EIT KICS EDUCATION GUIDE: IMPACT AND SUCCESS STORIES 2025

European Institute of Innovation & Technology

A body of the European Union

CONTENTS

GLOSSARY

DTTI: Deep Tech Talent Initiative
EAMA: European Advanced Materials Academy
EBA: European Battery Alliance Academy
ECTS: European Credit Transfer System
EIT: European Institute of Innovation and Technology
EQF: European Qualifications Framework
ERMA: European RawMaterials Academy
ESA: European Solar Academy
EU: European Union
GGC: Girls Go Circular
HE: Horizon Europe
HEI: Higher Education Initiative
I&E: Innovation and Entrepreneurship
JRC: Joint Research Centre
KIC: Knowledge and Innovation Community
KTI: Knowledge Triangle Integration
KPI: Key Performance Indicator
MS: Member States
MOOC: Massive Open Online Courses
MoU: Memorandum of Understanding
QA: Quality Assurance
R&D: Research and Development
RIS: Regional Innovation Scheme
STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
UoS: Union of Skills
VET: Vocational Education and Training

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and its Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) play a vital role in shaping Europe's innovation ecosystem by connecting education, research, and industry to address societal challenges and enhance competitiveness. Despite Europe's strong academic and research strengths, significant challenges remain in translating research into commercial impact and ensuring equitable access to high-quality education. The EIT's educational activities aim to bridge these gaps by fostering entrepreneurial mindsets and promoting cross-sector collaboration.

SCAN ME TO LEARN ABOUT THE EIT'S IMPACT

This guide highlights the EIT's comprehensive, financially sustainable approach – supporting talent development from early education to professional upskilling – through flagship programmes such as Girls Go Circular, the EIT Higher Education Initiative, Skills Academies, and the Deep Tech Talent Initiative. Additionally, it features a wide range of 'EIT Label' programmes – both degree and non-degree – that equip learners with entrepreneurial skills, interdisciplinary knowledge, and innovation tools essential for today's rapidly evolving economy. To date, over 1.3 million learners have benefited from these initiatives, exemplifying the EIT's impact in cultivating a new generation of European innovators.

Looking ahead, the EIT KICs Education Guide 2025 emphasises how these initiatives contribute to a more inclusive, innovative, and sustainable Europe – aligning with EU priorities such as 'Competitiveness Compass', the 'Union of Skills' and the 'Startup and Scale-up Strategy'. It aims to serve as both a valuable resource for learners and an inspiration for stakeholders committed to building a resilient, future-ready European innovation ecosystem.

This guide also outlines the diverse range of both degree and non-degree programmes delivered by the KICs across their thematic areas, including climate, digital transformation, sustainable energy, health, advanced manufacturing, food, raw materials, urban mobility, and culture & creativity. It highlights how each KIC addresses pressing societal and industrial challenges by equipping learners – from students to professionals – with the entrepreneurial mindset, innovation skills, and interdisciplinary knowledge required in a rapidly evolving global economy.

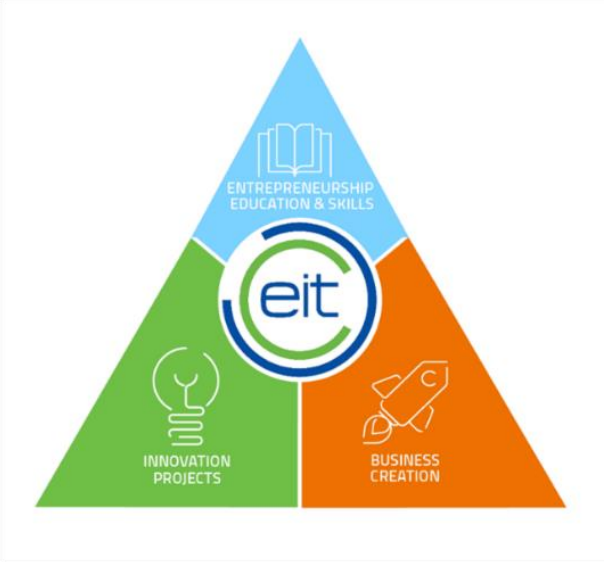
1. EIT MODEL FOR IMPACTFUL EDUCATION

Since 2010, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) operating under Horizon Europe's Pillar 3 'Innovative Europe' has played a pivotal role in strengthening its innovation ecosystem. Each EIT KIC is dedicated to tackling a specific societal challenge, developing tailored strategies, business plans, and governance models. Using EIT funding as seed capital to leverage further public and private investment, KICs build holistic innovation ecosystems that connect education, research, and business. Their activities are designed not only to deliver measurable results but also to achieve financial sustainability over time.

SCAN ME TO LEARN ABOUT THE EIT

THE EIT'S UNIQUE VALUE PROPOSITION

The core strength of the EIT lies in its integrated Knowledge Triangle model, which seamlessly combines education, research, and business in a continuous and mutually reinforcing cycle. This model goes beyond traditional certificates and diplomas by enabling the customisation of training programmes to meet the specific needs of industries, while equipping learners with the most up-to-date skills. It enhances the competencies of students, professionals, and entrepreneurs to respond effectively to fast-changing job market demands and contribute to EU competitiveness.



By fostering stronger cooperation and joint actions across the full spectrum of partners, the model accelerates knowledge flows that are critical for driving Europe's green and digital transition. Through this coordinated effort, the EIT Community empowers innovators to develop new products, services, and business models, while creating startups and supporting their scale-up.

From student and researcher to entrepreneur, from lab to market and from idea to product and service – the EIT accelerates the transition towards a more innovative and competitive Europe.

At the heart of this model are the KICs – dynamic partnerships uniting higher education institutions, companies, public bodies, non-governmental organisations and research centres around shared missions. As a result, the EIT and its KICs have become recognised as Europe's marketplace for talent — where education supply is dynamically aligned with labour market demand through a responsive and future-oriented skills ecosystem.

INNOVATIVE AND IMPACTFUL EDUCATIONAL APPROACH

The EIT and its KICs educational activities are distinguished by several key features:

- Focus on innovation and entrepreneurship: Combining technical skills with entrepreneurial training, EIT programmes equip learners with multidisciplinary perspectives that foster creativity and innovation.
- Deep sector expertise: EIT KICs possess in-depth knowledge of their respective industries and maintain strong ties with businesses and academia. This enables rapid identification of evolving skill needs, which are integrated into tailored training programmes.
- Cross-sector collaboration: Addressing complex, multi-sector challenges requires close cooperation among KICs. The EIT facilitates these synergies, maximizing impact across the EU's innovation ecosystem.

MEASURING IMPACT AND REACH: THE EIT FRAMEWORK

To ensure that KICs innovation and education activities generate sustainable, long-term benefits for Europe EIT has developed an Impact Framework. It aligns with Horizon Europe impact pathways by connecting planned activities with specific outputs, and broader socio-economic impacts. This structured approach allows the EIT and its KICs to monitor progress, refine strategies, and adapt to emerging priorities.

A key component of this framework is performance measurement, which includes quantitative indicators such as innovations designed, tested, and brought to market, startups created/supported, as well as number of students and graduates from degree and non-degree education programmes. This overview supports the EIT and KICs' broader ambition to ensure that education and training initiatives maintain high quality and are grounded in innovative teaching and learning practices that are aligned with strong outcome results. The table below shows the collective and individual contributions of each KIC in the full year 2024, capturing performance in core innovation and education metrics[1].

To date, over 1.3 million learners have benefited from the EIT and KIC education initiatives in innovation, entrepreneurship, and deep technologies. Pioneered by the EIT, these initiatives have produced tangible results:

- The EIT Higher Education Initiative has trained over 134 000 participants across 1 359 partners, including 643 higher education institutions, resulting in the creation of 180 startups.
- The Deep Tech Talent Initiative (DTTI) has addressed Europe's talent gaps in emerging technologies, training over 1 million learners.
- The Girls Go Circular initiative has reached more than 90 000 young talents across 35 countries, including EU Member States, the Western Balkans, and Ukraine, with over 67 000 girls involved.
- More than 7 000 students have graduated from over 80 EIT KIC-labelled Master's and Doctoral programmes since 2012, with 221 establishing their own startups.
- Broader impact initiatives, such as EIT Net Zero Industry Skills Academies, have reported over 130 000 learners trained to date, with plans to upskill and reskill over a million individuals.

[1] European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), *EIT Data Portal*

KIC PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW: INNOVATION AND EDUCATION METRICS, 2024

KPI NAME	CLIMATE KIC *	28DIGITAL	INNO ENERGY	EIT HEALTH	EIT RAWMATERIALS	EIT FOOD	EIT URBAN MOBILITY	EIT MANUFACTURING	TOTAL
Intellectual Property Rights	0	4	72	14	13	3	0	33	139
Innovations launched on the Market	0	61	60	12	36	112	61	45	387
Startups/Scale-ups supported by KICs	180	232	189	372	78	238	383	273	1 945
Startups created by students or graduates of EIT-labelled MSc/PhD programmes	0	4	11	11	13	16	9	6	70
Graduates of EIT-labelled MSc/PhD programmes	0	238	355	88	183	37	49	22	972
Graduates of EIT-labelled non-degree programmes	0	232	44 848	169	20	9 689	454	773	56 185
Students of EIT-labelled MSc/PhD programmes	0	268	0	442	345	7 437	238	0	8 730
Participants in non-labelled education and training	0	8 170	580	20 464	26 396	6 608	10 899	23 037	96 154

**Climate KIC is still in the process of reporting to the EIT; therefore, its contribution is not captured in this table.*

2. IIMPLEMENTING EU POLICY PRIORITIES

The EIT was created to strengthen Europe's ability to innovate in line with key policy priorities, from fostering sustainable growth and creating quality jobs, filling the pool of talent, delivering cutting-edge solutions, and globally competitive startups. Its programmes directly support a resilient, innovative, and inclusive Europe by:

- Upskilling and reskilling critical sectors: The EIT community leads large-scale workforce efforts to support the green transition, aligned with industry needs. This includes flagship academies such as the European Battery Alliance Academy (EBA), the European Solar Academy (ESA), the European Raw Materials Academy (ERMA) and the European Advanced Materials Academy (EAMA) – aligning with the Net Zero Industry Act.

- Fostering university and business cooperation: All EIT KICs' education activities foster strong collaboration between universities and industry – bridging academia and enterprise. The EIT ecosystem accelerates knowledge transfer, commercialisation and innovation, thereby promoting a vibrant European innovation landscape. The EIT Higher Education Initiative enhances the innovation capacity and entrepreneurial mindset of higher education institutions and fosters collaboration between academia and industry.

- Supporting the innovation ecosystem: Through comprehensive innovation and entrepreneurship training across target audiences, the EIT fosters a new generation of entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs capable of building impactful startups and driving innovation

in corporates and SMEs. Their robust support infrastructure strengthens the EU's Innovation ecosystem, driving economic growth and job creation.

