digital sovereignty and address societal challenges, while concurrently strengthening the economic impact of EU companies and supporting European regulation, including digital standards that adhere to key European values, such as ethics of AI, data protection, and trusted social media platforms.

EIT Artificial Intelligence Community

EIT Digital (the project leader), EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Food, EIT Health, EIT Manufacturing and EIT Urban Mobility joined forces to create the EIT AI Community (AIC) initiative to shape the future of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Europe. EIT AI Community provides solutions for a human-centric implementation of AI that can best address its societal, business, environmental and regulatory challenges, while contributing to the ambitious Deep Tech Talent Initiative (DTTI) initiative. EIT AIC utilises its vast network of KIC partners across Europe and EIT KICs' strategic position in the EU to support AI innovators and educators as they scale-up their impact at the European level. Through EIT AIC's access to the EU market of deep tech AI technologies as well as EU education programmes, it can generate updated and tailor-made information and solutions. This ensures that AI innovators and educators stay at the forefront of AI developments by providing access to EU ecosystem as a service. EIT AIC supports AI-driven projects and venturesthrough providing resources, training programmes, and networking events. It brings together a large and diverse group of stakeholders such as start-ups, SMEs, corporations, universities, and policymakers, to promote

the responsible use of AI in the European innovation ecosystem and society. In 2023, milestones were achieved across various fronts. From co-creating impactful projects and engaging stakeholders in EU initiatives to organising key events and fortifying partnerships, the Community's reach expanded significantly. Notably, the AI Challenge addressed critical issues faced by the World Health Organization, directly benefiting EU citizens while fostering collaboration with new partners. The development of cutting-edge technologies, such as the Skills Sync and AI Conformity Tool, exemplifies the Community's commitment to innovation and market-oriented solutions. Additionally, the concerted efforts in communication and dissemination, including the launch of a new visual identity and website, laid a strong foundation for enhanced visibility and cohesion within the EU AI landscape. These achievements mark only the beginning of the EIT AI Community's journey towards becoming a pivotal force in shaping the future of AI within the European Union.

Joint Focus Group AI: A platform for innovation: the strategic partnership between the EIT Community and Digital SME Alliance provides a platform for start-ups, scale-ups, SMEs, universities and technology transfer offices (TTOs) to collaborate and explore the world of AI innovation. Platform participants are using the EIT's expertise and resources to build a critical mass in support of innovation-friendly EU legislation on AI, which will unlock new opportunities for growth and development. More than 100 AI innovators representing companies, universities NGOS have registered by the end of 2023. This Joint Focus Group will elect a steering committee that will serve the development of EIT AI Community activities. Furthermore, a roadmap was established among more than 20 key AI ecosystem players to delineate the future steps of the Joint Focus Group.

EIT Community AI Challenge: this initiative connects SMEs and corporations that face AI-related challenges with suitable AI solution providers, including start-ups and renowned players in the field. The EIT Community AI Challenge makes collaboration on developing AI systems easier and provides targeted recommendations. In 2023, the EIT AI Community expanded the scope of the work by solving seven AI Challenges of cities (i.e. Braga) and the World Health Organization). Apart from the fact that this allows us to rethink and redesign the Challenge to match the needs of non-corporate stakeholders, it also increased the impact of the activity as the direct beneficiaries are EU citizens. Finally, the Challenge opened opportunities for the KICs to engage new partners.

AI Talent - Skill Sync: getting new skills in fields like AI is essential for citizens, entrepreneurs, and organisations to thrive. Skill Sync platform, offers personalised course recommendations and identifies training opportunities tailored to the needs of start-ups, SMEs, corporations, HR departments, universities, and policymakers. Skill Sync is a one-stop-shop solution that provides access to over 20 000 AI courses, 600 deep tech skills, and 1 000 organisations active in the global landscape. In 2023, the tool's databases were expanded by analyzing a total of over 30 000 courses and over 14 000 AI companies. Moreover, the tool's services were shaped to open the way for market-oriented activities. This analysis was the basis for over 14 pilot projects with different stakeholders and cases (i.e., universities, SMEs, spin-offs) aiming to solve educational challenges and facilitate students' participation in non-EIT educational activities. Finally, the incorporation of a company was initiated to enable the EIT KICs to provide tailored-made services that boost the efficiency of the Deep Tech Talent initiatives. In 2023, 14 organizations benefit from the service boosting their education programmes that involved almost 1 200 people.

AI Maturity Tool: the AI Maturity Tool, developed by VTT, the Technical Research Centre of Finland, offers a free self-assessment web tool to evaluate organisations' AI maturity level. By completing the assessment, one will gain valuable insights into his or her organisation's AI readiness and be able to identify areas for improvement on his or her AI journey. In 2023, more than 320 companies have used the tool.

EIT AI Act Conformity tool: the AI Act, proposed by the European Union in April 2021, defines a framework to regulate the use of AI across all sectors. The Act adopts a risk-based approach, classifying the AI systems into four categories: low risk, limited risk, high risk, and unacceptable risk. Non-compliance to the AI Act is met with a hefty penalty. The AI Act Conformity tool, developed in collaboration with Statworx, offers a free web-based assessment to test your risk level and assess how compliant you are with the EU AI Act Act. Since its launch in December, 80 companies have already benefited from the tool. In 2023, over 30 start-ups were supported, over 2 000 citizens were reached, three Horizon Europe Calls were won, over 80 companies engaged in the AI Focus Group, four events were organised, and 20 AI Business and Education Challenges were solved.

The different EIT KICs Innovation offerings

EIT Climate-KIC

EIT Climate-KIC is spearheading transformative change in tackling climate change through its Systems Innovation as a Service (SIaaS) approach, which focuses on enhancing the delivery effectiveness and scalability of innovative solutions across Europe. Central to its approach is the development of a robust platform that facilitates the large-scale implementation of systems innovation by cities and regions, driven by strategic mandates under EU Missions. This platform is not only a hub for connecting hundreds of localities with innovative solutions for climate change but also serves as a foundation for expanding services around entrepreneurship and capability building, funded by diverse investors. EIT Climate-KIC's commitment to systemic transformation for innovation is evident in its active involvement in key European initiatives, that aim to scale up the impact of systems innovation, thereby reinforcing its position as a leader in facilitating ground-breaking climate action.

