



European Institute of
Innovation & Technology

A body of the European Union



EIT COMMUNITY IN BULGARIA

Country Factsheet 2024



INTRODUCTION

The **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)** is an EU body created to strengthen Europe's ability to innovate. Today, it is **Europe's largest innovation ecosystem**.

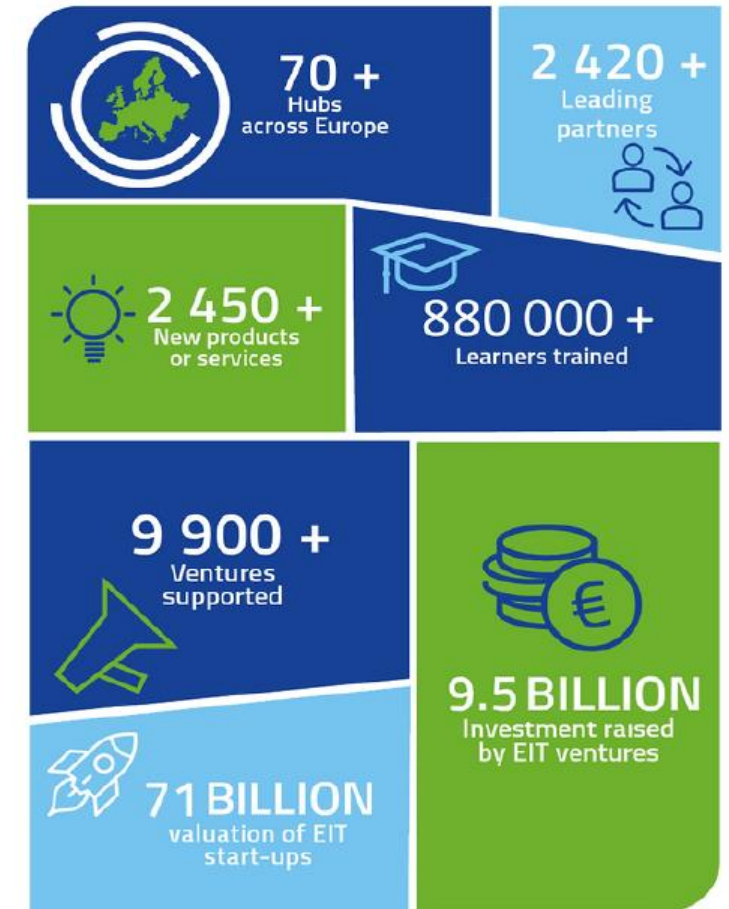
Together with leading partners across Europe, the EIT Community offers a wide range of innovation and entrepreneurship activities from **entrepreneurial education** courses, to **business creation and acceleration** services, to **innovation-driven research projects**.

The EIT

- provides access to a community that powers innovators throughout **the entire innovation journey**, from education to lab to market
- embraces **disruptive innovation** and embeds **entrepreneurial education** in its innovation activities
- is **business-oriented** with a strong focus on **financial sustainability**
- delivers a **pan-European network** strongly anchored in local innovation ecosystems

The **EIT Country Factsheets** provide a closer look at the EIT's presence, investment, activities and tangible results across EU Member States and beyond.

EIT IMPACT OVER 15 YEARS



EIT KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION COMMUNITIES

EIT CLIMATE-KIC

Accelerating the transition to a zero-carbon economy

EIT DIGITAL

Driving Europe's digital transformation

EIT INNOENERGY

A sustainable energy future for Europe

EIT HEALTH

Healthier lives for EU Citizens

EIT RAWMATERIALS

Developing raw materials into a major strength for Europe

EIT FOOD

Leading a global revolution in food production & innovation

EIT MANUFACTURING

Increasing Europe's manufacturing competitiveness

EIT URBAN MOBILITY

Smart, green & integrated transport

EIT CULTURE & CREATIVITY

Uniting Europe's creatives

EIT WATER

COMING SOON*

THE EIT KICS AND THEIR PARTNERS MAKE UP
THE EIT COMMUNITY

The EIT supports the development of dynamic, long-term thematic partnerships, so-called Knowledge and Innovation Communities (EIT KICs).