- Promoting STEM education, deep tech and AI enablement: Programmes like the Deep Tech Talent Initiative and Girls Go Circular exemplify the EIT's vital role in closing skills gaps and enhancing Europe's global competitiveness – targeting diverse audiences across sectors.

- Advancing gender equality: Programmes like Girls Go Circular and Supernovas empower women through digital education, entrepreneurship training, and equal opportunities, promoting gender equality in innovation.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Starting in the fourth quarter of 2025, the EIT together with its KICs is upgrading programmes to align with more recent key policy frameworks such as the EU Startup and Scale-up Strategy, the Union of Skills, and the STEM Education Strategic Plan, which highlights the crucial role of the EIT and emphasises its contribution across multiple initiatives:

- Provide dedicated training on innovation, entrepreneurship and IP management to 200 000 STEM higher education students, academics and staff by 2028, through the EIT Higher Education Initiative in synergy with the European Universities Alliances and the EIT KICs.

- Attract more girls and women to STEM by launching, in 2025, a new EIT Girls go STEM initiative to attract female secondary students into STEM study fields, including vocational education and training (VET), and female higher education students into STEM professions, training 100 000 girls by 2028, contributing to the 1 million target of the European Commission in synergy with Erasmus+, the European Universities Alliances, European Alliance for Apprenticeships and digital skills academies.

- Equip 1 million direct learners by 2028 with the skills needed in strategic sectors, through the EIT Skills Academies and in collaboration with businesses, paying particular attention to gender-balanced participation.

- Implement the EIT STEM Tech Talent Induction, training 1 million learners by 2028 with the aim of attracting young people to STEM careers and transitioning adults and professionals towards digital and artificial intelligence expertise.

- Contribute to the Startup and Scaleup Strategy Blue Carpet initiative, by promoting and further strengthening entrepreneurial education and upskilling, promoting gender balanced and diverse participation.

3. EIT EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

With a portfolio of coordinated education initiatives, the EIT and its KICs provide a comprehensive and inclusive education pathway – from entrepreneurial education in school-aged learners to reskilling experienced professionals – driving innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe. These initiatives are tailored to the needs of learners at every stage.

GIRLS GO CIRCULAR INITIATIVE

EXPLORE

KICS EDUCATION: MSs, PHD, FELLOWSHIP

EXPLORE

DEEP TECH TALENT INITIATIVE

EXPLORE

HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE

EXPLORE

EUROPEAN SKILLS ACADEMIES

EXPLORE

THE EIT LABEL: DEGREE AND NON-DEGREE EDUCATION

EXPLORE

3.1 YOUTH EDUCATION: EIT GIRLS GO CIRCULAR

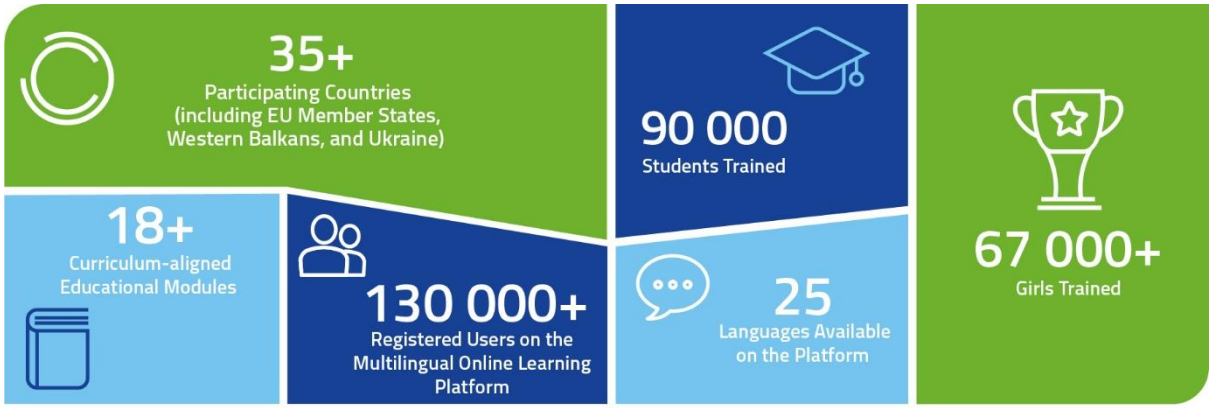
EIT Girls Go Circular (GGC) is an EIT Community programme (led by EIT RawMaterials and participated in by most KICs) and aims to equip young Europeans – especially girls aged 14–19 – with the digital, green and entrepreneurial skills essential for the green and digital transitions. The initiative supports the EU's Digital Education Action Plan, the New European Innovation Agenda, and the EIT's support efforts in Ukraine.

SCAN. WATCH. BE INSPIRED.

Key assets developed to date over 90 000 students have been trained, including 67 000 girls, across 35 countries. Additionally, more than 1 000 educators have been engaged across diverse disciplines, and the Women and Girls in STEM Forum continues to grow as a flagship event fostering dialogue and action to close the gender gap in STEM. Achievements also include a multilingual online learning platform with over 130 000 registered users, hosted on Moodle and offering interactive modules in 25 languages. The platform features 18 curriculum-aligned educational modules within the Circular Learning Space. These modules cover topics such as e-waste, fashion circularity, food systems, robotics, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, smart cities, and future mobility – offering interdisciplinary, real-world learning experiences aligned with EU priorities.

GGC will launch new teacher upskilling courses in late 2025, focusing on AI and intellectual property (IP) in education, positioning the platform as a comprehensive resource for both learners and educators. The initiative also promotes challenge-based learning formats – such as hackathons and innovation challenges – where students apply their knowledge through industry-partnered workshops in sectors such as raw materials, manufacturing, agriculture, health, and urban mobility.

The EIT Girls Go Circular Ambassadors Programme offers girls an opportunity to become advocates for gender equality in STEM and leaders in digital and sustainability education. To become an ambassador, participants must complete at least one course on the Girls Go Circular learning platform and then apply through the official application form. Ambassadors engage in mentoring, represent the initiative at international events, and collaborate with peers across Europe to address real-world challenges. Apply now to become a Girls Go Circular Ambassador and join the next generation of changemakers here.



SUCCESS STORIES

One of the freshest and most exciting initiatives of Girls Go Circular was the **Summer Hackathon**, held in Barcelona, Spain, in June 2025. It brought together 34 girls aged 14–17 from Catalonia, Madrid and Lithuania to develop innovative, data-driven solutions under the theme 'Supporting Circular Economy Through a Conscious Lifestyle'. The event fostered teamwork and school exchange between Lithuania and Spain.

Smiltė Laučiūtė: From School Project to Social Business

EIT's Girls Go Circular programme sparked **Smiltė Laučiūtė's** entrepreneurial journey. Together with her friends **Aistė Juodaitytė** and **Luknė Jucevičiūtė**, she co-founded **Sound Way** – a startup developing AI-powered smart glasses to help visually impaired people navigate public spaces safely. Their innovation won awards for Social Responsibility and Best Student Company at the National Educational Company Expo in Vilnius. Smiltė later took part in the Girls Go Circular Summer Hackathon in Barcelona, where her team's eco-friendly **Cycle Case** phone cover won third place.

'Girls Go Circular helped us grow personally and learn about the challenges people with disabilities face,' Smiltė reflects. 'We love travelling, and this journey was both exciting and inspiring; it gave birth to our startup.' – ***Smiltė Laučiūtė's***

Maria Metodieva: A Curious Student Turned STEM Changemaker

Maria Metodieva discovered new horizons in robotics and the circular economy through EIT's Girls Go Circular programme. With her team, she developed **FIXON** – a drone designed to predict and prevent wildfires, inspired by devastating fires in Greece. Their innovation took them from representing Bulgaria at the Women and Girls in STEM Forum 2023 to competing in NASA's Conrad Challenge in Houston, where they won the Best Power Pitch Award as the only European finalists in their category.

'Just try. Pick any course, competition or hackathon from any STEM field and challenge yourself. You might find yourself in a new, unfamiliar position outside your comfort zone. You might even fail. But these are the ways you will learn the most.' – **Maria Metodieva**

3.2 EIT KICS EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

EIT KICs education refers to programmes delivered by each KIC under EIT funding from Horizon Europe, which aim to be part of the portfolio of activities of a KIC under its strategic agenda and business plans.

The EIT KICs' education offer is diverse in both format and depth, covering degree programmes as well as non-degree learning opportunities. Degree programmes typically include EIT-labelled Master's and Doctoral programmes, delivered through consortia of leading European universities. These programmes combine high academic standards with practical training in innovation, entrepreneurship, and real-world problem-solving. They include mandatory international mobility, challenge-based learning, and close collaboration with industry partners.

3.2.1 EIT LABEL

The EIT Label, introduced in 2012, is a quality seal awarded to education programmes that meet high standards in innovation, entrepreneurship, leadership and creativity. Grounded in the principle of knowledge triangle integration, these programmes build strong partnerships with business and research to deliver innovative, learning-by-doing curricula. The Label is applied to degree and non-degree programmes, training courses and fellowships, ensuring international exposure, inter-sectoral collaboration, inclusivity, ethics and gender equality. Each KIC develops its education offer in direct connection with its thematic focus.

A full list of the EIT-labelled active degree programmes available in 2025 is provided in Annex I.

EIT Label has its own distinctive features:

- specific innovation and entrepreneurship activities focused on linking the research and innovation to the broad needs and societal challenges;
- entrepreneurship education as a standard part of the programmes;
- highly integrated, learning-by-doing curricula;
- strong focus on industry and business involvement;
- focus on international mobility, European dimension and openness to the world;
- direct access to entrepreneurship support activities such as incubators and accelerators;
- graduates can benefit from being part of a growing EIT Alumni community of innovators, entrepreneurs and experts.

Guidance and templates for applying for the EIT Label are available on the EIT webpage.

Since 2012, more than 7 000 students graduated from Master's and Doctoral EIT Label programmes. Another 8 462 active students were enrolled in EIT-labelled programmes in 2024. To date, 221 startups have been created by graduates from EIT-labelled programmes.