Moreover, EIT Climate-KIC is focused on delivering tangible climate solutions through its Deep Demonstrations projects, which cover a wide range of sectors including built environment, mobility, food systems, and manufacturing. These projects are designed to showcase the feasibility of rapid systemic transformations towards climate neutrality. The initiative also prioritises the development of scalable business solutions and innovative financing structures to support the systemic transformation needed to address the climate emergency. Through a blend of expertise in financial innovation and a strong portfolio of start-ups, EIT Climate-KIC is unlocking new avenues for climate action, demonstrating the effectiveness and impact of its approach to innovation in tackling climate challenges at scale.

EIT InnoEnergy

EIT InnoEnergy is dedicated to advancing innovation in the energy sector by developing and marketing products and services that decrease energy costs, enhance the operability of energy systems, and reduce

greenhouse gas emissions. With a substantial budget allocation and clear objectives, EIT InnoEnergy aims to contribute to the European energy industry's competitiveness and job creation while fostering innovation across various thematic areas such as circular economy, transport, renewable energy, sustainable buildings, and smart grids. Through rigorous portfolio management, investment facilitation, and collaboration with stakeholders, EIT InnoEnergy actively supports transformative projects and initiatives to address key challenges in the energy sector and drive sustainable growth.

EIT InnoEnergy's involvement in strategic alliances like the European Battery Alliance and the European Solar PV Industry Alliance underscores its commitment to accelerating the adoption of green technologies and fostering collaboration throughout the energy value chain. By providing early-stage investment, acceleration services, and business support, EIT InnoEnergy plays a crucial role in de-risking and accelerating innovative projects in areas such as green hydrogen production, battery technology, and solar PV manufacturing. Through these initiatives and partnerships, EIT InnoEnergy seeks to create a vibrant ecosystem for energy innovation, facilitate market access for innovative solutions, and contribute to Europe's transition towards a sustainable and decarbonised energy future.

Innovation programmes in which EIT InnoEnergy is involved:

European Battery Alliance (EBA): EBA is a unique platform for key stakeholders throughout the entire battery value chain. The network includes the European Commission, EU member states, the European Investment Bank and more than 800 industrial, innovation, and academic stakeholders. EIT InnoEnergy organises stakeholder involvement in the alliance on behalf of the Commission. In addition, EIT InnoEnergy's business investment platform provides information and improves transactions between investees and investors. Companies and organisations can get more information and join the alliance via the EBA250 contact page.

European Green Hydrogen Acceleration Center: The Center creates industrial players in green hydrogen. It helps them by de-risking and accelerating their green hydrogen, ammonia, methanol, and aviation fuel projects. We do this through early-stage investment and acceleration services which we deliver in collaboration with our ecosystem. In addition, we support green hydrogen projects by assessing their business case, perform a team assessment, and introduce them to a tailor-made advisory committee. The goal for EIT InnoEnergy is to become an active investor and to accelerate and de-risk green hydrogen projects. If a company or consortium has a plan for large scale production and utilisation of green hydrogen, they can participate in the EGHAC Business Investment Platform (BIP). The BIP is a unique platform for key stakeholders in green hydrogen to accelerate transactions between investee and investor.

European Solar PV Industry Alliance: The alliance aims to accelerate solar PV deployment in the EU by scaling-up to 30 GW of annual solar PV manufacturing capacity in Europe by 2025. It facilitates investment, de-risks sector acceleration, and supports Europe's decarbonisation targets. Launched by the European Commission in 2022, EIT InnoEnergy is leading the alliance as Secretariat and is joined by SolarPower Europe and the European Solar Manufacturing Council on the alliance's steering committee.

📱 EIT Digital

EIT Digital is advancing innovation in Europe, mainly through three initiatives: the **Open Innovation Factory** initiative, the **SpeedMaster** online programme, and the **EIT Digital Champions** competition.

[Open Innovation Factory](#) is a pan-European innovation programme that supports early-stage deep tech start-ups with problem-solution fit and initial traction. This bi-annual six-months-long programme provides financial support of up to EUR 400k, training, mentoring, and access to EIT Digital's ecosystem. Start-ups can apply after forming pan-European partnerships with corporations, universities, or research institutes, while ensuring open innovation across borders and organisations. The main drivers of the programme are excellence, market impact, and financial sustainability.

[SpeedMaster](#) is a four-month online programme for entrepreneurs who want to level up their start-up. It is developed and delivered by EIT Digital's expert team of business advisors. Building and scaling a tech start-up is a big undertaking, one that the recent global financial and social crisis is testing on a whole new level. The need for resilience, adaptability and financial solidity has never been stronger. This course for start-up executives and founders has been created to meet these needs by EIT Digital experts, who have supported over 500 European tech start-ups. EIT Digital's Speed Master gives tech start-up founders the skills and insights they need to navigate and thrive through their start-up growth journey. Modules covering operations management, growth strategy, business development, and raising capital are delivered with start-ups' requirements specifically in mind.

[EIT Digital Champions](#) is a pan-European competition to help digital deep tech scale-ups become the next European success stories. 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. The 20 finalists take part in a 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 with their next Series A or B funding round from international investors, their strategy, and access to EIT Digital's network of over 350 partners.

EIT Digital's Innovation Activities span five strategic focus areas crucial to Europe's digital transformation: Digital Tech, Digital Industry, Digital Cities, Digital Wellbeing, and Digital Finance. Each area is selected based on its potential for significant economic or societal impact, with a balanced portfolio approach ensuring coverage across all sectors. These activities result in launching new products and creating new start-ups, with a significant portion of these ventures emerging in RIS countries (see page 23). Central to EIT Digital's strategy is financial sustainability, achieved through equity shares in the supported ventures, mobilising dozens of millions of euros in partner contributions as well as from other European funding sources. Additionally, the integration of ethical considerations in AI and the involvement in various European innovation projects highlight EIT Digital's comprehensive approach to fostering digital innovation across Europe, ensuring a wide-reaching impact on society and the economy.

