



European Institute of
Innovation & Technology

A body of the European Union



EIT KICS INNOVATION GUIDE

2025

IMPACT & SUCCESS STORIES

LAST UPDATE: MAY 2025





The European Institute of Innovation and Technology's (EIT) Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) Innovation activities at a glance:

- €1.46 billion in grants to innovation activities (2014-2025) with total costs of €EUR 4 billion
- Over 3,000 startups and scale-ups supported between 2023 and 2025
- Over 900 supported startups in modest to moderate innovation countries in 2024
- 2400+ partners from research, academia, and industry / 1742 partners from research, academia, and industry (2023-2025)
- 70+ Innovation Hubs in Europe and beyond
- 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 characterized by key stakeholders in the KIC's latest assessment reports

2024 in numbers:

- Approximately € 187 million in EIT funding for innovation activities from 2023 to 2025¹
- €4.83 billion in investment attracted to EIT KIC-supported startups and scaleups
- 377 innovations launched on the market

¹ Figures from period 2023-2025



GLOSSARY

A2F: Access to Finance

BC: Business Creation

CCSI: Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries

EIC: European Innovation Council

EIF: European Investment Fund

EIT: European Institute of Innovation and Technology

EU: European Union

GO: Global Outreach

HE: Horizon Europe

IVDR: In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation

IPO: Initial Public Offering

KIC: Knowledge and Innovation Community

KPI: Key Performance Indicator

MDR: Medical Devices Regulation

MVP: Minimum Viable Product

RIS: Regional Innovation Scheme

SME: Small and Medium-sized Enterprise

SlaaS: System Innovation As A Service

USA: United States of America

VC: Venture Capitalist

VCoE: Venture Centre of Excellence

DISCLAIMER

Please note all programmes contained in this guide 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 most up to date information on their programmes and details for applicants/beneficiaries.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

GLOSSARY.....	3
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	6
1. CLIMATE-KIC	11
1.1 KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS	11
1.2 CLIMATE-KIC INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD.....	12
1.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON).....	14
2. EIT DIGITAL.....	19
2.1 KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS	19
2.2. DIGITAL INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD	21
2.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON).....	22
3. EIT FOOD	25
3.1. KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS	25
3.2 FOOD INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD	27
3.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON).....	28
4. EIT HEALTH.....	34
4.1. KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS	34
4.2. HEALTH INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD	35
4.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON).....	36
5. INNOENERGY	41
5.1 KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS	42
5.2 INNOENERGY INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD.....	44
5.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON).....	45
6. EIT MANUFACTURING	52
6.1. KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS	52
6.2. MANUFACTURING INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD	53
6.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON).....	54
7. EIT RAWMATERIALS.....	57
7.1 KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS	57
7.2. EIT RAWMATERIALS INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD	60
7.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON).....	61
8. EIT URBAN MOBILITY.....	66
9. EIT CULTURE & CREATIVITY.....	72
9.1. KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS	73
9.2. CULTURE & CREATIVITY INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD	74
10. REGIONAL INNOVATION SCHEME	75
11. EIT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES	79
12. EIT ALUMNI.....	83



13. ENHANCING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LEADERSHIP (WEL)	88
14. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) AND COLLABORATION WITH THE EPO & EUIPO	92



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DELIVERING SYSTEMIC INNOVATION FOR EUROPE'S GREEN, DIGITAL AND COMPETITIVE FUTURE

The **EIT KICS Impactful Innovation Guide 2025** highlights how the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and its nine Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) deliver high-impact, system-driven innovation across Europe. With a unique model that seamlessly integrates innovation, business creation and education, the EIT plays a central role in strengthening Europe's competitiveness, sustainability and resilience. Since 2014, the EIT Community has launched over **2 400 market-ready innovations**, supported more than **2 000 startups and scale-ups** between 2023 and 2025, and attracted **€4.83 billion** in private investment. These achievements were catalysed by €1.46 billion in EIT grants, generating over €4 billion in total innovation activity. The EIT's 70+ Innovation Hubs, including outreach in moderate and modest innovation regions via the **Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS)** – with **770+ startups** supported in 2024 alone – demonstrate a strong commitment to **inclusive innovation** across Europe. The Guide documents how the EIT KICs are helping implement **core EU priorities** including the European Green Deal, digital transition, and the EU Competitiveness Compass. Innovation actions span strategic sectors – climate, health, sustainable energy, urban mobility, food, raw materials, manufacturing, digital, and culture & creativity – and often go beyond sector silos through cross-KIC collaboration in areas such as digital transformation and skills development.

The EIT's strength lies in its deeply integrated model, where innovation is amplified through deep synergy between business creation and education. **Innovation projects** evolve into marketable products, services as well as **startups**, benefiting from EIT acceleration, equity support and success-sharing mechanisms. This **integrated approach** ensures that EIT KICs' innovation is not only visionary but actionable – supporting the full lifecycle of innovation, from ideation and talent development to scale-up and deployment. With over **880 000 individuals trained**, many of whom are now driving innovation in industry and academia, the EIT continues to be **Europe's largest innovation ecosystem**, connecting over **2 400 partners** and powering a new generation of entrepreneurs and solutions. Inclusion programmes like **Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership (WEL)** are embedding diversity in innovation ecosystems. The **EIT Alumni Community** contributes to venture creation, mentoring, and ecosystem growth. Strategic collaboration with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and the European Patent Office (EPO) **integrates IP advisory services into innovation pipelines** – boosting value capture and investor confidence. Together, these initiatives ensure that EIT KICs' innovations are not only technically viable, but entrepreneurially strong, socially inclusive and ready to scale. The Guide is structured to provide both a strategic and practical resource for policymakers, innovation actors, and investors. Each KIC chapter presents key innovation results and KPIs, a strategic outlook for 2025–2027, success stories and featured innovation projects, and cross-cutting initiatives including women entrepreneurship, intellectual property and alumni engagement.

KICS INNOVATION PROGRAMMES: EIT'S ENGINE OF IMPACT

At the core of the EIT model are dedicated KICs innovation programmes tailored to each sector but unified by their emphasis on speed, scalability and societal value. These programmes help transform ideas into high-impact solutions, ready for market and mission alignment. For example: **EIT Digital**: Open Innovation Factory, DeepHack, and Growth Services fuel digital ventures and global scaling. **InnoEnergy**: Supports advanced energy technologies (TRL 5–9) through its Innovation Portfolio. **EIT Health**: Programmes like Wild Card and User Labs back bold ideas in health innovation. **EIT Food**: Seedbed Incubator and Impact Funding



Framework drive food system transformation. **EIT Urban Mobility**: Provides Innovation Advisory Services and regulatory pilots in real-world urban environments.

FEATURED INNOVATION PROJECTS: DELIVERING TANGIBLE VALUE

At the heart of this innovation model lies the **EIT KICs innovation project**: a collaborative, results-driven initiative, typically involving a wide array of partners comprising startups, industry, universities, research organisations and public actors. These projects, **up to €2 million in funding**, are designed to develop, test, and bring to market breakthrough technologies, services, and systemic solutions. What sets EIT innovation projects apart is their clear focus on: Market readiness (TRL 6–9) and real-world deployment; cross-sector and multi-stakeholder collaboration; mission alignment with EU strategies (e.g. Green Deal, AI Act, Competitiveness Compass); integration with the EIT's education and business creation pillars – often leading directly to new ventures and commercialised outcomes. In several cases, EIT-trained professionals take key roles in project teams – demonstrating the tight integration between the EIT's innovation, education and business creation pillars.

The Guide highlights in greater detail one flagship innovation project per KIC demonstrating strategic alignment, systemic ambition and tangible impact. Some examples include the following: **Climate-KIC's Deep Demonstration** in Ireland is reshaping the agri-food system through systemic innovation, aligning with the country's 2030 climate and biodiversity targets. **EIT Digital supported WSense**, a deep tech leader in underwater wireless networks, to secure €10 million in funding – enabling breakthroughs in ocean conservation and marine infrastructure. Tackling the obesity epidemic, **EIT Food's Salus Optima** project is forecasted to improve the health of over 1 million users by 2029 via personalised nutrition apps in workplace canteens, generating €1.27 billion in projected health system savings. **EIT Health's ACORYS®** system, developed under the SAVE-COR project, is now CE-certified and revolutionises arrhythmia diagnostics with a non-invasive, AI-powered cardiac mapping device already adopted in six European hospitals. In energy, **InnoEnergy launched Repono**, a pan-European company aiming to deploy 100 GWh of energy storage capacity by 2030 – vital for grid stability in the renewable era. In manufacturing, the **LAMM project (EIT Manufacturing)** doubled the speed of large-scale metal 3D printing while reducing carbon emissions by 60%, enabling aerospace-scale additive production with global clients in 18 countries. **EIT RawMaterials' PASSENGER** project is eliminating Europe's dependency on imported rare earth magnets, pioneering safe and recyclable alternatives with superior performance already tested in e-bikes and e-mobility. Lastly, **EIT Urban Mobility's Healthy Cities Generator (HCG€)** is helping cities quantify the economic benefits of urban health improvements – now licensed to 20 cities and projected to scale to 90 by 2028, guiding smarter investment in urban well-being. These flagship projects exemplify the EIT Community's leadership in **accelerating systemic transformation through innovation**.

SUCCESS STORIES: FROM INNOVATION PROJECTS TO THE MARKET

EIT-supported KIC innovations continue to deliver significant societal and market impact across Europe. Examples of **success stories** include the following: [Bound4Blue](#), backed by Climate-KIC, is transforming maritime transport with autonomous sails that **cut emissions by up to 40%**, aligning with global decarbonisation goals. [SideKick Health](#), an EIT Digital alumnus, secured €17 million in Series A funding to scale its digital therapeutics platform, improving chronic disease outcomes worldwide. From EIT Food, [Ullmanna's robotic weeding system](#) cuts organic farming costs by 80%, enabling more widespread adoption of sustainable agriculture and projecting €6 million in annual sales by 2026. In healthcare, **EIT Health-supported EDIT-B** brought to market the first RNA-based blood test for bipolar disorder, reducing



diagnosis time from years to 48 hours. InnoEnergy's leadership in the **European Battery Alliance** is catalysing a €250 billion/year clean tech market, supporting energy independence through industrial innovation. [inHeart](#), from EIT Health, developed the world's first AI-powered digital twin of the heart, now CE- and FDA-approved, halving cardiac procedure times and reducing mortality. In mobility, [EVOSS](#) (EIT Urban Mobility) is piloting robotic EV chargers that eliminate infrastructure barriers, with major European rollouts underway. [Ariadne](#) (EIT Digital) applies AI for real-time movement analytics, enhancing infrastructure use in global retail and transit hubs. Finally, [ReLiFe](#), supported by EIT RawMaterials, is building a plant to recycle lithium iron phosphate batteries, **reducing CO₂ emissions by 90%** and contributing to Europe's critical raw material autonomy, with revenues projected at €590 million. Together, these success stories underscore the EIT Community's role in **accelerating Europe's green and digital transitions through impactful, scalable innovation.**

LOOKING AHEAD: EIT KICS INNOVATION PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2027

As Europe intensifies its transition toward a greener, more digital and competitive economy, the EIT Community is entering **a new strategic cycle** focused on scaling systemic impact, boosting financial sustainability and enhancing inclusion and collaboration. **EIT KICs are setting bold, measurable targets that align with EU missions.** For instance: Climate-KIC aims to avoid 500 million tonnes of CO₂e, generate €100 billion in investments, and create 50 000 green jobs; EIT Digital will deliver 475 digital innovations, support 368 startups, and manage 600 equity positions; EIT Food targets 423 innovations, 10 million citizens engaged, and €23.5 million in sustainability revenue; EIT Health plans to launch 87 innovations, attract €1.3 billion in investment, and train over 30 000 professionals. KICs are increasingly reducing reliance on EIT grants, becoming financially sustainable, by expanding equity portfolios, e.g. EIT Digital's holdings now exceed €500 million in value; revenue-generating services, including consulting and venture advisory (Climate-KIC); success-sharing mechanisms, such as EIT Food's reinvestment model. The EIT KICs' next chapter is defined by **ambition and delivery**. With stronger mission alignment, increased scale, and diversified funding, the KICs are positioned to **lead Europe's innovation agenda – accelerating solutions that combine economic resilience with environmental and societal impact.**

FINAL REFLECTIONS: A PROVEN MODEL FOR EUROPE'S INNOVATION FUTURE

The EIT KICs Impactful Innovation Guide 2025 clearly demonstrates the **EIT KICs' ability to deliver innovation that matters** – innovation that reaches markets, scales across borders, and solves real-world problems. With **more than 2 400 innovations launched, over €4.83 billion in investment** attracted, and **2 000+ startups and scale-ups supported** in the past three years alone, the EIT's integrated model is not only effective – it is essential. More than a funding mechanism, the EIT and its KICs act as a **strategic engine for Europe's transformation** – empowering cross-sector collaboration, supporting entrepreneurial talent, and ensuring innovation is aligned with the EU's most urgent priorities. By embedding innovation into ecosystems and value chains, and by reaching under-served regions through its Regional Innovation Scheme, the **EIT is strengthening Europe's innovation fabric from the ground up**. As Europe moves into a decisive phase of global competition and sustainability-driven growth, the EIT Community stands as a ready and reliable partner, offering a tested model, proven results, and a continent-wide ecosystem capable of **turning ambition into action**. This is how the EIT and its KICs lead – not just by setting goals, but by **making innovation happen**.

INNOVATION OPPORTUNITIES ADDRESSING SPECIFIC GLOBAL CHALLENGES



HEALTH INNOVATION



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



**ADDED-VALUE
MANUFACTURING**



FUTURE OF FOOD



CLIMATE CHANGE



DIGITALISATION



CULTURE AND CREATIVITY



URBAN MOBILITY



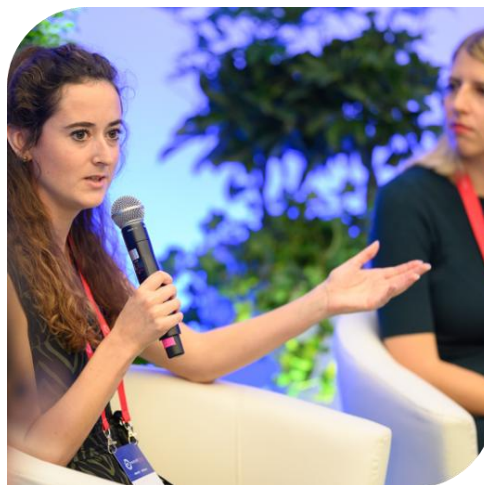
RAW MATERIALS



INNOVATION OPPORTUNITIES FOCUSING ON SPECIFIC TOPICS



EIT ALUMNI



**WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP
& LEADERSHIP**



EIT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



REGIONAL INNOVATION SCHEME



1. CLIMATE-KIC

[Climate-KIC](#) (formerly EIT Climate-KIC) brings together over **1 700 community users** from business, academia, the non-profit and public sectors to create networks of expertise in which innovative products, services and systems are developed, brought to market and scaled up for impact.

1.1 KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS

Climate-KIC has significantly advanced Europe's climate agenda by addressing critical innovation challenges through initiatives that contribute to the Horizon Europe priorities of the Green Transition, the Digital Transition and the fostering of a resilient, inclusive Europe.

DRIVING SYSTEMIC INNOVATION AND MARKET TRANSFORMATION

Climate-KIC employs the '[System Innovation as a Service \(SlaaS\)](#)' model, embedding innovative solutions into industry value chains, cities and regions. Over the past decade, Climate-KIC has developed **480 partnerships** (including 96 in Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) countries) **across 60 countries**, mobilising €80–100 million annually for climate innovation initiatives. The focus has shifted from individual projects to transformative, system-wide solutions.

Key figures illustrate the breadth of this impact:

- **Startups and investments:** Over 2 712 early-stage climate startups have received support to date, collectively attracting **€1.4 billion in investments** in 2023–2024.
- **Entrepreneurship and learning:** Over 50 000 individuals across Europe have been equipped with innovation and entrepreneurial skills by 2024.

LEVERAGING FINANCIAL RESOURCES

- Climate-KIC has demonstrated remarkable success in mobilising resources and leveraging public and private funding to support its transformative agenda. Notable achievements include:
- **Revenues from services:** Climate-KIC raised significant revenues through its innovation-related services, including €2.2 million from consulting and €1.5 million from equity-related initiatives.
- **Funding breakdown (2021–2024):** Non-EIT funding sources grew substantially, with €31.7 million in partner contributions in 2023 and €40.98 million in 2024.
- **Membership growth:** Membership fees reached €2.5 million by 2024, reinforcing a sustainable funding model.
- **Impact investment:** Alternative funding initiatives have generated €8.6 million annually, fostering climate resilience and supporting scalable climate solutions.

Climate-KIC's financial contributions to innovation are substantial. With a declining reliance on the EIT grant – which constituted only 22% of its total budget in 2024, compared to 44% in 2021 – the organisation has diversified its funding sources. Total **funding increased to €114.68 million in 2024**, with €45 million contributed by third-party stakeholders.

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH TARGETED INNOVATION

Climate-KIC has actively spearheaded initiatives to tackle climate change by reducing emissions and strengthening resilience. Its efforts have led to significant, measurable impacts and key performance indicators (KPIs):

- **Greenhouse gas reduction:** By 2024, EIT Climate-KIC contributed to the **avoidance of 200 million tonnes (CO₂eq)** of emissions – equivalent to the annual emissions of 193 coal-fired power plants.
- **Job creation:** The organisation facilitated the creation of **20 000 net climate-friendly jobs** by 2024, supporting economic resilience and inclusivity.
- **Climate resilience strengthening:** Three million people benefitted from enhanced climate resilience initiatives.

CATALYSING PLACE-BASED TRANSFORMATIONS

Through its place-based transformation model, Climate-KIC drives tailored solutions in cities, regions and value chains. Key initiatives include:

- **NetZeroCities:** A pivotal programme **supporting 112 cities** in achieving net-zero emissions by 2030, enabling widespread decarbonisation through innovative policy and financial models.
- **Deep Demonstrations:** Transformative pilots in Slovenia, Ireland and Saxony-Anhalt serve as replicable models for systems change in areas such as circular economies and post-coal transitions

Climate-KIC exemplifies the transformative potential of innovation, aligning climate action with systemic change. By fostering partnerships, mobilising financial resources and addressing societal challenges, Climate-KIC's innovation ecosystem plays a pivotal role in shaping Europe's sustainable future.

1.2 CLIMATE-KIC INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD



Climate-KIC is poised to lead Europe into a transformative era of climate innovation and action, targeting systemic solutions to the climate emergency. By 2027, its innovation agenda outlines bold, measurable impacts, leveraging its established networks and strategic partnerships.

Climate-KIC has set the following innovation goals to be achieved by 2027:

- **500 million tonnes CO₂eq avoided:** Climate-KIC aims to drive decarbonisation efforts that collectively reduce emissions by over 500 million tonnes CO₂eq, aligning with global climate targets.
- **50 000 green jobs created:** Through innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives, the KIC seeks to foster employment in the green economy.
- **€100 billion leveraged:** The scale-up of climate innovations will be supported by mobilising over €100 billion in investments, demonstrating confidence in its portfolio approach.
- **Enhanced climate skills:** By 2027, over 200 000 individuals will acquire innovation and entrepreneurial skills, creating a new generation of climate leaders.
- **50 strategic partnerships:** The KIC will serve as a transformative partner to over 50 cities, regions and large-scale businesses across Europe, driving systemic change through tailored innovations.

Key innovation metrics:

- **Innovation outputs:** By 2027, the KIC expects to develop and market 141 innovations and support 960 startups and scaleups, indicating a robust pipeline for commercialisation and growth.

Long-term strategic vision: To sustain its impact, Climate-KIC is committed to:

- Enhancing entrepreneurial ecosystems, particularly in Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) regions, to address regional disparities in innovation capacity.
- Emphasising systemic innovation, focusing on cities, land use, materials and finance systems for broader, scalable decarbonisation.
- Increasing partnership diversity and inclusion, with a goal of 25% of partners coming from RIS countries by 2027.

Financial Sustainability and Governance: Climate-KIC projects **€110.7 million in revenues** from various sources by 2027 while maintaining a declining reliance on EIT grants (reduced to 14% of total funding). A diverse funding model ensures resilience, with contributions from public, private and philanthropic sources. This forward-looking agenda underscores Climate-KIC's role as a central force in Europe's climate innovation ecosystem, addressing the twin imperatives of rapid decarbonisation and resilience building at scale.

1.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON)

Climate-KIC is ranked number 14 in *Europe's Leading Startup Hubs* by the *Financial Times* (2024) and third in *Europe's List of Hub Networks* by the *Financial Times* (2024)². The COP21 Climate Change Calculator, co-created by Climate-KIC and the *Financial Times*, won a Royal Statistical Society Award in the data visualization category.³

Climate-KIC supported several companies shortlisted by *TIME* and *Statista* in the *World's Top Greentech Companies of 2025*, including:

- [TwaiCe](#) – a German battery specialist
- [WOODOO](#) – a startup rebuilding the cellular structure of wood
- [Insolight](#) – a Swiss startup developing innovative agrivoltaics solutions
- [Zolar](#), [Addionics](#), and [Bound4Blue](#)

The German company [Orbem](#), which uses AI-powered MRI technology to scan biological samples in food, construction and medical environments, ranked 5th in [Sifted's 250 Fastest-Growing Start-Ups in 2024](#).

Other Climate-KIC-supported startups on the list include:

- [KlimatE](#) (#6) and [Neustark](#) (#49) – carbon removal
- [Earthbanc](#) (#55) – enterprise ESG and carbon reporting
- [Equal Food](#) (#64) – delivers fruit and vegetables from regional farmers to consumers
- [Hydrogrid](#) (#116) – Austrian startup offering automated software for hydropower plant optimisation
- [Kraftblock](#) (#135) – scalable, modular thermal energy storage systems
- [Airteam Aerial Intelligence](#) (#160) – drone data and AI for construction projects
- [Roofit.Solar](#) (#193) – solar panel construction
- [PV Case](#) (#238) – solar engineering software

² Climate-KIC, *Climate KIC Factsheet*, <https://www.eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-03/Climate%20KIC%20Factsheet.pdf> (accessed 10 April 2025).

³ European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), "Climate-KIC partnership wins data visualisation category at this year's Royal Statistical Society awards," 9 June 2016, <https://eit.europa.eu/news-events/news/climate-kic-partnership-wins-data-visualisation-category-years-royal-statistical>

BOUND4BLUE

[Bound4Blue](#) is a Spanish cleantech company focused on decarbonising shipping by delivering major – up to 40% – fuel efficiency to existing vessels using autonomous sail systems. This reduces sunk capital costs for shipping owners. The company secured Climate-KIC's SAFE investment of €150 000 in 2020. Since then, its equity value has increased 3.4 times as its product has been contracted and tested by shipping owners.

Societal impact: Shipping – like aviation – accounts for approximately 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Bound4Blue's innovation delivers reductions in fuel consumption, emissions and air pollutants of up to 40% per journey.

Commercialisation: The International Maritime Organization (IMO) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy aims to reduce the carbon intensity of international shipping by at least 40% by 2030. Bound4Blue has already contracted with shipping owners, such as LDA and Amasus Shipping, to install its products on freighters.

INVESTING FOR 1.5C

[Investing for 1.5C](#) is an implementation of Climate KIC's Systems Innovation as a Service (SlaaS) business model, targeted towards the specific needs of venture capital funds. Building on the success of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Health Venture Centre of Excellence model, Climate-KIC has designed a new commercial service through which it provides strategic climate advisory services to partner funds. In exchange, Climate-KIC receives a share of the management fee and carry incentive payments. This structure establishes a long-term partnership between Climate-KIC and the funds, delivering sustained commercial revenue to the KIC Legal Entity (LE).