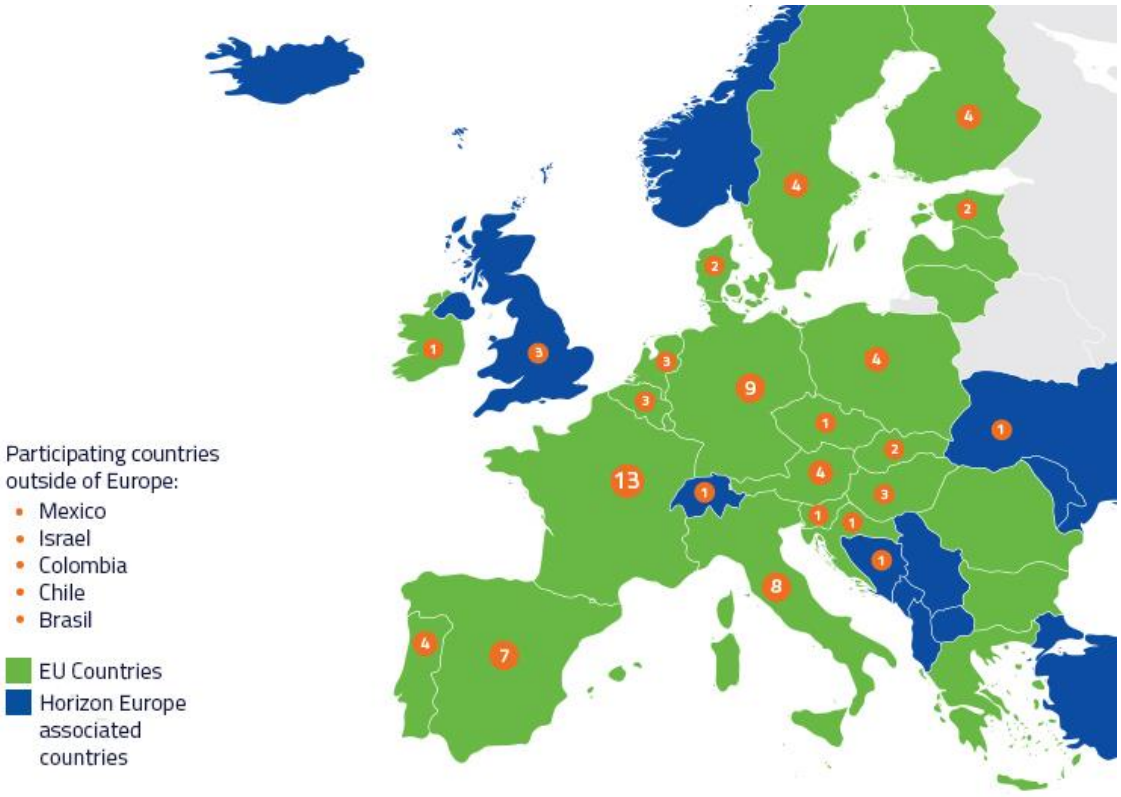
Each KIC develops its education offer in direct connection with its thematic focus. Their 2025 education portfolio includes:

- 40 active degree programmes (37 MSs and 3 PhD);
- 11 KICs' non-degree models which include 470 specific education activities (such as short courses, seasonal schools, as well as hybrid and specialised training programmes responding to evolving societal and market needs);

- three fellowship schemes.[2]

The EIT-labelled Degree Programmes are implemented across a growing number of countries, creating a truly European network of innovation-driven education. The map of participating universities reflects the broad geographic reach of these programmes, which are committed to combining academic excellence with entrepreneurship and real-world impact[3].

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF UNIVERSITIES PARTICIPATING IN EIT LABEL DEGREE PROGRAMMES



The EIT is currently focusing on finding synergies and complementarities between the EIT Label model and the European Degree Label, and on conceptualising micro-credentials across the different segments of the EIT Label.

3.2.2 EIT ALUMNI COMMUNITY

The EIT Alumni Community represents a vibrant, interdisciplinary network of over 20 000 members, consisting of graduates from the educational and entrepreneurial programmes of the EIT KICs. Since 2019, the EIT Alumni Community has grown rapidly into a dynamic platform uniting change agents from diverse

[2] Source: Data provided by the EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), consolidated as of January 2025.
[3] Source: Decision of the Director of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) No 01/2022, No 02/2023, No 02/2024 and No 50/2025.

backgrounds across Europe and beyond. Anchored in a shared commitment to tackling societal challenges through innovation and entrepreneurship, it fosters lifelong learning and collaboration through training, mentorship, knowledge exchange and flagship initiatives such as the annual EIT Alumni CONNECT while the EIT DealBox serves as a database of partnerships that provides opportunities to alumni of EIT KICs through a network of over 20 strategic partners, offering pathways for investment and acceleration.

Alumni from EIT Master's and PhD programmes bring a strong entrepreneurial mindset, often founding startups that address critical issues in health, climate, energy, food and digital technologies, thereby contributing to Europe's sustainability, competitiveness and resilience. Their ongoing engagement demonstrates the lasting impact of EIT-labelled programmes and the transformative power of entrepreneurial education.

Membership distribution across KICs illustrates the community's breadth, with 6 500 members from Climate KIC (formerly EIT Climate-KIC), 4 400 from EIT Health, 2 418 from 28DIGITAL, 4 000 from EIT Food, 1 900 from InnoEnergy (formerly EIT InnoEnergy), 1 285 from EIT RawMaterials, and additional representation from EIT Urban Mobility and EIT Manufacturing. This broad and engaged alumni base underscores the critical role of the EIT Alumni Community in advancing European goals in education, research and innovation.[4]

SUCCESS STORIES

Levels

In 2025, the EIT Alumni Community is celebrating the success of **Levels**, a fast-growing GenAI startup founded by four Italian entrepreneurs – Emanuele, Filippo, Dario and Tommaso. United by their studies at the 28DIGITAL Master School and a shared drive to bring change to Italy's digital landscape, they built their company entirely bootstrapped, without external investors. After gaining valuable international experience, the team returned home to create real impact in their country's innovation ecosystem.

'Thanks to the EIT, we learned how companies operate and how to pitch an entrepreneurial project effectively. Plus, through this network, we were invited to events and fairs that gave us greater visibility.' – Levels founding team.

3.3 BUILDING CAPACITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION: EIT HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The EIT Higher Education Initiative (EIT HEI) is the EIT Community programme launched in 2021 and is led by EIT RawMaterials and participated in by most KICs, focused on building innovation capacity in higher education institutions across Europe.

The EIT Higher Education Initiative is one of the EU instruments focused on innovation capacity building in universities. It incentivizes higher education institutions to train students in entrepreneurship and innovation, encourage the creation or development of startups, help upskill and reskill staff, and pilot new models for education based on innovation and a multidisciplinary approach. It aims to support higher

[4] European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Alumni Community. *EIT Alumni Impact Report 2024.* Budapest: EIT, May 2025.

education institutions with expertise and coaching, access to the EIT innovation ecosystem, and funding, enabling them to develop innovation action plans that complement their individual institutional needs.

The EIT Higher Education Initiative has a strong track record of fostering innovation and enhancing competitiveness. The initiative has engaged over 1 359 participating organisations, including 643 higher education institutions and over 716 non-academic organisations, including research centres, public authorities and associations across Europe, solidifying its impact on academic, industrial and entrepreneurial ecosystems. Over the course of its operation, the initiative has supported 1700 startups and trained 134 000 participants – students, academic staff and non-academic professionals – spanning three cohorts, driving skill development at scale. Market-ready innovations have also been a hallmark of the EIT Higher Education Initiative, with the creation of 118 startups, surpassing financial milestones of €1 million in transactions and attracting investments exceeding €3 million.[5]

To join the EIT Higher Education Initiative, institutions are invited to participate in competitive calls for proposals.

The EIT Higher Education Initiative has seen significant participation from European Universities Alliance (EUAs) across Europe, with 237 members involved across various projects. This represents 41% of all EUAs' members, highlighting the programme's extensive reach. Throughout four calls for proposals, participants from EUAs have been actively involved in 103 projects, accounting for 92% of all projects.

Two European Universities alliances were selected with all their members included: RUN-EU 2.0 and UREKA SHIFT alliances, where 100% of their members participate in the RUN-InnoBoost and U!Innovate projects, respectively. Other successful projects include the FilmEU Alliance with 89% of its members participating in C-Accelerate, and the YUFE 2030 Alliance in Inno4YUFE.

SUCCESS STORIES

Skills2Scale – deep tech empowerment for higher education institutes

Skills2Scale – coordinated by Universitat Politècnica de València, supported by EIT Urban Mobility and the EIT HEI Initiative – engaged multiple European higher education institutions and associated partners to build capacities in Beyond 5G innovation and entrepreneurship. The list of full and associated partners is available on the project's webpage.

Through the EIT Higher Education Initiative, the Skills2Scale project successfully integrated best practices into project activities, including the promotion of MOOCs in Beyond 5G (B5G) and business innovation. Initiatives like 5GIIL and Startup-school UNU were implemented to design and accelerate market-driven solutions. The project not only exceeded its quantitative targets but also fostered a culture of innovation and cooperation that will continue to benefit the ecosystem beyond the project's lifecycle.

'We want to express our gratitude for our opportunity to be a part of this cohort. We created an impactful project, both for the national ecosystems and for the involved organisations themselves. Each partner is better structured and provides better services than 15 months ago – and this is a real achievement.' – Carlos Palau Salvador

[5] Consolidated data on EIT Higher Education Initiative (EIT HEI) Calls 1–4 KPIs, updated with the latest available figures as of August 2025.

ILCA – innovation labs for climate action

The ILCA project (July 2022 – June 2024) embedded a sustainable innovation mindset within higher education institutions by launching Climate Innovation Labs and integrating them into institutional strategies. These hubs enabled students, staff, businesses and local governments to co-create climate solutions, transforming universities into climate-conscious, innovation-driven actors. The project enhanced institutional capacity, strengthened stakeholder engagement and external recognition, and laid the groundwork for long-term impact in climate innovation. The list of full and associated partners is available on the project's webpage.

ILCA developed a structured handbook and trained 457 academic and 331 non-academic staff, with over 600 mentored to boost institutional capacity. It also secured €532 655 in investment (despite no initial projection) and fostered collaboration with 62 startups. By expanding national and international networks, ILCA positioned higher education institutions as active contributors to climate research, policy and sustainable regional development.

'Our staff and students enhanced their capacity for innovation through training and collaborative activities with businesses. We observed increased motivation among both staff and management towards climate actions.' – Miika Kajanus

3.4. UPSKILLING AND RESKILLING EU WORKFORCE

3.4.1 EIT NET ZERO INDUSTRY SKILLS ACADEMIES

In February 2023, the European Commission launched a Green Deal Industrial Plan for the scaling-up of the manufacturing capacity for net zero technologies in its territory. The Plan recognises, in its pillar on "enhancing skills", the need for a large-scale upskilling and reskilling of the workforce to ensure the green transition. In response to that the EIT Community has established four Net Zero Industry Skills Academies: European Battery Alliance Academy (EBA), European Solar Academy (ESA), European Raw Materials Academy (ERMA), European Advanced Materials Academy (EAMA).