EIT Health

EIT Health's innovation activities aim to support top healthcare innovations in Europe, focusing on three key objectives: promoting better health outcomes for citizens, contributing to a sustainable health economy, and strengthening healthcare systems. Through ambitious targets and robust KPIs, EIT Health endeavours to benefit over 711 000 citizens in need by 2025 and launch 42 innovations onto the market, among other goals. Financial sustainability mechanisms are embedded in all projects, ensuring revenue projections of EUR 1.9 million by 2025. EIT Health's Venture Builder initiative supports early innovation ideas, fostering entrepreneurship and start-up creation in healthcare. And its Flagship Calls in 2024 focus on areas such as digital transformation and new models of healthcare delivery, inviting collaborative projects to address these critical challenges. EIT Health's rigorous selection process, ongoing monitoring, and engagement with local ecosystems ensure the successful development and implementation of innovative solutions, contributing to the transformation of healthcare systems across Europe.

Flagships Calls

We defined three flagship areas in 2024:

- New Models to **Deliver Heath Care**: this flagship looks at how we can redefine health models to establish a foundation for value-based healthcare
- **Digital Transformation of Healthcare**: this flagship aims to support digital health transformation in Europe through the development of innovative digital health medical devices as well as the use of repurposed and shared data
- **Reindustrialisation of Europe**: this flagship should be supported through the Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) in Health project

EIT Health released a series of Calls for these flagships across the different KIC pillars (Education, Business Creation, Innovation). There are three types of innovation programmes that are called for:

Call for Service development activity in the frame of the New Models to Deliver Healthcare flagship:

Selected activities will deliver innovative solutions that provide compelling evidence, based on patient reported outcomes and real-world data. This data can convince payors that the value brought to the patient justifies the evolution of the reimbursement models, thereby promoting the incorporation of innovative solutions and services into new markets.

Call for Technology development activity in the frame of the Digital transformation of Healthcare flagship:

Through this call, EIT Health aims to support the transformation, harmonisation, and strengthening of the use of **Digital Medical Devices** (DMDs). We are looking for collaborative SME or industry-led projects that focus on validation, certification, and market access of patient-centred DMD solutions in Europe to facilitate market entry and wider adoption.

DiGinnovation programme in the frame of the Digital transformation of Healthcare flagship: The DiGinnovation programme selects the top digital health micro and small enterprises and links them with international entities. The goal is to create a consortium that will improve healthcare systems by accelerating the uptake of digital health apps by healthcare professionals and patients and expediting market launch of the innovation while easing the reimbursement process. The focus of this programme is on patient-centred Digital Medical Devices & Diagnostics.

Ongoing calls are launched yearly with two-to-four cut-off dates, giving flexibility and more opportunities for collaborative consortia to submit their proposals.

Engaging in the flagships calls involves extensive support from the local ecosystem teams within the eight colocation centres of EIT Health. In most of the cases, calls are two-stage journeys. Consortia preparing a proposal go through an initial short-listing process. If pre-selected, consortia receive extensive support through the EIT Health eight-week Support Programme prior to competing in the final evaluation stage (which could take the form of hearings or remote evaluations). Projects selected in the portfolio are then closely monitored and supported during and after funding.

EIT RawMaterials

EIT RawMaterials is dedicated to accelerating innovation within the raw materials sector through strategic initiatives aimed at upscaling projects and supporting start-ups and SMEs. With a strong focus on portfolio monitoring and achieving societal key performance indicators (KPIs), EIT RawMaterials aims to foster breakthrough innovations and address raw materials challenges. Through its upscaling projects, which kick off at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 5 and aim to reach TRL 7 within three years, EIT RawMaterials connects stakeholders across the raw materials value chain to drive market-ready solutions. These projects, supported by consortia of organisations from different EU countries, emphasise sustainability and involve universities, research organisations, and industrial partners, ensuring knowledge triangle integration and impactful collaboration.

Additionally, EIT RawMaterials provides extensive support to start-ups and SMEs through initiatives like the Booster Call and Lab2Market programme. The Booster Call offers financial resources and customised services to accelerate technology challenges, facilitate market entry, and diversify product portfolios, while the Lab2Market programme equips aspiring entrepreneurs with the skills and support needed to transform innovative ideas into viable start-ups. By fostering collaboration, providing funding opportunities, and offering tailored support services, EIT RawMaterials drives innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainability within the raw materials sector, contributing to the EIT's mission of promoting innovation and economic growth across Europe.

EIT RawMaterials Booster supports start-ups and SMEs developing innovative products and services that benefit the raw materials sector and EIT RawMaterials' partners. Besides funding and customised services, the selected start-ups and SMEs also join EIT RawMaterials to participate in networking events and gain visibility through EIT RawMaterials' network channels.

Booster Call provides support to:
- speed up a technology challenge to bring your solution closer to the market
- accelerate market entry by dedicating financial resources to a specific segment or target market
- facilitate product portfolio diversification, enabling product adaption or new product features to address a concrete market need

The **EIT RawMaterials' Lab2Market** programme is a business creation training programme specifically designed to provide students and aspiring young professionals with all the skills necessary to transform their successful solutions into start-ups. The programme comprises three phases: Ideation, Start-up Development, and Incubation. Each phase has specific objectives, deliverables, and key performance indicators to support participants in generating innovative ideas, transforming them into sustainable products and commencing with business and product development. Lab2market invests in the future generation of innovators and provides a holistic support service to guide them into making a successful business and generating impact around the raw materials sector.

The programme enables the participants to:
- Develop and understand your research, knowledge and experience to transform ideas into viable and profitable business models
- Accelerate their professional development, entrepreneurship and innovation skills while developing the industry know-how and connections they need to succeed
- Build on the core principles of the raw materials sector to generate spin-off start-up companies, viable products and sustainable solutions

EIT Food

EIT Food's innovation endeavours are centred on catalysing entrepreneurship and innovation in the European food sector while supporting strategic objectives related to environmental sustainability, trust, dietary improvements, and food security. Through robust monitoring and achievement of key performance indicators, such as delivering impactful outcomes and creating internal economic value, EIT Food aims to foster innovation that goes beyond the state-of-the-art, ensuring both technical and scientific excellence. With a focus on financial sustainability and obtaining co-funding for projects, EIT Food's innovation activities work to drive systemic change in the food industry.