Societal impact: *Investing for 1.5C* is a business model innovation that allows venture capital (VC) investors to benefit from strategic impact guidance from Climate-KIC. It also enables supported startups to access a new source of investment capital aligned with the EIT impact logic of using commercial structures to address societal challenges. It is anticipated that the startups invested in via these partner funds will generate at least 3 gigatonnes of positive climate impact (in CO₂ equivalent terms) by 2050.

Intellectual Property Rights: Under this initiative, Climate-KIC retains sole ownership of intellectual property (IP) related to the Climate-KIC brand, Systemic Investing Impact Framework, Deep Demonstrations methodology, Climate-KIC Portfolio Sense-Making and Intelligence Protocol, and/or related systems innovation practices. Foreground IP jointly generated is subject to equal and joint ownership between Climate-KIC and the relevant fund.

Commercialisation: Two venture capital partners have been signed so far following an open search process initiated in 2022:

- **Unaterra** is aiming to raise €100–150 million for its Impact Fund.
- **Almanac Ventures** is aiming to raise €35–75 million for its Seed Fund.

It is expected that the open search process will be repeated later this year, with an additional two to three partner funds anticipated to be signed in early 2024, targeting other market segments and geographies.

EU CITIES MISSION: LEADING THE MISSION IMPLEMENTATION PLATFORM



The €360 million [Cities Mission](#) is one of Europe's core innovation mechanisms to deliver the European Union's (EU) climate goals, utilising public funding and private finance to support radical climate action by cities across Europe. Climate-KIC's role is to lead the Mission Implementation Platform, coordinating over 30 partners and working with the 112 cities in the Mission to deliver smart, climate-neutral targets by 2030.

Societal impact: The selected cities represent 12% of the European population and span all 27 EU Member States, along with countries associated with Horizon Europe. They serve as a beacon of change for urban regions across Europe, which account for 70% of greenhouse gas emissions.

Revenue potential: Climate-KIC LE has secured, as a minimum to date, €7.4 million from 2023–2025 for leading NetZeroCities and the Mission Implementation Platform (not including funds flowing through to partners and cities).

Commercialisation: Climate-KIC's leadership role in the Implementation Platform creates two commercial opportunities:

1. It gains early access to the evolving market-shaping and innovation landscape in cities across Europe – an asset being leveraged in its 'Investing for 1.5°C' offer to venture funds.
2. It is able to transfer insights from the EU-level platform to national platforms, such as the Spanish Cities Platform, which is funded directly by the Spanish Government to help cities capture innovation opportunities.

1.4 FEATURED INNOVATION PROJECT

Project Name & Duration: Transforming Ireland's land and agri-food system through the '[Deep Demonstration](#)' model of innovation

Partners & Collaboration: The Deep Demonstration partnership between Climate-KIC and Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine supports the country's 2030 Impact Goals. The collaboration engages public and private stakeholders in the Irish land and agri-food system to accelerate climate neutrality. The primary goal is to support the development of a climate-resilient food system in Ireland.

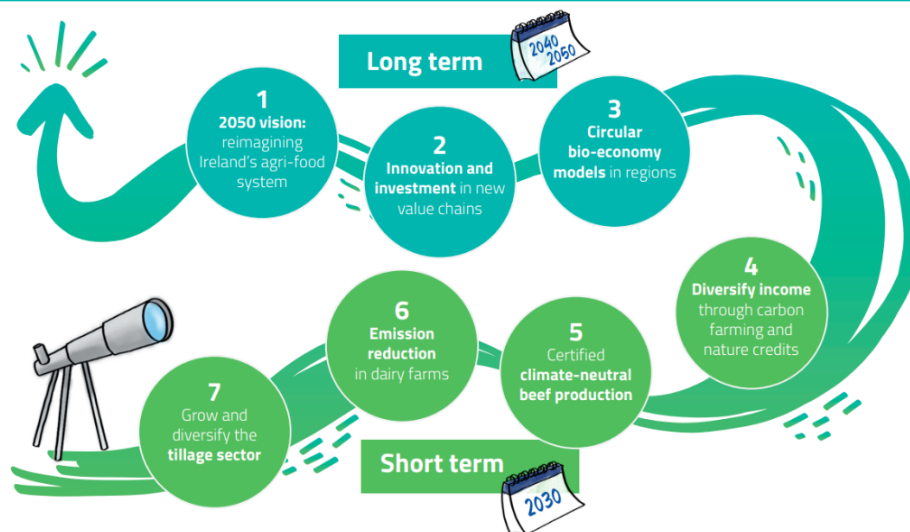
Project Overview & Climate-KIC contribution:

A Deep Demonstration is a collaborative process to identify, test at scale and implement a range of connected innovative solutions to accelerate systemic change. This initiative supports the entire Irish land and agri-food value chain to identify and implement sustainable practices – helping farmers and rural communities thrive and enabling agri-food and bio-based industries to transition to sustainable business models while meeting climate targets.

It involves working with stakeholders from both public and private sectors – including finance, education and civil society – to develop and deploy coordinated innovation actions that work in practice and at scale, and to derive insights from a 'portfolio' of solutions.



What areas of innovation is the Deep Demonstration partnership exploring?



Ireland's 2030 impact goals



25%

reduction in
agricultural emissions
(=5.75 Mt Co2eq)



8,000

hectares of new
forests per year



10%

of farmed area
prioritised for
biodiversity



50%

reduction in
food waste
per person

Key results & impact: In Ireland, Climate-KIC is collaborating with farmers, businesses, policymakers, researchers, and citizens to co-create and implement tailored solutions to address food system sustainability challenges. The initiative aims to ensure shared learning while collectively advancing climate action. This work connects relevant actors and pre-existing initiatives in Ireland to jointly commit to a vision of a climate-neutral food system. The Climate Action Plan 2023 and Food Vision 2030 Strategy

set ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gases (e.g. methane, ammonia), balance residual emissions via carbon sequestration (e.g. through carbon farming and afforestation), and improve biodiversity, air and water quality.

This Deep Demonstration is currently working to create an action plan of connected innovation solutions that will accelerate systemic change and redefine Ireland's agri-food future in alignment with the 2030 Impact Goals.

Testimonials: *'The solutions developed and tested will assist our farmers, rural communities and the wider agri-food and bio-based sector to build resilient approaches and solutions to the challenges of climate change and environmental sustainability.'*

— Charlie McConalogue, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine of Ireland

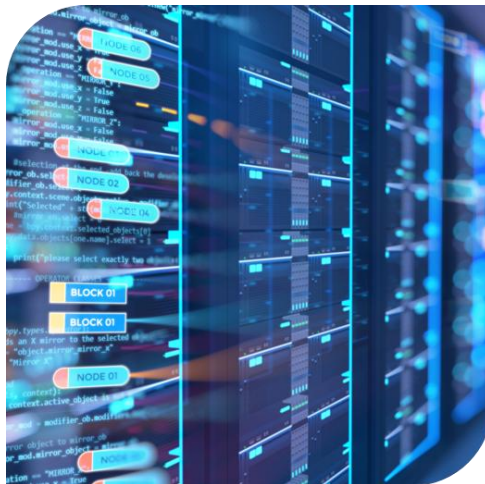


'We aim to help Ireland become a world leader in developing a sustainable, circular and regenerative bioeconomy by bringing our expertise in systems innovation to the table.'

— Kirsten Dunlop, CEO of Climate-KIC

'I welcome the ambition of the partnership to build a portfolio of actions, trialling new practices and technologies, developing, and incentivising new business models, and improving citizen engagement.'

— Martin Heydon, Minister of State



2. EIT DIGITAL

2.1 KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS

MENTOR.ME

The [MentorMe Programme](#) by EIT Digital is a personalised mentorship initiative designed to empower entrepreneurs and professionals at the early stages of their innovation journey. This programme connects participants with seasoned mentors from EIT Digital's extensive network of industry leaders, business experts and innovation specialists across Europe. Topics such as team and team dynamics, product-market fit, investor relations and fundraising, sales and marketing, and management address the key challenges a startup and its founders face, significantly raising the chances of getting to the next stage.

Learn more about the [MentorMe programme](#).

OPEN INNOVATION FACTORY

The [EIT Digital Open Innovation Factory](#) is the core of the EIT Digital innovation pipeline. The programme boosts early-stage European startups interested in gaining market traction for their products and services. The Open Innovation Factory has created and **supported over 120 ventures** and **launched more than 440 products**. By the end of 2024, EIT Digital will have acquired more than 240 equity positions.

In 2025, 10 new equity positions will be created through the Open Innovation Factory and 30 more through the Venture Programme, bringing the total to approximately **270 equity positions for EIT Digital by the end of 2025**.

The EIT Digital Open Innovation Factory invites European innovators and entrepreneurs to jointly build digital innovations and create new ventures in one of the following strategic areas: Digital Industry, Digital Cities, Digital Finance, Digital Wellbeing and Digital Tech.

Learn more about [EIT Digital Open Innovation Factory](#).



GROWTH SERVICES

The [Growth Services](#) programme enables companies seeking €2–30 million to receive unparalleled fundraising support. Our team of expert advisors helps European deep tech companies gain access to the financing they need to scale their businesses. Growth Services has **supported over 460 companies** in their growth. The total investment raised through private investors by these companies exceeds €1.6 billion, with over €110 million directly facilitated by EIT Digital Growth Services.

Learn more about the [EIT Digital Growth Services](#).

EIT DIGITAL CHAMPIONS

[EIT Digital Champions](#) is a pan-European competition to help digital deep tech scale-ups become the next European success story. The competition has attracted thousands of applications from over 33 European countries, many of which went on to become internationally successful companies.

The best 20 companies receive one year of tailored growth support worth €50 000, including help raising their next Series A or B round from international investors. They also receive strategic advice and access to EIT Digital's network of more than 350 partners. In 2024, over 400 companies from 33 countries applied to EIT Digital Champions (previously the EIT Digital Challenge).

Learn more about the [EIT Digital Champions](#).

EIT Digital has made a significant impact in the European digital ecosystem through its innovation programmes, demonstrating leadership in digital transformation and entrepreneurship. Central to its activities is the mission to strengthen European digital sovereignty while addressing societal challenges in strategic areas such as Digital Tech, Digital Industry, Digital Cities, Digital Wellbeing and Digital Finance. As a leading EU multi-stakeholder collaboration platform for digital technologies, it effectively addresses the European Union's top priorities in innovation and skills.

Between **2023 and 2024**, EIT Digital **validated 137 innovations** launched on the market, while **110 startups were created** as a result of its innovation projects. These figures exceed prior targets and reflect its dedication to converting research into commercially viable solutions, while showcasing a substantial contribution to the Horizon Europe priority of digital transition. Twenty-eight of the innovations launched were by organisations from EIT RIS countries, focused on deep tech applications in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and next-generation networks.

The Open Innovation Factory, a cornerstone of EIT Digital's efforts, drives the creation of new ventures and the scaling of early-stage companies. Between 2023 and 2024, the programme delivered 90 innovation activities, supporting the growth of 15 startups. The initial guideline aims to distribute the portfolio of activities into 70% new company creation and 30% support for early-stage ventures. This led to the launch of **over 90 new or improved products** on the market and the **creation of 75 new startups** – more than 20% of which originated from RIS countries.

Furthermore, by integrating a rigorous equity model, EIT Digital has secured 344 equity positions in ventures as of 2024. This **portfolio, valued at over €500 million**, underscores EIT Digital's effectiveness in creating economic opportunities while addressing key societal needs.



EIT Digital's innovation activities are characterised by collaboration across its expansive pan-European network, comprising over 300 partners from academia, research institutions and industry. Through initiatives such as the Digital Finance focus area, EIT Digital has advanced solutions that modernise corporate banking and insurance, enhancing transparency, efficiency and trust in financial systems. Similarly, the Digital Cities focus area has contributed to more liveable and sustainable urban environments, supporting the EU's Green Transition goals.

The **sustainability of EIT Digital's innovation portfolio** is reinforced by its financial co-funding model, which achieved an average partner contribution rate of over 60% for innovation activities in 2023–2024. With a budget allocation of €49 million for innovation programmes during this period, the organisation is mobilising additional resources through participation in Horizon Europe and other EU programmes, further extending its impact on European digital innovation.

EIT Digital's contribution to societal and economic resilience is also evident in its support for diversity and inclusion initiatives. As of 2023, it has consistently surpassed its Gender Balance Action Plan targets, with women representing over 30% of entrepreneurs and graduates in its ecosystem. These efforts enhance the inclusivity of the digital economy while fostering a pipeline of entrepreneurial talent to sustain Europe's leadership in digital innovation.

Through its strategic focus and measurable outcomes, EIT Digital exemplifies a commitment to addressing Europe's digital challenges and opportunities. By **bridging the gap between research and market implementation**, fostering cross-sectoral collaboration and ensuring the financial sustainability of its ventures, EIT Digital is driving transformative change in line with Horizon Europe's priorities. Its achievements underscore the critical role of innovation programmes in advancing Europe's digital transition, green agenda and economic resilience.

2.2. DIGITAL INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD

EIT Digital's strategic focus for the years ahead underscores its commitment to fostering deep tech innovation, building globally competitive European digital ventures, and addressing Europe's digital fragmentation. By 2027, EIT Digital aims to solidify its role as a key enabler of innovation in areas vital to Europe's digital sovereignty, including Digital Tech, Digital Industry, Digital Cities, Digital Wellbeing and Digital Finance.

By the **end of 2027**, EIT Digital is projected to have delivered **475 designed and tested innovations**, which will also be marketed by that time. Additionally, the organisation is set to foster the **creation of 368 startups** from innovation – a remarkable achievement showcasing its commitment to nurturing Europe's entrepreneurial ecosystem. These startups will play a critical role in addressing societal challenges and promoting the digital and green transitions, contributing directly to the EU's sustainability and competitiveness goals.

EIT Digital plans to solidify its position as a leader in European digital innovation by creating a cumulative **total of 600 equity positions** through its startup programmes. This includes generating 15 new equity positions annually from later-stage initiatives, and 25 annually through early-stage programmes. These activities are geared towards bringing scientific research and deep tech advancements from the conceptual stage to the market. This approach emphasises pan-European collaboration and a commitment to launching high-impact solutions in critical domains such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and next-generation networks.



Additionally, EIT Digital prioritises a **balanced portfolio approach**, ensuring that all five focus areas receive attention, with approximately 20% of resources dedicated to each area. This strategic distribution underscores EIT Digital's commitment to addressing Europe's most pressing digital challenges while maximising market potential and societal benefits.

EIT Digital is committed to enhancing the digital competitiveness of EU Member States, particularly those with lower Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) scores. The organisation is targeting a 130% increase in participation from these Member States, ensuring digital inclusion across all regions. These efforts will contribute to an average DESI score exceeding 75 for Human Capital development in Europe, reflecting a significant uplift in digital skills and capabilities across the continent.

To drive financial sustainability and extend its impact, EIT Digital plans to **generate €114.1 million** in financial sustainability revenues **by 2027**. This will be achieved through robust co-funding mechanisms, which are expected to maintain a co-funding rate of 50%, underscoring strong commitment from partners and stakeholders. Additionally, the KIC is set to mobilise significant external funding to scale its innovation activities.

Through its ambitious initiatives, EIT Digital seeks to advance Europe's position as a global leader in the digital domain while embedding European values of inclusivity, fairness and sustainability into the digital world. The organisation's strategic investments and innovation-focused activities position it as a key driver of Europe's digital and green transformation in the years to come.

2.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON)

EIT Digital was ranked number 4 in the list of 'Top accelerator brands in Europe' (Startup Heatmap Report, 2019) and its management was also featured in the '50 most influential women in startup and VC space' (EU Startups, 2018)⁴.

One of EIT Digital's supported startups, a server-side tracking company called [Jentis](#), also made the cut for [Sifted's 250 Fastest-Growing Start-Ups in 2024](#) and falls at number 171 on the list. A French startup supported by EIT Digital, [Metron](#), was also shortlisted in the [World's Top Greentech Companies of 2025](#) for its work in harnessing advanced technologies to support industries in their energy production and storage efforts.

ARIADNE (PEOPLE MOVEMENT ANALYSIS AND OPTIMISATION)

Data analytics solution for people movement analysis to maximise infrastructure efficiency. A German startup (initially Ariadne Maps, now just [Ariadne](#)) was created in 2019 to bring the solution to market. Ariadne's service uses advanced artificial intelligence algorithms for precise and anonymous tracking of people presence and movements, enabling organisations to make the best use of their infrastructure to minimise congestion and dwell time, while maximising customer satisfaction and experience.

Societal impact: Better use of transport facilities like airports or train stations, or shopping facilities, while also avoiding privacy concerns in analysing people movement.

Revenue potential: Equity: initially 11% in Ariadne, diluted by subsequent funding rounds to 5.96%, valued on the basis of the most recent funding round at approximately €2.4 million.

⁴European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), *EIT Digital Factsheet*, March 2025, <https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-03/EIT%20Digital%20Factsheet.pdf>.



Commercialisation: Sales forecast for 2023 is approx. €4 million. Current customers include Aviva, PUMA, Intersport, Quebec Airport, Deichmann, Ikea. About 40 employees, mostly split between Germany and Greece.

SIDEKICK HEALTH

An Icelandic digital therapeutics company, [SideKick Health](#) has made significant strides in the healthcare sector. After winning the EIT Digital Challenge in 2019, SideKick Health successfully raised a Series A round of €17 million, demonstrating the effectiveness of EIT Digital's support in scaling impactful health tech solutions.

Societal impact: The societal impact of SideKick Health lies in its ability to transform healthcare delivery and improve health outcomes globally through innovative digital therapeutics. The company has developed a gamified, science-driven platform to address chronic diseases and lifestyle management.

Revenue potential: EIT Digital earned a 2% success fee on the round. Secured revenues: €90 000. Commercialisation: SideKick Health has a multi-billion market opportunity, but EIT Digital is not entitled to future revenues or equity from this company.

SMART CLOUD FARMING

[SmartCloudFarming](#), a Berlin-based startup founded in 2018, is making significant societal contributions by revolutionising soil management through advanced technology. Their innovative approach utilises satellite imagery, ground truth data, and artificial intelligence to create detailed 3D soil maps, providing critical insights into soil moisture, nutrient levels, and organic carbon content. SmartCloudFarming is a winner of Open Innovation Factory 2023.

Societal impact: By offering precise soil intelligence, SmartCloudFarming enables farmers to implement sustainable practices that enhance soil health and boost agricultural productivity. Their technology supports informed decision-making in soil management, carbon farming and regenerative agriculture, leading to increased crop yields and reduced environmental impact.

Revenue potential: Equity: EIT Digital owns 5% of SmartCloudFarming, valued at €230 000 currently.

Commercialisation: SmartCloudFarming has recently secured Nestlé as a beachhead customer and plans to expand globally.

2.4 FEATURED INNOVATION PROJECT

Project Name and Duration: Access to Finance [support for WSense](#) (2022)

Partners and Collaboration: EIT Digital facilitated the investment round with the participation of SWEN's Blue Ocean and joined by CDP Venture Capital SGR, RunwayFBU, Axon Capital Partners, Katapult Ocean, CoreAngels Climate and Moonstone.

Project Overview and EIT KIC contribution: Based in Rome, WSense is a deep tech company that won the EIT Digital Challenge in 2022 for its work in creating underwater IoT networks specialised in end-to-end underwater wireless communication systems for real-time asset and environmental monitoring. The company joined EIT Digital Accelerator as a winner of the Challenge 2022. The Access to Finance team



supported the closing of a **€10 million fundraising round** by introducing a lead French investor that helped complete the round with contributions from historical and follower investors.

Key Results and Impact: WSense is a solution to boost ocean conservation and promote a sustainable blue economy. It supports monitoring and preserving the marine environment.

Results Ownership: EIT Digital is not a shareholder of WSense; hence WSense is the sole beneficiary of the innovations developed and commercialised.

Testimonial: *‘This new round and especially the trust of the new international investors allow us to further strengthen our technology leadership in an increasingly competitive market where even large players are beginning to enter. Thanks to our ability in enabling technologies that were previously impossible in the marine environment, along with our ability to develop cutting-edge solutions, I believe WSense is well positioned to make a positive impact on our planet. We are in fact developing partnerships that consolidate us in emerging areas such as marine renewable energy, submarine autonomous robotics, and infrastructure security and surveillance. The support from EIT Digital’s Growth Services and Access to Finance programme was pivotal in preparing us for fundraising and connecting us with key investors across Europe.’*
— Chiara Petrioli, co-founder and CEO

Further Information

[Wireless underwater technology company WSense secures €9M funding \(EIT Digital, 2023\)](#)

[The woman behind underwater wireless networks at 3000 meters deep \(Euronews, 2024\)](#)



3. EIT FOOD

3.1. KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS

EIT Food envisions a world where everybody can access and enjoy safe, sustainable and healthy food, with trust and fairness at the heart of the process from farm to fork. Its initiatives are guided by a mission-led approach, which focuses on improving outcomes for people and planet. Activities tackle complex food system challenges including alternative proteins, increased consumer uptake of nutritional recommendations, improved nutritional profile of foods and ingredients, digital traceability, use of food waste or side streams, and the carbon dioxide equivalent burden of food chains. Through its systemic approach to innovation, EIT Food engages researchers, producers, manufacturers, retailers, policymakers and consumers, while fostering co-creation and collaborative innovation **to shape a more sustainable and consumer-centric food ecosystem.**

Since 2018, EIT Food has supported the **launch of 283 products** and services into the market through its collaborative **network of over 2 159 organisations** worldwide. As part of this network, EIT Food has supported at least **1 438 individual startups and scaleups** since 2018 (currently employing a total of approximately 10 000 persons). Recent examples include dairy alternative oat-based drinks from [Oatier](#), a vegan protein fillet made with fungi mycelium from [Revo salmon](#), freeze dried snacks from [Farmhood](#), a tuna alternative made from seaweed and plant proteins produced by BettaFish, and personalised nutrition and informed consumer choice enablers, such as wellness apps from [Salus optima](#).

Today, **one third of all food produced worldwide is wasted**. In Europe alone, €132 billion is lost due to food waste annually. In line with European Union (EU) targets, EIT Food has increased its focus on developing food loss and waste reduction enablers with significant success. New ventures in this area include [FreshSens](#) (extends the shelf life of perishable products), [Kerntec](#) (plant-based products upcycling stone fruit pits), and [Mimica](#) Bump (temperature-sensitive freshness indicator).

The EIT Food innovation portfolio also reflects a commitment to both the Green and Digital Transitions by promoting technologies that support digital tools, remote sensing, regenerative agriculture and sustainable production. The core EIT Food **entrepreneurship programmes** – Seedbed, the Food Accelerator Network, and Rising Food Stars – have driven **investments of €1 119.23 million** from 2018–2023, far surpassing the 2024 targets of €320.23 million.



The Fast Track to Market programme, launched in early 2024, supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups in scaling operations and launching innovations. To date, 4 SMEs and startups were supported in the first round of applications, and an additional 8 will be selected from the second round. This initiative aligns with Horizon Europe's objective of fostering a resilient and competitive Europe by enabling market access for revenue-generating enterprises.

EIT Food has prioritised inclusivity and collaboration across the food value chain, ensuring equitable access to innovation benefits. Challenges in personalised nutrition, affordable nutrition, and cultivated meat supported 20 SMEs in 2022 and 2023, with €650 000 co-financed by partners such as Food Innovation Hub Europe and the Good Food Institute. These topic-driven innovation challenges have been structured as a two-stage rocket, with the top performers receiving follow-up project funding for activities in 2024 and 2025. Combined, the challenges are projected to deliver between 10–15 marketed innovations.

EIT Food has established robust financial sustainability mechanisms to ensure the long-term impact of its innovation initiatives. Since 2023, 10 Success Sharing Mechanism (SSM) agreements have been signed, with beneficiaries committing to return 1.3 to 2 times (or more) the funding received if the innovation proves to be commercially successful. These agreements generate future financial returns that can be reinvested in future projects.

Impact-focused assessment of the past portfolio, along with improvements in tracking predicted and emerging outcomes from current KAVAs, has enabled EIT Food to estimate a social return on investment within 15 years of the core entrepreneurship programmes at €13 for every €1 invested⁵ and for the innovation portfolio at up to €21.5 for every €1 invested.⁶

⁵ European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Food, *Entrepreneurship Impact Report*, 15 August 2024, <https://www.eitfood.eu/reports/entrepreneurship-impact-report>.