EIT NET ZERO INDUSTRY ACADEMIES: LAUNCH TIMELINE AND TARGETS

NAME	LAUNCH DATE	OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS	SUPPORTING DG	BUDGET	MANAGING KIC
European Battery Alliance Academy (EBA)	2022	100,000 directly trained learners 150+ training providers 15 Memoranda of understanding with Member States	DG EMPL	€9.9 million	INNOENERGY
European Solar Academy (ESA)	2024	100,000 directly trained learners 40+ accredited courses to facilitate workforce upskilling	DG EMPL	€8.8 million	INNOENERGY

		and reskilling for SMEs in solar energy			
European Raw Materials Academy (ERMA)	April 2025	100,000 directly trained learners 50+ accredited courses	DG EMPL	€10 million	EIT RAW MATERIALS
European Advanced Materials Academy (EAMA)	October 2025	200,000 learners upskilled 60+ accredited courses	DG RTD	€10 million	EIT RAW MATERIALS

EUROPEAN BATTERY ALLIANCE ACADEMY

The European Battery Alliance (EBA) Academy, mandated by the European Commission and coordinated by InnoEnergy, is a strategic initiative created to bridge the skills gap in Europe's fast-growing battery value chain. Serving as a central training services platform, the Academy equips Europe's workforce with high-demand skills in battery technology, manufacturing and innovation, integrates existing funding mechanisms, and connects more than 500 stakeholders across 18 countries[6]. It plays a key role in accelerating Europe's green and digital transitions by equipping its workforce with high-demand skills in battery technology, manufacturing and innovation.

The primary objective of the Academy is to provide high-quality, industry-aligned training that responds directly to labour market needs, by collaborating with Member States and regions on existing battery education projects. The initiative positions itself as the go-to hub for upskilling and reskilling in the sector. Its focus extends beyond education to include deep collaboration with industry, ensuring that talent development keeps pace with industrial transformation.

The EBA Academy has set up a learning infrastructure that includes a digital platform, a network of 10 training labs, and 121 certified trainers developed through dedicated train-the-trainer programmes. Learners can access 121 courses, available in six languages – Polish, Spanish, German, French, Romanian and Slovak. The Academy has also issued six European Digital Credentials (EDCs), supporting professional mobility and recognition across borders.

Strategic partnerships with leading companies such as Siemens, Schneider Electric, Manpower Group, NIIT, APAVE and RISE have expanded its outreach significantly. Notably, the Minecraft-based 'Green Energy City' marketplace edition has surpassed 2 million downloads, effectively engaging younger audiences.

[6] Source: EBA ACADEMY- European Battery Alliance

The EBA Academy's results speak for themselves: it has reported over 100 000 learners trained. Institutional uptake is strong, with 13 out of 15 targeted Member States having signed Memoranda of Understanding. Online engagement is growing rapidly, with the Academy's website attracting 42 826 views from 19 862 users and achieving a 67% lead conversion rate. In addition, the Battery Skills Report, published annually, has established the Academy's leadership in workforce development strategy across Europe. Through these achievements, the EBA Academy is laying the foundation for a skilled, future-ready workforce to power Europe's sustainable industrial growth.

The European Commission provides a full infrastructure to create, issue, view, store, share and verify the European Digital Credentials for Learning (EDC). EIT has started linking its education and qualification recognition within the European models – and the EDC in particular. The EIT EBA Academy is a pilot example of adopting the EDC strategy. Currently, three EDC certificates within the EIT EBA Academy have been developed as formal digital verifiable credentials compliant with Europass for Fundamentals on Batteries, Battery Storage Basics and Battery Management Systems. Another three certificates will be added by the end of the EBA Academy.

EUROPEAN SOLAR ACADEMY

Mandated by the European Commission, the European Solar Academy (ESA) is a strategic initiative designed to address the pressing skilled labour shortage in Europe's expanding photovoltaic sector. Its goal is to serve as a centralised training and services platform that brings together the efforts of Member States, local training providers and industry associations. By the end of the project in February 2027, the Academy aims to develop a robust skills framework, deliver 40 certified training courses and train at least 100 000 learners to meet the demands of the green transition.

To support these objectives, ESA Academy has already established critical learning infrastructure, including a digital training platform, a network of 12 physical labs, and a growing base of 28 certified trainers. A dedicated skill certification scheme has been launched, offering credentials for roles such as 'Careers Decoded', 'Rooftop Installer' and 'Rooftop Installation Technician'. Currently, the training repository contains 10 specialised courses, which will be expanded in line with industry demand.

Strong strategic partnerships have been forged with major actors such as SolarPower Europe and the European Solar PV Industry Alliance (ESIA), ensuring the initiative is aligned with market needs and policy priorities. Additionally, the solar-themed edition of the popular Minecraft-based 'Green Energy City' education technology application has achieved widespread engagement with over 2 million downloads.

The ESA has also made key strides in building its ecosystem and reputation. An Advisory Council has been established with representation from top-tier industry alliances and institutions, including SolarPower Europe, the European Solar Manufacturing Council (ESMC), EUREC and the European Commission.

So far, 20 000 learners have been trained through Academy-supported activities. Moreover, a full skills framework is already in place, reinforcing the initiative's commitment to quality and standardisation in PV training. Community and policy engagement is also progressing, with one large ecosystem event held, direct advocacy with three ESF+ Managing Authorities, and a growing network of 36 local training providers (LTPs) actively involved. Through these achievements, the Academy is laying the groundwork for a skilled, future-proof workforce capable of powering Europe's solar ambitions.

EUROPEAN RAW MATERIALS ACADEMY

The European Raw Materials Academy (ERMA) has ben launched in April 2025 to help build a highly skilled workforce for Europe's raw materials sector, supporting the EU's industrial competitiveness as well as its green and digital transitions. The European RawMaterials Academy (ERMAcademy) aims to upskill and reskill over 100 000 professionals across Europe within the next three years, with a particular focus on raw materials recycling. It will also establish a comprehensive training service platform offering at least 50 certified and accredited courses.

The ERMAcademy will create a pan-European learning ecosystem, with a curriculum that spans the entire raw materials value chain – from extraction and processing to recycling, advanced materials and the circular economy. Training will be delivered through a modular, multilingual and certified course portfolio, including VET, train-the-trainer programmes, micro-credentials and a labour market-focused skills intelligence platform. The initiative directly supports key EU strategies such as the Clean Industrial Deal and the Union of Skills, and contributes to the objectives of both the Critical Raw Materials Act and the Net Zero Industry Act.

EUROPEAN ADVANCED MATERIALS ACADEMY

The European Advanced Materials Academy (EAMA) has been officially launched in October 2025. The Academy will play a central role in addressing critical skills gaps and empowering Europe's workforce through advanced training in materials science, chemistry, engineering and digital technologies. The overarching mission of EAMA is to support the training of a new generation of scientists, and the upskilling and reskilling of 200 000 workers by education and training providers in EU Member States for the design, development and application of advanced materials, embedding the features of safe and sustainable by design and circularity.

EAMA aims to educate students while actively addressing the under-representation of women and persons with disabilities in STEM. It also seeks to upskill and reskill professionals, particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and public authorities, to meet the evolving demands of the industry. Another key focus is the development and promotion of multidisciplinary learning programmes, digital tools and AI-integrated curricula, along with the creation of a pan-European network of education and training providers. The Academy is also committed to issuing micro-credentials that support skills transferability and workforce mobility throughout the EU. It aims to establish a training service platform with at least 60 certified and accredited courses.

3.4.2 EIT DEEP TECH TALENT INITIATIVE

The EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative was officially launched by the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel, in 2022 with the ambitious goal of training 1 million people in deep tech disciplines between 2023 and 2025.

Deep tech refers to advanced and emerging technologies across a broad spectrum of fields, including data and AI, robotics, semiconductors, space, cybersecurity, open-source verification, biotechnology and clean technologies. These technologies hold transformative potential to address critical global issues such as climate change, sustainable energy and healthcare, while also driving job creation, fostering entrepreneurship and contributing to a more resilient and sustainable economy and society.

To realise this vision, the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative has engaged a network of over 600 pledgers, both within the broader EIT ecosystem and beyond. Among the pledgers are education and training providers, enterprises, NGOs, SMEs and startups, institutions and financial partners. To learn more, you can explore the Deep Tech Pledger's Radar.

The EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative supports the European Commission's goal of expanding Europe's deep tech workforce by publishing high-quality training courses on its platform. To be accepted, pledgers must complete a Course Information Form reviewed through a structured Quality Check, which verifies core criteria such as genuine deep tech focus, at least 50 hours of learning (or 25 for under-18s), a minimum of EQF Level 3, and the award of a verifiable certificate. The process, managed by quality checkers and a Course Approval Panel of deep tech and QA experts, ensures courses meet the initiative's standards while remaining efficient and transparent, typically concluding within two months and resulting in publication with the Quality Check seal.

More information about the Quality Check procedure and course submission can be found here.

SUCCESS STORIES

AIDEAS, one of the projects funded in 2024 Call for Training Proposals, is a 75-hour online programme in Poland, focused on AI agents and practical applications in industry. Participants start with a personalised AI learning agent and an orientation to course objectives and workflows. Through self-paced modules, they explore AI fundamentals, ethics, generative AI tools, AI agent creation, and advanced techniques like machine learning and image processing. The programme, run by Generator Pomysłów and Wroclaw University of Science and Technology, has graduated 1 500+ students from the first cohort alone.

This includes training focused on women and other groups under-represented in tech. In fact, women now represent 36% of the total number of talents reported by pledgers; and many training programmes target specifically women, such as Czechitas from Czechia, which trains women, including those without previous technical backgrounds, and refugees, in tech.

'Empowering women in cybersecurity is crucial to help bridge the global talent gap and bring diverse perspectives to solving critical security challenges. In Czechia, women are under-represented in both the general workforce and cybersecurity. Diverse teams yield better results, so we must reject the notion that 'tech isn't for girls' and create clear pathways for education, employment, and advancement.' – Radek Novák, Czechita

Beyond the numbers, the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative has a wide-reaching impact. This includes strategic partnerships between pledgers, such as the one between SET University in Ukraine, a leader in cybersecurity training, and yourscienceEDU, a training provider from Italy, to boost cybersecurity skills of Italian SMEs. This includes providing training in such high-in-demand deep tech areas as generative AI.

Vitoria Strokan from SET University (UA) speaking at the Deep Tech Skills Days, November 2024, Warsaw

4. EIT SPECIAL INITIATIVES

The EIT Community is committed to advancing all aspects of entrepreneurial education. It allocates dedicated efforts and funding to additional strategic activities that serve as key enablers for bridging innovation and skills gaps across Europe. These include promoting gender equality, enhancing the entrepreneurial capacity of researchers, and fostering collaboration between high-level talent, innovative startups, and forward-thinking companies.

SCAN. WATCH. BE INSPIRED.

4.1 SUPERNOVAS PROGRAMME

The EIT Community Supernovas programme, launched in 2022, is a flagship cross-KIC initiative designed to boost the participation and success of women in entrepreneurship and investment. It addresses gender disparities by offering training, mentorship, internationalisation support and visibility for women-led startups and aspiring female investors. Between 2022 and 2024, Supernovas supported 116 women-led startups, trained 486 women, and attracted over €63.4 million in investment, working with partners such as European Women in VC, Female Founders, EIF, EIB and ESADE. The programme has received over 1 000 applications, reflecting strong demand across the European innovation ecosystem.