Additionally, EIT Food implements various initiatives to support innovation designed to accelerate the development and commercialisation of solutions in the food sector. These initiatives foster collaboration, incentivise technology proposals, accelerate commercial activities, and facilitate intellectual property transfer, ultimately contributing to the transformation of the food system. The initiatives in question are presented below:

Impact Funding Framework is a programme that invites consortia to meet mission targets and strategic levers identified by EIT Food and its community of experts. It funds innovative projects that create significant impact in the food system. The programme has two routes:

- a 'collaborative programme' seeking long term collaborations to meet mission targets and generating new project ideas
- a 'single project' seeking fast-paced projects focused on specific priority areas in the food system

Its Success Sharing Mechanism is designed to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between EIT Food and its consortia partners. Any project generating commercial returns or equivalent commercial value reinvests a share of those returns into the EIT Food community. This not only de-risks investment but also ensures sustained reinvestment in the food system's transformation, creating a virtuous cycle of innovation and impact.

Prize-based Challenges is a new service for those in food sector research and innovation. It incentivises technology and innovation proposals from cutting-edge players, start-ups, academia, SMEs, or larger companies. The outcome of a Prize-Based Challenge is a clear path for setting up an EIT Food project with players capable of solving critical needs and bringing a targeted food product or service to the market.

In 2023, EIT Food launched three challenges addressing the following topics in the food sector:

1. Affordable nutrition for powder-based products
2. Cultivated meat
3. Personalised nutrition

Fast Track to Market is a funding mechanism designed to accelerate the commercial activities of mature start-ups and SMEs. Its short-term projects (6-10 months) help companies deliver on an existing business case with a high potential to generate sales for new or improved technologies and/or existing food products and services.

IP Garden is new pilot innovation programme that creates visibility for IP opportunities through the 'IP Opportunities Portal' These opportunities are selected based on a project's technical success and commercial potential. The portal instigates interactions between IP owners, technology and knowledge seekers, and any other interested parties. The programme further facilitates IP transfer and implementation to become market ready, leveraging value from the existing innovation portfolio.

Through its comprehensive approach to innovation and strategic partnerships, EIT Food aims to create a dynamic ecosystem that drives impactful change and sustainability in Europe's food industry, embodying the core values and objectives of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology.

EIT Manufacturing

EIT Manufacturing is dedicated to fostering innovation within the manufacturing industry by delivering impactful solutions, supporting the creation of new ventures, and enhancing the European manufacturing

ecosystem through information sharing and value-added services. Through strategic initiatives like the Innovate Together programme, EIT Manufacturing manages to accelerate the commercialisation of innovative projects. Additionally, EIT Manufacturing's Innovation Pillar encompasses activities organised into segments such as Area Leadership, Launch, and Develop. The Pillar focuses on improving call processes, supporting funded projects, and enhancing the selection process to align with industry challenges and priorities.

Furthermore, EIT Manufacturing is committed to promoting economic, social, and environmental sustainability through its innovation projects. Initiatives such as the AGORA platform aim to transform information sharing into a digital business, providing added value to the European manufacturing community while generating revenues. With a strong emphasis on sustainability assessments and reporting, EIT Manufacturing ensures that funded projects demonstrate clear benefits in these areas. By fostering cross-pillar integration, supporting start-ups, and investing in large consortia and SME transformation, EIT Manufacturing contributes to the European manufacturing industry's competitiveness and leadership in innovation. Finally, through tailored support, strategic partnerships, and a focus on market-driven solutions, EIT Manufacturing continues to drive impactful innovation within the manufacturing sector.

Innovate Together is a unique innovation programme that has been developed in partnership with European Factories of the Future Association (EFFRA), coordinator of the Factories of the Future/Made in Europe PPP. It allows successful projects funded under those programmes to be further accelerated in their commercialisation efforts by EIT Manufacturing. A pilot was run in 2022 where three European consortia have successfully reached commercialisation within one year. In 2024, the programme will be extended after securing additional budget from Horizon Europe.

Empowering SMEs is a small call dedicated to supporting start-ups and SMEs that have already deployed an innovative solution commercially and are willing to address a new market. The funding can be used to accelerate the adaptation of the existing solution on a new specific use case in the new market. SMEs can apply as a single beneficiary or together with a target customer in the new market. In either case, they will need to provide at least one commitment letter from a potential customer interested to purchase the newly developed solution.

EITM innovation call is the main funding instrument to support European consortia to deploy of innovative solutions in the manufacturing sector. Technology providers work hand-in-hand with business owners dedicated to the commercialisation of the new technology. At least two end users need to take part in a consortium to guarantee a large applicability of the solution in different industries. Successful projects will benefit from further commercialisation support after the end of the funding period.

EIT Urban Mobility

EIT Urban Mobility drives innovation through its challenge-driven, market-based, and solution-focused projects. The projects focus on research, technology, and societal innovation, creating pathways for SMEs to expand and grow. EIT Urban Mobility's projects are developed by multidisciplinary teams and supportive

of EIT RIS country partners (see page 23). They are focused on pan-European demonstrations and testing in real-life contexts with public engagement.

In the realm of urban mobility, the focal point resides in 'living labs,' essential for propelling innovative solutions and fostering job opportunities. EIT Urban Mobility's Innovation programme actively forges alliances with municipalities and regions eager to establish living lab ecosystems, expediting the testing and adoption process. Central to this approach is the active participation of citizens and end-users in real-world scenarios, ensuring that innovations are not only groundbreaking but also practically applicable. This testing, without long term engagement allows for solutions to be adapted according to feedback received and reassures cities and region in their engagement.

Since 2020, more than 240 pilot projects have been initiated across 100 European cities, with many evolving into enduring partnerships. These collaborations have catalysed growth for private sector stakeholders and facilitated the integration and expansion of viable solutions within cities' broader mobility frameworks.

EIT Urban Mobility's Innovation Programme prioritizes advancing commercially viable solutions while emphasizing real-world implementation and market readiness. Through open calls, targeted awards, and agile innovation initiatives, EIT Urban Mobility aims to pilot and develop innovative mobility solutions that address market gaps and societal needs. Central to this endeavor is the focus on securing co-financing from both industry and government partners, in collaboration with cities, SMEs, and other key stakeholders. Through these collaborative efforts, the programme aims to enhance its ability to deliver impactful projects that drive marketable innovations, while also supporting start-ups within the urban mobility sector. Ultimately, EIT Urban Mobility serves as a catalyst for job creation, economic growth, and the integration of innovative mobility solutions into urban environments.