These unique partnerships are formed among companies, research organisations, higher education institutions as well as other key innovation players. They each tackle a specific global challenge.

GLOBAL PICTURE 2023-25

EU Countries (2023-2025)



Non-EU Countries (2023-2025)

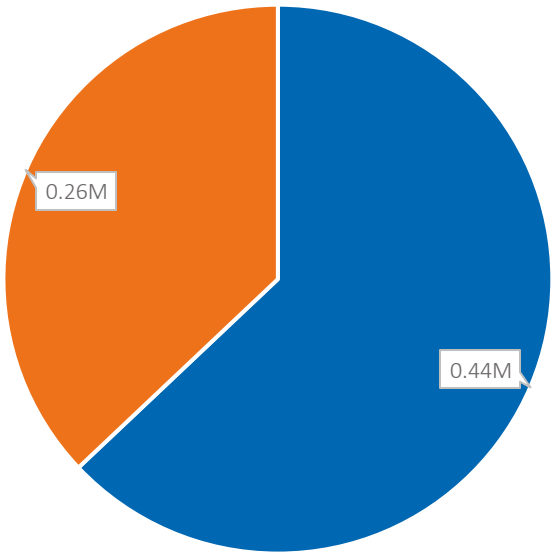


For the period 2023-2025*, a total EIT funding of **EUR 826.72 million** has been committed towards entities incorporated in EU Member States. Furthermore, the EIT Community has also allocated **EUR 31.54 million** in funding towards entities registered in non-EU countries, both in Europe and beyond.

* Figures show the overall EIT Funding per country including all the EIT KICs and all the participating organisations.

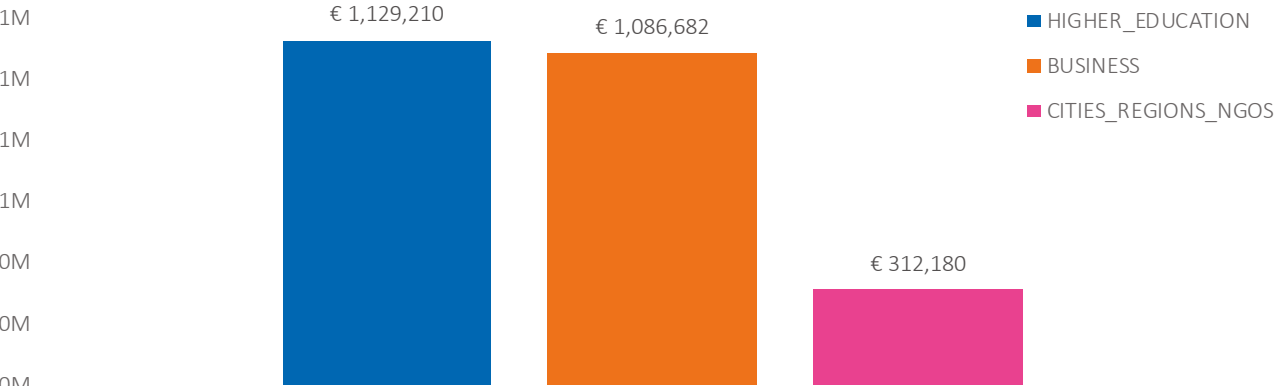
EIT GRANTS 2023-2025 OVERVIEW

EIT Grants to Business SMEs (EUR, 2023-2025)