One of its core pillars, Women2Invest, trained 189 women from 28 countries to transition into venture capital roles. Participants received over three months of training, including 11 expert-led sessions, guided homework, and interview preparation with headhunters. The programme resulted in 39 internships and connections with 37 collaborating VC funds, with over 25% of participants securing roles in the sector.

The Rocket Up programme targets women-led startups aiming to scale internationally. Across its 2022–2024 cohorts, Rocket Up supported 32 startups, which collectively attracted over €52.8 million in investment.

Supernovas also runs Women Investment Network Forums, designed to match high-potential women-led ventures with international investors. Nine forums were held across 2023–2024, supporting 25 startups from 18 countries and generating nearly €24 million in funding. More than 100 investors participated in these forums, reflecting growing engagement and interest from the investor community.

SUCCESS STORIES

Anna Cachadina, a science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics (STEAM) professional from Barcelona with a background in computer science, has made remarkable strides in the startup and investment ecosystem. Motivated by a growing interest in entrepreneurship and venture capital, she joined the WOMEN2INVEST programme.

Following the programme, Anna took part in the matchmaking process and secured a role at Speedinvest in London, one of Europe's leading VC firms. Her dedication and enthusiasm soon earned her a senior role at Crane VC, another top-tier London-based venture capital firm. This year,

she is set to join the Business Angel Academy, where she will deepen her knowledge of angel investing – an essential step in supporting early-stage startups.

Barbara Bachus is the founder of ExoMatter, a science-led startup recognised for its innovation and fast-paced growth. Her journey through the Supernovas ecosystem has played a pivotal role in her success.

Barbara took part in the Rocket Up programme, which supports the acceleration of female-led startups, and participated in the Supernovas Investment Forums, where she connected with key investors from across Europe. ExoMatter has since raised over €1.7 million in funding, establishing itself as one of Europe's most promising deep tech startups in the manufacturing sector.

These two journeys have been recognised on the EC Horizon Results Platform, highlighting a standout success of the Supernovas initiative.

4.2 EIT INFRABOOSTER

EIT InfraBooster is a modular training programme for representatives of scientific organisations, including higher education institutions, that own research infrastructures. Focused on the Western Balkan region, Ukraine and Moldova as well as neighbouring EU Member States, it offers capacity building and support in designing infrastructure-based services that could be offered to companies.

The EIT InfraBooster focuses on leveraging existing assets within the participating scientific organisations, supporting the exploitation of commercially relevant research infrastructures – including by building the skills and knowledge of the research teams. In this way, the EIT InfraBooster helps to bring research infrastructure owners closer to industry, increases collaboration and international exposure as well as innovativeness within the scientific organisations, whilst helping them establish new sources of revenue.

Since its launch in 2023, 129 participants – the majority of them female – representing over 60 higher education and research institutions, have graduated from the EIT InfraBooster. Twenty-one new services were designed and launched via the EIT InfraBooster: eight in 2023 and thirteen in 2024. In less than one year, four out of the eight services launched in 2023 had each generated at least €10 000 in profit for the research infrastructure owners.

REVOLUTIONISING PLANT-BASED PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS WITH PHYTOLAB

PhytoLab at Marmara University is reshaping the pharmaceutical supply chain by producing plant-based Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) through advanced in vitro tissue culture, it offers a scalable, eco-friendly alternative to traditional sourcing. This approach ensures a stable, high-yield, and sustainable supply of therapeutic compounds, overcoming challenges like seasonality, inconsistency, and environmental strain.

With advanced labs and expert R&D, PhytoLab delivers pure plant genotypes, customised APIs, and reliable biotech solutions—making

it a leader in next generation pharma innovation. For more detailed information on the EIT InfraBooster please visit this link.

4.3 INNONEXT INTERNSHIP SCHEME

The Next Generation Innovation Talents Initiative, InnoNext, is a joint scheme of several EU initiatives and programmes – European Innovation Council (EIC), the EIT, MSCA, and ERC – that connects deep-tech researchers and innovators with startups and SMEs through fully funded three- to six-month internships. Its goal is to bridge the gap between research and the market by fostering entrepreneurial skills and facilitating knowledge transfer. The programme aims to support over 600 internships, offering tailored matches and mentorship to accelerate innovation across Europe.

The programme is designed to foster collaboration between Europe's top academic talents and innovative startups and SMEs. By leveraging fully funded internships, it bridges the gap between research and enterprise strengthening the European innovation ecosystem. The initiative goes beyond traditional internship programmes by applying a human-centred approach and focusing on tailored matches that align with the specific needs of companies and talents, providing a platform that connects deep-tech talents and aspiring innovators with entrepreneurs, startups, and SMEs collaborating through Innovation Internships.

Talents collaborate on cutting-edge projects, addressing technological challenges. They also gain hands-on business experience and entrepreneurial skills while contributing to real-world solutions.

5. EIT CAMPUS PORTAL

EIT Campus is an online platform that brings together the educational offer from KICs and the EIT Community. It helps the EIT and KICs penetrate new markets through data-driven B2C (campaigns) and B2B (partnerships) activities, increasing traffic to KIC education resources.

EIT Campus offers a unique digital infrastructure designed to optimise user experience and maximise retention. A key component of this success is its intuitive portfolio, which allows users to explore and find courses through a searchable database filtered by format, duration, certification status, proficiency level and more. Supporting this is the development of Learning Pathways – curated course bundles tailored to both user preferences and market needs, including the first startup-focused pathway launched in April 2025.

The skills-based search feature enhances course discovery with upgraded filters, improved matching and a developing interactive Skills Development Guide. An online community of nearly 2 000 registered users fosters engagement through expert-led webinars, interactive sessions and networking opportunities. Underpinning all of this is a robust data infrastructure, providing insights into the entire learner journey to improve targeting, course positioning, conversion strategies and platform efficiency.

The platform has seen significant growth, with over 180 000 learners visiting the EIT Campus – a 300% increase year-on-year – and 28 000 learners being redirected to EIT KIC and EIT Community courses.

Currently, there are more than 200 courses available across nine overarching topics. The B2B strategy has resulted in three strategic partnerships with LMC, DoGood People and EUDataJobs, while 13 targeted campaigns have been launched to align with key policy goals – supporting female entrepreneurs, professionals in RIS countries and mid-career learners. Importantly, the cost of attracting new learners has dropped by 82% in just three years, demonstrating both the platform's growing impact and its increasing efficiency.

Please visit the EIT Campus Portal here.

6. KICS EDUCATION PROFILES: ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESS STORIES

6.1 INNOENERGY

InnoEnergy, formerly EIT InnoEnergy, attracts and retains global talent for Europe's future energy system through a portfolio of MSc activities developed under the Knowledge Triangle with strong industry involvement. The Masters+ programmes, fully compliant with the EIT Label, ensure sustainable education and fully integrate the EIT entrepreneurial approach in education. These programmes apply innovative pedagogies such as learning by doing, business case application, design to cost and challenge-driven education. These approaches train students in innovation and entrepreneurship, directly supporting InnoEnergy's mission to drive the industrialisation of clean energy technologies.

SCAN. WATCH. BE INSPIRED.

6.1.1 KEY IMPACTS OF EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS

InnoEnergy Masters+ programmes prepare top engineering talent from around the world for dynamic careers in sustainable energy. The programmes provide an immersive learning journey based on three central pillars: Academics+ / Careers+ / CommUnity+.

ACADEMICS+

The Masters+ programmes are designed to develop future leaders in industrialising clean-tech innovation. They offer students the chance to pursue dual degrees from top technical universities in Europe, along with certificates in entrepreneurship from business schools. The student educational experience is enriched by the opportunity to attend two universities and engage with students from 35 to 45 nationalities per intake (and over 100 across all intakes). Female participation has grown from 12.5% in 2010 to 35% in 2024.

- Master's in Renewable Energy
- Master's in Smart Electrical Networks
- Master's in Sustainable Energy Systems
- European Master's in Nuclear Energy
- Master's in Energy for Smart Cities

The full list of InnoEnergy Master's degree programmes is provided in Annex I.

Masters+ students may participate in internships within InnoEnergy's portfolio companies and shareholders, working on real cases. Over 35% of students undertake their thesis internship directly within the InnoEnergy ecosystem, including companies focusing on renewable energy, nuclear energy and hydrogen (e.g. NitroCapt, CorPower Ocean, MineStorage, Schneider Electric). Students can also join a semi-virtual startup competition (see below: Green Seed Journey).

CAREERS+

A key focus is connecting Masters+ students with InnoEnergy's ecosystem of 200 portfolio companies and shareholders. Over 10% of graduates are employed by portfolio companies and/or shareholders, and over 83% are employed in Europe. The emphasis on entrepreneurship in the Masters+ programmes results in many alumni launching their own startups. Alumni have launched 131 startups, with 113 male and 18 female founders. During the school year, students receive personal coaching and support with CVs and interview preparation.

Masters+ graduates can continue to grow their careers with InnoEnergy, as exemplified by the Road to the C-Suite programme, offered to the most promising alumni. This exclusive executive training programme is designed for mid-level and senior executives – transforming capable leaders into visionary trailblazers.

COMMUNITY+

The InnoEnergy CommUnity+ is a global network committed to advancing a sustainable energy future through entrepreneurial and innovative efforts. This network, comprising InnoEnergy alumni, students, employees and partners, disseminates knowledge, provides mutual support, and empowers its members.

Strategically positioned in major European cities, nine local CommUnity+ Teams – in Barcelona, Grenoble, Eindhoven, Leuven, Stockholm, Paris, Lisbon, Turin and Espoo – play a vital role. The Consulting Club, Energy Policy Programme and InnoStation podcast teams also contribute by organising thought-provoking events. These initiatives foster meaningful connections and integrate members into the broader business ecosystem, amplifying InnoEnergy's impact.

In 2024, CommUnity+ organised 82 events across Europe, drawing over 2 600 participants. This included 16 online and 66 in-person gatherings, as well as six podcast episodes, ensuring broad accessibility and fostering a strong sense of community. New initiatives launched in 2024 include Local Ecosystem events, such as Hackathon and case-solving events – all aiming to connect students and alumni with InnoEnergy portfolio companies and shareholders.

6.1.2 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY EDUCATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD

As the global push for net zero emissions accelerates, the demand for highly skilled professionals in clean energy technologies and sustainable innovation will grow exponentially. Over the next five years, InnoEnergy's master's programmes are expected to grow in enrolment and industry engagement, driven by three converging trends:

1. Rising Workforce Demand: The International Energy Agency (IEA) projects that clean energy jobs will more than double by 2030, requiring over 14 million new workers globally in fields such as renewables, grid modernisation, energy efficiency and advanced nuclear. This will create demand for interdisciplinary talent with deep technical knowledge and innovation capabilities.

2. Digitalisation of the Energy Sector: With the increasing role of AI, data science and smart technologies in optimising energy systems, the new AI for Advanced Energy Systems master's is timely. The World Economic Forum anticipates a 40% increase in demand for data and AI roles in energy and utilities by 2030, aligning with this programme offering.

