

EIT LAUNCHES CALL FOR EIT WATER: A PAN-EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP TO TRANSFORM EUROPE'S WATER, MARINE AND MARITIME SECTORS AND ECOSYSTEMS

Budapest, Hungary, 16 January 2025 – Today, the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) opens its call to build a new sustainable innovation partnership to strengthen Europe's water, marine and maritime sectors and ecosystems. The Call for Proposals invites consortia of organisations and industry leaders bringing together water-related education, research and business to put forward their vision and strategy for EIT Water. The EIT is an integral part of Horizon Europe, the EU's research and innovation framework programme.

While Europe is home to abundant water resources, challenges remain in significant fragmentation across ecosystem management, and overuse of natural resources. [Latest statistics](#) paint an alarming picture with approximately 38 percent of the European population affected by water scarcity, impacting 29 percent of the territory. The economic cost is substantial, ranging from EUR 2 billion to EUR 9 billion, burdening European citizens.

The EIT will develop an integrated approach across freshwater, marine and maritime sectors and ecosystems. EIT Water will support entrepreneurial education and skills development, innovation projects as well as the business creation and commercialisation of new technologies, products and services. Core to the EIT Model, the new KIC will serve as a pan-European partnership and strengthen capacities addressing Europe's regional innovation divide. EIT Water will become the EIT's tenth [Knowledge and Innovation Community \(KIC\)](#), partnerships that have demonstrated remarkable impact driving the creation of new technologies, tackling global challenges and reinforcing Europe's competitiveness and sustainable development.

Stefan Dobrev, Chairperson of the EIT Governing Board added: *'EIT Water will be a pan-European project to strengthen water innovations. Our new Knowledge and Innovation Community will foster collaboration investing in one of the globe's most precious natural resources. We invite leaders in the water-related sectors to come together with their partners from across Europe and propose bold and impact-driven proposals ready to experiment and challenge the status quo, boosting Europe's competitiveness'.*

By establishing EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), partnerships focused on thematic areas, the EIT has been able to support over 10 000 companies, launch over 2 450 new products to market and train over 800 000 learners in new skills. Thanks to early business creation support, EIT- supported companies and start-ups are currently valued at over EUR 71 billion. Most recently the [EIT was recognised](#) as being the top performing investor in the Financial Times backed Sifted ranking behind Europe's fastest-growing startups.

EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities receive EIT funding for a maximum of fifteen years. EIT Water can expect a starting budget of up to EUR 5 million in 2026 to set up its innovation ecosystem. Any future funding is assessed against the impact of the new KIC's activities and decided upon by the EIT Governing Board. Through successful innovations and contributions from third parties, the partnership is expected to become financially sustainable over time beyond the period supported by EIT funding, leveraging close cooperation between education, research and business.

EIT Water will help position Europe as a global leader strengthening the European Union's competitiveness, employment, and economic growth. EIT Water will join the EIT's nine existing KICs, which address equally important global challenges: climate, digital, energy, health, raw materials, food, manufacturing, urban mobility, and culture & creativity. **The deadline for submitting applications for the call for proposal for EIT Water is 17 June 2025.**

Download Call Text: [EIT Call for Proposals 2025 for a new KIC on Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems \(EIT Water\)](#)

Join us for our EIT Water Info Day!

During the European Commission's European Ocean Days 2025 (3 March 2025, 09:00 - Friday 7 March 2025), the EIT will be hosting an Information Day for its upcoming call for proposals for interested applicants. **The EIT Water Info Day will be held on 7 March 2025 in Brussels, Belgium** (Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 99-101, 1040) in partnership with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). Stay tuned for registration and more information to come.

Useful links:

- [Information about the Call for Proposals](#)
- [EIT Innovation Model](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about EIT Water](#)
- [Watch Video](#)
- [Watch online information seminars](#)

EIT - MAKING INNOVATION HAPPEN!

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

The EIT strengthens Europe's ability to innovate by powering solutions to pressing global challenges and by nurturing entrepreneurial talent to create sustainable growth and skilled jobs in Europe. The EIT is an EU body and an integral part of [Horizon Europe](#), the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

The Institute supports dynamic pan-European partnerships, EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities, among leading companies, research labs and universities. Currently nine EIT Knowledge & Innovation Communities are supported: [EIT Climate-KIC](#), [EIT Digital](#), [EIT InnoEnergy](#), [EIT Health](#), [EIT RawMaterials](#), [EIT Food](#), [EIT Manufacturing](#), [EIT Urban Mobility](#) and [EIT Culture & Creativity](#)). Together with their leading partners, the EIT Community offers a wide range of innovation and entrepreneurship activities across Europe: entrepreneurial education courses, business creation and acceleration services and innovation driven research projects.

