

EIT RawMaterials

EIT RawMaterials is a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) established by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) in 2015. The EIT is Europe's largest innovation ecosystem offering education, innovation and business creation services to solve global challenges.



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Developing raw materials into a major strength for Europe

EIT RawMaterials was launched to secure and sustain a domestic supply of critical raw materials for the European industry through strengthened innovation along the entire value chain. Through tailored **business creation and acceleration programmes**, it supports start-ups, scale-ups and innovators by strengthening business cases, providing funding and expediting time to market. Through its **entrepreneurial education** programmes, EIT RawMaterials partners with universities and industry to skill workforces to meet today's challenges. It further aids in commercialising innovative ideas by supporting **innovation-driven research projects**.

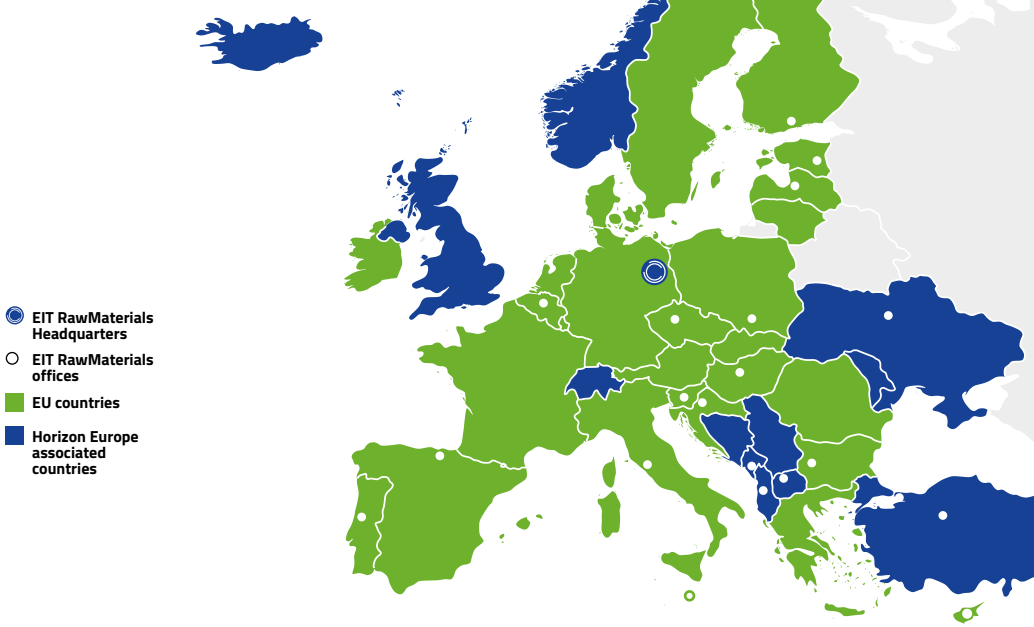
The power of EIT RawMaterials' network

The EIT RawMaterials network comprised **405 partners** and 23 offices established across Europe at the end of 2024. Partners include key players from the field including corporations like ERAMET Ideas, research centres like BRGM (French Geological Survey) and leading universities such as the Technical University of Madrid and AGH University of Krakow.



We have a longstanding relationship with EIT RawMaterials and have attended previous Summits. (...) By leveraging our industrial experience and broad network of relationships, we aim to help scale potential solutions from ideas through to actual implementation.

Lina Arbeláez, Head of Decarbonisation Ventures, Anglo American



A proven engine of innovation in raw materials in Europe

Since 2015, the business creation and acceleration programmes of the KIC have **created or supported over 870 start-ups** and scaleups. Entrepreneurs and ventures backed by EIT RawMaterials have brought a total of **338 new innovations** to market. Additionally, **584 students** have graduated from its EIT-labelled degree programmes and more than **78 600 learners** have participated in its courses.


Our mission is firmly aligned with the missions of EIT RawMaterials and ERMA [European Raw Materials Alliance] – to diversify the supply of raw materials for a greener, sustainable, and more resilient Europe.

Erick Petit, CEO and Co-founder of MagReesource

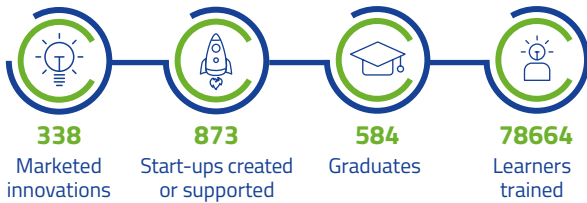


Figure 1. EIT RawMaterials' key achievements in numbers (2016-2023)

Impact story: Entrepreneurial education



The launch of the international **Master in Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Technology Integration in Mining (MEITIM)**, co-financed by EIT RawMaterials, identified necessary changes in educating future mining graduates. The project team curated key competencies requiring changes in university curricula supporting sustainable mining. Once finalised, the programme was successfully accredited by national authorities in Spain, Finland, and Poland.