3. Policy and Investment Tailwinds: Major policy frameworks like the EU Green Deal are driving investments into a new sustainable economy, reinforcing the need for a new generation of climate tech entrepreneurs, engineers and systems thinkers – the type of graduates trained by InnoEnergy.

InnoEnergy's educational portfolio is well positioned to meet the growing demand for specialised, impact-driven talent. Enrolments could grow by 20% over the next five years, particularly in AI, grid intelligence and systems integration. Strategic partnerships with industry and governments, along with a growing ecosystem of startups and scale-ups, will be key to achieving climate goals by placing graduates where they are most needed and can have the highest impact.

6.1.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON)

InnoEnergy Masters+ is empowering a new generation of changemakers driving the global energy transition and transforming every industry. The following stories reflect how Masters+ blends technical excellence, entrepreneurship and purpose to shape a more inclusive, sustainable future.

Carolina Escudero Concha, recently named one of the '100 Brilliant Women in Renewable Energy', is leading renewable integration projects and championing diversity in engineering.

Martim Perestrelo turned a class project into Tether, an AI-driven startup that transforms parked electric vehicles into a decentralised battery network, earning him a spot on 'Forbes 30 Under 30' (InnoEnergy's alumni eighth recognition).

Caroline Namutosi, a Ugandan professional and mother of three, took a courageous leap to pursue studies across Europe. Her education was made possible not only by a Diversity & Entrepreneurship Scholarship from InnoEnergy but also by the extraordinary support of her entire community, who came together to fundraise and ensure she could follow her dream.

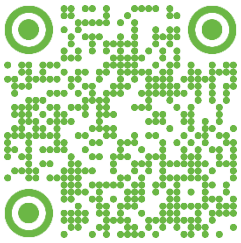
6.1.4. FEATURED EDUCATION PROJECT

PROJECT NAME	GREEN SEED JOURNEY COMPETITION
Duration	2024-2025
List of Partners / Details of Collaboration	Students from InnoEnergy Masters+ programmes can join the competition as entrepreneurs or talents. They can be from any of the InnoEnergy partner universities in Europe. MBA students from top European business schools such as ESADE (Spain), INSEAD (France), PoliMi (Italy), Nyenrode (Netherlands), GEM (France) also participate in the competition, playing the role of investors.

Project Overview and EIT KIC Contribution	The Green Seed Journey Competition brings together students and professionals in a semi-virtual startup scene mimicking a real entrepreneurial ecosystem. Different participants play distinct roles – Entrepreneurs, Talents, Investors and Advisors. During three rounds, the entrepreneurs form their team and develop their venture idea. The investors evaluate the teams' business plans and reward good ventures with virtual investments, feedback and coaching. At the end, the top entrepreneurs pitch their ventures to a live audience. The winning ventures receive cash prizes, grants to further develop their ventures, and in-kind support from InnoEnergy.
Key Results and Impact	More than 100 projects have participated in the competition since the first edition. Examples of ventures that originated through the competition are: ReLi Energy: ReLi Energy specialises in advanced software for battery performance and longevity. Their eco-friendly technology helps businesses maximise their investments while promoting sustainability. Climatize: Climatize is a financial portal that helps transform climate action into meaningful results. For as little as $10, users can help fund some of America's renewable energy projects and potentially earn up to 10% annually. Tether EV: This software startup turns electric vehicles into clean, virtual power plants to support the transition to a carbon-free, sustainable grid. ENERSOUL: Focused on sustainable energy storage using sand to store and release heat. The company aims to help decarbonise heat-intensive industries. The team was a runner-up in the fourth edition of GSJC and simultaneously made it to the final of the MIT Climate & Energy Prize, both of which provided unique perspectives to refine their idea. They also won the EDPR University Challenge 2023. Plaex: Plaex offers Garby, an automatic waste-sorting bin that reduces residual waste by 70% and cuts waste pickup costs by 68%.
Testimonials	*'The Green Seed Journey gave us the structure and momentum we needed. It brought clarity, speed, and invaluable feedback – exactly what early-stage startups need to thrive.'* – StroomFlex *'We used the Green Seed Journey to raise awareness about water quality and share our mission: making clean water accessible to everyone and reducing socio-economic inequalities worldwide.'* – Chlorysis
Further Information	Project website: GreenSeed Journey by EIT InnoEnergy EIT InnoEnergy – The Battle of Green Talent (2023) Social media links: EIT InnoEnergy CommUnity on Facebook EIT InnoEnergy CommUnity on LinkedIn EIT InnoEnergy CommUnity on Instagram

6.2 28DIGITAL

28DIGITAL, formerly EIT Digital, strongly believes in nurturing T-shaped talent – individuals who not only possess deep technical expertise but also the entrepreneurial and business skills needed to spot opportunities, understand market needs and capitalise on them. This balanced approach lies at the heart of all 28DIGITAL education programmes.



SCAN. WATCH. BE INSPIRED.

Beyond technical and entrepreneurial skills, modern innovators must navigate open innovation ecosystems – demonstrating both organisational and geographic mobility. Embedding this ability into its education model is another key principle for 28DIGITAL.

As digital technologies also reshape education itself, 28DIGITAL envisions a future where higher education programmes increasingly integrate online and on-campus experiences through blended learning models. Together with its network of partner universities, 28DIGITAL is actively developing these blended programmes to provide students with the best of both worlds.

Given the fast pace of technological and societal change, 28DIGITAL's programmes are designed to stay at the frontier of innovation. This means not only continuously updating content but also immersing students in real-world application domains through strong industry collaboration. Here, the 28DIGITAL ecosystem – including its co-location centres across Europe – plays a critical role, offering students direct access to diverse industrial actors and innovation opportunities.

With a strong foundation in pedagogical methods, high-quality educational materials and hands-on experiences, 28DIGITAL offers a unique model that fully integrates innovation and education. Through initiatives such as the internships programme and active engagement of industrial partners in educational activities, 28DIGITAL ensures that students are directly connected to real-world challenges and opportunities – a distinct feature unmatched by any other EU instrument.

6.2.1 KEY IMPACTS OF EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS

ACCESS TO TALENT: BRIDGING SKILLS AND INNOVATION

Access to Talent connects companies with top-tier digital innovators graduating from the 28DIGITAL Master's and Doctoral Schools. It provides businesses with a direct line to highly skilled, entrepreneurial-minded individuals ready to drive digital transformation.

MENTORME PROGRAMME: NURTURING ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS

MentorMe Programme matches budding entrepreneurs with seasoned business mentors from EIT Digital's network. It is a personalised journey that fosters leadership, innovation and strategic growth.

28DIGITAL MASTER'S SCHOOL: EDUCATING EUROPE'S INNOVATION LEADERS

28DIGITAL Master's School offers a two-year dual-degree programme combining technical excellence with innovation and entrepreneurship education. Students study at two prestigious European universities and intern at top companies.

28DIGITAL PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL: UPSKILLING FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

28DIGITAL Professional School delivers executive education for professionals who want to thrive in a digital-first economy. Courses blend tech and business skills in areas like AI, cybersecurity and digital transformation.

28DIGITAL SUMMER SCHOOL: INNOVATING IN THE SUN

28DIGITAL Summer School offers two-week intensive courses combining digital innovation and entrepreneurship training, held at vibrant European locations.

EMAI4EU: EMOTION ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SPECIALISTS FOR EUROPE

28DIGITAL's EMAI4EU project pioneers the training of future experts in Emotion AI – an emerging field blending artificial intelligence and human emotion analysis. Spanning eight universities across Europe, this double-degree Master's programme equips students with AI technical foundations, specialised Emotion AI knowledge and entrepreneurial skills to create ethical, human-centric AI solutions.

RESCHIP4EU: REINFORCING SKILLS IN CHIPS DESIGN FOR EUROPE

28DIGITAL's RESCHIP4EU programme strengthens Europe's strategic autonomy in semiconductor and embedded systems technologies. Through a consortium of nine universities and industry leaders, it delivers a specialised double-degree Master's programme in Embedded Systems Design, complemented by certifications targeting upskilling and reskilling of professionals.

ACHIEVE (2024–2028)

ACHIEVE is an educational initiative designed to provide cutting-edge training in Cloud and Networking Infrastructure with a specialisation in sustainable High-Performance Computing (HPC) systems. This project offers a Master's programme, complemented by professional certifications and collaborative partnerships with key industry players such as Amazon Web Services and Infineon. ACHIEVE aims to bridge the skills gap in cloud computing and HPC, empowering students and professionals to contribute to Europe's green and digital transitions. The programme also focuses on industry collaboration, ensuring that the curriculum is aligned with current technological trends and workforce needs.

CYCERONE (2025–2027)

CYCERONE focuses on cybersecurity education, covering 12 key skills as outlined by the European Cybersecurity Skills Framework.

AI TRAINING FOR EUAN OFFICIALS (2025)

AI Training for EUAN Officials targets AI training for EU public officials to ensure secure, compliant and practical applications of AI in public administration. The training offers foundational and role-specific AI education, culminating in certificates issued after each session, fostering effective and responsible AI usage within public institutions.

SME4DDD (2023-2025)

SME4DDD focuses on digital skills training for SMEs, with a particular emphasis on AI, blockchain and cybersecurity. SME4DDD will upskill over 1 200 professionals and support 350 SMEs, with a focus on inclusivity and hands-on learning, enabling businesses to stay competitive in a digital-first world.

ESSENTIALS OF GENERATIVE AI (2024)

Essentials of Generative AI provides comprehensive training on generative AI, its future applications and potential societal impacts. Over 1 500 learners will benefit from this programme, which offers a flexible and affordable learning format, with certificates upon completion, ensuring participants are equipped for the future of AI innovation.

ESSENTIALS OF CYBERSECURITY (2024/2025)

Essentials of Cybersecurity provides essential cybersecurity training, focusing on strategies to safeguard systems and data against evolving cyber threats. The training targets over 1 000 learners, offering practical sessions led by cybersecurity experts and culminating in certificates of completion, helping individuals and organisations secure their digital environments.

To date 28DIGITAL delivers impact through its Master School, Professional School and innovation/startup programmes, complemented by strong alumni engagement. The Master School counts over 6 400 enrolled students, with 810 double degrees and 2 700 certificates awarded. The Professional School, anchored in partnerships with platforms such as Coursera, has developed 277 courses, training over 553 000 learners in the past decade, with a forecast of 4 000 new learners each month, while other professional activities trained an additional 759 people with 4 513 expected learners. In entrepreneurship, 28DIGITAL has supported 807 startups and scaleups to date, with a potential of 1 154 more by 2025–2026, leveraging programmes such as SPIN, Student2Founder, Open Innovation Factory, SpeedMaster, MentorMe and targeted venture creation and scaling schemes[7]. This combined portfolio demonstrates EIT Digital's broad impact on talent development, lifelong learning and entrepreneurial growth across Europe.