⁶ European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Food, *Innovation Impact Report*, 15 August 2024, <https://www.eitfood.eu/reports/innovation-impact-report>.



Additionally, EIT Food categorises innovations reaching market into the following impact indicators, allowing EIT Food to track progress in real time:

Mission	Impact Indicator	Current + predicted 2024-25	2027 target
Reducing risk for a fair and resilient food system	# new digital solutions in use to improve supply chain efficiency, integrity and/or transparency	34+16=50	20
	# EIT Food supported products on the market derived from alternative sources (e.g., alternative proteins; new plant varieties; alternative production techniques, etc.)	26+21=47	40
Healthier lives through food	# consumers using technology, products or guidance developed with the support of EIT Food to personalise or change diet in line with relevant Food-Based Dietary Guidelines for Europe	26+2=28 innovations (63,120 consumers)	4000 consumers
	# EIT Food-supported products on the market with levels of salt and/or free sugars and/or trans and saturated fats reduced to, or below, recommended Food-Based Dietary Guidelines for Europe (targeting food groups known to be major sources of these dietary factors); or products on the market with an improved nutritional profile	30+14 =44	20
Net zero food system	Volume reduction in CO ₂ equivalent tonnes from agri-food system	104 innovations (7.1 Million Tonnes*) *assessments ongoing	40 innovations (18MT)
	# new products or processes launched with EIT Food support using revalorised &/ or reintegrated food system side-streams and waste streams	20+42=62	40

3.2 FOOD INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD

EIT Food's ambitious innovation agenda for 2021–2027 is poised to **deliver transformative impacts in the food system**, aligning with Horizon Europe's priorities of the Green and Digital Transitions and fostering a resilient and competitive Europe. With a focus on catalysing innovation, supporting entrepreneurs, and driving sustainable change, EIT Food is set to deliver significant benefits to the economy, environment and society.



During the period 2021–2027, EIT Food plans to support the successful market launch of 423 innovations. These innovations will address critical areas such as sustainable agriculture, alternative proteins, and circular food systems. The emphasis on resource stewardship will help transform the traditional linear “produce–use–dispose” model into a circular bioeconomy, positioning EIT Food as a leader in sustainability-focused innovation.

EIT Food’s subscription-based partnerships included a total of 269 strategic, delivery and community organisations in 2024. EIT Food anticipates a steady increase in its partnership portfolio towards 2027, helping foster an informed and need-driven approach to advancing innovation and sustainability in Europe and beyond.

EIT Food educational targets for 2021–2027 include:

- 1 132 graduates from PhD and master’s programmes
- 52 944 participants on non-degree training
- 13 800 participants completing at least 75% of online courses

These targets will feed the long-term pipeline of engaged stakeholders working in and advocating for positive change in the agrifood sector. EIT Food has also created a fully operational EIT Labelled accreditation system for non-degree programmes, which will help drive employability of participants.

Additionally, with a to-date record of over 60 000 people actively engaged in targeted innovations that encourage healthier and more sustainable behaviour, EIT Food is enabling consumers to make more informed choices.

EIT Food has a target of **reaching ten million Europeans by 2027** and empowering them with the knowledge to make healthy and sustainable food choices. Innovations focused on increasing consumer trust and supporting informed food shopping decisions will be enabled by EIT Food’s Consumer Observatory, FoodUnfolded and FoodEducators programmes.

The Consumer Observatory has already published various reports on public perception of key topics such as ultra-processed foods and labelling, generating engagement and follow-up actions involving a range of stakeholders from 20 countries. It will run 2–3 engagement programmes each year from 2024–2027, in addition to informing the direction of at least 3 approved EIT Food Impact Funding Framework projects.

Finally, the organisation’s financial sustainability is underpinned by projected revenue growth, with financial sustainability revenues expected to reach **€23.5 million by 2027**. This robust funding model, combined with an overall targeted co-funding rate of 72.9%, ensures that EIT Food can sustain its transformative initiatives and continue creating impact long after 2027.

3.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON)

EIT Food was ranked number 89 among Europe’s leading startup hubs by the Financial Times (2024), and its management was included in the Top 10 Women in Agrifood by the INTEC Foundation (2024⁷). This year, EIT Food supported several companies shortlisted by TIME and Statista in the list of the [World’s Top Greentech Companies of 2025](#), including four Israeli startups recognized for their positive effect on reducing environmental impact around the globe:

- [Redefine Meat](#) (a startup producing plant-based meat)
- [TIPA](#) (a company creating flexible packaging that has the same end-of-life as organic matter)



- [Aleph Farms](#) (a cellular agriculture company offering cultured meat based on a 3D technology to grow animal products)
- [CropX](#) (which provides digital farming solutions)

The French startup [GOURMEY](#) and the Spanish company [Novameat](#) also featured on this list for their development of gourmet products and plant-based meats.

A RIS COUNTRY INNOVATION: NEWMAN ROBOTIC WEEDING MACHINE FROM ULLMANNA

The European Commission has set a target of at least 25% of EU agricultural land being under organic farming by 2030. However, organic farms are less productive and more expensive to run, with manual weed control being one of the biggest costs.

[Ullmanna](#) has brought two products successfully to market to address this need:

- **AROW** – an AI-enabled digital box containing high-resolution cameras, lights and advanced electronics
- **NEWMAN** – a collaborative product where an AROW box is attached to farm machinery to create a smart, precision-guided mechanical weeding solution

Ullmanna's technology has been developed to analyse images and 'teach' the software how to identify weeds in thousands of different scenarios, enabling highly accurate intra-row and in-row, precision-guided weeding.

In 2024, the company generated **sales of approximately €700 000 to date** (180+ AROW boxes and 5 NEWMAN sets) and expects this to reach approximately €900 000 by the end of 2024. By 2026, the company is targeting annual sales of €6 million. Looking further ahead, it expects rapid scale-up, bringing down unit costs to attract a widespread customer base.

In organic sugar beet farming, the AROW system **reduces weeding costs by up to 80%**, saving farmers over €2 000 per hectare annually in 50-hectare-plus fields, making organic farming more economically viable and attractive. An independent consultancy has reviewed Ullmanna's growth forecasts and estimated that 33 243 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent will be mitigated over 15 years.

EIT Food was responsible for getting Ullmanna off the ground with a small €3 000 initial grant. Since then, the company has participated in EIT Food startup programmes and is currently part of a consortium receiving EIT scale-up innovation funding (€725 000 in 2023 and €616 000 in 2024). Ullmanna has stated that 70–80% of its current impact is due to EIT Food support.



A WASTE REDUCTION INNOVATION: BUMP FROM MIMICA

In the EU, **over 51.6 million tonnes of still-edible food are wasted annually** by households, with an associated market value estimated at **€42.6 billion**. This unnecessary waste of good food is driven by expiry dates based on near worst-case temperature scenarios. The EU is committed to meeting the [Sustainable Development Goal Target](#) of halving per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level by 2030.

[Mimica's](#) Bump technology is a temperature-sensitive indicator that provides accurate freshness information. Designed as a cap or tag, it shows the true longevity of food and drinks by responding to temperature changes, becoming bumpy when the food or drinks are past their best.

The company began its journey with juice as its proof-of-concept product, supported by EIT Food under the Rising Food Stars programme. The project then moved on to EIT Food's Fast Track to Market programme. A consumer trial on orange juice revealed that Bump enabled 97% of households to enjoy the product for up to six days beyond current expiry date guidance. Building on this success, Mimica is now expanding into high-value, high-carbon-footprint products such as meat and fish, where overcautious expiry dates are even more significant.

The work is currently being supported by the EIT Food Impact Funding Framework. This is a commercial pilot project with partner ABP Food Group, a **€5 billion food processing business providing beef and other meat products** to customers around the world. The project is due to run until November 2025, with the intention that Mimica and ABP will then work with supermarkets across the UK and Europe to introduce Bump tags on their own-brand packaged meat products. Mimica's market research shows that potential annual sales of up to €2.6 billion are achievable, with a **target of €13.25 million by 2029** via its first three targeted customers, who are already advising the project development. Net environmental impact studies for the Bump cap and tag have illustrated that **saving 20% of current juice waste**, due to the false belief it has spoiled, would equal emissions savings of 36 500 tonnes of CO₂ per year. If the Bump tag eliminated all of the 15% of current beef waste that is unnecessarily discarded, the emission savings would total 231 200 tonnes of CO₂ annually.

EIT Food has played a pivotal role in the development of the Bump technology:

- Firstly, through the significant funding provided to support commercialisation;
- Secondly, by providing access to talent and skills via EIT Food's education programmes.

Mimica has a core team of 12 staff and has benefited from the support of an additional 4 PhD and Master's students from the EIT Food Fellowship programme.

'Funding and general support from EIT Food during Mimica's time, initially as a Rising Food Star and now as a Delivery Partner, has had a profound and significant effect on Mimica's potential to make an impact in line with its mission to radically reduce unnecessary waste for industry, consumers and communities around the world... More than half of the project's benefits achieved to date could be attributed to EIT Food funding – perhaps up to 60%.'

Laurence Kayson, CEO of Mimica

A MULTIPLIER-BASED INNOVATION: AFFORDABLE NUTRITION SCALE-UP CHALLENGE



New food companies encounter barriers such as market segmentation, high development costs, lack of



data to ensure success, inefficient supply chains, and the challenge of achieving mass-market food quality. Blendhub, an EIT Food Delivery Partner, used its expertise in powder-based food products, together with EIT, to help food companies overcome these innovation barriers and accelerate the time it takes to ideate, test, and launch a new product onto the market.

Proposed products were all formulated from powder, including:

- Beverage products
- Bakery products
- Dairy products
- Dairy alternatives

From 61 applicants, **10 winners** (listed below) were carefully selected to receive **€25 000 worth of support**. These represented 9 countries and included a mix of startups new to the EIT Food ecosystem, as well as alumni from entrepreneurship and Test Farms programmes. In a second phase of the challenge, winners were supported to develop a business plan and submit an application for the EIT Food Impact Funding Framework (IFF) to bridge the last step to market.

The reported and expected Marketed Innovations, the recruitment of Blendhub as delivery partner and the participant progression in further EIT Food programmes demonstrates the success of this approach. Rebread: bread based on upcycled Koji Flour, Aliga: dairy-free spread based on their white Chlorella ingredient, Circular Food Technology / Agrain: sour dough bread from spent grain, Alver: non-dairy pizza cheese based on their Golden Chlorella ingredient, Landratech: tea and coffee alternatives based on acorns, Fabumin: plant-based whipping cream based on their aquafaba ingredient, MaGie Creations: spent grain based muffin, bagel and cracker, Keratin: protein powder from hydrolized pig's blood, Green Spot Technologies: burger bun recipe based on fermented spent grain. Circular Fiber: artichoke flour-based cereal bars and ingredients for bakery, pasta and frozen pizza, Ficosterra: bio stimulant from seaweed extracts and micro-organisms, EVJA: "OPI", a patented precision agriculture system.

Outcomes:

- two marketed innovations captured
- eight progressed towards market launch
- six approved IFF proposals
- €4.2 million in progression funding and investments leveraged

3.4 FEATURED INNOVATION PROJECT



Project Name & Duration: Salus Optima: Personalising canteen menus for improved employee health

Unhealthy diets and obesity increase the risk of many diseases that reduce the quality of life for millions of European Union (EU) citizens each year. Yet, obesity rates continue to rise worldwide. More accessible, affordable, and engaging technologies are needed to create lasting behaviour change. By collaborating with one of the world's largest catering service providers to provide a mobile application that integrates personal data from wearables with an adapted workplace menu, Salus Optima is set to significantly impact individual health and wellbeing for one million users by 2029.



THE BURDEN OF OBESITY AND NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCIES

The dietary habits of people have changed dramatically over the last few decades. Driven by a shift towards calorie-dense and fatty foods, increased dining out, larger portion sizes and a lower intake of fruit and vegetables, many countries now experience a **'double burden' of malnutrition**. Unhealthy diets contribute not only to excessive weight gain but also to poor health outcomes, where individuals do not consume the necessary nutrients.

The **alarming rise in obesity** and related non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as cardiovascular disease (the leading cause of death and disability in the European Region) and type 2 diabetes, poses a significant threat to public health. These conditions require ongoing medical treatment and management, impacting both productivity and quality of life. In the EU alone, these conditions **account for more than 3.8 million deaths**, cost national governments €70 billion (approximately 7% of national budgets), and amount to an average **cost of €576 per patient, per year**.

Preventative measures and effective treatments are crucial. International policies such as the World Health Organization's Global Action Plan and the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health aim to address these challenges through dietary guidelines and targets to reduce mortality and morbidity associated with unhealthy diets.

Project Overview: Salus Optima's solution offers scientifically informed, personalised nutrition, lifestyle coaching and behaviour recommendations through a user-friendly mobile app (iOS/Android). The project, funded by EIT Food, integrates data from wearables and continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) with a leading food service provider's extensive food menu system, with a potential reach in over 30 countries and billions of meals served annually.

This innovation is designed to support healthier dietary choices while providing insights into how the food service provider's offerings impact employee health. It enables the personalisation of menus to meet diverse business and employee wellness needs.

In 2022, Salus Optima received an award of €30 000 as part of the first EIT Food Prize-Based Challenge on Personalised Nutrition For All, recognising the 'integration of real-time metabolic, behavioural and lifestyle monitoring into a personalised nutrition service for effective weight loss and health gain'. Subsequently,



EIT Food expedited the market launch of this innovation via grant funding of €375 011 to Salus Optima, together with the food service provider and the Centre for Exercise, Nutrition and Metabolism (CNEM) at the University of Bath. The project spanned approximately 15 months.

Activities included optimising app data, consumer testing, and marketing to encourage rapid customer base expansion. A product trial with over 100 employees from the food service provider monitored the formation of healthy habits, user satisfaction, meal purchases aligned with recommendations, activity and sleep status, metabolic responses to food, and progress towards weight loss. Salus forecasts deployment in three territories, with 1 050 000 users by 2029.

Testimonial: *‘Our app has real potential to help employees consider their relationship with food and to make better choices that will influence their long-term health. The support provided by EIT Food has enabled us to work with collaborators to get access to a significant market faster and more informed than if we had progressed alone. We could attribute 55% of our current impact to EIT Food’s support and would recommend their funding instruments as a path to success.’* – Rodrigo Jesus, CEO of Salus Optima

Key Results and Impact: By supporting healthier lifestyle choices, employers can potentially reduce absenteeism and lost productivity, especially among employees who are overweight. Employers using the app can also gather valuable data on their workforce’s nutritional needs, enabling them to adjust menu options in their staff canteens.

Industry research conducted by the food service provider reported employees having a strong interest in an employer-funded tool that could stretch their budgets further while recommending foods aligned with their health and wellness needs. The innovation was found to be highly appealing.

‘Our engaging and scientifically validated digital products empower employees to make more informed choices concerning their diet without having to take on extra expenses themselves. With the potential reach of the food being serviced via corporate canteens, Salus Optima estimates an impact on approximately one million lives by 2029, projecting savings of €494 million on obesity treatment and workplace absenteeism, with a substantial return on the EIT Food grant investment.’ – Rodrigo Jesus, CEO of Salus Optima

An independent impact assessment on the potential health cost savings from this system, factoring in estimated annual direct (medical and care) and indirect (absenteeism and productivity) costs per capita for obesity and weight management in the EU, has projected **€1.27 billion in health benefits from 2025 to 2042** attributable to EIT Food based on anticipated uptake.



4. EIT HEALTH

4.1. KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS

EIT Health has made significant strides in healthcare innovation by fostering projects that directly impact patients, healthcare systems, and the industry across Europe. It leverages its dynamic ecosystem composed of **more than 120 institutional partners** across research, academia and business, alongside hundreds of startups. By mid-2024, EIT Health had notably bolstered the European healthcare landscape by supporting startups, advancing cutting-edge projects, and engaging thousands in health-oriented education and training.

In 2023 alone, the EIT Health portfolio consisted of **22 innovation projects** that brought transformative solutions to market. These actions aimed to enhance healthcare delivery, reshape industry practices, and maximise patient health outcomes. Together with other initiatives from the portfolio, key results included the **commercial launch of 10 innovations**, six of which generated at least €10 000 in sales revenue — illustrating EIT Health's emphasis on supporting solutions with market viability. Additionally, EIT Health facilitated **six intellectual property rights (IPR) applications**, underscoring its commitment to protecting and commercialising new health technologies.

Financial investment in health innovation remains strong, with **€260 million in investment attracted** for Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC)-supported startups and scale-ups in 2023. This trend was reinforced by an additional €24 million specifically invested in startups within the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS). These investments underscore EIT Health's role in driving the financial sustainability and scalability of innovative health solutions.

The creation of high-quality jobs is another positive outcome, with **43 new positions generated** within businesses as a direct result of EIT Health projects in 2023. Furthermore, the portfolio reached a wide audience, involving **28 622 citizens and patients in project activities** and directly benefiting 141 762 individuals through implemented health solutions. These figures reflect EIT Health's commitment to engaging the public and ensuring that innovations reach those who need them most.



A closer look at the 2023 portfolio shows strategic alignment with EIT Health's core Flagships. The portfolio included ten innovation projects selected through multiple funding rounds, with special emphasis on Flagships such as 'Defining New Models to Deliver Healthcare' and 'Facilitating the Uptake of Digital Medical Devices and Diagnostics'. Key results from this period included a marked impact on healthcare stakeholders, with 23 491 citizens and patients directly involved in or benefiting from EIT Health projects. Additionally, solutions from these projects reached 132 615 citizens and patients, further underscoring EIT Health's commitment to improving public health at scale.

EIT Health's Innovation Portfolio continued to grow in 2024, welcoming ten new projects throughout the year, selected through various cut-offs of the competitive Flagship Call programme. Of these, one project was selected as part of the third edition of the [DiGinnovation Programme](#), aimed at accelerating the reimbursement of digital health applications in EU markets offering fast-track reimbursement.

Ongoing calls for new projects under the DiGinnovation and Flagship programmes at the end of 2024 and beginning of 2025 have recently led to the provisional awarding of nine new projects focused on accelerating the market uptake of digital health solutions, which are set for implementation throughout 2025. These projects form part of ongoing efforts to address healthcare transformation through digital innovation, advanced healthcare models, and industrial re-strengthening in the health sector.

These achievements showcase EIT Health's pivotal role in enhancing healthcare innovation and supporting the **clinical and regulatory validation of patient-centric healthcare technologies** across Europe. Through its efforts, EIT Health is advancing high-impact solutions, generating investment, and fostering education. These initiatives are effectively transforming the healthcare landscape, building a sustainable health economy, and promoting better health outcomes for European citizens.

4.2. HEALTH INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD

EIT Health's innovation portfolio is set to catalyse transformative healthcare solutions across Europe, with ambitious goals aimed at promoting better health, fostering a sustainable health economy, and strengthening healthcare systems. **By 2027, EIT Health targets launching 87 market-ready innovations** and securing **€1 307 million in investments** for startups and scale-ups, solidifying its role as a driving force for impactful healthcare advancements.

To sustain its innovation pipeline, EIT Health has integrated **financial sustainability mechanisms**, such as success fees and royalties, into projects. These are projected to **generate €1.9 million in revenues** by 2025, which can be reinvested into future innovations – supporting a self-sustaining ecosystem that continuously propels new healthcare solutions. Furthermore, with an additional €8 million earmarked for innovation in 2024, EIT Health aims to launch eight new collaborative projects in areas such as digital healthcare transformation, ensuring alignment with pressing European healthcare priorities.

Looking ahead, the establishment of the 'EIT Health Impact Facility', projected to reach €31.1 million by 2027, will enable continuous reinvestment into promising healthcare ventures – reinforcing EIT Health's long-term innovation sustainability. Increasing the co-funding rate to 50% by 2025 also amplifies its impact, engaging more stakeholders from industry and the public sector to support scalable solutions.



Finally, EIT Health's focus on talent development – with goals to **create 3 023 new jobs and train over 30 740 healthcare professionals by 2027** – is integral to its innovation mission. By equipping a new generation with skills essential for driving and scaling healthcare innovations, EIT Health ensures a robust talent base capable of implementing transformative solutions across Europe, positioning Europe as a global leader in healthcare innovation.

4.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON)

EIT Health also provided support for several startups that made Sifted's 250 Fastest-Growing Startups in 2024. [Collective Minds Radiology](#) from Sweden ranked at number 127, and [Whitelab Genomics](#), which develops AI solutions for genomic drug design, ranked at number 172. The Portuguese startup [Knokcare](#), focusing on the digitalisation of the healthcare system, stood at number 208 on the list.

EIT Health was a finalist in the European Digital Skills Awards 2024 – the upskilling tool SkillSync (developed as part of the EIT AI Community). It was also shortlisted for the Irish Healthcare Centre Award for Innovation Days 2023 and received the award of World's Leading Public–Private Business Accelerator from the UBI Global World Benchmark Study 2021–2022.⁸

EDIT-B (ALCEDIAG, DIAGNOSTICS, BIPOLAR DISEASE)



healthcare system.

Globally, 45 million people are diagnosed with bipolar disorder, but studies show the actual number of people living with the condition but being misdiagnosed could be much higher. Current diagnosis of bipolar disorder consists of a lengthy clinical evaluation involving a physical exam, mood charting and psychiatric assessment – often leading to diagnoses taking several years or being confused with depression. A lack of diagnosis, delayed diagnosis and misdiagnosis have severe consequences for patients and put a massive strain on families, loved ones and the

[ALCEDIAG](#) has developed a revolutionary blood diagnostic test designed to differentiate bipolar disorder from depression using RNA editing biomarkers and artificial intelligence. The test is highly accurate, requires only a simple blood draw and uses equipment available in most central laboratories. The analysis takes just 48 hours. The availability of the Edit-B test will have a crucial impact on patient pathways, enabling early, correct treatment intervention and reducing avoidable side effects.

The objective of this project is to run a multicentric clinical study in Europe using the Edit-B reagent kit and to prepare for broad commercialisation through an optimised market access strategy. Through EIT Health's support and assistance in navigating recent regulatory changes, the consortium announced in 2023 the launch of the test – two years ahead of the projected date of 2025. Edit-B has already undergone clinical validation in two studies on independent cohorts, and is CE IVD marked, boasting sensitivity and specificity rates above 80%

⁸ European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), *EIT Health Factsheet*, March 2025, available at: <https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-03/EIT Health Factsheet.pdf> (accessed 29 April 2025).



AMR DETECTOOL (CEA AND NG BIOTECH, DIAGNOSTICS, ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE)

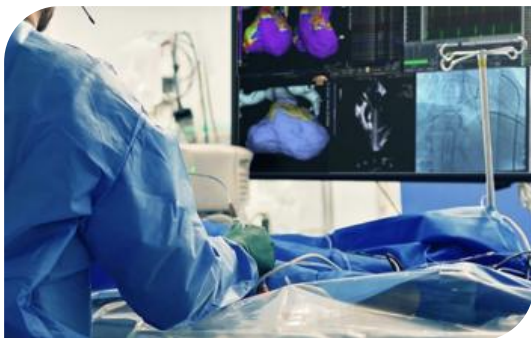
The spread of bacteria resistant to antibiotics is a growing threat to public health. It is estimated that there are five types of infections caused by antimicrobial resistance (AMR), with 33 000 deaths each year in Europe due to infections caused by antibiotic resistance. The methods currently used to determine a bacterium's resistance are time-consuming, which delays the prescription of appropriate antibiotic treatment.



The [AMR DetecTool project](#) (2020–2022) involved a consortium of 14 research and healthcare organisations across Europe, including ten hospitals, brought together by EIT Health with the goal of bringing to market a rapid test for the detection of AMR in only 30 minutes. The tool consists of a strip in a disposable plastic device, containing a pad with antibodies that bind to bacteria in a clinical sample. If resistant bacteria are present, the test reacts by showing a coloured test line and control line after 15 minutes. Rapid detection enables the patient to receive appropriate antibiotics more quickly – reducing recovery time, complications, and the length of hospital stays.