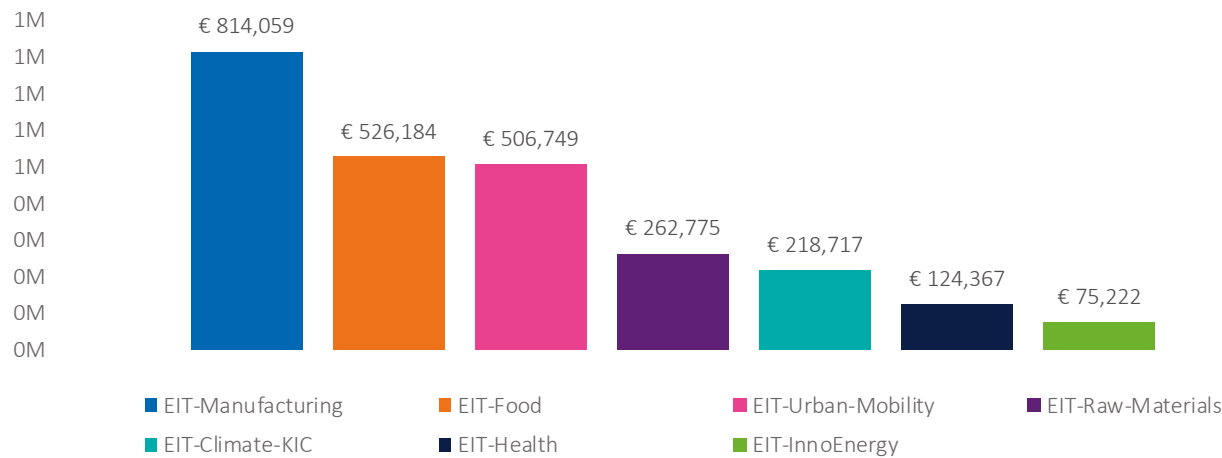


EIT-Urban-Mobility EIT-Manufacturing

EIT Funding per Participant Area (EUR, 2023-2025)



EIT Funding per KIC (EUR, 2023-2025)






A total of **EUR 2.5 million** has been committed in EIT grants towards Bulgarian entities for the period 2023-2025.* This amount has been committed via seven EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities, with EIT Manufacturing being the largest contributor. This funding includes **EUR 0.7 million** to support Bulgarian SMEs.

*Grants awarded to EIT KIC Legal Entities and Co-Location Centers include funding towards activities which are implemented centrally but benefit the whole partnership (multiple countries). Furthermore, they may include funding which is further sub-granted to third party beneficiaries.

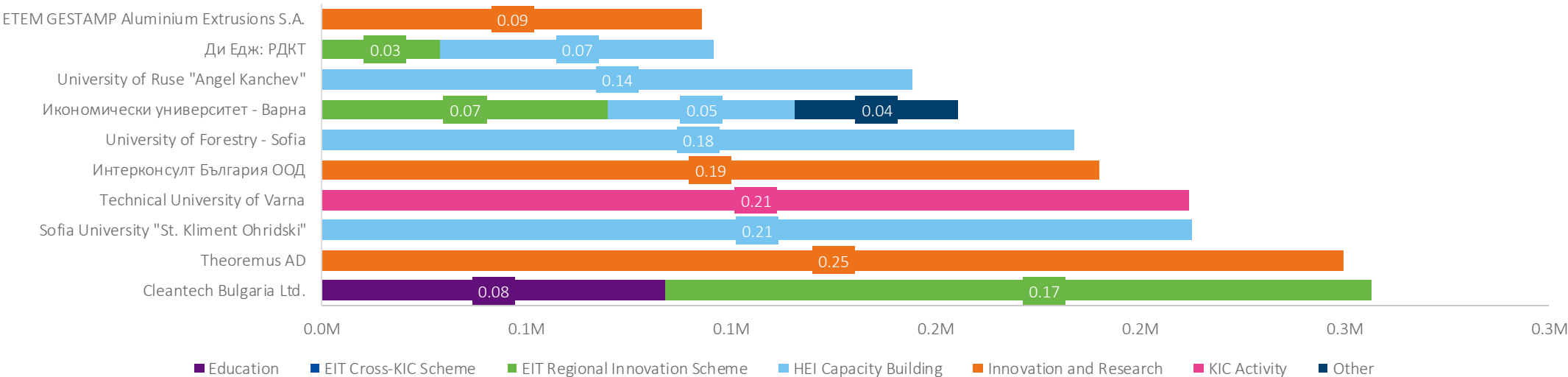
EIT COMMUNITY IN BULGARIA



Key results under Horizon Europe (2021-2024)