6.2.2 DIGITAL EDUCATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD

28DIGITAL will continue the strong delivery of digital talent through its Master's and Professional Schools. In 2025, it is expected that around 350 Master's School graduates will complete the programme, growing to 500 per year between 2022 and 2027, and more than 3 000 new learners through the Professional

[7] Data provided by the 28DIGITAL Team.

School. Embedded Innovation and Entrepreneurship activities ensure the schools deliver digital talent with an entrepreneurial mindset, as proven by the strong track record of 28DIGITAL alumni who have created successful ventures. Increasingly, Master's School students participate in innovation activities through internships, post-master's positions in ventures and venture creation. Upskilling is one of the focus areas of the summer and professional schools, centred on key themes aligned with strategic areas and built and executed in close collaboration with academic and industry partners.

28DIGITAL is also increasing collaboration with EU agencies to deliver professional courses on the use of AI. Significant growth is expected in 2025 in tailored courses for different stakeholders.

6.2.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON)

In 2024, 28DIGITAL was awarded the Most Active Academic Collaborating Entity in the second edition of the Women4Cyber Spain Awards. This recognition was given to 28DIGITAL for its significant contribution to the Women4Cyber Spain mission, promoting cybersecurity awareness, gender diversity and cybersecurity excellence.

28DIGITAL's development of the Cybersecurity Essentials course with its experts has been instrumental in empowering individuals.

6.2.4. FEATURED EDUCATION PROJECT

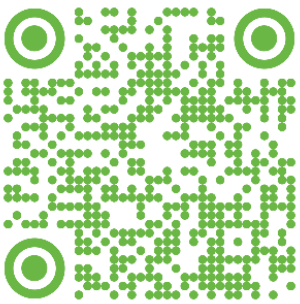
PROJECT NAME	SPECTRO: SPECIALISED EDUCATION IN CYBERSECURITY AND ROBOTICS
Duration	2023 – 2027
List of Partners / Details of Collaboration	Coordinator: 28DIGITAL, together with the 28DIGITAL the Education Foundation (affiliated), was involved in project management, communication, dissemination and the administrative processes for managing student admissions. University partners: The master's programmes were designed and implemented in collaboration with Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem, Università degli Studi di Trento, Universiteit Twente, Université de Rennes, Turun yliopisto, EURECOM GIE, Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai, Kungliga Tekniska högskolan, Aalto-korkeakoulusäätiö sr, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, Université Côte d'Azur, Budapesti Műszaki és Gazdaságtudományi Egyetem, as well as the University of the Aegean (associated) and Politecnico di Bari (associated).

	Industrial partners: Evolutionary Archetypes Consulting SL and Gim Oy contributed with market analysis, curriculum design, the I&E minor and internships.
Project Overview and EIT KIC Contribution	SPECTRO (Specialised Education Programmes in Cybersecurity and Robotics) aims to address the critical shortage of digital specialists in Europe by developing and delivering two double-degree master's programmes in Cybersecurity and Robotics (120 ECTS, ISCED Level 7). These are complemented by at least 25 self-standing learning modules leading to certifications, targeting both students and professionals for upskilling and reskilling. The project stands at the intersection of advanced education and emerging technologies. The programmes uniquely combines technical depth in cybersecurity and robotics with training in innovation & entrepreneurship and ethics for trustworthy technology, responding directly to labour market needs. SPECTRO also introduces advanced specialisations (e.g. post-quantum cryptography, robotics for healthcare) and integrates the latest research outcomes from EU projects like CONCORDIA and CyberSec4Europe, ensuring the curriculum is both state-of-the-art and practically relevant.
Key Results and Impact	The societal impact of SPECTRO lies in its ability to foster digital inclusion and equity by training over 1 400 individuals across Europe, promoting gender and regional diversity, and embedding ethics and human-centric values into advanced tech education. Economically, SPECTRO strengthens Europe's competitiveness by addressing the digital skills gap, aligning education with market demand, and creating direct pathways to employment through industry-integrated programmes and internships. The project generates lasting value through tuition revenue models, strong market outreach, and the creation of intellectual property such as certification schemes and advanced course content, positioning it as a competitive force in the digital education ecosystem.
Testimonials	*'SPECTRO is a testament to how strategic collaboration in education can bridge Europe's digital skills gap – empowering talent, driving innovation, and strengthening our technological sovereignty'.* – Federico Menna, CEO of 28DIGITAL
Further Information	Project website: SPECTRO – SPecialised Education programmes in CybersecuriTy and Robotics (EIT Digital, 2025)


VITAL

6.3 EIT HEALTH

EIT Health's education strategy is grounded in the belief that a thriving health innovation ecosystem requires both visionary entrepreneurs and a skilled, innovation-ready workforce. This approach is anchored in two strategic axes, while being underpinned by the EIT Label principles and seal of quality.



TAP. WATCH. BE INSPIRED.

THE INNOVATORS' JOURNEY

EIT Health supports individuals throughout their innovation journey – from the early spark of an idea to the successful scaling of health startups. By identifying and nurturing entrepreneurial talent early on, EIT Health provides targeted learning and support mechanisms that align with the Innovation Maturity Levels (IML). The KIC continuously integrates programmes from the three pillars of the Knowledge Triangle (KT) to ensure synergies and impact, and to empower innovators to translate ideas into impactful health solutions.

THE FUTURE-PROOF WORKFORCE JOURNEY

EIT Health is equally committed to preparing the wider workforce in the health sector (both professionals and healthcare providers) to lead and sustain innovation in their professional contexts. Through the Future-Proof Workforce Journey, it offers a structured pathway that spans skills intelligence, talent development and retention. Initiatives such as BRIGHTskills, EIT Health Academy, and Career Path Events address upskilling, reskilling and talent attraction. These efforts help professionals become active agents of change, equipping them with the competencies needed to navigate and drive transformation in healthcare systems.

6.3.1 KEY IMPACTS OF EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS

Health plays a crucial role in transforming healthcare education across Europe by equipping citizens, professionals and future leaders with the skills and knowledge needed to address current and emerging health challenges. Through a comprehensive and impact-driven education portfolio, EIT Health has reached a wide and diverse audience, promoting innovation, digital readiness and patient-centred care.

To date, approximately 200 000 citizens have been reached through EIT Health initiatives, empowering individuals to better manage their health and make informed decisions. In 2024, over 20 000 participants have taken part in non-labelled training programmes, further expanding the accessibility and relevance of EIT Health's educational offerings.

The professional development component of EIT Health's work is equally significant. Over 10 800 professionals, including 7 600 healthcare specialists, have received targeted training, improving their capacity to deliver high-quality, innovative care across the health ecosystem.

Moreover, the KIC has successfully supported the commercialisation of educational innovations. Two standout examples – SmashMedicine and Digi-ID – have been launched to the market, showcasing EIT Health's commitment to turning innovative learning solutions into scalable impact.

EIT HEALTH ACADEMY

Beyond merely hosting online courses, EIT Health is dedicated to fostering excellence in healthcare innovation education by launching the EIT Health Academy in November 2021. It empowers academic and

research institutions, healthcare organisations and professional associations to create, refine and disseminate educational courses that drive progress and innovation in healthcare.

PACT FOR SKILLS FOR THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY

EIT Health has been selected as the coordinator of the new industry-led Pact for Skills Partnership, focusing on enhancing the health industry's skills intelligence, monitoring new training programmes aligned with both current and future industry skills requirements, and drafting a skills strategy for the European health industry. An upcoming priority is to build a strong consortium that can apply for EU funding under the Erasmus+ programme and continue to explore other funding opportunities.

EIT Health will collaborate closely with DG GROW and DG EMPL to bring about positive changes and boost skills development in the healthcare industry. The Partnership's aim is to respond to the needs and challenges faced by the health industry and establish a shared model for skills development in Europe, pooling knowledge, experiences and resources. The overall goal is to attract new talent and support the existing workforce through reskilling and upskilling initiatives, promoting learning opportunities and on-the-job training that strengthen the sector's resilience and equip professionals with the skills they need.

EIT HEALTH DEEP TECH VENTURE BUILDER PROGRAMME

The EIT Health Deep Tech Venture Builder programme, set to launch as a pilot in 2025, is designed for teams seeking support at the pre-maturation and maturation stages of their innovation journey. By joining this ten-month programme, participants will learn how to overcome the most common challenges faced by innovators in academia – such as bureaucratic hurdles, funding uncertainties, and the transition from research to practical innovation.

EIT HEALTH CERTIFIED INNOVATION PATHS (EIT-LABELLED FELLOWSHIPS)

EIT Health's Certified Innovation Path is a flexible, EIT-labelled online programme designed to upskill professionals in healthcare innovation. This 9 to 12-month programme, created in collaboration with Europe's top academic institutions and industry leaders, offers the opportunity to shape personalised learning journeys around healthcare insights, entrepreneurship, and leadership skills. Targeting early career professionals and individuals seeking to upskill or reskill in anticipation of a career shift, the programme provides both asynchronous learning and peer-to-peer interaction with faculty through assignments, and an industry-led, challenge-based capstone project.

Participants begin with core modules in leadership, entrepreneurship, and innovation, then specialise by selecting one of three tailored paths:

- Health Data: focuses on digital health, data analytics, and ethical considerations, preparing participants to address real-world challenges in health data management.
- Digital Medical Devices: covers regulatory standards, cybersecurity, AI integration, and personalised care, equipping participants to drive innovation in digital medical devices.
- High Value Care: emphasises value-based healthcare, focusing on prevention, patient outcomes, and sustainable health management.

Each path culminates in a capstone project and awards up to 30 ECTS credits upon completion. The programme is open to Master's and PhD students, as well as healthcare professionals.

The EIT Health Master's degrees offered are:

- Master's in Technological Innovation in Health – an EIT-labelled programme offered in Spain, France, and Portugal, designed to cultivate entrepreneurial leaders in healthcare innovation. Through a hands-on, learning-by-doing curriculum, students engage in interdisciplinary projects, receive mentorship from industry experts, and participate in internships, equipping them to transform health challenges into viable commercial solutions.
- Master of Science: Entrepreneurship in Digital Health – promotes transdisciplinary and multiculturality as an innovative approach to addressing challenges in digital health provision. Students engage with entrepreneurs, practitioners, and researchers.
- Master's in Health & Medical Data (HMDA) – Trains a new generation of medical engineers who combine deep technical knowledge with education in innovation and entrepreneurship – complemented by solid understanding of economic and societal aspects of the health-tech sector.