After achieving the CE mark, the product NG-Test® DirecTool was officially launched on the market in 2024 and is now being commercialised by NG Biotech, which is also exploring its use in detecting AMR in animals.

INEURHEART (INHEART MEDICAL IMAGING, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, CARDIOVASCULAR)



Catheter ablation is the go-to procedure to treat and prevent cardiac tachyarrhythmias such as ventricular tachycardia. It aims to cauterise areas within the heart responsible for abnormal rhythms. However, identifying these areas is a key challenge – to restore the heart's natural rhythm, all culprit regions must be correctly targeted. Most of the procedure time (4 to 5 hours) is currently spent identifying these ablation targets via the insertion of mapping catheters, while the actual

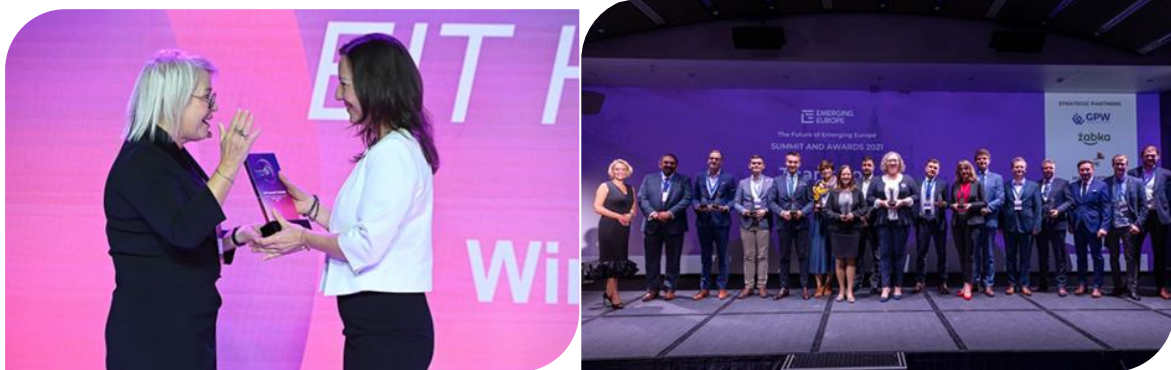
cauterisation takes less than one hour.

The French startup inHeart has developed the world's first AI-based digital twin of the heart. This solution uses pre-operative medical imaging to create a 3D digital replica of a patient's heart – helping to quickly identify and plan ablation targets before surgery and guide cardiologists during the actual procedure. The [inEurHeart project](#) is conducting a randomised clinical trial across Germany, Austria, France and Switzerland to demonstrate the impact and efficacy of the solution in clinical practice.

By replacing the diagnostic phase of the intervention, the solution promises to halve procedure time, eliminate the need for expensive diagnostic catheters, and **reduce both arrhythmia recurrence and mortality rates**. Running from 2022 to 2025, the project has already achieved several key milestones: CE marking (2023), FDA approval (2024), an \$11 million Series A fundraising round (2024), and finalist recognition at the EIT INNOVEIT Award 2024.

EIT HEALTH REGIONAL INNOVATION SCHEME

In 2021, the **EIT Health Regional Innovation Scheme** was awarded the title of ‘**Best Regional Collaboration Initiative of the Year**’ at the **Emerging Europe Awards**. Further underscoring its success, the programme’s collaborative spirit was showcased through **EIT Health DRIVE**, a standout project that won the **INNOVEIT Warsaw Prize** in 2022 and was celebrated as ‘**The Most Impactful Project of the Year**’ by the EIT Community.



4.4 FEATURED INNOVATION PROJECT: SAVE-COR (2022-2024)



[SAVE-COR](#) has validated and launched ACORYS®, a non-invasive medical device combining hardware and AI to non-invasively map cardiac activity in order to better diagnose and treat arrhythmia. A recipient of the EIT Innovator’s Award in 2020, it is the world’s first non-invasive mapping system and deep learning-assisted decision-making tool for supporting physicians prescribing and performing arrhythmia therapy.

Partners & Collaboration

- Startup (provider of the technology/solution and commercialisation entity): [Corify Care](#), Spain
- Clinical partners:
 - Valencia Polytechnic University (UPV), Spain
 - Heidelberg UMC, Germany
 - Servicio Madrileño de Salud (SERMAS), Spain
 - Fundación para la Investigación Biomédica del Hospital Gregorio Marañón (FIBHGM), Spain



- Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Region Skane, Sweden
- Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Spain
- FRCB-IDIBAPS, Spain
- Regulatory and Market Access partners:
 - Agencia de Qualitat i Avaluació Sanitàries de Catalunya (AQuAS), Spain
 - Genesis Biomed, Spain
 - Arrhythmia Alliance, Global

Project Overview & EIT KIC Contribution: Cardiac arrhythmias are a loss of rhythm when the heartbeats become disorganised. One in three adults will suffer from it during their lifetime. Arrhythmia represents a major cause of death, shortens life expectancy, reduces quality of life, and can require continuous medication or multiple interventions. For these reasons, treatment is resource-heavy and places a burden on healthcare systems. Clinicians often lack optimal tools to identify the arrhythmia origin, even during invasive procedures – and almost 50% of such interventions fail.

SAVE-COR's solution, ACORYS®, is a medical device combining software (innovative 3D image processing technology) and hardware (a high-density set of 128 electrodes) to create a detailed map of cardiac activity and identify the arrhythmia's origin.

EIT Health supported the SAVE-COR project from 2022–2024 to validate, pilot and commercialise the ACORYS® system. The project carried out four clinical studies involving more than 3 000 arrhythmia patients across Germany, Portugal, Spain and Sweden, with the aim of entering the market and becoming a recommended solution within the European arrhythmia management guidelines.

Key Results & Impact: Today, **ACORYS®** is a patented class IIB medical device, CE-certified under the new European Medical Device Regulation (MDR), and designed for commercialisation and use in hospital systems.

The primary customers and prescribers are **electrophysiologists** seeking to diagnose and treat their patients optimally during ablation procedures. Secondary customers are **cardiology units and clinicians** who will use the system as a diagnostic tool to stratify patients and determine when an interventional procedure is appropriate.

ACORYS® is already available in **Spain and Portugal**, where it has been implemented in six hospitals. Furthermore, **Corify Care** has signed commercial contracts with international distributors to expand sales activities throughout Europe.

Testimonials: Emphasising the clinical impact of the **ACORYS mapping system**, **Felipe Atienza**, Co-founder and Chief Medical Officer, said: *'For a clinician, being able to see what is happening in the heart before introducing catheters, and then guide those catheters during the procedure, allows us to be faster, more precise, and more effective. This capability significantly enhances our ability to treat cardiac arrhythmias efficiently and with greater accuracy.'*



María Guillem, Chief Scientific Officer, adds:

'This is more than a tool; it's a new standard for understanding arrhythmias.'

Further Information

[Corify Care Official Website](#)

[SAVE-COR Project Page on EIT Health](#)

[ACORYS® System Presentation Video \(YouTube\)](#)

[Corify Care obtains CE mark for ACORYS® mapping system \(EIT Health, 2024\)](#)

[Machine learning improves ECG technology \(MathWorks, 2024\)](#)

[Scientific publications and research by Corify Care \(Corify, 2024\)](#)



Inno

5. INNOENERGY

InnoEnergy continues executing the mandate from the European Commission to lead the [European Battery Alliance](#) (EBA, mandate awarded in 2017), the [European Solar PV Industry Alliance](#) (ESIA, mandate awarded in 2022), and the [European Green Hydrogen Acceleration Centre](#) (EGHAC, since 2020). These three value chains continue creating new industrial GDP in and for Europe: 1 TWh of annual domestic battery production which will result in €500 billion of additional GDP and 1.5 million added-value jobs by 2030; 30 GW of annual domestic PV production – ingots to modules – which will result in €40 billion of additional annual GDP and 400 000 direct new added-value jobs by 2030; €100 billion of additional annual GDP on electrification of hard-to-abate industries (steel, iron, fertiliser, eSAF), using hydrogen, which will result in 500 000 new added-value jobs by 2030.

The leadership of these value chains will allow InnoEnergy to capture all the value pools created by the NZIA (Net-Zero Industry Act) approved by the European Commission, Parliament and Member States, where the tagline to remember is: **40% of EU demand by 2030 needs to be supplied by domestic production.**

European Battery Alliance (EBA): The EBA is a unique platform bringing together stakeholders across the entire battery value chain. It includes the European Commission, EU Member States, the European Investment Bank, and **more than 800 industrial, innovation and academic actors**. InnoEnergy leads stakeholder engagement for the alliance on behalf of the Commission. In addition, [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 Centre creates industrial players in green hydrogen. It helps them by de-risking and accelerating their green hydrogen, ammonia, methanol, and aviation fuel projects. This is achieved through early-stage investment and acceleration services, delivered in collaboration with InnoEnergy's ecosystem. In addition, EGHAC supports green hydrogen projects by assessing business cases, conducting team evaluations, and introducing projects to tailor-made advisory committees. The objective for InnoEnergy is to **become an active investor while accelerating and de-risking green hydrogen initiatives**. Companies and consortia with plans for large-scale production and utilisation



of green hydrogen 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, 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.

5.1 KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS

Since 2010, InnoEnergy has been steadfast in its commitment to fostering the sustainable energy and industrial transition. Its ecosystem serves as a cradle for ambitious industrial entrepreneurs, determined innovators and aspiring students. Together with its shareholders and partners, InnoEnergy provides these game-changers with the necessary resources, support services and mentorship to turn their visions into impactful realities.

InnoEnergy continues designing, creating and launching new industrial companies to capture the business opportunities created by the energy and industrial transition. [GravitiHy](#) will produce 2.2 million tonnes/year of decarbonised iron with SOP in 2027, Europe needing 80 million tonnes of such a fundamental new commodity for producing decarbonised steel. [Holosolis](#) will produce 5 GW/year of PV cells and modules with SOP in 2026, Europe needing some 60 GW for feeding the tremendous demand linked to deployment of renewables to meet the Fit for 55 targets. [FertigHy](#) will produce 0.5 million tonnes of decarbonised fertiliser, where Europe needs some 33 million tonnes/year, with a shortage of suppliers since the Ukraine war, as Russia and Belarus were the main suppliers. Our fleet of Company Builders – these industrial companies, replicable and feeding an increasing demand in Europe for decarbonised industrial products – need some €160 billion of equity and debt until 2030. With these companies, InnoEnergy is **an early mover in the re-industrialisation of Europe**.



» Making an impact in sustainable energy

 PitchBook

#1

Most active investor
in energy 2023

 sifted / 

Top10

Active deeptech investor 2023

 Startup
Genome

#1

Cleantech and Blue Economy
Investor in Europe 2023

Our impact



€110b

forecasted revenue of portfolio
companies by 2030



€25b

investment raised
by our start-ups



2.1

gigatonnes of CO2e saved
accumulatively by 2030

Track record



1,200

partners



200+

portfolio
companies



500+

innovations
supported



300+

products
launched



2,000

master's
& PhD alumni



67,000

workers trained
and upskilled

Top start-ups



4

unicorns
(companies valued US \$1B+)



7

centaurs
(companies valued US \$100-999M)



58

ponies
(companies valued US \$10-99M)



A standout element of InnoEnergy's impact is its collaborative ecosystem, comprising **more than 1 200 partners from 18 countries**, which enables seamless knowledge sharing and co-innovation. This extensive network has led to the establishment of industry-leading alliances, including partnerships with global brands such as ABB, BMW, Siemens, and Schneider Electric, ensuring that **90% of its supported startups collaborate with market leaders**. Such collaborations not only accelerate innovation but also contribute to the creation of highly competitive energy markets across Europe.

Financial sustainability remains a cornerstone of InnoEnergy's approach, with all innovation investments tied to returns on investment through equity positions or revenue-sharing agreements. The **total budget allocated for innovation activities in 2023–2024 stands at €75 million**, demonstrating a balanced approach to funding innovation while ensuring long-term economic viability.

InnoEnergy's innovation programmes exemplify the seamless integration of environmental, technological, and societal goals. By advancing decarbonisation, fostering digital energy solutions, and building economic resilience, these initiatives underline InnoEnergy's pivotal role in achieving the Horizon Europe priorities and driving Europe's energy transition.

5.2 INNOENERGY INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD

The [InnoEnergy Impact Report 2022](#) revealed that its sustainable investment portfolio has the potential to save **2.1 gigatonnes of CO₂e** between 2022 and 2030 and deliver **831 TWh** of clean energy over the same period – aligning with leading energy transition goals.

The news comes as the EU continues to ramp up efforts to meet its target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by **55% by 2030**, requiring breakthrough and scalable technologies and innovations. This in turn calls for vast upskilling and reskilling to not only grow but also reshape the energy workforce. InnoEnergy reports that its sustainable investment portfolio has directly and indirectly created more than **40 000 jobs** since its inception in 2010. The portfolio has generated over **€711 million** in revenue since 2010 – an increase of **132%** from 2020. Revenue for 2030 is forecasted to reach **€110 billion**.

Elena Bou, Co-Founder and Innovation Director at InnoEnergy, said: *'It is incredibly exciting to see the tangible progress and impact our portfolio companies have delivered to support the transition to a green economy and achieve climate targets. From the 40 000 jobs we and our portfolio companies have created – to growing our potential to save 2.1 gigatonnes of CO₂e accumulatively by 2030 – we are continuing to support expansion across the three industrial value chains we lead: battery storage, green hydrogen and solar photovoltaics. As we broaden our horizons, including with new projects in the US, we look forward to continuing to support our portfolio companies and new sustainable energy innovations to realise or even surpass expected achievements.'*



5.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON)

[PitchBook's Global League Tables for 2024](#) rank InnoEnergy as the most active Venture Capital (VC) investor in energy globally. It also ranked in the top 10 active deep tech investors in 2023 by Sifted / Financial Times, and as number 1 Cleantech and Blue Economy investor in Europe 2023 by Startup Genome. It has 8 alumni in Forbes 30 under 30. According to the PitchBook Global League Tables for 2023, InnoEnergy was ranked as the most active investor in energy worldwide for the third consecutive year. InnoEnergy's programmes have also provided funding and support for several startups from [Sifted's 250 Fastest-Growing Start-Ups in 2024](#). [Dexter Energy](#), the trade optimisation company from the Netherlands, sits at 120 on the list and [Instagrid](#), the German provider of mobile power infrastructure, falls at 218. Inno have also supported four startups that were shortlisted by TIME and Statista in the list of the [World's Top Greentech Companies of 2025](#), including [Skeleton](#), the Estonian startup developing new generation batteries, and [Voltstorage](#), the German company developing new energy storage systems. The German developers of the patented green solar wafer manufacturing solution, [NexWafe](#), and the EIT Awards winner, [CorPower Ocean](#), that has developed a unique Wave Energy Converter (WEC), also made the list.

EUROPEAN BATTERY ALLIANCE

The [European Battery Alliance](#) (EBA) is the European Union's (EU) flagship initiative for dynamising industrial value chains, mandated to InnoEnergy in 2018. Its focus is on batteries. The objective is to create a competitive and sustainable European battery industrial value chain by 2025, making Europe resilient and highly autonomous in the electrification of mobility.

EBA plays a pivotal role in bringing together key industry players, research, regulators, and financial institutions. So far, **941 stakeholders** across the entire value chain have joined the alliance.

InnoEnergy has set up a dedicated activity to capture all activities related to EBA and ensure synergies and economies of scale are realised in the deployment of the initiative at European level. A strategic action plan, composed of 49 actions led by InnoEnergy (including skills), was approved in May 2018 and has been in full deployment since then, with proven successful results.



Raw materials	Active materials	Cell manufacturing & machinery	Battery packs & systems	Application & integration	Recycling second-life
128 Partners	157 Partners	152 Partners	174 Partners	196 Partners	134 Partners

Societal impact: The aim is to create a competitive and sustainable battery industry in Europe by 2025, creating a new market worth €250 billion per year and generating 3–4 million new jobs. Progress is currently ahead of plan.

Results ownership: There is no ownership of the results; the aim is to create an ecosystem enabling Europe to become a fast follower in batteries.

Revenue potential: InnoEnergy has a portfolio of 26 assets that are part of the EBA ecosystem, valued at €191 million as per the latest valuation round. These assets (for example Northvolt and Verkor, both industrial unicorns) grow in value because EBA activities enable the business conditions for expanding the market.

Commercialisation: InnoEnergy holds equity in these assets (always below 25%) and has an exit strategy for each of them.

Total costs & EIT funding: EBA is an annual recurring activity with a budget of €800 000 per year for ecosystem management and activation. Investment in each asset includes cash and intangible elements (i.e. intellectual property (IP), legal, access to market, etc.) and is decided by InnoEnergy's investment committee.

Example of EBA supported asset:



Batteries. Now. For the future
www.verkor.com

- **Founded In 2020**, Verkor is a leading battery company in Europe, aiming to develop low carbon and high-performance batteries, produced in the most efficient and sustainable battery Gigafactories
- **Next-generation high efficiency** 16 GWh Gigafactory by 2025 with +65 GWh target in less than 10 years
- **Unique value** proposition stems from:
 - **Extensive industry** expertise and attractive model focusing on process optimisation
 - **Comprehensive ecosystem** with industrial partnerships across the value chain
 - **One of the few European battery** manufacturers endorsed by automakers

200 Employees

800+ Years of combined
battery experience

300k Cars powered
per year
(16 GWh/plant)

EUROPEAN SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INDUSTRY ALLIANCE (ESIA)

The [alliance](#) aims to build 30 GW of EU domestic photovoltaic (PV) manufacturing, from ingots to modules, by 2025 to meet the 45 GW annual deployment target in the *Fit for 55* plan. The ESIA Alliance, modelled on InnoEnergy's success with EBA, facilitates investment, de-risks industrial cases, and supports Europe's decarbonisation goals.

Launched by the European Commission in 2022, EIT InnoEnergy leads the alliance as Secretariat and is joined by [SolarPower Europe](#) and the [European Solar Manufacturing Council](#) on the steering committee. To deliver the EU Solar Strategy objectives, the alliance will redevelop, de-risk, and accelerate the PV manufacturing industry in Europe across all segments of the value chain to create a competitive position amid booming solar PV demand in Europe and globally.

It will focus first on financing PV manufacturing projects, ensuring a sustainable level playing field, implementing eco-design requirements for PV systems and products, and anticipating the skills required by this new industry through the European Solar PV Industry Alliance Academy.

Raw material	Ingot & Wafer	Cell	Module	BoP/Design	O&M	Applications	Eol	
   	    	   	       	      	       	      	     	
4 Members	13 Members	13 Members	39 Members	28 Members	14 Members	17 Members	1 Member	



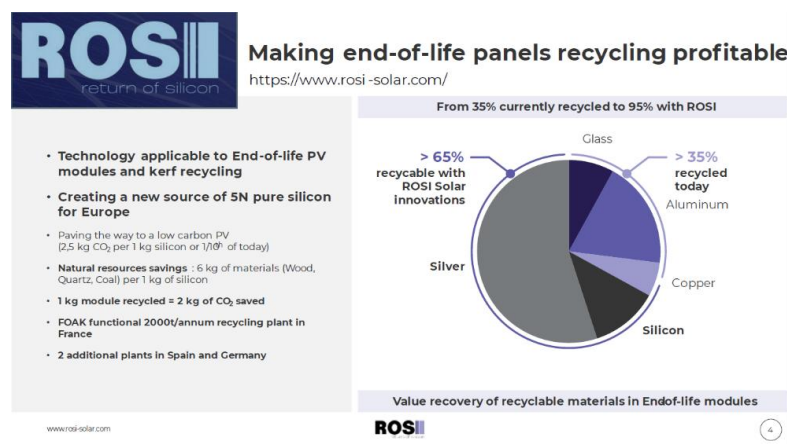
Societal impact: Targets include supplying 30 GW annually by 2025, generating €60 billion of new GDP per year in Europe and creating more than 400 000 new jobs.

Results ownership: The intellectual property/business model is negotiated on a project-by-project basis.

Revenue potential: InnoEnergy has a portfolio of 30+ assets in the PV value chain, valued at €80 million.

Commercialisation: InnoEnergy invests in each supported business case. Participation or equity share is negotiated per case and never exceeds 25%.

Total costs & EIT funding: This is an annual, recurring activity started in 2023 with a yearly cost of €500 000. The overall ESIA budget includes investments made in the supported projects.



EUROPEAN GREEN HYDROGEN ACCELERATION CENTRE (EGHAC)

The [European Green Hydrogen Acceleration Centre \(EGHAC\)](#) was created to decarbonise hard-to-abate industrial value chains such as steel, fertilisers, chemicals, and mobility (maritime, aviation, heavy goods vehicles (HGV)). By bringing together all stakeholders, including off-takers, risks and benefits can be shared to minimise the premium on carbon-free products.

InnoEnergy, through EGHAC, creates greenfield industrial players to capture business opportunities from:

1. Cheap renewable supply enabling the creation of renewable hydrogen and its use as an industrial reducing agent (e.g. substituting coal).
2. The new Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which increases the cost of "dirty" imports, giving EU products a competitive edge.
3. Off-taker appetite for green products in their pursuit of Net Zero targets.

EGHAC delivers the same added-value services provided to other portfolio assets: de-risking and acceleration. These are achieved through early-stage investment and acceleration services, provided in collaboration with InnoEnergy's ecosystem.



What differentiates EGHAC from EBA and ESIA is that, in the case of EGHAC, InnoEnergy typically creates the case from scratch — building the business case, attracting the right strategic partners to the cap table, recruiting the CEO/entrepreneur and their team, and playing an active role in governance as the main shareholder.

EGHAC supports green hydrogen projects by assessing their business case, conducting a team assessment, and ultimately introducing them to a tailor-made advisory committee. The objective is to become an active investor and to accelerate and de-risk these projects as well.



Societal impact: By 2025, EGHAC aims to create a €100 billion per year green hydrogen economy, generating 500 000 jobs and enabling 1200 TWh/year of green hydrogen-based energy.

Results ownership: The intellectual property/business model is negotiated on a project-by-project basis.

Revenue potential: InnoEnergy has a portfolio of 14 hydrogen assets, valued at €25.6 million.

Commercialisation: InnoEnergy invests in each business case. Participation/equity is negotiated per project and never exceeds 25% (e.g. Gravithy, FertigHy).

Total costs & EIT funding: This annual activity began in 2021 with the support of Breakthrough Energy and has a yearly budget of €1 million.

5.4 FEATURED INNOVATION PROJECT

Project Name & Duration: One of EIT InnoEnergy's crowning achievements was the launch of Repono, a pan-European company focused on owning and operating large energy storage systems (ESS), on 6 March 2024.



Partners & Collaboration: Repono is part of the world's largest sustainable energy ecosystem, with **1200+ partners**. It benefits from access to InnoEnergy's **46+ energy storage investments** and the **800+ members of the European Battery Alliance** (EBA250). These foundations greatly de-risk Repono's operations and allow for rapid project replication, with a **target of deploying 100 GWh** of storage across Europe **by 2030**.

Early backers include Schneider Electric, SIPLEC E.Leclerc, Stena Metall, Boryszew Group, and NTM GmbH. Repono has acquired BatteryLoop and currently operates storage systems in the Nordics, employing 25 highly skilled staff.

Repono partners with:

1. Site developers
2. Battery energy storage system providers
3. Route-to-market providers
4. Engineering & construction companies

Project Overview & EIT KIC Contribution: Repono addresses Europe's energy challenges by managing storage capacity in short-term markets and offering grid balancing services to prevent blackouts. It also integrates storage into power purchase agreements (PPAs) between large power producers and industrial clients.



Through ESS technologies, Repono will ensure reliable, decarbonised, 24/7 electricity supply across Europe for the coming years.