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Impact story: Business creation



Europe will soon face the first wave of end-of-life photovoltaic (PV) panels, which contain valuable raw materials like aluminium, copper, silicon, and silver. **9-TECH** was launched to develop an innovative process for dismantling and recycling PV panels. Supported by EIT RawMaterials' Booster programme, 9-TECH earned prizes, including EUR 250 000 from Intesa San Paolo and a EUR 640 000 Recovery and Resilience Plan grant. Collaborating with partners from the EIT RawMaterials network, it advanced circular applications for recovered photovoltaic silicon.



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Impact story: Innovation-driven research



Founded in 2020, **MagREEsources** aims to reindustrialise the magnet industry with its hydrogen recycling process and new manufacturing technologies. Its process reduces CO2 emissions by 91% compared to foreign-imported magnets. In 2023, the company announced an investment of EUR 5 million from European funds and private investors, including EIT RawMaterials. With plans to open a MagFactory in 2027 with a 500-ton capacity, MagREEsources will help reduce reliance on rare earth supply from China and strengthen European energy autonomy.



Copyright: MagREEsources

Contribution to EU priorities and policy areas

EIT RawMaterials manages ERMA, the **European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA)** as part of the European Commission's Action Plan on Critical Raw Materials. ERMA's vision is to secure access to critical and strategic raw materials, advanced materials and processing know-how for EU Industrial Ecosystems. It connects over 750 organisations with an investment potential of EUR 10 billion. In addition, EIT RawMaterials has provided recommendations to ensure the impactful creation of the **Critical Raw Materials Act**, a key policy initiative for the sector.

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 RawMaterials belongs to the second wave of KICs and has 2029 as the final year of operations under its Partnership Agreement 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 RawMaterials' budget is spent efficiently. 93% of its budget between 2021-22 was spent on operational activities to support innovation, entrepreneurial education and business creation, with a 7% share of administrative costs.

Examining these areas more closely, 57% of the budget was allocated to innovation activities and 13% to education. Similarly, 13% contributed to the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme and the EIT Community Initiatives, which include innovation activities jointly implemented with other KICs. Further 6% was devoted to business creation and 4% 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 the KIC's own income, it attracts a high income from membership fees on an annual basis. The KIC could also attract 'alternative funding' (e.g. grants provided by national, other EU or international organisations, private sector funding etc.), and it generated income from services & consulting fees.

Furthermore, it has built up a portfolio of equity investments in 39 start-ups with a current value of more than EUR 7 million, and commercial agreements (e.g. success fees, revenue sharing in case of successful innovations) with over 200 companies. Its activities have started to generate returns. Future revenues in ROI & equity will follow depending on strategic decisions and market conditions.

In sum, EIT RawMaterials has made progress towards its strategic objectives and has created a solid basis to achieve financial sustainability beyond the 15 years of EIT funding.

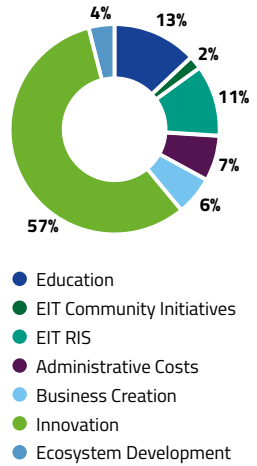


Figure 2. EIT RawMaterials Costs 2021-2022*

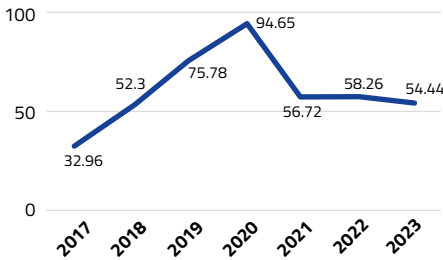


Figure 3. EIT Grant 2017-2023 (mEUR)

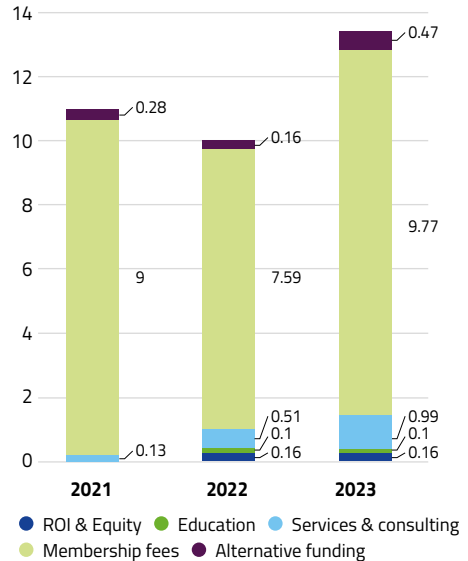


Figure 4. EIT RawMaterials Revenues 2021-2023 (mEUR)**

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