Agile Innovation: This programme is dedicated to smaller and faster innovation projects driven by pressing client needs or promising SMEs seeking city demonstrators. The focus is on fast testing, reworking, and launching products/solutions/services. While managed from HQ, there is a high level of support from our Co-Location Hubs and Impact Ventures. Notably, given the agile model links with a high TRL solution, the impact has been impressive to date. The programme has produced a high public and media visibility driven by the city and SME participants and not by EIT Urban Mobility itself. A total of 30 agile awards are granted every year.

RAPTOR: This programme helps one of the largest cities in Germany – Munich - face environmental and traffic-related challenges caused by an ever-growing number of inhabitants and commuters. The city joined RAPTOR 2023 looking for a solution to help them identify individual mobility patterns based on a data model to adapt to passenger needs and to improve their public transport offer. As part of this project, Transcality - an ETH Zurich spinoff, created a digital twin of the city's urban transportation systems. A fast-paced and low-cost solution, this virtual replica allows the city to leverage advanced data analytics coupled with ready-to-use multimodal traffic simulation all based on open-source tools. Feeding Transcality's automated digital twin with Munich's data in addition to other data sources is helping the city to create a profound understanding of citizens' mobility behaviour.

Targeted Programme: This programme identifies high-impact topics uncovered by the proposal received in the main innovation call. It aims to address serious portfolio gaps proactively. EIT Urban Mobility's on-the-ground locations then proactively engage in scouting and targeted matchmaking. This is a high-effort task done by a small team. For one targeted call we may emphasise a topic such as 'Physical and Cyber Security' with four staff dedicated over three-to-four months to coalescing existing and new actors with core competencies linked to the identified gap.

Main Innovation Call: The main annual call is a key programme and disburses the bulk of our cascade funding. The process is arranged around a series of ideation, review, and consultations in which we run a two-stage call. From 2023, the second stage is a Panel Hearing in which three members of the EIT Urban Mobility Executive interact with the proposers on defined issues pre-identified by our external evaluators. This change in process has been exceptionally well received by partners who see more transparency in the process itself and personal contact with the Executive is valued.

Innovation Small Call project strengthens the European urban mobility sector by supporting SMEs to grow and enter commercial relations with cities, transport operators, and logistics and mobility providers, contributing to job creation. The SME Market Expansion Call is a mono-beneficiary type of call addressed to small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Each entity awardee will receive EUR 59 500 per project.

During the final stage of any of the above programmes, EIT Urban Mobility offers its service of Sales Enablement. This service facilitates the matchmaking process between cities and SMEs/start-ups equipped with innovative solutions to urban mobility challenges. Since 2020, this innovation cycle has introduced 73 new solutions to the market, resulting in the establishment of new companies and the generation of employment opportunities.

EIT Culture & Creativity

EIT Culture & Creativity activities are expected to start over the course 2024, after the EIT Governing Board's endorsement of their start-up year results. In preparation, EIT Culture & Creativity completed their first call for proposals in 2023, resulting in a variety of programmes ranging from Master School programmes and short-term education programmes to research-innovation activities and setting up their first incubation and acceleration programmes.

#EITinAction: SUCCESS STORIES

Bound4Blue (supported by EIT Climate-KIC) is a Spanish cleantech company focused on decarbonising shipping by delivering up to 40% fuel efficiency to existing vessels using autonomous sail systems, reducing sunk capital costs for shipping owners.

Bound4Blue secured EIT Climate-KIC's SAFE investment of EUR 150 000 in 2020, with equity value growing by 3.4x as their product is contracted and tested by shipping owners. Shipping – like aviation - is responsible

for around 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Bound4Blue innovation delivers fuel consumption, emission, and air pollutant reductions of up to 40% per journey.

Investing for 1.5°C (supported by EIT Climate-KIC) is an implementation of our systems innovation as a service business model, targeted toward the specific needs of Venture Capital Funds. Drawing upon the success of the EIT Health 'Venture Centre of Excellence' model, we have designed a new commercial service whereby EIT Climate-KIC provides strategic climate advisory services to partner funds. In exchange, we receive a share of the management fee and carry incentive payments. This creates a long-term partnership between EIT Climate-KIC and the funds which deliver sustained commercial revenue to the KIC LE. Investing for 1.5°C is a business model innovation that allows VC investors to benefit from strategic impact guidance from EIT Climate-KIC and for our supported start-ups to access a new source of investment capital aligned with the EIT's impact logic of using commercial structures to address societal challenges. We anticipate the start-ups receiving investment from these partner funds will generate at least three gigatonnes of positive climate impact in Co2 equivalent terms by 2050.

RepAir D.A.C (supported by EIT Climate-KIC) is an Israeli start-up that received an EIT Climate-KIC SAFE investment in 2022. It has since secured major investor interest and off-take agreements with its innovative direct air capture technology to remove carbon dioxide cost-effectively at the gigatonne scale, which is a holy grail for reducing climate impacts. It is still at an early stage, but the potential commercial and societal impact are very high. The current trajectory of global emissions will lead to the world overshooting the 1.5°C target of global warming in coming years, meaning carbon capture will be needed to reduce emissions. RepAir's innovative technology has garnered rapid investor interest over the past year.

NexWafe (supported by EIT InnoEnergy) is a German company that has developed a unique manufacturing process for truly green solar wafers that is on the verge of commercial mass production. With its patented direct gas-to-wafer technology, NexWafe produces highly efficient monocrystalline silicon wafers for the photovoltaic industry. NexWafe's process eliminates the majority of the most cost- and energy-intensive process steps in conventional wafer production, in particular polysilicon and ingot production as well as sawing processes. This leads to drastically lower energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and costs, while allowing for higher efficiencies and tailoring the wafers to customer needs.

Elestor (supported by EIT InnoEnergy) is pioneering energy storage with their breakthrough flow battery that stores electricity at a fraction of the cost of traditional batteries, safely and with a long lifetime. Elestor has created the enabling technology for a 100% clean electricity supply. Elestor electricity storage systems are based on hydrogen bromine flow battery technology. Originally developed by NASA, Elestor has further engineered the concept to enable its use in a wide variety of grid and industrial applications. With the goal of cutting the cost of electricity storage, Elestor is using low cost and abundant active materials, a compact cell that is easily manufactured, and a patented simplified system design. This triple cost reduction strategy has resulted in the lowest possible cost for storing electricity. The Elestor solution is robust, has a long lifetime, no self-discharge and delivers power quickly.