Key Results & Impact: The primary goal of Repono is to capture a 10% share of an anticipated one-terawatt hour (TWh) European market by 2030. By deploying and operating battery energy storage systems (BESS), Repono is helping to stabilise the grid. By selling the surplus, the company enables a more balanced renewable energy market. This will ensure the grid stability and capacity management that Europe needs in order to reach net zero by 2030.

Testimonial

'Europe's electricity system and grid were built for a steady feed-in of dispatchable energy sources, not to handle the massive influx of decentralised and intermittent renewables.' Rasmus Bergström, CEO of Repono

Diego Pavia, CEO of InnoEnergy: 'The debut of Repono is another proof of *InnoEnergy's* strong commitment to trailblaze the energy transition. From day one, Repono will be embedded in the world's largest sustainable energy ecosystem of *1 200+* partners from industry, finance, research, and academia. *It will* have access to our 46+ investments in the energy storage sector as well as to the 800+ members of the European Battery Alliance. These unique starting conditions will greatly



de-risk Repono's business and enable the company to quickly replicate projects across Europe, doing its bit to accelerate the energy and industrial transition.'

Further Information

[Repono official website](#)

[EIT InnoEnergy launches Repono for 100 GWh energy storage in Europe \(Medium, 2024\)](#)

[Repono's role in the EU energy storage strategy \(Smart City Consultant, 2024\)](#)



Co-funded by the
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6. EIT MANUFACTURING

6.1. KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS

EIT Manufacturing, part of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), plays a crucial role in advancing Europe's leadership in the manufacturing sector through targeted innovation. Focused on enhancing technological readiness, commercialisation, and sustainability, EIT Manufacturing drives transformative change by launching and scaling high-impact innovations designed for market adoption. With manufacturers as end-users, it connects a broad network of innovators, facilitating collaborative projects that address core industry needs. This approach empowers European manufacturing to stay competitive, sustainable, and responsive to future challenges.

In 2024, EIT Manufacturing **launched a new call for proposals, 'Empowering SMEs'**, to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with existing solutions to expand into new sectors. The call attracted a large number of applications, enabling the selection of **11 innovative projects**. In parallel, EIT Manufacturing is enhancing its support to funded activities through services agreements intended to help projects commercialise their solutions after the end of the funding period. These agreements are a key component of the KIC's financial sustainability strategy and will provide success-based revenues, either through revenue-sharing mechanisms or in exchange for equity in the startups leading the commercialisation.

Through its Innovation Calls and activities, EIT Manufacturing supported projects with the highest potential for market impact by allocating a total of €13 million. By **mid-2024**, it had **40 active innovation activities** and had achieved impressive results, including the **launch of 18 new marketed innovations** and the creation of two new startups. Additionally, the [Innovate Together programme](#), co-developed with the European Commission's DG RTD, has expanded and secured an additional €2 million from DG RTD. These projects align closely with EIT Manufacturing's commitment to social and environmental sustainability, with all funded projects expected to demonstrate a measurable positive impact by the end of the funding period.



The KIC has also launched several initiatives to boost thought leadership and leverage its partnership knowledge. Announced at the end of 2023, five Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) were launched with Core Partners around key European manufacturing topics: AI & Data, Industrial Metaverse, Net Zero Industry, Circular Economy, and Renewable Energies. These TWGs aim to identify industry challenges, share innovative solutions, and increase collective knowledge, enabling EIT Manufacturing and its partners to stay ahead of trends.

The [EITM Tech Radar](#), launched at the end of 2023, is an interactive tool showcasing technologies that will impact manufacturing in the future. Each technology is described briefly, with industry use cases and related EIT Manufacturing activities. The AGORA open innovation platform has continued to grow, **reaching over 3 400 members** – professionals active in European manufacturing innovation. Through thematic communities, the platform provides insights and facilitates new pan-European connections. New features support matchmaking, particularly for forming consortia for programme applications. The platform is now commercialising, selling community spaces for collaborative projects (€90 000 in booked revenues), online webinars, and sponsorship packages.

EIT Manufacturing's ongoing efforts to **identify innovation hotspots, support strategic collaboration, and commercialise advanced technologies** are reshaping the European manufacturing landscape. By enabling knowledge sharing and fostering a connected ecosystem, EIT Manufacturing accelerates the adoption of transformative solutions, helping to build a more sustainable and technologically advanced future for European manufacturing.

6.2. MANUFACTURING INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD

In the coming years, EIT Manufacturing will continue to promote impactful, industry-focused innovation through a strategic approach. The Empowering programme will be reinforced to provide a compelling route for innovators to address real industry challenges, while the Main Innovation Call for Proposals will target more ambitious projects with broader societal impacts. The KIC will prioritise activities that **affect entire value chains, embed circularity, and target strategic industries for European prosperity**. These efforts will be supported by TWGs and technology foresight.

By 2027, EIT Manufacturing aims to significantly strengthen Europe's manufacturing sector through targeted improvements in skills, sustainability, and innovation capacity. A core objective is to **upskill 36% of the manufacturing workforce**, reduce skill gaps, and increase sector agility. It also seeks to empower women in manufacturing, targeting a **25% increase in women-led startups**. Environmental goals include increasing the circular material use rate by 15% and **reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 25%** compared to 2005 levels.

Innovation outcomes are expected to reach ambitious goals: **191 innovations tested and 154 brought to market by 2027**. EIT Manufacturing aims to support **1 357 startups and scale-ups**, including 62 created specifically for innovation, with a target of **40% led by women**. To advance training, it expects **2 103 graduates to complete EIT-labelled MSc/PhD programmes**, with 39% women, and 31 914 participants to benefit from non-degree training.

Financially, the KIC **targets €107 million in financial sustainability (FS)** revenue through co-funding agreements, revenue-sharing, and commercialisation success fees, fostering a sustainable funding ecosystem for future innovation.



6.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON)

- One of EIT Manufacturing's supported startups, Caracol, also made the cut for [Sifted's 250 Fastest-Growing Start-Ups in 2024](#) and sits at #149 on the list.
- Best Innovation Award (2024): Sponsored by EIT Manufacturing at the Junior Achievement Marketplace in Vienna, awarded to [99Robotics for KlimaRobot](#) – a robot for maize crops that reduces CO₂ emissions and nitrate leaching.
- Green Manufacturing Award (2023): Part of the JA Youth Online Awards, recognising sustainable manufacturing innovations.

ROBOTWIN

[RoboTwin](#) introduces motion-imitating robotics into production without coding. It allows companies to teach robots directly, thus automating even complex tasks without the need for programming. The sensor system installed on the painting tool records the motion as the worker performs the task on the first product, generates a trajectory for the robot in the form of a programme, and automates the process. The robot then repeats the operation and completes the production of the remaining batch after the worker. This approach simplifies and speeds up the learning process for industrial robots such as painting, spraying or grinding, and reduces the need for a dedicated robotics programmer. It is a **sensor technology and robot teaching tool that allows non-programmer workers to programme robots** in production and digitise the work of painters. This gives an experienced worker, such as a painter with deep knowledge of spray-painting technology, the tools to programme robots with no programming knowledge — i.e. without writing a single line of code.



EIT Manufacturing has supported the idea from very early on: it started in 2021 when CTO and co-founder Megi Mejdrechová, then a PhD student, won the EIT Manufacturing Jumpstarter and decided to create a company based on her PhD results. It then received support through the EIT RIS Leaders programme in 2022, won a BoostUp! competition, and was later supported through the Innovation Call for Proposals 2023 with funding of €684 000. Since then, the company has tripled in size and has won its first customers.

STILFOLD



The STILFOLD project aims at developing the automation and robotics solution to the STILFOLD patented technology developed by the business owner (a Swedish startup also known as Stilfold). This technology, called “origami design”, enables the creation of curve-folded structures from a single sheet of metal through a fold-and-cut mechanism. This exceptional concept does away with traditional staking and welding methods, thereby improving efficiency, minimising waste, and significantly reducing production costs.

From a sustainability perspective, the technology allows for a **1000-fold reduction in the carbon footprint due to material usage** — both because of the reduced material input and because the folding process consumes less energy than conventional manufacturing. The company also holds unique intellectual property, including a patent awarded in 2021. The startup has been supported by EIT Manufacturing and introduced to Adaxis, a spin-off of a former EIT Manufacturing innovation project. The project has received €570 000 in EIT funding, and the KIC has also invested in Stilfold during the project.

CRYO-MQL

High-value manufacturers seeking a competitive machining advantage require improved cooling and lubrication without major machine tool modifications. [CRYO-MQL](#) focuses on developing two solutions using liquid nitrogen (LN2) and liquid carbon dioxide (LCO2), combined with minimum-quantity lubrication (MQL) techniques. These enable higher productivity (faster material removal, longer tool life) and improved quality. The project has successfully demonstrated two pilot installations, eliminating toxic lubricant systems in machining processes and increasing machining speed by 20%. The absence of toxic lubricants, along with stable and smooth machined components, means there is no need for toxic waste processing or risk of environmental leakage.

The project led to the creation of a Slovenian startup, [ArcLub](#), which has already secured several commercial contracts. It has received support from EIT Manufacturing via a €520 000 grant.

6.4 FEATURED INNOVATION PROJECT

Project Name & Duration: [LAMM](#) (Large Additive Manufacturing Machine) is a one-year project supported by EIT Manufacturing in 2022 as part of the Innovate Together pilot call, aiming to bridge initiatives between Pillar 2 and Pillar 3 of Horizon Europe.

Partners & Collaboration: [WAAM3D](#) is a UK-based startup developing a turnkey solution for wire-arc additive manufacturing (WAAM). During the project, it designed, built and tested new end-effectors to double the deposition rate of its existing solution.

FAN3D, a Portuguese company focused on additive manufacturing consultancy, was responsible for the sustainability aspects of the project, in particular life cycle analysis.

Guaranteed, a Belgian subsidiary of ArcelorMittal, specialises in additive manufacturing and repair services, and brought several industrial use cases.



The **Laboratory of Manufacturing Systems and Automation (LMS)** at the University of Patras (Greece) acted as project coordinator, contributing to process simulation and optimisation.

Project Overview & EIT KIC Contribution: The LAMM project developed a metal additive manufacturing kit to significantly improve the performance of WAAM technologies. The solution allows the 3D printing of very large metal parts (e.g. for the aerospace sector) at high speed while reducing material consumption. Two types of end-effectors were developed for titanium alloy (Ti64) and steel. The solution was tested in three pilot lines. EIT Manufacturing supported this project with €430 000 to help develop this key technology.

Key Results & Impact: Thanks to this project, the business owner WAAM3D was able to achieve its objective: the developed solution significantly reduces running costs, while doubling the speed of the deposition rate, making it the most efficient wire-arc additive manufacturing machine for producing very large parts. In parallel, a lifecycle analysis was conducted, showing a **60% reduction in carbon footprint** compared to conventional subtractive manufacturing technologies.

Since the end of the project, WAAM3D has expanded rapidly worldwide and now has **47 unique customers in 18 countries** across Europe, America and Asia. The solution has also received a number of recognised prizes in the additive manufacturing sector, including the Aerospace Technology Institute Breakthrough Award 2023, which rewards the company with the most potential to impact aerospace and **support the journey to net zero by 2050 for commercial flight**.

Testimonial: ‘Thanks to EITM we were able to fund industrialisation activities of strategic importance – creating value and increasing competitive advantage.’

Filomeno Martina, CEO of WAAM3D

Further Information

[WAAM3D official website](#)



7. EIT RAWMATERIALS

7.1 KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS

[EIT RawMaterials](#) is the world's largest raw materials innovation community, enabling the sustainability and competitiveness of the European minerals, metals and materials sector. By placing strong focus on innovation, business creation and access to finance, EIT RawMaterials supports the realisation of business and investment opportunities for startups and scale-ups, as well as product and service development through innovation activities.

It provides funding and entrepreneurship coaching to startups, with an emphasis on idea-to-market relevance for partners (including support in acquiring their first customer). Its Business Creation activities help transform innovative ideas into new business for existing companies (both large corporations and SMEs), as well as new startups and spin-offs.

The Green Transition: EIT RawMaterials emphasises the importance of cities in the circular economy by focusing on the full material life cycle — from exploration and resource assessment to recycling and material chain optimisation — in order to achieve sustainable competitiveness.

The Digital Transition: EIT RawMaterials fosters the development of digital solutions such as sensors and remote operation systems to promote the movement towards autonomous and zero-emission mines.

A More Resilient, Competitive, Inclusive and Democratic Europe: The RawMaterials Academy ensures that all segments of European society are equipped with the knowledge, skills and competences necessary to innovate in the raw materials sector.

Learn more about [EIT RawMaterials](#).

[EIT RawMaterials Booster](#) supports startups and SMEs developing innovative products and services that benefit the raw materials sector and EIT RawMaterials' partners. In addition to funding and customised services, selected startups and SMEs gain visibility and participate in networking events through the EIT RawMaterials network.

Booster Call provides support to:

- speed up technology development to bring solutions 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 [ERMA Booster Call](#) invites innovations, mining and recycling projects to strengthen the European economy and enhance its supply chains.

EIT RawMaterials **invests up to €2.5 million** in the raw materials sector. The call targets startups, scale-ups and mining projects active in the raw materials value chain. By participating, applicants gain access to funding, expert guidance and Europe's largest industry network to help scale their business and solve Europe's critical raw materials challenge.

EIT RAWMATERIALS AS AN IMPACT INVESTOR

EIT RawMaterials is committed to generating positive societal and environmental impact through its investment portfolio. Economic returns are re-directed into new ventures to create further impact.

Impact metrics continuously monitored include:

1. **Economic Impact:** Company revenues, profits, jobs created/maintained/re-skilled, investment attracted.
2. **Social Impact:** Female entrepreneurs, European companies using sustainability standards.
3. **Environmental Impact:** CO₂ emissions saved (CO₂e), increase in raw materials produced in the EU (%), increased recovery and recycling of critical raw materials (%), and development of new advanced materials.

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 startups. The programme comprises three phases: ideation, startup 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 beginning business and product development. Lab2Market invests in the next generation of innovators and provides holistic support to help them build successful businesses and generate impact in the raw materials sector.

The programme enables participants to:



- develop and understand their research, knowledge and experience to transform ideas into viable and profitable business models
- accelerate their professional development, entrepreneurship and innovation skills while gaining the industry know-how and connections needed to succeed
- build on the core principles of the raw materials sector to generate spin-off startups, viable products and sustainable solutions

EIT RawMaterials fosters **growth and innovation** with a focus on raw materials. Its extensive network within local innovation ecosystems spans the entire raw materials value chain. Combined with technical and market intelligence, EIT RawMaterials is ideally placed to develop open innovation initiatives across Europe. Its open innovation services help corporations unlock new opportunities and connect with the startup community. It also provides startups with a platform to demonstrate ground-breaking solutions.

Learn more about [EIT RawMaterials Open Innovation Services](#).

[The KAVA 13 Upscaling Call](#) aims to accelerate the launch of promising new technologies, products and services in the raw materials industry. It targets projects with validated technologies that require additional steps – such as testing, demonstration, proof of concept and scaling – before reaching market readiness.

Participants are also invited to be part of an [Open Innovation Challenge](#). EIT RawMaterials fosters growth and innovation with a focus on raw materials. Its extensive local innovation network spans the entire raw materials value chain. Combined with technical and market intelligence, EIT RawMaterials is ideally positioned to develop Open Innovation initiatives across Europe.

EIT RawMaterials has demonstrated remarkable success in advancing Europe's transition to a sustainable, circular and digital economy. Its innovation programmes directly contribute to the Horizon Europe priorities of the Green Transition, Digital Transition, and a Resilient, Competitive, Inclusive, and Democratic Europe. Through strategic initiatives addressing critical challenges in raw materials supply, material solutions, and closing material loops, EIT RawMaterials has fortified Europe's position as a leader in sustainable innovation.

In 2023, EIT RawMaterials supported numerous impactful projects aimed at upscaling products, technologies, and services to market readiness. Among these, the HiQ-CARB project, which develops high-quality carbon additives for lithium-ion batteries, exemplifies the organisation's contribution to the Green Transition. Similarly, the VALORE project achieved innovative advancements in recovering vanadium and gallium from alumina refinery waste, promoting circular economy practices and reducing environmental impact. These projects align with EIT RawMaterials' commitment to addressing critical material challenges across key value chains like batteries, photovoltaics, and lightweight design.

A significant milestone in 2023 was the KAVA Call 12, which funded five upscaling and Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) projects. These projects, designed with strong financial sustainability mechanisms, reflect EIT RawMaterials' focus on measurable returns. The Innovation Work Package for 2023–2025 allocated over €113 million, of which €69 million was EIT funding, to support these impactful activities. These investments are driving meaningful progress in Europe's raw materials sector, ensuring resource efficiency and sustainability in line with the European Green Deal.



In addition to direct project funding, EIT RawMaterials leveraged its **extensive network of over 285 active KIC partners**, including startups, SMEs, universities, and research organisations, to tackle pressing industrial challenges. The Open Innovation Challenges addressed critical issues such as steel production decarbonisation, mine tailings valorisation, and water resource innovation. These cross-functional efforts not only solved industry-specific problems but also fostered collaboration across sectors, highlighting the KIC's contribution to the Digital Transition by integrating cutting-edge technologies.

Expert forums organised in 2023 further amplified the organisation's impact by bringing stakeholders together to discuss innovative solutions in areas like hydrogen, photovoltaics, and responsible sourcing. These forums, hosted in Madrid, Darmstadt, and Prague, provided platforms for sharing insights, fostering partnerships, and driving sustainable innovation. By connecting thought leaders and innovators, EIT RawMaterials ensures that its initiatives address global challenges collaboratively and inclusively.

Through its Regional Innovation Scheme and the continuous Booster Calls, EIT RawMaterials has also **enhanced the competitiveness of underrepresented regions**, providing tailored support to emerging startups and SMEs. These programmes not only foster regional development but also ensure the inclusive distribution of innovation benefits across Europe, reinforcing the organisation's commitment to societal resilience and economic growth.

From 2016–2023, EIT RawMaterials has achieved **40 startups created specifically for innovation**, and **293 marketed innovations**, propelling sustainable solutions into commercial viability. Notably, **€492 million in investment has been attracted** by KIC-supported startups and scale-ups until 2023.

EIT RawMaterials' achievements underline its critical role in advancing Europe's strategic objectives. By driving impactful innovation programmes, supporting sustainable solutions, and fostering collaboration, the organisation has established itself as a key enabler of Europe's green and digital transitions. Its efforts contribute to strengthening supply chains, enhancing resource efficiency, and building a more sustainable and competitive economy.

7.2. EIT RAWMATERIALS INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD

EIT RawMaterials is set to lead transformative innovation in Europe's raw materials sector, aligning its efforts with the strategic objectives of Horizon Europe. **By 2027**, the KIC will have **attracted €1.3 billion in investments** in primary resources and advanced materials development, bolstering Europe's industrial competitiveness. These efforts are complemented by increasing savings and sales resulting from improved material and energy units, estimated at €100 million. Additionally, EIT RawMaterials aims to implement Zero Liquid Discharge in 50% of new processing plants, underscoring its role in driving the Green Transition.



Key targets reflect the ambitious innovation trajectory of EIT RawMaterials. **By 2027**, the KIC will achieve **80 tested innovations, 50 startups created specifically for innovation, and 264 marketed innovations**, propelling sustainable solutions into commercial viability. Notably, €70 million in investment is projected to be attracted by KIC-supported startups and scale-ups, strengthening Europe's circular economy. The KIC's focus on designing advanced material solutions and closing material loops is crucial to achieving strategic milestones while fostering sustainable industrial processes, with advancements in life-cycle assessments and resource-efficient technologies enhancing Europe's digital and green economy.

Investment in talent development is equally integral to EIT RawMaterials' innovation agenda. By 2027, over 27 500 participants in non-degree education and training programmes **and 1 264 graduates from EIT-labelled MSc/PhD programmes will have been engaged, equipping a new generation of experts with the skills to address Europe's sustainability challenges.** Furthermore, **79 EIT-labelled MSc/PhD graduates are expected to join startups, directly strengthening the innovation ecosystem.** With 375 startups and scale-ups supported, the KIC is fostering a resilient entrepreneurial environment that contributes to a competitive and inclusive Europe.

The KIC's activities not only generate direct economic and environmental benefits but also support systemic transformation across key value chains, including batteries, fuel cells, magnets and motors, photovoltaics, electronics and lightweight design. By aligning its efforts with Horizon Europe's priorities, EIT RawMaterials is driving impactful innovations that are supporting Europe in ensuring the achievement of the goals set in Horizon Europe.

7.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON)

- [EIT CHANGE Award](#): Anna Vanderbruggen (FR), researcher with ERZLABOR (DE), who developed an efficient recycling method for graphite and metal battery components. She completed the EMerald Erasmus Mundus Master from the EIT RawMaterials programme, specialising in georesources engineering.
- [EIT Changemaker Award](#): Mohamed Elamir, co-founder of Woamy (FI), for their cellulose-based biofoams, which provide a sustainable alternative to plastic foams with superior strength, insulation and shock-proofing. Mohamed actively participated in EIT RawMaterials' entrepreneurial education activities and network.
- [EIT Public Award](#): HiQ-CARB (DE) for their sustainable nanomaterials which can be used for high-performance batteries. EIT RawMaterials provided their team with networking, communications and financial support. This support helped HiQ-CARB build and improve their products, network and international standing.
- EIT RM participates in the EIT Jumpstarter programme, which won the [European Association Award](#) in 2019.

NRE-ELECTRA. – ELECTRIC, REMOTE-CONTROLLED, AUTOMATIC NARROW REEF MINING EQUIPMENT

The [NRE ElectRA project](#) aims to develop and commercialise electric, remote-controlled mining equipment for ultra-low mining profiles. Three machines will be created and tested for drilling, excavating and supporting operations. The project will focus on commercialisation in the platinum mining industry and

similar deposits, with production expected to start in 2025/26. A startup SPV company will be created and registered in Croatia in 2024, responsible for sales of the NRE fleet.

Societal impact: The project boosts social acceptance of green mining, contributes to European innovation, and reduces dependency on imported raw materials.

Results ownership: The SPV will apply for intellectual property rights during 2025 (year 3). There are no IP patents or trademarks owned/used at the moment.

Revenue potential: Revenue share of 4.1% or 2.83% equity in an SPV.

Commercialisation: Sales of Drill Rig, Dozer and Support Rig are the primary revenue source. Full commercialisation of the NRE fleet starts 1 January 2026. The NRE beachhead market in South Africa and Zimbabwe estimates 91 fleets (€216 million), with potential for 699 fleets in the primary market (€1.6 billion).

Total costs & EIT funding: 2023–2025 €6 million total funding, EIT funding of €3.5 million.

RELIFE - RECYCLING LITHIUM FERROPHOSPHATE IN THE RIS AREA

aims to build a cost-effective and eco-friendly recycling plant for LFP batteries, recovering lithium, iron phosphate and graphite. This process will reduce CO₂ emissions by 90% and costs by 30%. ReLiFe will supply 1.5% of EU lithium demand and generate €7 million in pilot revenue and €590 million for the industrial unit starting in 2025.

Societal impact: The ReLiFe project will create 270 direct and 1 000 indirect jobs in Greece, reduce dependency on Chinese imports and contribute to the EU's lithium supply while improving the knowledge base of the Greek community.

Results ownership: SUN will be the owner of the ReLiFe pilot plant. SUN expects that the IP associated with its production method will be able to be licensed further to other potential suppliers.

Revenue potential: Revenue sharing with threshold. Return on investment cap: 112% of the EIT RM funding amount, or equal to €3.8 million. Until the cap is met, there is no time restriction. Revenue threshold: above €1 million in any fiscal year. Revenue percentage: 3.3% of revenues in any fiscal year until the cap is met.

Commercialisation: The LFP battery market is rapidly growing, driven by electric vehicle demand. Key components like lithium, iron phosphate and graphite are in short supply. Battery recycling offers a solution, with a potential market of \$40–45 million annually. ReLiFe aims to reduce Europe's reliance on imported battery materials.

Total costs & EIT funding: 2023–2025 €5.2 million total funding, EIT funding of €3.5 million.