-  188 **start-ups** supported or created by the EIT Community.¹
-  EUR 16.20 million **investment** attracted by EIT-supported ventures.
-  23 EIT-supported **innovations** were launched on the market.
-  8,398 **participants** in EIT education programmes.²

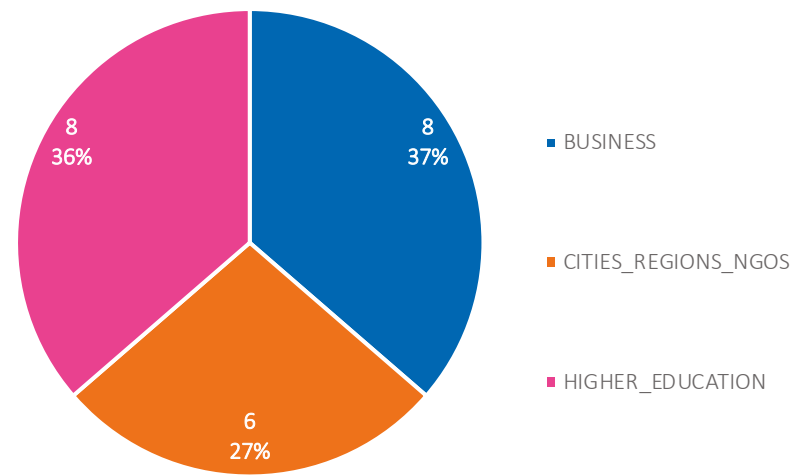
Top National Organisations per EIT Funding (EUR million, 2023-2025)³



¹ See the *Data Principles* section. ² Figure includes graduates of EIT Labelled programmes as well as participants in non-EIT Labelled programmes. ³ KIC Activity refers to actions or projects that are implemented by a KIC Legal Entity or Co-Location Center.

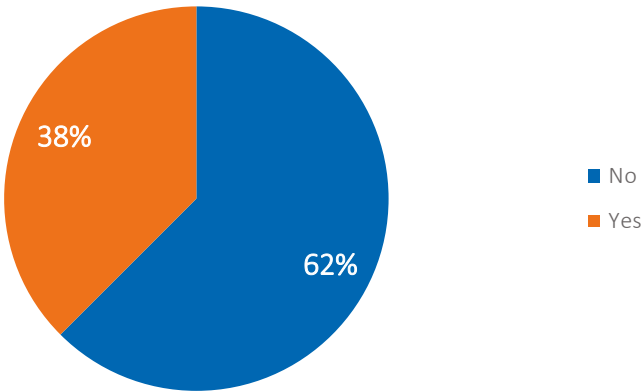
PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

Participating organisations per Area (2023-2025)

