European Institute of Innovation & Technology

A body of the European Union

EIT Manufacturing

EIT Manufacturing is a Knowledge and Innovation Community established by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) in 2020. The EIT is Europe's largest innovation ecosystem offering education, innovation and business creation services to solve global challenges.

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Increasing Europe's manufacturing competitiveness

EIT Manufacturing was launched with the mission of increasing Europe's manufacturing competitiveness.

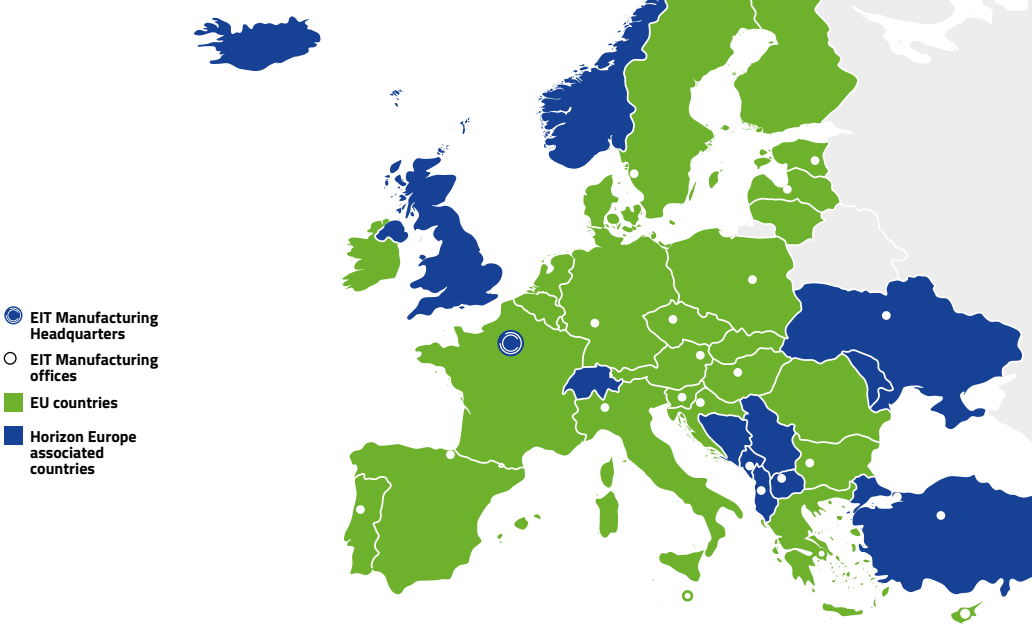
Through tailored **business creation and acceleration programmes**, it supports innovators and ventures by strengthening business cases, reducing risks, and expediting time to market. Its **entrepreneurial education** programmes include international master's degrees and shorter courses, equipping learners with essential entrepreneurial and innovation skills. Through **innovation-driven research**, EIT Manufacturing helps commercialise promising ideas, taking them from lab to market.

The power of EIT Manufacturing's network

EIT Manufacturing's network comprised 272 partners and had 24 offices established across Europe at the end of 2024. Partners include businesses like Volvo, Volkswagen, universities such as TU Wien and Chalmers University, and research institutions like VTT Technical Research Centre Finland.

By leveraging the strength of this unique European network and embracing its work on innovation as a service, we envision to accelerate the integration of cutting-edge solutions into our production processes, driving entrepreneurship and groundbreaking advancements that will shape the future of the industry

Dr. Monika Bachofner, Head of Open Innovation, Volkswagen



A proven engine of innovation in European manufacturing

Since its launch in 2020, the innovation, business creation and acceleration programmes of EIT Manufacturing have created or supported over 900 **start-ups and scaleups**. Entrepreneurs and ventures backed by EIT Manufacturing have brought a total of 109 **new innovations** to market. Additionally, 911 **students** have graduated from its EIT-labelled degree programmes and more than 26 850 **learners** have participated in its courses.

Figure 1. EIT Manufacturing's key achievements in numbers (2020–2023)

High-quality lectures, various topics and several possibilities to interact make this EIT Manufacturing programme unique and worth the commitment

Chiara Marinelli, University of Trieste

Impact story: Entrepreneurial education

STRADA is a leadership development programme for emerging women leaders in manufacturing. It aims to narrow the gender gap by equipping participants with essential skills, fostering a network within the European manufacturing ecosystem, and supporting talent retention. With hundreds of women participating in the training annually, multinational manufacturing companies have backed STRADA since its inception and expressed interest in continuing the collaboration.

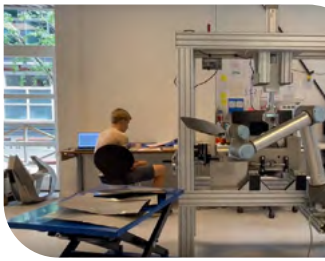
Copyright: STRADA project, EIT Manufacturing

Our partnership with EIT Manufacturing has been instrumental in refining our business strategy and fostering growth. (...) EIT Manufacturing helped us connect to the right partners and customers (...)