MAGREESOURCE

[MagREESource](#) is a French company that developed a full process for the recycling and manufacturing of magnets. The company, supported by EIT RawMaterials since 2020, has now developed and set up a pilot plant in the region of Grenoble, able to process up to 50 tonnes of magnets to be recycled. The company already has sales and is looking toward the next industrialisation step, allowing for the production of 500–1 000 tonnes of magnets.

Societal impact: Without rare earth mines in Europe, MagREESource's circular model (recycling magnet scraps to make new magnets) is a key asset for ensuring sovereignty and sustainability.

Results ownership: EIT RawMaterials is supporting MagREESource via its Booster programme and has been a shareholder since 2022.

Revenue potential: EIT RawMaterials took shares in the company in 2022. Since then, the company's valuation has increased thanks to the development of its first pilot plant, with a capacity of 50 tonnes of recycled magnets.

Commercialisation: The company has validated the go-to-market strategy for magnets from 100% recycled materials. Improvements in the production process will allow more efficient and resilient industrialisation, enabling rapid acceleration of testing. Rapid increase in commercialisation:

- 2025: €1.104 million
- 2026: €2.356 million
- 2027: €3.798 million
- 2028: €20.191 million

Total costs & EIT funding: EIT RawMaterials funded the company with an initial booster of €60 000 in 2018 and a second of €200 000 in 2022. All costs have been reported.

7.4 FEATURED INNOVATION PROJECT

Project Name & Duration: The [Passenger Project](#) began in 2021 and is one of EIT RawMaterials' partnerships that is sure to boast the highest success, as their rare-earth-free magnet prototypes are on track to transform industries. PASSENGER (Pilot Action for Securing a Sustainable European Next Generation of Efficient RE-free Magnets) is a project funded by the European Union under grant agreement no. 101003914 that aims to end Europe's dependence on imported rare earth elements for permanent magnet manufacturing.

Partners & Collaboration: EIT RawMaterials is one of the primary partners involved in the Passenger project. PASSENGER relies on a strong consortium of 20 partners, including major European industries, academic leaders, and associations dealing with permanent magnet manufacturing, alloy production, powder fabrication, electric motors, e-vehicles, eco-design, and product and process standardisation. These partners include many strong stakeholders within the industry, such as LCM, MBN Nanomaterialia, Kolektor and Smart Waste Engineering Srl. With their strong track record of collaboration in international projects and their diverse expertise, the partners enable PASSENGER to address the whole value chain of



permanent magnet production, ensuring a solid market uptake and supporting the transition to a circular model.

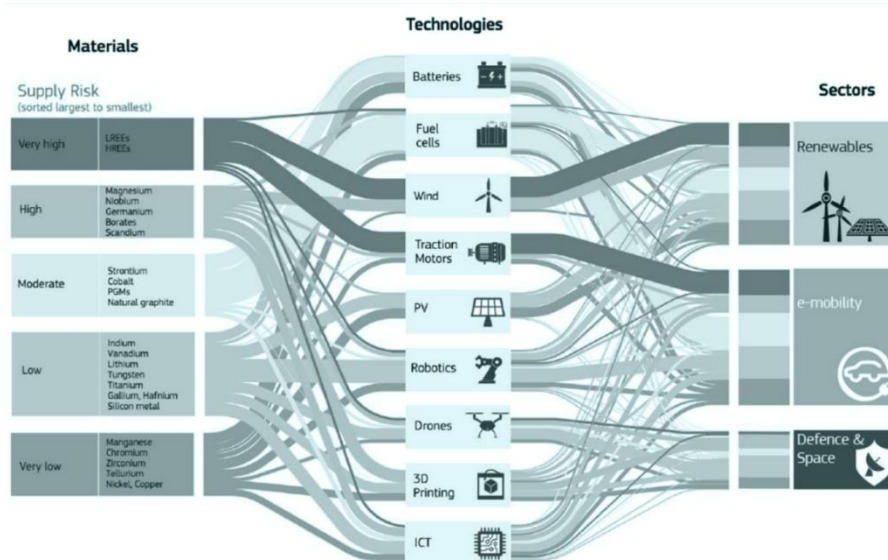
Project Overview & EIT KIC Contribution: The objective of the PASSENGER project is to remove the EU's dependence on Critical Raw Materials (CRMs), such as Rare Earth Elements (REEs), which are used in the fabrication of permanent magnets.

Instead, PASSENGER combines the latest research and developments of European innovative institutes and companies to replace REEs in permanent magnets by substituting improved strontium ferrite and manganese aluminium carbide (FMAC) magnets in a number of applications, where their excellent performance at high temperature, intrinsic resistance to corrosion, and ease of recyclability make them an attractive alternative to NdFeB magnets. PASSENGER uniquely combines the efforts of 20 major centres to enable a sustainable technological development of the complete permanent magnet production value chain in Europe.

Key Results & Impact: The expected results of the Passenger project, which are currently ongoing, include:

- Complete substitution of RE permanent magnets with PASSENGER's magnets in e-scooters, e-bikes and e-motorbikes, through the development of new motors
- Complete substitution for e-car motors is beyond the scope of the project, but many other components of electric cars can benefit from PASSENGER's magnets
- Product design and manufacturing in the EU
- Increased awareness around sustainable sourcing of raw materials and sustainable production
- Increased availability of electric devices for transportation

In August 2024, it was announced that the characterisation of the two different magnetic phases of Mn-Al-C (epsilon and tau phase) shows that approximately 90% of the target coercivity and remanence values have been reached. The target values for PASSENGER's improved strontium ferrite were achieved with flying colours, and superior performance was proven compared to commercially available ferrite in terms of coercivity, remanence and compressed density. Furthermore, PASSENGER magnets can not only replace conventional REE-based magnets in certain applications but also hold significant advantages in terms of increased safety, and lower economic and environmental impact.



Testimonials: ‘At EIT RawMaterials, our mission has always been to champion circular economy, materials innovation, and responsible sourcing. These innovative rare-earth-free magnets are particularly remarkable in that they not only use materials that are readily accessible and produced within Europe – reducing our dependence on third-party countries – but they also offer a superior recycling potential compared to traditional permanent magnets. This breakthrough is perfectly aligned with the European Commission’s Critical Raw Materials Act, demonstrating Europe’s ability to cultivate self-sufficiency and a more sustainable future through innovation.’

— Bernd Schaefer, CEO, Managing Director of EIT RawMaterials

Further Information

[PASSENGER project official website](#)



8. EIT URBAN MOBILITY

8.1 KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS

Since 2019, EIT Urban Mobility has been committed to enabling partners in its community to speed up the transition to decarbonised urban transport. EIT Urban Mobility's innovation activities integrate environmental, technological and societal goals that support its vision of creating more liveable urban spaces. Through its innovation initiatives, EIT Urban Mobility has helped advance Europe's priorities in the areas of the digital and green transitions, as well as fostering resilience, competitiveness and inclusivity. EIT Urban Mobility has established a strong record in transforming urban mobility through innovation, focusing on the **commercialisation of sustainable solutions, fostering agile collaboration with European cities, and scaling impact across urban centres.**

The KIC has made significant strides in advancing sustainable urban mobility across Europe, leveraging its community of **over 250 partner organisations, more than 130 investment portfolio startups**, and a wider network of **over 1 100 stakeholders** across Europe to drive impactful projects. EIT Urban Mobility's innovation activities support companies in expanding to new markets, addressing urgent technological shifts, and building robust financial sustainability mechanisms. Its success in fostering collaboration with major European associations, such as the ALICE Alliance for Logistics and the Clean Hydrogen Alliance, further underscores its commitment to a resilient, sustainable urban mobility ecosystem that aligns with European Union (EU) priorities. These efforts have significantly strengthened EIT Urban Mobility's position as a catalyst for urban mobility innovation across Europe.

The impact of EIT Urban Mobility's innovation initiatives is particularly evident in its agile city pilot programme, [RAPTOR](#). Since 2021, the RAPTOR programme has funded 57 pilots across 49 cities in Europe, receiving over 750 proposals aimed at solving pressing city-defined mobility challenges. As with all EIT Urban Mobility's innovation activities, RAPTOR is scaled to involve all CLC regions to reach diverse urban landscapes. Across the entire 2024 innovation project portfolio, over a third of solutions tested with cities and industry have led to extended deployments or new pilots beyond the initial project scope.



Additionally, EIT Urban Mobility's [Horizon Lab](#) programme, which is specifically involved in developing proposals, building consortia and implementing projects as part of Horizon Europe, has contributed to **12 projects** including [NetZeroCities](#) and [CIVITAS Muse](#). Horizon Lab, like all EIT Urban Mobility innovation initiatives, fosters partnerships and mobilises financial resources to address societal challenges. By emphasising tangible outcomes and continuous post-project support, EIT Urban Mobility ensures that its innovation activities deliver sustained societal, economic and environmental benefits across European cities.

Financial sustainability plays a key role in EIT Urban Mobility's approach, with innovation investments tied to returns on investment through project co-funding, equity positions, revenue-sharing agreements or service delivery. Through its Innovation Advisory Services Team, previously known as the Commercial Sustainability Team, EIT Urban Mobility has facilitated commercialisation for portfolio companies, providing sustained support to ensure that innovation projects yield concrete market value and societal impact beyond project timelines.

The [Mobility Innovation Marketplace](#)— one of the largest platforms for showcasing market-ready and sustainable mobility innovations, best practices and market opportunities – is a key tool and initiative of EIT Urban Mobility to support the commercialisation of innovations .

8.2 URBAN MOBILITY INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD

By 2027, EIT Urban Mobility aims to make Europe a global leader in sustainable urban mobility, focusing on education, environmental impact and infrastructure transformation. In line with this goal, EIT Urban Mobility intends to provide **targeted education and training to over 42 500 individuals** in areas such as innovation, entrepreneurship and system transformation, thereby enhancing the mobility sector's skill base. Additionally, the KIC is projected to create **500 000 new "green" jobs** linked to cycling, public transport and shared mobility, supporting Europe's green transition.

To address urban sustainability challenges, EIT Urban Mobility will **co-create mobility solutions with citizens and citizen associations in 40 European cities**, ensuring designs that align with user needs and promote rapid adoption of practices. The KIC aims to increase sustainable modal share in 100% of City Club cities by 2027. Environmental goals include increasing the reallocation of road space and decreasing the exposure of city inhabitants to emissions in 80% of City Club cities by 2027 compared to 2024 levels. To further encourage public transit, EIT Urban Mobility aims to increase public transport station density in 90% of City Club cities, thus enhancing accessibility and reducing urban reliance on private vehicles.

EIT Urban Mobility's innovation strategy also includes ambitious targets for product and startup development. **By 2027**, it plans to **design or test 212 new innovations and bring 164 of these to market**. Additionally, by that time, the KIC aims to **support 748 startups and scale-ups**, and help create 79 startups from innovation activities. Financial sustainability remains a priority, with EIT Urban Mobility expecting **to generate €62.4 million in FS revenues by 2027**, mainly through commercialised products, equity shares in new companies and innovation advisory service offerings. Through these efforts, EIT Urban Mobility is committed to building a resilient and sustainable urban mobility ecosystem that addresses Europe's pressing transportation challenges.

8.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON)

- Several startups supported by EIT Urban Mobility have officially been listed within [Sifted's 250 Fastest-Growing Start-Ups in 2024](#). [Anybill](#), a German startup that provides technology and infrastructure to create smart added value for the connected POS, was ranked 34th; [Beev](#), a French startup focused on decarbonising mobility, was listed at 91; the Belgian AI company [Otiv](#) ranked 106; and the tech+app [Maaind](#) came in at 240.
- Two online courses developed by EIT Urban Mobility and RMIT Europe won Best eLearning Project and Best eLearning Design at the [2022 LearnX Awards](#). The global annual awards are given to course designers and educators that demonstrate innovation, and new practices and technologies that support talent development.
- In February 2025, EIT Urban Mobility was named the most active investor in European mobility startups by Via ID and Dealroom for the second year in a row.
- [EU Startup Prize for Mobility](#): EIT Urban Mobility honoured [Zeabuz](#) with the Special Category Prize on Urban Mobility for their contribution to sustainable transportation.

SWEDISH STARTUP NUDGD BOOSTS HELSINGBORG'S CYCLING CULTURE WITH BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE



Despite substantial investment in infrastructure and mobility management – and considering the climate crisis and high fuel costs – the people of Helsingborg were travelling by bicycle less than people in similarly sized cities in the region. [Nudgd helped increase cycling rates using its Smart Nudges platform](#), working with schools to encourage active mobility among parents, children and

school staff. During the RAPTOR project pilot in Helsingborg, 2 400 parents and school staff from 25 schools were successfully engaged, and 39% of participants changed or planned to change to an active mode of travel.

Nudgd helped increase cycling rates using its Smart Nudges platform – working with schools to encourage active mobility among parents, children and school staff. During the RAPTOR project pilot in Helsingborg, 2 400 parents and school staff from 25 schools were successfully engaged, and 39% of participants changed or planned to change to a more active mode of travel. Compared to non-users, participants showed double the probability of switching from car to active transport. In March 2024, Nudgd was awarded the Mobility Action Award 2023, based on its work with the City of Helsingborg. In 2024, Nudgd was also awarded a project with the Turkish city of Konya as part of the RAPTOR call, aimed at fostering a culture of multimodal transportation in the city. Across the two RAPTOR projects, EIT Urban Mobility's Innovation programme has supported Nudgd via €75 000 to cover pilot costs.



INTELLIGENT CARPOOLING STARTUP TAKES CARS OFF THE ROAD IN VITORIA-GASTEIZ, FOR LOWER COMMUTING EMISSIONS



As part of a SME Market Expansion Call project, [Karos Mobility](#) piloted its AI- and geolocation-powered carpooling solution, which optimises matches between people travelling in the same direction, in the Spanish city of Vitoria-Gasteiz. In Vitoria-Gasteiz, 40 000 people – 70% of whom commute in mostly single-occupancy private vehicles – travel daily to industrial estates outside the city centre, causing traffic congestion and pollution. The Karos Mobility solution reduces the

number of private vehicles on the road and, consequently, emissions. It also increases accessibility to employer sites and helps companies achieve corporate social responsibility (CSR) goals related to sustainable employee commuting. As part of the project, Karos Mobility onboarded eight companies across two industrial estates. In this way, companies were able to play a role in lowering their employees' commuting carbon emissions.

During the pilot from September to December 2023, 11 tonnes of carbon dioxide were saved using the Karos Mobility carpooling solution in the city, with 5 000 trips made. In the year since implementation, 45 000 trips have been arranged via the app, with 500 people regularly using the platform to commute to work. The City Council of Vitoria-Gasteiz has decided to extend the initiative for an additional year. This project represented Karos Mobility's entry into the Spanish market, and EIT Urban Mobility provided €59 500 to support piloting and testing for market expansion. In 2024, Karos Mobility was awarded €83 000 as part of a Targeted Call project called MOTO, which aims to create a living lab in the city of Turin to test and validate three new mobility solutions, including the Karos Mobility carpooling solution. The goal of the MOTO project is to support the development of scalable and replicable mobility solutions that can be adapted to other cities – contributing to social and environmental sustainability on a broader scale.

EVOSS - ROBOTIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING DEVICE



The [EVOSS project](#) aims to revolutionise electric vehicle (EV) charging by addressing the limitations of traditional infrastructure – eliminating the need for dedicated charging spots. Current EV charging methods, primarily based on fixed charging stations, present several issues, including limited availability, long charging times and inefficient use of parking spaces. 'Thomas', the project's robotic charging device developed by SME Batteri, offers a

flexible, zero-infrastructure alternative that optimises parking space use while ensuring high-speed charging opportunities for EVs.

As a 60kW DC rapid charger, Thomas charges vehicles 7 to 10 times faster than standard Level 1 and Level 2 chargers. It features onboard energy storage, charges during off-peak hours, and reduces grid impact.



The project conducted its first pilot to test the efficiency and functionality of Thomas in an office building parking lot, with a group of EV owners using the robot daily for charging. Despite being the first pilot, Thomas was already able to charge two to three cars to their maximum capacity within seven hours – a performance that surpasses traditional charging infrastructure in similar scenarios.

During the project, EVOSS hosted numerous on-site visits from fleet managers and charge point operators (CPOs). These meetings, along with learnings from the pilot, led to a strategic pivot in the business model – shifting towards a white-label offering for CPOs instead of direct operation. Recently, EVOSS signed a contract with one of the largest electric companies in Israel, and an agreement with one of the country's largest CPOs to begin operations in early 2025. The company is currently preparing to enter the EU market through a second pilot in Thessaloniki and is also considering opening a subsidiary in Luxembourg.

8.4 FEATURED INNOVATION PROJECT

Project Name & Duration

Name: [HCG€ VALUE](#) – Healthy Cities Generator VALUE: Economic Valuation for Life Expectancy in Urban Environments

Duration: 6 November 2023 – 6 November 2024.

Partners & Collaboration: **University of Lisbon (Lisbon, Portugal):** As a research partner, the University of Lisbon (ULIS) led work package 2, establishing the knowledge foundation and fostering participatory design. ULIS conducted research into the urban determinants of health and the extent to which the urban environment affects health. These results were integrated into the software's algorithms to inform the final results. ULIS also supported Bax with the organisation of pilots in Cascais and Lisbon.

Bax & Company (Barcelona, Spain): [Bax](#) led the project, including workshops with pilot cities and the user and expert boards, engaging its existing wide network in health and planning. The solution was built on the existing Healthy Cities tool, which did not have an integrated economic module. Bax drew on ULIS's research outcomes to design a user-friendly algorithm and UX for the HCG€ module, and supervised the software developer closely. Bax drew on its experience successfully commercialising the original Healthy Cities Generator (HCG) to develop an effective business plan and immediately start sales with its existing network of cities. Within the project, Bax spun off the Healthy Cities startup to commercialise the solution.

Project Overview & EIT KIC Contribution: The Healthy Cities Generator is a cutting-edge tool designed to help cities assess the health impact of their urban plans and make informed decisions to improve physical, mental and environmental health. To enhance effective decision-making further, the project consortium developed and introduced an innovative economic impact analysis module (HCG€) to the existing tool. HCG€ calculates the economic value of life expectancy improvements associated with the health impacts estimated by the tool – helping decision-makers prioritise investments that benefit citizen health and the economy, while reducing healthcare costs. Due to limited past research into the economic link between the built environment and human health, this solution is among the first to focus on the intersection of health and urban planning.

EIT Urban Mobility Contribution: €200 000



Key Results & Impact: The project aims to scale HCG€ to over 90 cities by 2028 to help users make urban planning decisions and introduce evidence-based policy that fosters liveable, healthy urban spaces throughout Europe.

During the project, Bax engaged with 14 cities from 10 countries that were part of its expert and user board. These cities provided continuous feedback, ensuring the solution meets the needs of civil servants and urban planners. Furthermore, experts from organisations such as ISGlobal, UN Habitat, the World Health Organization and others contributed feedback during these sessions.

The solution was piloted in close collaboration with three European cities – Bradford, Lisbon and Cascais. The tool was used to assess redevelopment plans for neighbourhoods or streets in these cities. As a result of the project, a new company was established to commercialise the solution. To date, the platform has been successfully licensed to 20 cities across Europe, alongside consultancy services that support its effective implementation. These milestones highlight the tool's transformative potential in fostering healthier, evidence-based urban development.

Testimonials: Amber De La Haye, Expert in Urban Health, Gender & Equality for Healthy Cities: *'There is no other tool out there that offers these economic results. Elements of the urban environment that improve health often are not the most profitable... if you are a developer putting in a development, you can sell real estate and rent out lots, but a park offers you no income. So, it can be harder to argue for these elements of the urban environment that are essential for people's health – and putting it into economic terms really helps make that argument. Urban planners and technicians want this tool so they can take it to decision-makers to say: "It looks like it is going to cost us a bit of money to put in this park or this bike lane... but you are actually going to be making back that return on investment in a few years in terms of how much money we are going to save as a society in health costs.'*

Saira Ali, Team Leader, Landscape Design and Conservation, Bradford Council (Pilot city): *'Using the Healthy City Generator enabled us to import data and leverage it for funding applications. It also helped us build a strong business case to clearly demonstrate the benefits. While we understood the benefits conceptually, we didn't have the necessary data to back it up – and the generator provided that. It proved to be a powerful tool, allowing us to engage with various departments – whether planning, public health or highway engineers – and showcase different outputs. These outputs included improvements in highways, green infrastructure, health and well-being, and mental and physical health, all of which are economically significant when building a city. The generator has been instrumental in supporting our efforts.'*

Further Information

- [Healthy Cities official website](#) and [Healthy Cities online platform](#)
- [Healthy Cities Generator tool](#)
- [Piloting the Healthy Cities Generator in Portugal \(Healthy Cities, 2024\)](#)
- [Presenting the Economic Impact Tool at Healthy City Design 2024 \(Healthy Cities, 2024\)](#)
- [Building Healthier Cities: Introducing the NEW Healthy Cities Generator Video \(YouTube\)](#)

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9. EIT CULTURE & CREATIVITY

EIT Culture & Creativity's innovation activities will start during 2025, following the EIT Governing Board's endorsement of their startup year results. New calls for innovation projects will launch in early 2025, with the first innovations expected to be market-ready in 2026.

These innovation programmes are tailored to the specific needs of the culture and creativity sectors and industries (CCSI), and focus on close-to-market innovations:

- larger, multi-beneficiary projects with a maximum grant of €350 000 and lasting up to 12 months
- smaller, dual-beneficiary projects with a maximum grant of €120 000 for up to six months
- smaller, single-beneficiary projects with a maximum grant of €59 500 for up to six months

The design of these programmes is based on the market needs of the CCSI, with strong input from the KIC's partners. Emphasis is placed on SMEs – in particular micro-enterprises – with innovative ideas that need support for rapid validation before launching internationally. Given this focus, the innovation project portfolio is tightly linked to the KIC's business acceleration programmes, ensuring continuous support and giving recipients the best possible chance to grow.

9.1. KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS

KEY IMPACTS OF INNOVATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS OF EIT CULTURE & CREATIVITY

EIT Culture & Creativity's innovation projects focus on five priority areas. Each area includes both qualitative and quantitative goals, and each individual project is expected to contribute to at least one qualitative and one quantitative goal.

Sector	Qualitative impact goal	Quantitative impact goal by 2030
Fashion	Increase circularity of the sector	2.50% increase of fashion companies in Europe producing 5% of their collections per year according to EU circularity standards and practices.
Architecture	Increase circularity of the sector while strengthening the social dimension	2.00% increase of EU architectural sites, interventions and buildings maintained, renovated, or rebuilt making use of innovative technologies; 1.25% increase of EU architects applying circular and fair practices in alignment with the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework of the NetZeroCities mission and the New European Bauhaus.
Cultural Heritage	Strengthen EU's social cohesion while preserving cultural heritage	5.00% increase of social cohesion (measured as defined by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) experienced by visitors, participants, and stakeholders to EU cultural heritage institutions and practices; 1.25% increase of EU cultural heritage sites, institutions and artifacts preserved or adapted to climate changes.
Audio-visual Media	Elaborate and implement responsible and trustworthy principles and technologies	2.00% increase of products and services based on responsible and trustworthy technologies by AVM companies in EU.
Gaming	SMEs with adopted disruptive technologies and trends with focus on digital ethics	1.25% increase of EU SMEs in gaming sector that adopt disruptive trends and technology such as AI, no-code platforms, third-party payment systems, user-generated content, and digital ethics.

These impact goals outlined in the table below are aligned with key European priorities and focus areas such as support for SMEs, leading the Green and Digital Transitions, and developing the Circular Economy (as per the initiative of the European Commission). In addition, they build on upcoming strategies and policies on topics like artificial intelligence, social media, the New European Bauhaus, and broader democratic values.



9.2. CULTURE & CREATIVITY INNOVATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD

EIT Culture & Creativity's innovation roadmap through 2027 is set to transform Europe's Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI). Provided that a sufficient number of high-quality innovation projects can be initiated and that sufficient funding is available, the KIC aims to deliver **over 100 marketed innovations** by 2027, including **over 50 innovations generating** more than **€10 000 in revenue**.