BioSimulytics (supported by EIT Digital) has developed breakthrough technology combining quantum physics, computational chemistry, machine learning and high-performance computing to accurately and rapidly predict the most desirable force field energy configuration and crystal structure packing of new drug compounds. This helps the pharma industry address problems with polymorphism and getting from molecules to medicine (M2M) faster and with much greater probability of success.

JOII (supported by EIT Digital) is changing period care by delivering a first-of-its-kind menstrual blood and period symptom management tool and sustainable, high-performance period care products. JOII empowers everyone who menstruates to experience their best gynaecological health and wellbeing through their ground-breaking research, innovative period care products, and cutting-edge technology. JOII works together with trusted partners and experts at the forefront of women's health. Together, they conduct research into endometriosis, fibroids, and other conditions that cause menstrual-like bleeding.

Wsense (supported by EIT Digital) is an Italian technology company specialising in underwater monitoring and communication systems. It uses patented acoustic and optical technologies that enable underwater networking and information transmission between submerged and surface platforms. Its solutions provide an end-to-end approach to the data challenge of ocean monitoring and open a range of possibilities – including aquaculture, energy and environmental monitoring, security, and defence. In 2023 Wsense was selected as the winner of the UpLink Ocean Data Challenge at the World Economic Forum in Davos, joining a community of innovators to boost ocean conservation and promote a sustainable blue economy.

BRIGHT – AnteBC test (supported by EIT Health) is a healthcare company developing and implementing innovative genetic tests that enable personalised prevention of common cancers and reduce the risk of premature mortality. Current screening programmes for early detection of common cancers (breast, colorectal, and prostate) only consider the gender and age of people, which makes them non-optimal. Antegenes has developed and started the implementation of revolutionary new models for personalised prevention of common cancers, which are based on individual genetic risks. Antegenes uses new gene analysis technology in the form of polygenic risk scores that have enormous potential for precision medicine. The company is an international pioneer in this field and the first company in the EU, to implement these innovative solutions in clinical use. It has successfully introduced the first CE-marked breast cancer, prostate cancer, colorectal cancer, and melanoma polygenic risk score tests to the EU market. All products are based on peer-reviewed international research and have been evaluated and validated using population data of the Estonian Biobank and UK Biobank. Test results are provided with follow-up actions for future risk management. The company has fully integrated '6P healthcare' to achieve active and healthy longevity with a high quality of life. Antegenes is working to make its products IVDR (2017/746) compliant and to propel large-scale adoption of polygenic risk score-based tests by screening management.

DigiPrevent – Rheumatic (supported by EIT Health) is changing how the chronic disease Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is treated. We're shifting focus away from the current long-term and expensive treatment style towards prevention and early curative care. Personalised prevention for individuals at high risk for RA is becoming possible due to a new understanding of symptoms and biological features that precede and predict RA, combined with a better understanding of lifestyles that reduce disease risk. Very early treatment of RA with existing drugs may revert the disease into drug-free remission. However, the current organisation of care is not conducive to the identification of individuals at risk for RA or the identification of very early signs of disease. Our solutions:

- To validate and implement patient-driven digital tools and new diagnostics for identification of individuals at risk for RA
- To provide at-risk individuals with digital companions that help with RA-preventative lifestyle changes and access to very early and potentially curative treatment

EDIT-B blood test (supported by EIT Health) tackles bipolar disorder (BD), a psychiatric disorder characterised by alternating episodes of low moods similar to depression and high moods. If its diagnosis is only based on clinical evaluations, BD may be confused with depression and treatment could be delayed by 7.5 years, resulting in severe consequences on patient health outcomes. ALCEDIAG developed EDIT-B, the first blood test able to make a differential diagnosis of BD and depression. Based on RNA editing modifications measurement and AI, the test is highly accurate and requires a simple blood draw and equipment available in most central laboratories. The analysis takes only 48 hours, with a crucial impact on a patient's pathway, allowing for an early and accurate treatment intervention. The objective of this project is to run a multicentric clinical study in Europe with an EDIT-B reagent kit and prepare for broad commercialisation thanks to an optimised market access strategy. We expect to change the paradigm by introducing biology in psychiatry and accelerating access to treatment.

E-Magy (supported by EIT RawMaterials) is a scale up company that has successfully established a pilot plant (TRL 6-7), focussing on the production of nano-porous, micron sized silicon material for batteries. The company succeeded to enter into an automotive homologation process, by supplying the produced material for qualification to selected industry partners (CRL 6-7). With the support of EIT RawMaterials, E-Magy has demonstrated that its nano-porous silicon, that can be used in different battery technologies, is overcoming the technical challenges related to the silicon volume expansion resulting in 40% higher energy density of batteries for Electric Vehicles EV's. With the transportation sector contributing to around 20% of global CO_2 emissions EV's are a key enabler to substitute fossil fuels by renewable and carbon-free energy sources. In this context the battery performance plays a vital role. The substitution of graphite by silicon in battery anodes has the potential to reduce weight and volume by 40% and enable 5-fold faster charging whilst keeping the same capacity.

Mimsi (supported by EIT RawMaterials) has developed a new, transparent silver alloy that can replace indium tin oxide (ITO) in heterojunction technology (HJT) photovoltaic cells, enabling the cell to efficiently harness a broader spectrum of sunlight, resulting in improved overall performance, while reducing the manufacturing cost of the cells. This innovation addresses the global scarcity of Indium, a critical material in HJT development where Europe holds a leading position. HJT is projected to grow significantly, with a

23% CAGR expected between 2021 and 2032, capturing over 20% of the market share. Following the Booster project performed in 2022, Mimsi aims to verify that the developed silver alloy solution can meet or exceed the performance of ITO based technology. This breakthrough by Mimsi will reduce production cost by 70%, hence unlock HJT PVs' potential as a cost-attractive opportunity for Europe to rapidly scale domestic, sustainable PV manufacturing, strengthening Europe's green technology and economic leadership.