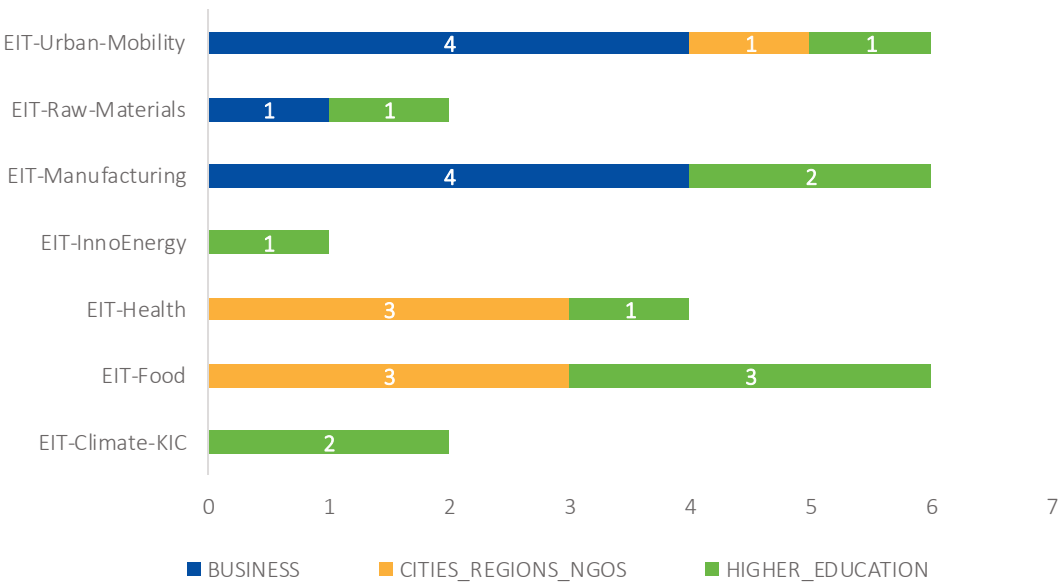


Overall, **22 organisations** from Bulgaria are participating in the activities of the 2023-2025 EIT KIC Business Plans.* The largest number of participating entities are HEIs & business organisations, out of which, nearly than 40% are SMEs. Some organisations take part in more than one EIT KIC.

Share of SMEs (2023-2025)



Participating organisations per KIC (2023-2025)



*Some organisations may fall under different areas and participate in multiple Knowledge and Innovation Communities, therefore, the charts “Participating organisations per KIC” and “Participating organisations per Area” may include duplications.

INNOVATION JOURNEY



Supported by EIT Food

Nasekomo

By harnessing the power of insects, we can turn by-products into food

Nasekomo rears black soldier flies (BSF) to produce protein, oil, and fertiliser for the feed and agriculture sectors. Its fully automated, scalable technology enables expansion through partnerships and franchising. Positioned within the circular agriculture revolution and backed by genetic research, Nasekomo supplies BSF eggs for by-product upcycling into alternative proteins and insect-based products.

Since its 2017 launch, Nasekomo has become the largest BSF product manufacturer in Central and Eastern Europe, attracting venture capital, private investors, and partners. In late 2023, it formed a strategic partnership with Siemens during COP28 to build a sustainable, data-driven insect industry.

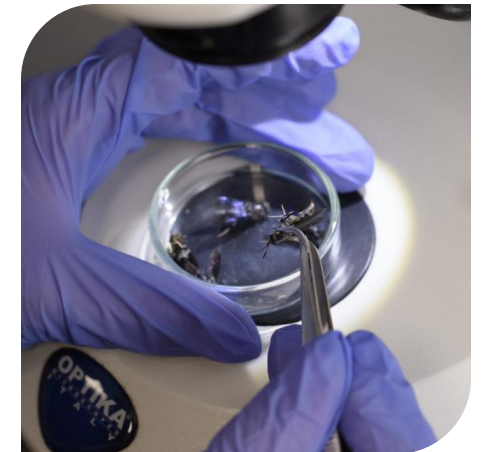


Nasekomo joined EIT Food's RisingFoodStars in 2021, receiving support for scale-up, including smart financing, business strategy, mission clarity, communication, leadership, and investment readiness. The programme boosted Nasekomo's visibility, connecting it with investors and partners, and accelerating its growth as a sustainable protein leader. By supporting innovators like Nasekomo, EIT Food helps tackle global challenges in food production and scale impactful agricultural solutions.

In January 2024, it raised €8 million in Series A funding to launch advanced insect bioconversion facilities, starting with a franchised factory in Bulgaria in 2025 — its second in the country.

'Our company's unwavering efforts are dedicated to empowering the insect industry and driving sustainability in agriculture and food sectors through advanced automation and AI-based solutions. We believe that our endeavors will make a substantial impact across industries, paving the way for a greener and more sustainable future.'