The innovation calls have a budget of approximately **€7.5 million** set aside for projects to be initiated in 2025. This figure will increase during the 2026–2028 period in line with the EIT grant. Given the focus on innovations from micro and small enterprises, EIT Culture & Creativity will continue to align innovation and business creation activities. This will ensure that enterprises bringing innovations to market through the KIC's innovation projects will gain access to acceleration and post-acceleration programmes, market knowledge, and capital.

EIT Culture & Creativity will continue to place strong emphasis on circularity throughout the entire innovation portfolio. Demand-side innovations will support changes to consumer and end-user behaviour, while supply-side innovations will reduce both material footprints and pressures on natural resources. The KIC's focus is therefore aligned with the Policy Agenda of the European Commission, as well as with other European initiatives such as the Circular Economy Act and the Circular Economy Action Plan.

The KIC will continuously evaluate the structure of the innovation activities and the overall portfolio. In addition to ensuring that the KIC supports activities across all five priority areas, the duration and 'ticket size' of innovation projects will be reviewed and adjusted to meet changing market needs and align with other European initiatives that also seek to support innovation and innovative companies. Furthermore, EIT Culture & Creativity will ensure that each project signs a Financial Sustainability Mechanism (FSM) agreement, focusing on providing the KIC with equity in the entities responsible for the commercialisation of the innovations. The successful evolution of this approach will provide additional input to the structure of the KIC's innovation project portfolio.



Community

Funded by the
European Union

10. REGIONAL INNOVATION SCHEME

The Climate-KIC Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) the EIT's flagship initiative, is active in Southern, Central and Eastern European countries where it does not operate through office structures.

The EIT RIS programme is designed as a long-term initiative to strengthen the national and regional innovation ecosystems of countries that are moderate and emerging innovators, based on the EU Innovation Scorecard.

Its goals are to:

- stimulate low-carbon innovation in countries, regions and cities across Europe
- significantly boost local capacity to implement the highest-impact ideas
- reinforce synergies and complementarities with different innovation initiatives and funding sources

Therefore, EIT RIS is **a strategic instrument to target climate mitigation and adaptation needs while enabling regional development**. The programme offers a concrete way to design, build and deliver mission-oriented portfolios of interconnected activities on skills development and learning, entrepreneurship, and innovation to:

- catalyse fast decarbonisation
- deliver future-proof jobs
- generate new markets aligned to 1.5°
- drive forward adaptation and resilience

Until the end of 2022, Climate-KIC relied on RIS Hubs to achieve these goals. These national 'focal points' operated in 13 countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia). As of January 2023, a more comprehensive approach was adopted, expanding coverage to all RIS countries. The dedicated RIS Hubs were closed, and responsibilities

shifted to National Secretaries who now run EIT Community RIS Hubs (see RIS Hubs Minimum Standards and Guiding Principles). This change ensures representation in all RIS-eligible countries.

EIT Digital played a pivotal role in fostering innovation across RIS countries, addressing their unique challenges and opportunities. Through its extensive network, EIT Digital provided tailored support via acceleration programmes, mentoring, and funding, aimed at supporting startups and scale-ups in less-developed innovation ecosystems.

- Number of new and established KIC partners from RIS countries: 212
- Marketed innovations: 28
- Startups supported: 71
- Country of origin of students (74) and graduates (137): 211
- Investment attracted: €24.2 million

EIT Food's RIS activities enhance capabilities in countries with moderate and emerging levels of innovation by building capacity among key regional actors such as companies, investors and other accelerators. The aim is to support entrepreneurs to start, launch and grow while creating useful connections.

Programmes under the RIS entrepreneurship development KAVA include:

Test Farms: a programme through which 105 agri-tech startups have been given the opportunity to test



innovative products and services with real farmers in the field. This has resulted in 11 marketed innovations from 2023 and 2024. Startups can test anywhere within the RIS countries, regardless of their country of origin. They are matched with the most suitable farmer in the destination area and with the required crops. The programme operates in six countries. It also builds the pipeline for other programmes – a representative case is Ficosterra, a

startup that moved from Test Farms to Rising Food Stars.

TeamUp: a pioneering venture-building programme connecting technologies developed by researchers with business experts to become potential co-founders, resulting in over 800 applicants. Through three editions, startup creation has been the programme's strongest pillar, with as many as 15 startups (in 2023 and expected in 2024) created as a direct result. TeamUp startups have raised external funds amounting to 3.5 times the amount received from EIT Food. A standout case is Ekolive, which scaled from TeamUp to Rising Food Stars in only two years.

Sales Booster: a programme that supports startups (30 since 2022) in internationalising to a new market with help from local experts and mentors.

In the RIS region, building capacity among national champions to deliver new products through open innovation is key. This is the role of the Corporate Venturing Community, which has linked 20 Southern European agrifood company champions to exchange best practices.



RIS programmes have already contributed 45 validated marketed innovations between 2018 and 2023 – well above the target of 10. A highly relevant success case from RIS is Regenerative Agriculture, a programme that started under the RIS umbrella and has since scaled to a pan-European initiative. Now one of EIT Food's flagship programmes, it has trained over 2 000 farmers in Europe and supported 150 in transitioning from conventional to regenerative agriculture – a farming approach aligned with NetZero goals and focused on regenerating European soils.

EIT Health RIS accelerates innovation based on healthcare needs across its regions by creating an environment where 10 innovation projects are selected each year to address urgent challenges in the healthcare sector. The RIS Innovation Call 2023 successfully supported 10 multi-competence consortia focused on driving healthcare innovation. This programme emphasises the transformation of early-stage healthcare concepts into viable solutions by fostering collaboration between business, academia, research and healthcare sectors. The initiative has helped teams evaluate the feasibility and viability of their proposed solutions, accelerating the development of impactful healthcare innovations.

A notable achievement from this initiative is [GOTECH Antimicrobial](#), the winner of the RIS Innovation Call 2023. This project is dedicated to combating medical device infections and advancing cutting-edge antimicrobial technologies. Since its success in the call, GOTECH has secured €80 000 in public grant funding and has initiated pilot-scale production with certified partners. Additionally, the company's co-founder participated in the 6th cohort of the EIC Women Leadership Programme, further enhancing her leadership and innovation skills.

InnoStars Connect was established to promote challenge-based collaboration in healthcare innovation. Startups gain valuable opportunities by partnering with life sciences corporations and healthcare providers to address real-world challenges. In 2024, collaborations with two challenge owners – Chiesi Farmaceutici and SYNLAB Italia – assisted 10 startups in better understanding the healthcare industry. This helped them refine their value propositions and business models, ultimately enabling smoother commercialisation and scaling of their solutions.

Throughout the programme, teams worked closely with the challenge owners, signing letters of intent that demonstrate a shared commitment to advancing these partnerships beyond the programme. The winner of InnoStars Connect 2024 was [PONS](#), which developed an AI-driven mobile ultrasound system that integrates advanced navigation and enhancement technologies. This innovative solution empowers users without prior ultrasound training to capture high-quality data on disease progression, addressing critical gaps in diagnostic accessibility and efficiency outside traditional hospital settings.

EIT Manufacturing has implemented several dedicated RIS activities in recent years with the aim of boosting the innovation capacity of RIS countries in the manufacturing sector.

Since 2021, EIT Manufacturing has run the EIT Jumpstarter pre-accelerator, which supports idea-holders in turning their ideas into businesses. Since 2020, this has led to the creation of 22 startups. In addition, two editions of the Evolution of RIS Innovation programme have been implemented, bringing innovative small-scale manufacturing solutions from the demonstration stage to market uptake. This has resulted in the creation of eight startups and the launch of 24 innovations.



In 2023, EIT Manufacturing RIS also launched the RIS Inclusiveness programme, dedicated to enhancing the manufacturing sector for people with disabilities. The **Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS)** is one of the cornerstones of EIT RawMaterials' activities and is horizontally integrated across all activity lines, with the key objective of connecting the Community to the RIS-eligible regions and countries. EIT RawMaterials has focused strongly on RIS countries since the beginning of its operations in 2015 – particularly as many RIS countries possess raw materials deposits and production assets that can significantly contribute to Europe's domestic supply. Additionally, through **RIS Capacity Building Initiatives** supported by dedicated KAVA

calls, EIT RawMaterials views these regions as offering outstanding opportunities to make an impact aligned with its objectives.

This work is always accompanied and complemented by the overarching goal of increasing the innovation capacity of RIS countries – a goal supported by the **RIS Hubs** and the **EIT RIS Country-Specific Roadmap**. EIT RawMaterials works closely with partners to implement impactful RIS activities, which fall into two main categories:

1. **RIS Innovation KAVA Projects**, led by KIC partners from RIS countries and selected through open calls.
2. **EIT RawMaterials RIS Hubs**, which promote the KIC's activities and opportunities and engage potential partners and decision-makers in RIS regions where the KIC sees high potential.

EIT Urban Mobility aims to enhance collaboration with organisations from countries identified as having moderate or emerging innovation capabilities, based on the European Innovation Scoreboard. To achieve this, the Innovation Programme actively encourages project consortia to include participants from Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) countries. These RIS applicants benefit from reduced co-funding requirements, set at just 25%, and gain access to a wealth of additional support. This includes invitations to exclusive events, tailored training sessions, promotional opportunities, and direct connections with EIT Urban Mobility RIS hubs – fostering deeper integration into the innovation ecosystem.

The goal is to attract new partners who can bridge local ecosystems with the broader pan-European innovation landscape. Since the programme's inception, **over 79 entities from 16 RIS countries across 27 different projects have received RIS funding**, demonstrating the significant impact of this initiative in supporting regional innovation.



Community



Funded by the
European Union

11. EIT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The Climate-KIC Community thrives with **over 150 global members**, encompassing universities, research institutions, cities, NGOs and startups united in their commitment to tackling climate change head-on. Their diverse backgrounds and unwavering dedication form an unrivalled breadth of knowledge and expertise. Together, Climate-KIC and its Community members drive forward transformative climate innovation – shaping a resilient and sustainable future for all.

The Community collaborates to accelerate the transformation of cities, regions, and value chains, enhancing adaptation and climate resilience. By working collectively, the Community cultivates the critical mass required to scale both the supply and demand for climate change solutions.

The network of members includes leading researchers, dynamic companies, strategic thinkers, and forward-thinking cities and public authorities, all committed to climate action and deep decarbonisation through innovation. The Community brings together SMEs, larger corporations, startups, graduate students from Climate-KIC's educational programmes, researchers, climate experts, cities, public authorities, NGOs, and others.

The Community thrives on deep collaboration between organisations and individuals. Its core principle is to explore where innovation can make the biggest difference in transforming systems. As a community, it unites forces to find and implement solutions in integrated ways. It is a transformational force supporting the most ambitious climate leaders to create change at the speed and scale required for systemic transformation.

Twelve startups have been supported by **EIT Digital** as part of the community's efforts. EIT Digital actively participates in several EIT Community Innovation Activities, leveraging collaborative efforts to drive Europe's digital transformation. Notable initiatives include:

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** EIT Digital collaborates with other Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) to promote human-centric AI implementation across Europe. This initiative supports AI-driven projects and ventures by providing resources, training programmes and networking events, fostering a responsible AI ecosystem.



- **Jumpstarter:** This pre-acceleration programme targets startups in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe. EIT Digital contributes by offering mentorship, training and funding opportunities to early-stage entrepreneurs – enhancing regional innovation capacities.
- **Women Entrepreneurship ([Supernovas](#)):** EIT Digital supports the empowerment of women in the entrepreneurial and investment ecosystem by providing tailored networks and educational opportunities, aiming to increase female representation in tech and innovation sectors.
- **EIT Community RIS Hubs:** Through these hubs, EIT Digital strengthens local entrepreneurship and fosters collaboration between local and EU innovation networks – particularly in regions with moderate or modest innovation performance.

These collaborative efforts exemplify EIT Digital’s commitment to harnessing synergies within the EIT Community – driving systemic change through education, innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe.

EIT Food’s role in promoting innovation extends beyond the agri-food system. In its collaborations with other KICs, EIT Food plays a key role in developing innovative approaches to teaching, knowledge exchange and peer learning for all projects under the HEI Initiative.

The [InnoNext Internship](#) scheme provides fully funded internships lasting between three and six months for academic talent at innovative startups and SMEs.

In addition, the [EIT Food RIS Fellowships scheme \(2018–2024\)](#) successfully placed 384 master’s and PhD students at business partners, research institutes, startups and SMEs across Europe. Alumni reported that gaining hands-on experience in the food industry enhanced their job-related skills and competencies, with many retained in the sector through associated employment after the programme’s completion.



The EIT Community [New European Bauhaus \(NEB\)](#)-funded **Catalyse NEB** programme, led by Climate-KIC in partnership with EIT Food, EIT Manufacturing and EIT Urban Mobility, supports ventures through an eight-month programme. It aims to integrate sustainability, inclusivity and design beyond functionality into their business ideas.

The 2024 cohort included **28 startups, receiving up to €50 000 in funding and support**, plus access to investors, mentorship from industry experts and training to scale up their products, ideas and services. Examples of supported innovations include: seaweed products from [Alga](#) in Ireland, hemp building materials from [Ekotekt](#) in Finland, agricultural software from [SpaceCrop](#) in Hungary and microbial dies for the textile industry from [Vienna Textile Lab](#) in Austria.

EIT Health is involved in several **Cross-KIC initiatives** aimed at driving strategic topics and promoting innovation, while fostering collaboration and maximising the potential of the ecosystem. One such initiative is **Cross-KIC Strategic Outreach**, which aims to connect with important innovation valleys worldwide, putting the European Union (EU) and EIT on the global innovation map as leading players. The

main aims are to enable innovations to be launched onto the global market, support startups in raising investments, and facilitate cross-border consortium building.

In 2023, key outcomes included the launch of two marketed innovations, one of which recorded sales of over €10 000:

- **Fall Detection** – a device providing health analytics for fall detection and prevention
- **Hyperlipidaemia** – a patient education and engagement module for individuals with hyperlipidaemia

Additionally, €12 million in private investment was attracted, 10 startups were supported in their efforts to scale to global markets, and 308 individuals were trained.

Cross-KIC Strategic Synergies is another initiative that, in 2023, led to the development of another marketed product exceeding €10 000 in sales:

- **SkillSync** – a one-stop solution for AI-based upskilling and competitiveness assessment that provides personalised course recommendations. SkillSync was selected as a finalist in the *Digital Upskilling at Work* category of the **European Digital Skills Awards**. By 2025, the initiative aims to strengthen the AI ecosystem and expand its impact through high-value services.

Other initiatives, such as **Cross-KIC Regional Innovations** (coordinated by EIT Health), contribute to innovation in emerging innovator countries across Europe – including Western Balkan economies, Moldova and Ukraine – by boosting local ecosystems and providing capacity-building support.

Cross-KIC Strategic Education also contributes to skills development for innovation. In 2023, 1 375 individuals were trained, 1 194 of whom came from **Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS)** countries. Similar targets are expected for 2024 and 2025.

EIT Manufacturing participates in several EIT Community activities. In the field of innovation, the **EIT AI Community Project** aims to boost European innovation and collaboration using artificial intelligence. Its main goal is to bring AI startups, researchers and industry leaders together to enhance efficiency, sustainability and digital transformation across sectors.

SkillSync ([tool](#)) addresses AI skill gaps by offering tailored AI training programmes, helping over 2 800 people to identify suitable courses for their development.

AI Challenge promotes AI adoption by connecting corporates and municipalities with challenges to solutions provided by startups. Over the past three years, 26 startups have been supported and 26 industry challenges addressed.

AI Maturity Tool is a self-assessment tool used by over 400 people and companies to evaluate readiness for AI integration.

AI Conformity Tool is a self-assessment tool with 100+ users, designed to ensure compliance with EU AI regulatory standards and assess the impact of the **AI Act**.



Disruptive AI supports selected startups to scale, with three startups directly awarded in 2024.

EIT Urban Mobility has played a key role in the EIT Community's New European Bauhaus initiative and is set to lead the work package in 2025. Two notable projects, GENERation Nature and CoolCos, exemplify the NEB and the EIT Community's framework of programmes and were developed through the Connect NEB and the Co-create NEB calls. Both projects have advanced to the Enhance NEB programme for 2024, which focuses on scaling and replicating their impact. GENERation Nature, located in Barcelona, addresses environmental degradation at the boundary of urban and natural spaces, as well as the lack of representation of youth and the elderly in public areas by revitalising a neglected school garden. The project incorporates active mobility elements, citizen-led co-design workshops and biobased installations created by architecture students.

[CoolCos](#) reimagines public spaces to address the challenges of rising urban heat and social inequality. This project introduces modular urban furniture, or 'cooling corners and corridors', which are co-designed with local communities to convert underutilised public spaces into inclusive, climate-resilient areas. By focusing on vulnerable groups – such as the elderly, children and low-income families – the project not only enhances resilience to extreme heat but also showcases how urban mobility corridors can serve as equitable and accessible community hubs. Both initiatives demonstrate innovation in urban mobility by integrating community engagement, inclusive public space design and environmental restoration. They highlight the NEB's potential to reshape cities into sustainable, beautiful and inclusive environments, driven by citizen empowerment and co-creation.



Alumni



Co-funded by the
European Union

12. EIT ALUMNI

A unique and growing network, Climate-KIC Alumni Association members are entrepreneurs and innovation enthusiasts, sharing a common vision to create a climate-resilient society. Bringing together graduates from EIT education programmes – as well as startup companies from EIT Accelerator – the Alumni Association consists of **over 2 000 highly skilled professionals** from across Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa. Members benefit from knowledge transfer and career development – while helping amplify Climate-KIC's systems innovation work.

The Alumni Association was started in 2012 by graduates from the EIT Climate-KIC summer school, who believed a community of entrepreneurial, motivated and talented people could make a difference.

The community is an **open, dynamic, self-organising and action-focused network**. Running community experiments to facilitate climate action which are open to everyone, these events aim to bring together changemakers to find new solutions for tackling climate change in their wider communities.

Part of the EIT Alumni Community, members of the Climate-KIC Alumni Association can also take part in EIT entrepreneurial education and business acceleration programmes.

EIT Digital significantly advanced innovative education and strengthened its alumni networks, fostering a thriving ecosystem for digital talent and innovation. Through its flagship Master School, professional education programmes and specialised initiatives like [SpeedMaster](#), EIT Digital equipped students and professionals with cutting-edge skills in areas such as AI, cybersecurity and digital transformation. These programmes emphasised entrepreneurial thinking, ensuring participants were well prepared to tackle real-world challenges. Simultaneously, EIT Digital invested in its alumni network, creating opportunities for ongoing learning, collaboration and mentorship. This network became a vital resource for connecting talent with industry leaders, startups and scaleups, reinforcing the impact of EIT Digital's educational initiatives on Europe's digital and entrepreneurial landscape.



Countries

Row Labels	Count of Countries
Austria	1
Belgium	1
Estonia	3
Finland	3
France	1
Germany	4
Greece	2
Ireland	2
Italy	4
Latvia	1
Monaco	1
Netherlands	1
Romania	1
Serbia	1
Spain	3
Spain	1
UK	3
Ukraine	2
Grand Total	35

Founding year

Row Labels	Count of Founding year
2015	1
2016	3
2018	1
2019	6
2021	4
2022	13
2023	6
2020	1
Grand Total	35

Sector

Row Labels	Count of Sector
Blockchain	1
Blockchain	1
Fintech	1
GreenTech	9
Hospitality	3
HR Tech	1
Insurtech	1
Manufacturing	2
Mobility	1
Quantum Computing	1
Videotech	2
MedTech / Health	5
AI/Data analysis	5
AgriTech/FoodTech	2
Grand Total	35



Innovation is at the core of the EIT Food Education portfolio. The programmes are designed to equip learners with the skills and mindsets to drive food system transformation, and they use a challenge-based approach to ensure learning is immediately put into practice, generating new ideas, prototypes and businesses. Over the period of 2017–2024, EIT Food delivered over **200 programmes which inspired 320 000 learners** to start or further their careers to transform the food system and lead

change projects.

The skills-based programmes are also effective in fostering entrepreneurship: the programmes resulted in **over 200 prototypes and more than 40 startups**. Collaboration with over 280 organisations – including higher education institutions, industry, research and technology organisations, startups, NGOs, ministries, regulators and foundations – was used to successfully design and deliver these programmes.

For example, the [EIT Food Master](#) in Food Systems programme combines skills to develop a new type of leader for the food system, where students develop entrepreneurship skills to become effective innovators and key technical skills tailored to their career ambitions in the sector. Students work together as a cohort to innovate and gain their technical skills by rotating between three leading universities across Europe. Another example of EIT Food’s innovative approach to learning is the EIT Food doctoral programme, where existing PhD programmes and schools are supported to provide innovation and entrepreneurship skills and mindsets so that students can clearly articulate the pathway to impact for their research, gain key skills that enable them to be more effective in academic careers, and prepare them for a career in industry and the startup community. Key examples of successful startups from this programme include [Orbem](#), [Bio-F Solutions](#) (now Nouri-Sol), [AgriGrinTech](#) and [Cano-Ela](#).



[EIT Food Alumni](#) is a community of **over 3 700 members** who, at some point in their career, participated in a programme by EIT Food. The goal is to build strong connections in the agrifood sector and support their growth and professional development through networking opportunities. To date, 12 students have already provided validated KPIs, and investigations have illustrated that at least 54 students from other EIT Food academic programmes have gone on to found or join startups.

[EIT Health Innovators Community](#), a multidisciplinary collective of **more than 4 500 innovators from over 65 countries**, is a community fostered by EIT Health. Established in 2017, the community has been dedicated to building and shaping the future of healthcare through innovation and entrepreneurship. Its members include entrepreneurs, researchers, partners, graduates, mentors, and healthcare enthusiasts, all united by EIT Health and a shared vision of creating a positive societal impact.

The community utilises a platform built on Hivebrite, which supports over 4,500 users. This platform has been instrumental in the community's growth by providing a unique space for connectivity. It brings together various entities from across the healthcare sector, offering a centralised space for networking, information distribution, and collaboration. In 2023/24, there was a marked increase in activity and in the diversity of members, with the community now welcoming EIT Health partners, activity leaders, startups, and many other stakeholders who use the platform's features for daily operations and programme management.

Members of the EIT Health Innovators Community can participate in curated networking events, training sessions, and workshops. They also have direct access to exclusive job opportunities, tickets to conferences, mentoring opportunities, and the broader EIT Alumni Community, which includes professionals from various domains beyond health, thus expanding their professional networks.

For startups, the platform offers access to a global community of like-minded innovators. Startups are able to publish events for networking, recruit members through the job board, and benefit from new services such as a mentoring section, cross-KIC special offers, and a comprehensive startup database. This fosters a vibrant ecosystem where startups can thrive and connect with potential partners and talent.

The goal in 2024 was to ensure that the Innovators Community and the community platform continue to act as a comprehensive hub for a diverse network, bringing together partners, innovators, students, staff, mentors, health professionals, and other stakeholders. Efforts were focused on enhancing networking opportunities, providing a centralised space for information sharing, facilitating business promotion and matchmaking, supporting mentorship services, and creating pathways to financial sustainability through ticketed events, paid memberships, and sponsorships.

For EIT Health Partners, the platform provides opportunities for community building, matchmaking, programme promotion, and activity coordination. Consortia members also gain direct access to the talent pool through the job board and member database, as well as to all startups via the startup database.

With the expansion of activities, admin and features in 2024, the goal is to involve more stakeholders in the active, daily use of the community platform by offering various services that are valuable to the diverse actors of the EIT Health ecosystem.



The [EIT Manufacturing Alumni Community](#), running since 2023, embodies a diverse and inclusive network connecting innovators and change agents within the EIT Manufacturing ecosystem. Known as “The Future Club”, this community unites not only graduates of EITM education programmes but also participants of various EITM initiatives and projects. Its mission is to foster a sense of belonging, connectivity and collaboration among members to drive the manufacturing industry's transformation towards green and sustainable goals. Governed by the Alumni Charter, the community serves as a dynamic platform to nurture professional networks, exchange knowledge and enable career growth through mentorship, industry-specific events, job fairs and more. By connecting members to share insights and best practices, the Alumni Community plays a pivotal role in advancing EIT Manufacturing's mission.