NEXT TUNA (supported by EIT Food) is creating a sustainable tuna industry. The ambition is to create the first sustainable European source of tuna by reproducing Atlantic bluefin tune in a land-based, eco-friendly recirculating aquaculture system. The project will contribute to the preservation of Atlantic bluefin tuna and, more widely, protect the wildlife of our oceans and seas. The project will build the first commercial-scale production in a land-based, eco-friendly facility for Atlantic bluefin tuna. The construction of the production facilities will start in 2024. The floating system has been introduced to the market and by 2025 the first juvenile ABT for grow-out will be supplied. The company is expected to generate revenues from late 2024, both from selling ABT, but also from selling its innovative floating system to third-party fish farmers and its associated services concept.

NUTRIBOX (supported by EIT Food) is an e-commerce platform offering a smart, quick, nutritionally balanced and safe food selection targeted to different categories of consumers, including those under a dietary restriction scheme. It presents numerous advantages, such as low-cost connection with experts in the field of food and nutrition and the possibility to widen the audience through dedicated dissemination channels. The Nutribox platform allows the adhering company and industry to catalogue their products in organised categories addressed to vulnerable individuals and people with specific needs or preferences, reaching new market segments (people affected by non-communicable diseases or those interested in wellness and a healthy lifestyle). Nutribox has already generated a return on investment to EIT Food of EUR 36k.

PREDIABOLE (supported by EIT Food) is developing a functional olive oil enriched with oleanolic acid for the prevention of type 2 diabetes in prediabetic patients. It pursues the development and commercialisation of a new functional food that, incorporated into the diet regularly, modulates the human metabolism towards a healthy profile, preventing the appearance of metabolic diseases (type II diabetes chief among them). PREDIABOLE is led by Acesur and supported by its collaborators, the University of Warsaw and the Campden CBHU Technology Center. The product is ready to be commercialised, with consumer tests, shelf life, and marketing plans now complete. The launch will occur once acesur's EFSA application for a new food product is accepted.

CRYO-MQL (supported by EIT Manufacturing) offers high-value manufacturers looking for a competitive machining advantage a better cooling and lubrication solution that does not require substantial machine tool refits. CRYO-MQL is focusing on the development of two solutions based on liquid nitrogen (LN2) and liquid carbon dioxide (LCO2), combined with solutions to deliver minimum-quantity lubrication (MQL) to cutting tools, enabling higher productivity (faster material removal, longer tool life) and enhanced quality. The project has successfully created two pilot installations, eliminating toxic lubricant systems for

machining processes and increasing the machining speed by 20%. This has led to the creation of a Slovenian start-up to lead the commercialisation efforts of one of these technologies. The absence of toxic lubrication and equivalently stable and smooth machined components means toxic lubrication does not need to be processed for disposal and can be fully prevented from leaking into water systems or the environment.

ROBOTWIN (supported by EIT Manufacturing) is an automation solution based on motion tracking and imitation that tracks a worker's motion, extracts their know-how, and generates an optimal robot programme automatically. The pilot use cases are jobs in industrial spray painting. RoboTwin's solution simultaneously addresses several challenges that traditional European SMEs are facing by:

- Offering an affordable automation solution, as the solution does not require to hire highly qualified and rare resources specialised in robot programming
- Ensuring the continuity of small businesses that are having more and more difficulties in finding workers willing to do repetitive tasks
- Introducing collaborative, socially sustainable, human-centred automation, which transforms routine unhealthy jobs into attractive ones with more assured safety and fewer hazards

SYDITIL (supported by EIT Manufacturing) (SYstemic DIgital Twins for Industrial Logistics) is a unique solution of systemic digital twin technology that provides scalable digital twins of operational logistics allowing developed models to optimise and easily reconfigure. The first two industrial use cases are:

- Twinning the Port of Dunkirk which is transitioning from a primary coal-for-steel port to a logistics hub, allowing the steel industry to transition to cleaner Hydrogen. This will allow to keep the labour force of the port in a region suffering from a high unemployment rate and improve environmental conditions and health as the port will gradually stop the coal traffic responsible for heavy air pollution due to fine particles and high CO2 emissions from the steel industry.
- Twinning an automated warehouse to allow for the optimisation of traffic of AGVs (automated ground vehicles).

Bout (supported by EIT Urban Mobility) Is a Finnish start-up pioneering urban mobility solutions on France's iconic Seine River. It is leveraging its digital marketplace app and website to connect users with local boats for exploration and transportation. With a mission to promote waterborne transportation in cities like Paris, Bout offers various options from private boat rides to sightseeing packages, aiming to change the public's perception of waterways. As the Seine takes centre stage for the 2024 Paris Olympics, Bout's innovative approach aligns with efforts to make water transportation a key component of urban mobility. With ambitions to emulate Northern European waterway usage in Paris and contribute to ecological sustainability, Bout envisions a future where boat rides become a common mode of transportation for locals and tourists alike, fostering connectivity and reducing urban traffic congestion.

Dreamwaves (supported by EIT Urban Mobility) is pioneering an audio-augmented reality app, waveOut. waveOut could revolutionise urban mobility for blind and visually impaired individuals. In a world where navigating daily tasks poses significant challenges for this demographic, the waveOut app offers seamless navigation without reliance on maps or screens. It employs virtual audio waypoints, akin to a trail of breadcrumbs, strategically placed in spaces like metro stations to guide users effectively. By leveraging

computer vision and advanced technology, the app ensures precise navigation even in complex environments like underground metro stations. Early feedback from users underscores the app's potential to transform lives, offering newfound independence, improved mental and physical health, and expanded employment opportunities.

Smart Point (supported by EIT Urban Mobility) is changing last mile delivery in Madrid with its parcel delivery locker technology. By strategically locating lockers accessible within minutes, Smart Point offers customers secure pickup points, eliminating delivery window uncertainty, while optimising courier routes with its 100% electric fleet and centralised drop-off points. Through real-life pilot projects, Smart Point achieved a remarkable 36% reduction in delivery emissions, a 16% increase in sustainable deliveries, and projected revenue boosts for local businesses. Smart Point's expansion and valuation at EUR 40 million underscores its pivotal role in shaping sustainable urban mobility in Europe. As more European cities join the programme in 2023, the stage is set for continued innovation and collaboration, driving transformative change in urban mobility solutions across the continent.

EIT REGIONAL INNOVATION SCHEME (RIS) – INNOVATION-RELATED PROGRAMMES

The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS) is the EIT Community's outreach scheme, introduced in 2014 to make information and expertise from our unique approach available to others. It allows EIT KICs to share good practice and experiences and to widen participation across Europe.