Xavier Marcenac, Co-Founder of Nasekomo



[Learn More](#)

INNOVATION JOURNEY



Supported by EIT Digital



'I'm happy to share with all my friends, colleagues and new bold innovators whenever there is a call for the next Venture Program of EIT Digital. I'm like: Guys, apply if you have a promising idea because these people are pretty cool and they want to help you. They're not just checking the boxes.'

Stoyan Lozanov, Founder and CEO, OMNIO

OMNIO
Identify. Analyse. Resolve.

OMNIO is a Bulgarian startup using artificial intelligence to combat financial crime by automating the investigation of suspicious activity in banks and fintechs. OMNIO's innovation enables institutions to screen more transactions, unify compliance processes, and identify money laundering more efficiently.

The platform simulates a compliance expert's decision-making, producing reports and recommending actions when irregularities are flagged. It learns continuously, adapting to the specific needs of each financial institution and improving over time.

OMNIO was launched in 2021 through the EIT Digital Venture Programme, which supports startups in countries with developing innovation ecosystems. Through the programme, OMNIO developed its minimum viable product and secured a pilot with Alpha Bank in Greece.

EIT Digital's backing provided the funding, mentorship, and validation needed to accelerate OMNIO's growth. The startup has since raised investment from Vitosha Venture Partners and Ocean Investments and is now expanding internationally.



[Learn More](#)

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DATA PRINCIPLES

DATA PROVIDED IN THE 2024 FACTSHEETS

- The funding and participation data were retrieved from the European Commission tool ‘**eGrants Data Warehouse**’ as of **05/12/2024**. The factsheets provide a snapshot of data available at the date of retrieval.
- The funding figures show EIT grants committed to organisations participating in the activities of the **EIT KIC Business Plans 2023-2025**.
- The funding and participation data is subject to change until the end of the funding cycle 2023-2025. The final figures will be available in 2026.
- Data on **key results under Horizon Europe** is derived from the **2021-2024 EIT KIC reporting cycles**.
- **Start-ups supported or created by the EIT Community** include those supported by EIT KICs, founded by EIT Alumni, or resulting from EIT innovation projects.
- The 2024 factsheets cover activities of all the EIT KICs except for EIT Culture & Creativity.

DATA ON PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

- The funding and participation figures do not include organisations that participated in specific sub-calls launched by EIT KICs, such as acceleration programs managed by EIT KIC Co-location Centers.
- Participating in an EIT KIC does not automatically lead to receiving EIT funding.



GLOSSARY



PARTICIPATING ORGANISATION

An entity participating in the implementation of one or multiple actions, projects or activities under an EIT KIC Business Plan. Participating organisations are not necessarily EIT KIC partner organisations. Not all the participating organisations receive EIT Funding. They can also benefit from other, non-financial support.

CO-LOCATION CENTRE

Also known as CLC, is a location where one or more EIT KICs share resources to create a physical presence together in a country. CLCs act as focal points for knowledge exchange, through which partners access the facilities, and the expertise needed. This leads to efficiency through shared costs and allows EIT KICs to work together more easily to provide joint opportunities in the country and the region that the CLC covers.

EIT REGIONAL INNOVATION SCHEME

The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme helps build up innovation capacity in countries where the innovation ecosystem requires an additional level of support. The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme grants support education programmes, business acceleration services and Knowledge Triangle Integration activities, implemented in the countries that have modest or moderate innovation capacity (according to the European innovation scoreboard).*

EIT RIS HUB

EIT RIS Hubs are local entities in an EIT Regional Innovation Scheme eligible country selected by EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities via an open competitive process. RIS Hubs are key to delivering the place-based activities and services which help boost the local innovation ecosystem, as they create an entry point for local innovators to access the whole EIT community.

*For the list of RIS-eligible countries , please visit the EIT [website](#).



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