[The Future Club](#) is a catalyst for lifelong learning, co-creation and innovation in manufacturing. It empowers members by promoting technological advancements, digital transformation and the increased participation of women in the industry. Through collaboration with research and technology organisations, industry leaders, academic institutions and startups, the community cultivates synergies that enhance innovation and growth. Focused on inclusivity and impact, the Alumni Community not only supports individual professional development but also strengthens the EIT Manufacturing ecosystem, contributing to the broader vision of building a sustainable and competitive manufacturing future in Europe.

The EIT RawMaterials education portfolio aims to drive innovative education programmes forward that address the high demand for entrepreneurial thinking and skilled talent in the raw materials sector. The KIC also strongly supports the Deep Tech Talent Initiative (DTTI), in addition to coordinating the Cross-KIC Education Cluster Initiative.

A total of 11 labelled Master programmes are part of the EIT RawMaterials Education offering. Additionally, EIT RM supports one labelled PhD Summer School and works with a number of other programmes to award them the label in 2025/2026.



The [EIT HEL Initiative](#) is a joint activity of the EIT Community, which recognises higher education institutions (HEIs) as pivotal actors in regional and European innovation ecosystems. The initiative aims to support HEIs with expertise and coaching, access to the EIT innovation ecosystem, and funding – enabling them to



develop innovation action plans tailored to the needs of each institution. Since the launch of the initiative in 2021, the **65 projects selected over three cohorts have successfully trained more than 40 000 students, academic and non-academic staff** in innovation and entrepreneurship, and supported **more than 1 100 startups and scale-ups**. Through the EIT HEI Initiative Alumni Community, the initiative aims to connect all participants to foster knowledge sharing and create new collaboration opportunities. A cornerstone of this dynamic community is the EIT HEI Initiative Alumni Platform, which provides a space where alumni can thrive, fostering an environment of continuous innovation and growth.

A more recent initiative relating to innovative education and alumni networks includes the establishment, in early 2024, of the [EIT Urban Mobility Alumni Association](#). The association is for graduates of EIT Urban Mobility's Master and Doctoral programmes and already has over 80 members. The association's objectives are to organise events, monitor and promote alumni careers, provide networking opportunities, support professional projects, and facilitate cross-KIC collaboration.



13. ENHANCING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LEADERSHIP (WEL)

The handbook [‘WeClim Equally: Gender-Smart Handbook for Climate Entrepreneurs’](#), developed in collaboration with Bopinc, supports climate startups in embedding gender perspectives across all facets of their operations. It features exercises for startups to assess the strength of their gender considerations within their organisation and implement interventions across four critical areas: Leadership: Strategies to cultivate gender-balanced leadership and decision-making structures. Organisational culture: Best practices for fostering an inclusive and equitable workplace environment. Marketplace: Approaches to ensure gender considerations are integrated into product development, marketing and customer engagement. By addressing these areas, startups can promote gender equality and drive innovation and business success within the climate innovation sector.

EIT Digital actively promoted women’s entrepreneurship and leadership through its programmes. Its collaboration with European Women in VC further strengthens these efforts. Programmes such as the EIT [Digital Venture Programme](#) included a strong emphasis on supporting diverse teams, encouraging women founders to participate and benefit from pre-acceleration services, mentoring and funding opportunities. Additionally, EIT Digital partnered with organisations and universities across Europe to integrate gender inclusivity into its entrepreneurial education offerings, such as its [SpeedMaster](#) and professional training programmes. These efforts aimed to break down barriers for women in the digital and tech sectors, equipping them with the skills, networks and resources needed to lead innovative ventures and contribute to Europe’s digital transformation.

- Female students and graduates: 139
- Entrepreneur’s support: 30% female

The EIT Food-led [Empowering Women in Agrifood \(EWA\) programme](#) is just about to start its sixth year. **120 talented female entrepreneurs from 12 countries** will participate in a six-month programme where they receive comprehensive training, personalised mentoring and exclusive networking opportunities (468 supported in total). To determine the value of this activity, a pilot Social Return on Investment analysis was



conducted for the EWA South region activities from 2020–2023, covering Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Türkiye. For a **total alumni group of 168 women**, the programme was assessed to have created increased income, employment, financial access, networking productivity, knowledge and competencies – with results showing that for every €1 spent on the programme, €1.56 of social impact was generated.

EIT Food, supported by EIT Manufacturing and EIT Urban Mobility, has brought more women into the investment and entrepreneurship ecosystem through the [Supernovas programme](#). From 2022 to 2024, **448 women investors and 60 entrepreneurs** were supported to enter the early-stage investment industry or grow further in their careers, with participants **from 27 countries** (more than 50% were RIS participants).



Examples of success include: thirty women securing a paid internship or job at a European venture capital fund; 32 supported startups raising €22.6 million in investment; and two research academics having their reports presented at European investment. EIT Food also jointly manages the [European Innovation Council \(EIC\) Women Leadership Programme](#), where an additional 35 women entrepreneurs have been supported. From 2019 to 2024, the EIT Food-managed [WE Lead Food](#) programme supported **240 women**

from over 50 countries. Feedback from participants indicates that alumni have benefitted from increased skills, networks, collaboration opportunities, inspiration and access to champions. Participants have gone on to create startups, achieve grant funding, gain employment and develop innovations that positively impact the environment, society and health.

EIT Food’s inclusivity-focused initiatives drive technological and financial advancements while reinforcing its role as a pivotal agent of systemic change in Europe’s food systems.

Regional Innovation Scheme: [Women InnoVenture](#) tackles the underrepresentation of women from RIS regions in healthcare innovation. Through targeted workshops on public speaking, negotiation and understanding investor perspectives, the programme supports women at all career stages – whether students, entrepreneurs or leaders in healthcare. By **empowering around 25 women each year**, the programme builds a more diverse and inclusive innovation ecosystem in healthcare.

Since its inception, the [Women Entrepreneurship Bootcamp \(WEB\)](#) has trained over 120 women founders, equipping them with the skills and confidence to succeed in the competitive health tech industry. Addressing the unique challenges faced by female entrepreneurs, the programme has delivered remarkable outcomes: alumni have collectively **raised €37 million in funding since 2021** – a monumental achievement given the persistent funding gap for women-led startups. Through intensive online training, personalised mentoring and strategic networking, WEB empowers participants to refine business strategies, develop market-ready solutions and approach investors with confidence. By fostering diversity and inclusion, the programme helps bridge the gender disparity in health tech funding – strengthening the ecosystem with innovative, high-growth ventures.

The success of WEB alumni like Maria Postigo, COO of [SpotLab](#), illustrates the transformative power of the programme. Maria credits the bootcamp with deepening her understanding of the health sector, sharpening her entrepreneurial skills and connecting her with a global network of mentors and



stakeholders. SpotLab's international partnerships – such as with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – highlight the global reach and innovation that WEB nurtures. By championing women founders, the programme not only creates opportunities for underrepresented entrepreneurs but also enhances the health tech ecosystem with diverse perspectives, driving competitive and impactful solutions.

'**RIS LEADERS – Women Innovators in Manufacturing at EIT RIS**' is a [competition](#) that celebrates the women innovators behind solutions addressing manufacturing-related challenges. The prize is awarded to women innovators from EIT RIS (Regional Innovation Scheme) eligible countries who have significantly impacted the innovation ecosystem by transforming ideas into new and advanced products and/or services to benefit people and planet. With this prize, EIT Manufacturing seeks to raise awareness of the need for more women innovators in manufacturing and to create role models for girls and women everywhere. Since 2021, EIT Manufacturing RIS has delivered four editions of RIS LEADERS, **training over 120 women**.

EIT Manufacturing's [STRADA programme](#), launched in early 2023, exemplifies the power of mentorship, training and networking in empowering women in the manufacturing sector. Coordinated by CTAG and supported by the CLC-West Innovation Hub, STRADA targets women MSc and PhD students as well as professionals in manufacturing-related fields across Spain, Ireland, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Estonia and Lithuania. With a structured three-month curriculum, the programme provides over 25 hours of training, one-on-one mentoring, international workshops and networking opportunities. Participants develop leadership, innovation and entrepreneurial skills, supported by experienced mentors who guide their growth and help analyse strengths and areas for improvement. The programme also emphasises digitalisation, innovation and funding guidance – fostering an environment where women can thrive as leaders and innovators in manufacturing.

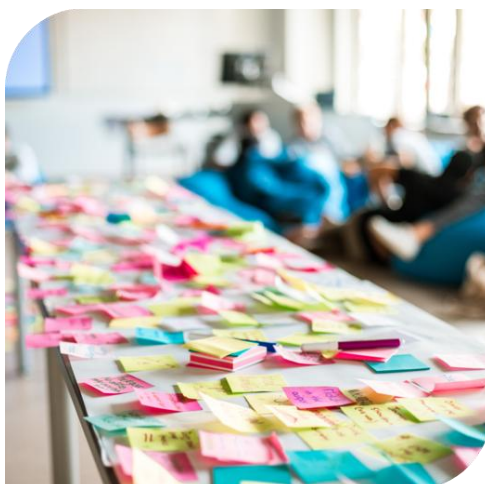
The raw materials sector, which includes industries such as mining and metallurgy, has traditionally been male-dominated. However, there is growing recognition of the importance of gender diversity, particularly in entrepreneurship. The challenge of enhancing gender diversity and increasing women's participation in the mining and metals industry demands collective commitment and action. As a Knowledge and Innovation Community and the largest consortium in the European raw materials industry, EIT RawMaterials has a unique opportunity to drive change and make a positive impact. The focus is placed on addressing three key areas:

- provide targeted scholarships
- attract early-career women professionals
- offer mentorship and support

[Supernovas](#) is an initiative dedicated to increasing women's leadership in the entrepreneurship ecosystem. Its primary focus lies in empowering women-led startups and encouraging them to enter the early-stage funding industry. Within this overarching framework, EIT Urban Mobility actively contributes through several key initiatives, including the leadership of the [Rocket Up acceleration programme](#) and close support to the [Mobility and Energy Investment Forums](#). To date, Rocket Up has completed three batches, assisting 32 startups in their efforts to expand internationally. These startups have collectively **raised €22.6 million in investments post-programme participation**, showcasing the tangible impact of this initiative. Of the 32 startups, 31 continue to operate



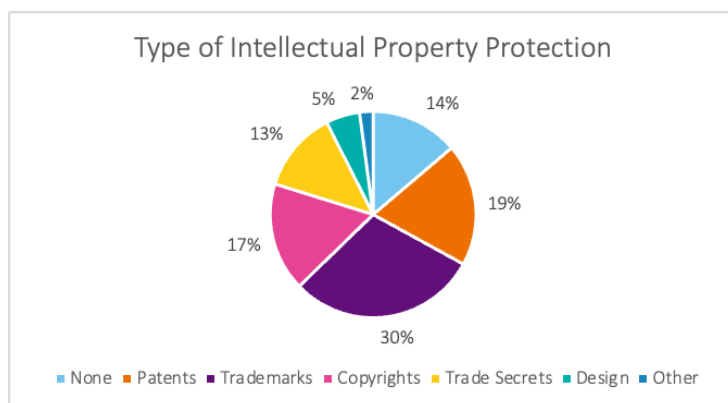
– demonstrating the programme’s effectiveness in ensuring sustainability. Moreover, all startups have forged connections in their target markets, though further analysis is needed to confirm active sales operations in these regions. Beyond Rocket Up, EIT Urban Mobility has played a significant role in organising three Mobility and Energy Investment Forums, which took place in 2023 and 2024. These forums provided 20 startups with opportunities to pitch to investors specialising in the mobility sector.



14. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) AND COLLABORATION WITH THE EPO & EUIPO

EIT Digital's startups are careful about protecting their intellectual property, as illustrated by these charted survey results. EIT Digital has been instrumental in accelerating innovation by empowering startups and scaleups to effectively manage and leverage Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Through its [Innovation Factory](#) and [Incubation programmes](#), EIT

Digital offers tailored guidance on IPR strategies, ensuring that innovative businesses can protect their inventions and build sustainable competitive advantages. By connecting entrepreneurs – upon their request – with IPR experts, legal advisors and patent attorneys, EIT Digital facilitates the filing of patents, trademarks and other forms of intellectual property.



Intellectual Property (IP) will play a significant role in the implementation of EIT Food's Strategic Agenda. In principle, beneficiaries are responsible for identifying any relevant background IP brought into a KAVA; they remain owners of it and are only required to grant access if mandated by collaborative agreements. Results and discoveries are owned and exploited by the partner(s) that generate them. When a beneficiary chooses not to exploit a discovery, as part of the Financial Return Mechanism (FRM) – currently branded as the Success Sharing Mechanism (SSM) – they are expected to provide EIT Food with additional IP access rights. The goal is to make these project results available to the innovation community to increase exploitation and the impact of innovation activities.



From January 2024, EIT Food introduced the Intellectual Property ([IP](#)) [Garden programme](#) to make use of unexploited IP. It enables the reuse of non-exploited project results by connecting innovators with accessible, market-ready technologies. This fosters a collaborative digital marketplace, accelerating the dissemination of transformative food solutions. The pilot resulted in **371 portfolio views, 20 followers and 14 interactions**. One proof-of-concept study has been launched, as well as an in-depth transfer viability review of 20 discoveries, with support from the Horizon Results Booster services.

A number of the organisations that EIT Food has supported hold IP that has been exploited for licensing income and patented for innovation and discovery protection. This is captured via the EIT KPI EITHE01.1 – Number of innovative products, processes and methods & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications resulting from KIC activities. One example reported in 2023 was from [‘Supermarkets and consumers collaborate to make sustainable consumption easy’](#) by EIT Food Delivery Partner Rikolto. EIT Food undertook a review of 1 327 EIT Food-supported startups and identified that they currently hold **2 601 total patent documents** (source: Pitchbook assessment, December 2024) that could potentially be investigated. A proportion of the impact generated from some of these patents will be attributable to support provided by the KIC.

In 2023, EIT Health accelerated innovation through six products that have IPR, specifically four patents, one trademark and one copyright. Five of the IP rights come from innovation projects and range in focus from methods for determining cardiac potentials, to methods for generating combined 3D organ imaging and 3D modelling, image datasets, and a method for assisting with the visualisation of one or more ablation target areas in a tissue of an organ.

EIT Manufacturing plays a pivotal role in accelerating innovation across the manufacturing sector by strategically managing its intellectual property (IP) assets. The organisation owns the IP rights to the content of two advanced technology radars: the [Tech Radar](#) and the [Deep Tech Talent Initiative](#) (DTTI) Radar. These radars provide critical insights into emerging trends, technologies and skills needed in manufacturing and deep tech ecosystems. While the IP rights for the radars are limited to their content and not the underlying software, the value of these assets lies in their capacity to guide strategic decision-making, foster innovation and streamline the identification of technological opportunities for industrial stakeholders. Additionally, EIT Manufacturing owns the IP of the DTTI Radar website, enhancing its capacity to deliver value through an intuitive and dynamic online interface.

The organisation also holds IP rights to the EIT Manufacturing Academy website, a comprehensive online learning platform that serves as the successor to the [Skills.move platform](#). By owning this IP, EIT Manufacturing ensures control over the availability, curation and distribution of educational content tailored to upskilling and reskilling the workforce in line with industry demands. This platform not only supports the dissemination of knowledge but also reinforces EIT Manufacturing's mission to foster a skilled talent pipeline aligned with the latest manufacturing innovations. Through the effective management and deployment of these IP assets, EIT Manufacturing strengthens its ecosystem – enabling seamless collaboration, promoting cutting-edge research and accelerating the adoption of transformative technologies in manufacturing.

EIT Urban Mobility's [Innovation Advisory Service](#) has worked significantly towards supporting innovation project commercial partners in respect of their Intellectual Property Rights via several mechanisms,



including mentoring for protection strategies, collaboration with EUIPO and educational workshops. The Innovation Advisory Services team in 2024 has successfully mentored 10 companies on IPR protection strategies, providing expert guidance on how to effectively protect their intangible assets through strategic intellectual property rights management.

The Innovation Advisory Services team has also collaborated closely with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) to devise the best strategies for granting innovators access to the EUIPO's SME Fund. This initiative aims to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the future by facilitating easier access to critical funding for IP-related expenses. Thirdly, the team held an educational workshop in October, focused on IP strategy for early-stage companies. This workshop was designed to educate and empower new businesses about the importance and implementation of intellectual property strategies from the outset of their operations.



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/
	Equity Portfolio	https://www.eitdigital.eu/equity-portfolio/
	SPIN	https://www.eitdigital.eu/spin/
	MentorMe	https://www.eitdigital.eu/mentorme-program/
	EIC Accelerator 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/
	InnoStars Connect	https://eithealth.eu/programmes/innostars-connect/ https://eithealth.eu/programmes/innostars-connect/
	Open Innovation Challenges	https://eithealth.eu/what-we-do/our-programmes/
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/
	KAVA Call 13 – Upscaling	https://eitrawmaterials.eu/kava-call-13
	KAVA Call 13 – RIS Projects	https://eitrawmaterials.eu/call-ris-projects-capacity-building-and-innovation https://eitrawmaterials.eu/call-ris-projects-capacity-building-and-innovation
	Call for proposals to establish a Global MBA in Materials Management	https://eitrawmaterials.eu/call-proposals-establish-global-mba-materials-management



	ERMA Booster Call	https://eitrawmaterials.eu/erma-booster-call
	Open Innovation Challenge	https://eitrawmaterials.eu/knowledge-innovation/open-innovation-challenge https://eitrawmaterials.eu/knowledge-innovation/open-innovation-challenge
	Copernicus Academy	https://rawmatcop.eitrawmaterials.eu/
	Master Programme	https://masters.eitrawmaterials.eu/
	PhD Courses	https://sws.eitrawmaterials.eu/ https://sws.eitrawmaterials.eu/
	Professional Courses	https://eit-campus.eu/courses/topic/raw-materials https://eit-campus.eu/courses/topic/raw-materials
EIT Food	Landscape of Innovation Projects	https://www.eitfood.eu/projects?functionalArea%5b%5d=684
	Impact Funding Framework	https://www.eitfood.eu/open-calls/impact-funding-framework
	Fast Track to Market	https://www.eitfood.eu/open-calls/fast-track-to-market-2024 https://www.eitfood.eu/open-calls/fast-track-to-market-2024
	Prize Based Challenge	https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/prize-based-challenge
	RIS Fellowships	https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/eit-food-ris-fellowships https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/eit-food-ris-fellowships
	Food Unfolded	https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/foodunfolded https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/foodunfolded
	Test Farms	https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/test-farms
	Team Up	https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/teamup#:~:text=TeamUp https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/teamup
	Global Food Venture Programme	https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/global-food-venture-programme https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/global-food-venture-programme
	SCALE Rising Food Stars	https://www.eitfood.eu/entrepreneurship/scale-risingfoodstars https://www.eitfood.eu/entrepreneurship/scale-risingfoodstars
	Food Accelerator Network	https://www.eitfood.eu/entrepreneurship/accelerate-food-accelerator-network



EIT Manufacturing	Innovation Funding Catalyst	https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/innovation/opportunities/innovation-funding-catalyst/
	AGORA	https://agora-eitmanufacturing.eu
	Technology Radar	https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/innovation/opportunities/technology-radar/
	Innovate Together	https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/calls/innovate-together-2024/
	ETM Tech Radar	https://techradar.eitmanufacturing.eu/
	Empowering SMEs	https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/calls/empowering-smes-2024/
	Innovation Call for Proposals 2025	https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/calls/call-for-proposals-2025/
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/
	Innovation Advisory Service	https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/what-we-offer/innovations-to-market/innovation-advisory-service/
	SME Market Expansion Call	https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/what-we-offer/innovations-to-market/sme-market-expansion-call/
	Targeted Open Call 2025	https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/call-for-proposals/targeted-open-call-2025/ https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/call-for-proposals/targeted-open-call-2025/
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



		<p><u>Women2Invest:</u> https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/supernovas/women2invest</p> <p><u>Mentoring for women leaders:</u> https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/supernovas/mentoring-for-women-leaders</p> <p><u>Women Investment Network:</u> https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/supernovas/investors-network</p>
	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
	Artificial Intelligence	https://ai.eitcommunity.eu/ https://ai.eitcommunity.eu/

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.



ANNEX II. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EIT DIGITAL

[EIT Digital LinkedIn posts \(LinkedIn\)](#)

[EIT Digital newsroom \(EIT Digital\)](#)

[EU collaborations by EIT Digital \(EIT Digital\)](#)

[EIT Digital YouTube channel \(YouTube\)](#)

[EIT Digital on X \(formerly Twitter\) \(X\)](#)

[EIT Digital on Instagram \(Instagram\)](#)

EIT FOOD

- [Ullmanna official website \(Ullmanna\)](#)
- [Mimica Lab official website \(Mimica Lab\)](#)
- [Salus Optima official website \(Salus Optima\)](#)
- [Affordable Nutrition Scale-Up Challenge - EIT Food](#)
- [Open Innovation - EIT Food](#)
- [Education - EIT Food](#)
 - [News and Impact stories | EIT Food Learning Services](#)
- [Entrepreneurship - EIT Food](#)
 - [Seedbed](#), [FAN](#) and [Rising Food Stars](#).
- [Public Insights and Engagement – EIT Food - EIT Food](#)
- [Consumer Observatory - EIT Food](#)
- [EIT Food - YouTube](#)
- [EIT Food on Facebook](#)
- [The food fight podcast](#)



- [\(2\) EIT Food: Posts | LinkedIn](#) plus [LinkedIn Rising Food Stars](#), [LinkedIn Seedbed](#), [LinkedIn FAN](#), [LinkedIn west](#).
- [InnoNext scheme](#) and [EIT Food RIS Fellowships - EIT Food](#)
- [All EIT Food projects - EIT Food](#)
 - [EWA | Empowering Women in Agrifood - EIT Food](#)
 - [WE Lead Food - EIT Food](#)
 - [Supernovas - EIT Food and Supernovas](#)
 - [TeamUp - EIT Food](#)
 - [Test Farms - EIT Food](#)

EIT HEALTH

- For more information on EIT Health's innovation projects, please visit its [product and service development webpages](#).
- To discover some of its most successful projects and the human stories behind them, please watch one of the many films in [the Spotlight series](#).
- Stories are regularly shared about the milestones its projects and supported start-ups reach through the [news section](#) of its website.
- Plus, take a deep dive into the impact of its work across Europe through its [annual reports](#).



EIT RawMaterials

EIT RawMaterials Social Media	Links
KIC Website	Home EIT RawMaterials - Developing raw materials into a major strength for Europe
LinkedIn	EIT RawMaterials LinkedIn
Facebook	EIT RawMaterials Facebook
X (Twitter)	https://x.com/EITRawMaterials?mx=2
Instagram	EIT RawMaterials EU (@eitrawmaterials) • Instagram-Fotos und -Videos
YouTube	EIT RawMaterials - YouTube

EIT Urban Mobility

- [EIT Urban Mobility Innovation Programme](#)
- [EIT Urban Mobility Innovation projects](#)
- [Horizon Lab](#)
- [EIT Urban Mobility Innovation Impact Story videos on YouTube](#)

ANNEX III. YOUTUBE VIDEOS OF INTEREST RELATED TO EIT KICS INNOVATION ACTIVITIES

Explore the EIT's Business Creation activities and impact on the EIT's YouTube channel:

- [EIT: Making innovation happen! - YouTube](#)
- [EIT - Innovation Projects - YouTube](#)
- [New EIT Strategy to power Europe's largest innovation network - YouTube](#)
- [EIT Culture & Creativity: Webinar on new innovation opportunities - YouTube](#)
- [About the EIT](#)
- [Martin Kern, Director of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology](#)
- [EIT - Innovation Projects](#)
- [EIT Summit 2024](#)