A glimpse of the EIT RIS' programmes that help boost innovation in Europe and beyond.

- EIT Jumpstarter is a pre-accelerator programme that supports early-stage idea holders from across the EIT RIS-geographic area, as well as the Western Balkans region and Moldova, turning research results into commercially viable products and services.
- EIT Food Infrabooster is a modular training programme for representatives of scientific organisations that own research infrastructures. It offers capacity building and support in designing infrastructure-based services that could be offered for companies.
- Red Kalyna is the newest initiative of EIT Community which aims to recognise and promote outstanding Ukrainian female entrepreneurs, educators and mentors, who have developed innovative products or solutions, or have transformed their businesses into innovative ones.
- EIT Food Challenge Labs are pan-European workshops designed to find solutions to current and future challenges facing food and agriculture. They bring together students, technologists, scientists, professionals, companies, and consumers.
- RIS Straight2Market is a programme that helps start-ups, and small or medium-sized companies across Southern RIS countries to cooperate with retailers to bring their new or significantly improved healthy/sustainable food products to mainstream markets and supermarkets.

Discover further insights into the activities of various KICs within the RIS universe by exploring the following links:

→ EIT Climate-KIC Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS)
→ EIT Health InnoStars
→ EIT Manufacturing EVO-R programme
→ EIT RawMaterials Regional Innovation Competition
→ EIT Health RIS Innovation Call

EIT WOMEN IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP & LEADERSHIP (WEL)

The EIT plays a significant role in supporting the EU's objectives on gender equality. One of the key objectives of the EIT is **to empower women entrepreneurs and nurture women leaders.** Explore the EIT Community's dedicated women entrepreneurship and leadership programmes in the following links:

- [SUPERNOVAS](#)
- [WE Lead Food](#)
- [Top Female Founders Summer School](#)
- [Women Entrepreneurship Bootcamp](#)
- [STRADA](#)
- [WeClim Equally](#)

EIT YOUTUBE

Explore the EIT's innovation-related activities on the EIT's YouTube channel:

- [EIT Summit 2024](#)
- [EIT – Innovations Powering Europe](#)
- [EIT – Innovation in Action](#)
- [EIT – Making innovation happen!](#)

EIT SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS:

- [EIT X (ex Twitter): https://twitter.com/EITeu](https://twitter.com/EITeu)
- [EIT Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/eiteu/](https://www.instagram.com/eiteu/)
- [EIT LINKEDIN, https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-institute-of-innovation-and-technolog%E2%80%A6](https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-institute-of-innovation-and-technolog%E2%80%A6)

ANNEX I. TABLE: EIT KIC INNOVATION PROGRAMMES

Who	Programme name	Link
EIT Climate-KIC	Open Innovation Framework	https://www.climate-kic.org/programmes/research-innovation/open-innovation-calls/
	Pathfinder	https://www.climate-kic.org/programmes/research-innovation/
	Demonstrate your innovation	https://www.climate-kic.org/programmes/research-innovation/demonstrator/
	Transitions Hub	https://transitionshub.climate-kic.org/
	Copernicus Programme	https://www.climate-kic.org/copernicus-2/
EIT InnoEnergy	Innovation Portfolio	https://www.innoenergy.com/for-innovators/
EIT Digital	Venture Program	https://www.eitdigital.eu/venture-program/
	Open Innovation Factory	https://www.eitdigital.eu/open-innovation-factory/
	SpeedMaster	https://www.eitdigital.eu/speedmaster/
	Growth Services	https://www.eitdigital.eu/growth-services/
	EIT Digital Champions	https://www.eitdigital.eu/champions/
	DeepHack	https://www.eitdigital.eu/deephack/
	US Landing Program	https://www.eitdigital.eu/us-landing-program/
	EIT Digital – EIC Fast Track	https://www.eitdigital.eu/fast-track/
EIT Health	Open Innovation	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/open-innovation/
	Service & Technology development	https://eithealth.eu/what-we-do/product-and-service-development/
	Mentoring and coaching network	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/mentoring-and-coaching-network/
	User Labs (ULabs)	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/ulabs/
	Wild Card	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/wild-card/
	SCIFI From Scientists to Innovators	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/sci-fi/
	Creating ValEU Innovation Training Course	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/creating-valeu/
EIT RawMaterials	Corporate Challenges	https://open-innovation.eitrawmaterials.eu/products-services/corporate-challenges/

	Hackathons	https://open-innovation.eitrawmaterials.eu/products-services/hackathon/
	Startup Scouting	https://open-innovation.eitrawmaterials.eu/products-services/start-up-scouting/
EIT Food	Landscape of Innovation Projects	https://www.eitfood.eu/projects?functionalArea%5b%5d=684
	Impact Funding Framework	EIT Food Impact Funding Framework - EIT Food
	Fast Track to Market	EIT Food Fast Track to Market 2024 - EIT Food
	Prize Based Challenge	https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/prize-based-challenge
EIT Manufacturing	Innovation Funding Catalyst	https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/innovation/opportunities/innovation-funding-catalyst/
	AGORA	https://agora-eitmanufacturing.eu
	Technology Randar	https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/innovation/opportunities/technology-radar/
	Business Intelligence	TBC
EIT Urban Mobility	Innovation page	https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/innovation/
	Raptor	https://raptorproject.eu/
	Sales enablement	https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/innovation-sales-enablement/
	Marketplace	https://marketplace.eiturbanmobility.eu/
	Horizon Lab	https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/horizon-lab/
EIT Culture & Creativity	Innovation initiatives	https://eit-culture-creativity.eu/get-involved/
EIT Community	Jumpstarter	https://eitjumpstarter.eu/
	Supernovas	Rocket up: https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/supernovas/rocket-up Women2Invest: https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/supernovas/women2invest Mentoring for women leaders: https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/supernovas/mentoring-for-women-leaders Women Investment Network: https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/supernovas/investors-network
	Deep Tech Talent Initiative	https://www.eitdeeptechtalent.eu/

	EIT Campus	https://eit-campus.eu/
	New European Bauhaus	https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/the-new-european-bauhaus-designing-a-sustainable-and-inclusive-future

DISCLAIMER Please note all programmes contained in this Factsheet 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.