Jonas Nyvang, CEO of STILFOLD AB

Impact story: Business creation

STILFOLD AB, formerly STILRIDE, pioneers industrial origami technology to create robust metal structures with less material and simplified assembly. Supported by EIT Manufacturing's **Access to Market** service, the company has partnered with Adaxis, another EIT Manufacturing-supported company with a technology to repurpose industrial robots. Their innovation project, backed by EUR 572 000 from EIT Manufacturing, promotes on-demand production, job creation, and sustainability. Additionally, STILFOLD received EUR 427 000 to launch Metafold Academy, an upskilling programme advancing green manufacturing in the automotive industry. By the end of 2024, STILFOLD successfully raised EUR 5 million through multiple fundraising rounds and generated EUR 1 million in revenue.



Copyright: STILFOLD, EIT Manufacturing

Impact story: Innovation-driven research

RoboTwin, a Czech start-up, transforms production with motion-imitating robotics, allowing skilled operators to teach robots tasks without coding. This solution helps industrial SMEs automate tasks affordably, addressing labour shortages. With €685 000 in EIT Manufacturing consortium funding for R&D, prototyping, testing, and commercialisation, RoboTwin launched its product in 2023, securing its first customers, and obtaining funding for new product development.

Copyright: RoboTwin, EIT Manufacturing

Contribution to EU priorities and policy areas

EIT Manufacturing contributes to European policy priorities at various levels. The KIC is leading the **Innovate Together programme with EFFRA** (European Factories of the Future Research Association) accelerating market deployment of research results. EIT Manufacturing also actively participates in Task Force 5 of the Industrial Forum created as part of the **new industrial strategy for Europe**, supporting the uptake of advanced manufacturing processes by EU industry.

On the path of financial sustainability: Key financial data

According to the EIT model, EIT KICs start off with limited funding, which increases gradually. Then after a peak period it decreases, as KICs are expected to generate their own revenue to become financially sustainable within 15 years. EIT Manufacturing belongs to the fourth wave of KICs and has 2034 as the final year of operations under its Partnership Agreement signed with the EIT.

EIT KICs have been very successful in attracting external investments. As confirmed by the Biannual Monitoring Report on European Partnerships (EP), on average, EIT KICs have a high leverage effect of 5.6. This is compared to the EP average of 2.83, meaning that for each euro invested, EIT KICs raised an additional 5.6 euros from external funding.

Figure 2 (distribution of costs per area of activity for the partnership) shows that EIT Manufacturing's budget is spent efficiently. More than 90% of its budget between 2021–2022 was spent on operational activities to support innovation, entrepreneurial education and business creation, with an 8% share of administrative costs.

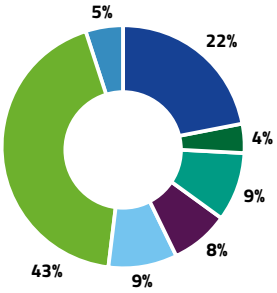


Figure 2. EIT Manufacturing Costs 2021-2022*

Examining these areas more closely: 43% of the budget was allocated to innovation activities,22% to education, 13% to the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme and the EIT Community Initiatives (which include innovation activities jointly implemented with other KICs), 9% to business creation, 5% to ecosystem development (operating the pan-European network supporting place-based innovation across EU Member States).

Achieving financial sustainability is a unique feature of the EIT innovation model to be implemented by the KIC legal entity managing the partnership. Looking at EIT Manufacturing's own income, the KIC is on track to gradually diversify the composition of its revenue sources, generating income beyond membership fees from services and consulting, as well as 'alternative funding' (e.g. grants provided by national, other EU or international organisations, private sector funding, shareholder contributions).

EIT Manufacturing has built up a portfolio of equity investments in 10 start-ups with a current value of approximately EUR 3 million, concluded 40 commercial agreements, and its activities have already started to generate returns. Future revenues in ROI & equity will depend on strategic decisions and market conditions.

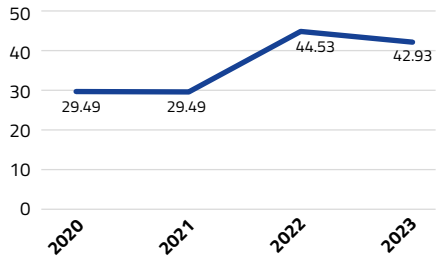


Figure 3. EIT Grants 2020-2023 (mEUR)

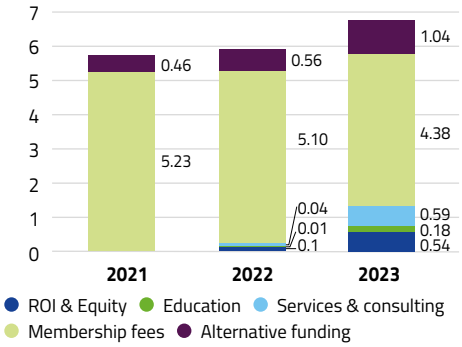


Figure 4. EIT Manufacturing Revenues 2021-2023 (mEUR)**

* Final costs for business plan 2023-2024 are not yet available.
** Revenues are reported on an annual basis.

Find out more!

Keep an eye out for news, events, and opportunities.

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