6.3.2 HEALTH EDUCATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD

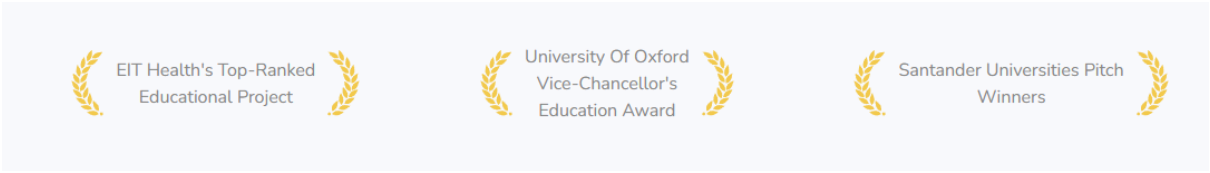
Looking forward, EIT Health will continue to deepen the strategic alignment of its education portfolio with key European Commission initiatives, including the Union of Skills, the EU Strategy for Startups and Scale-ups, and the Pact for Skills. As newly appointed coordinators of the EU Pact for Skills for the healthcare industry workforce, EIT Health is well positioned to drive large-scale upskilling and reskilling efforts that respond to both urgent and emerging skills needs across Europe.

6.3.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON)

SMASHMEDICINE, SUPPORTED BY EIT HEALTH

EIT Health's innovative gamified online platform SmashMedicine was designed to enhance medical education by fostering active, student-led learning. It enables learners to create, answer, and review multiple-choice questions, integrating real patient experiences to deepen understanding and promote patient-centred care. The curriculum integrates over 2,700 student-generated questions and more than 200 patient stories, enriching the learning experience with real-life relevance. Gamification elements such as points, badges, and leaderboards are used to enhance student engagement. Additionally, machine learning is applied to personalise and streamline the learning journey for everyone.

SmashMedicine recognitions are:



DIGI-ID PROGRAMME, SUPPORTED BY EIT HEALTH

The Digi-ID programme, led by Dr Esther Murphy at Trinity College Dublin, has garnered significant recognition for its efforts in enhancing digital skills among adults with intellectual disabilities. In 2023, Digi-ID was honoured with the European Digital Skills Award in the 'Inclusion in the Digital World' category for its co-designed, inclusive digital

skills education platform. Co-created with people with intellectual disabilities and service providers, DigiAcademy, delivers meaningful, accessible content valued by the community.

SCIFI PROJECT, SUPPORTED BY EIT HEALTH

Transitioning from academic research to working in the pharmaceutical and medtech industries can be challenging. EIT Health's SCIFI (Scientists to Innovators for Industry) programme helps its participants to overcome that challenge with the guidance of academic and industry partners.

The Emerging Europe Awards are an annual celebration of Central and South-east Europe's achievements in sustainability, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Its 'Future-proof Education Initiative of the Year' category rewards organisations operating in emerging Europe that have implemented successful projects and initiatives aimed at improving education and lifelong learning in the digital age.

The SCIFI programme was awarded second place in this category on 8 November in Brussels: 'For their dedication to supporting knowledge transfer from academia to business and empowering new entrepreneurs'.

6.3.4 FEATURED EDUCATION PROJECT

PROJECT NAME	EIT JUMPSTARTER
Duration	Approximately seven-month programme covering online bootcamps, local in-person training, and Grand Final pitching. The 2025 edition began in May and concludes in November 2025.
List of Partners / Details of Collaboration	The programme is a collaboration between six EIT KICs: EIT Health, EIT Food, InnoEnergy, EIT RawMaterials, EIT Urban Mobility, and EIT Culture & Creativity. Training providers from seven countries and numerous mentors from across Europe contribute to the programme.
Project Overview and EIT KIC Contribution	EIT Jumpstarter is a pan-European pre-acceleration programme designed for researchers and early-stage innovators, especially from Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe. It guides participants from concept to market – providing support in business modelling, pitching, coaching, funding, and access to the EIT community and networks. The stages include the Online Bootcamp, Local Joint Training, and Grand Final. Each KIC is responsible for its respective cohort. In 2025, coordination of the programme at

	strategic and operational level is led by Evelin Szasz, EIT Jumpstarter Programme Lead and part of the cross-KIC team in EIT Health InnoStars.
Key Results and Impact	Over eight editions, more than 1 300 talents have been trained and 124 startups created. Alumni have raised €150 million in external investment. In 2025, the programme received a record 908 applications (+30% compared with the previous year), with 199 teams selected for the bootcamp, 69 advancing to local in-person training, and 42 to the Grand Final. Numerous alumni have gone on to win international awards, secure funding, and scale their businesses. Success stories are available here.
Testimonials	Alumni consistently highlight the value of the programme. • Monika Štěpánová (Lightly Technologies) noted that it sharpened value proposition and go-to-market strategy. • Filip Koprčina (Energy Shift) gained investor-focused insights to improve his pitch deck. • Megi Mejdrechová (RoboTwin) shared that before joining the programme she could not imagine building a business but now feels motivated and confident.
Further Information	Project website: EIT Jumpstarter

6.4 EIT RAWMATERTIALS

Established in 2015, EIT RawMaterials strengthens Europe's strategic position by advancing innovation, education, and entrepreneurship across the raw materials value chain — from exploration and processing to recycling and substitution — while accelerating the green and digital transition. Its network of more than 300 partners, including industry leaders, universities, research institutions, and investors from over 20 EU countries, is anchored by six regional Innovation Hubs in Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, Poland, and Sweden.

SCAN. WATCH. BE INSPIRED.

6.4.1 KEY IMPACTS OF EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS

Education and skills development are central to EIT RawMaterials' activities. EIT RawMaterials Academy serves as the educational arm of EIT RawMaterials, aiming to strengthen Europe's raw materials sector through comprehensive learning initiatives.

EIT RawMaterials Academy addresses the critical challenge of both a shortage of people and a significant skills gap in the European raw materials sector. Its mission is to provide the industry with the skills of today and tomorrow, recognising that the raw and advanced materials sector forms the backbone of the entire industry in Europe. As such, the Academy stands committed to launching forward-looking, competitive, and impact-focused initiatives that equip different segments of European society with the vital knowledge, skills, and competences necessary for innovation in the raw materials sector. It offers blended learning that combines technical expertise, hands-on experience, and entrepreneurship training. Leveraging its vast industry and academic network, the Academy provides learners with practical, industry-relevant education and the skills to turn raw materials ideas into market-ready solutions.

EIT RawMaterials Academy operates as part of the world's largest innovation consortium in raw materials, uniting 120+ partners across more than 20 countries. Through this extensive network, active across the entire raw materials value chain from exploration and mining to substitution, recycling, and the circular economy, the Academy delivers forward-looking, impact-focused education programmes which have educated and upskilled over 40 000 learners at various levels. It addresses the critical challenge of both a shortage of people and a significant skills gap in the European raw materials sector. In 2024, Deloitte recognised one of the Academy's projects, Briefcase, as a best-in-class example of using gamification in upskilling, highlighting its commitment to modern, experiential learning approaches.

EIT RawMaterials Academy has played a pivotal role in enhancing Europe's workforce capabilities through targeted education initiatives tailored to the raw and advanced materials sectors. Its Master's programmes,

PhD training, vocational education, and lifelong learning activities deliver measurable results and generate meaningful industry impact. Almost 800 graduates from flagship Master's programmes such as AMIR, SINReM, and EMerald have achieved remarkable job placement outcomes, with 90% employed within six months of graduation. Notably, AMIR reports that 95% of its graduates enter the raw materials sector within that same timeframe. These programmes also demonstrate a strong commitment to gender diversity, consistently maintaining female participation rates between 30–50%, significantly above industry averages.

PhD education and industry-aligned initiatives such as ADMA3, CLOCKS, and PRO-SLO have supported the development of a new generation of professionals equipped with both technical and entrepreneurial competencies. These initiatives have facilitated over 150 industry collaborations, providing PhD candidates with practical industrial experience and boosting their employability and innovation potential. At the same time, lifelong learning programmes like BattValue and RawMatCop Academy have offered essential upskilling for hundreds of professionals in critical areas, including battery technologies, sustainable resource management, and advanced environmental monitoring.

6.4.2 EIT RAWMATERIALS EDUCATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD

In the coming years, EIT RawMaterials Academy is set to strengthen its contribution to Europe's climate and industrial transformation by embedding sustainability and circular economy principles more deeply into all educational programmes. New education initiatives will increasingly focus on critical competencies such as battery recycling, sustainable exploration practices, renewable energy materials, and digital technologies for resource efficiency. These priority areas are strategically aligned with the European Green Deal targets, ensuring that the raw materials workforce is equipped with the capabilities required to meet future challenges.

The implementation of the EIT RawMaterials Skills Hub is central to this strategy. This platform is designed to deliver agile and tailored learning solutions that address evolving skills gaps directly related to climate and technological shifts. By anticipating industry needs, the Skills Hub aims to position Europe's raw materials professionals as proactive leaders in sustainable innovation – enhancing resilience and long-term industrial strength.

Between 2023 and 2025, ten EIT-labelled Master's programmes (see Annex I) are expected to educate more than 480 students. These programmes will produce T-shaped graduates with strong technical knowledge in mineral exploration (TIMREX), mining technologies (MEITIM), and the broader raw materials value chain (RaVeN). In parallel, efforts are underway to label a growing number of short courses, expanding the Academy's reach across different learner segments and career stages.

Entrepreneurship and innovation remain central pillars of the Academy's mission. A new 'Lab2Market' initiative is being launched to support the creation of new startups by EIT-labelled students and entrepreneurs, continuing this strategic direction despite reductions in EIT core funding. Internally led activities, such as the entrepreneurship-focused 'Label Startup' event and the flagship 'EIT RM RACE'

summer school, will continue to strengthen the entrepreneurial mindset of Master's students while integrating digital and technological transformation and innovation themes.

Beyond formal degree programmes, the EIT RawMaterials KIC continues to offer high-quality summer and winter schools for students and professionals. These schools are designed to build both technical expertise and entrepreneurial competencies and are aligned with the Academy's three Lighthouse themes:

Responsible Sourcing, Sustainable Materials, and Circular Societies. These seasonal programmes provide immersive learning environments that encourage innovation and cross-sector collaboration.

6.4.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON)

A student team from the AMIR Master's programme, specialising in advanced materials recycling, secured first place in the highly competitive Tapojärvi Innovation Challenge 2023. Their winning solution creatively transformed forestry fly ash waste into activated carbon, addressing critical environmental and industry challenges. This prestigious win underscored the practical impact of EIT RawMaterials Academy's education, demonstrating students' ability to apply classroom knowledge to real-world sustainability challenges. As team member Simon Coen remarked, 'The experience provided us with expert mentoring, direct industry exposure, and confidence in our entrepreneurial capabilities.'

EIT RawMaterials Academy alumnus Mohamed Elamir earned the renowned EIT Changemaker Award 2024 for co-founding Woamy, a pioneering startup producing sustainable, biodegradable foam as an eco-friendly alternative to conventional plastic foams. Woamy's innovation significantly reduces carbon emissions and microplastic pollution in packaging and insulation applications. Mohamed's achievement highlights the Academy's success in fostering entrepreneurial talent and promoting sustainable innovations directly aligned with Europe's climate goals.

Through the innovative entrepreneurship training provided by the PhD BalticTeach programme, a doctoral researcher at Riga Technical University successfully launched a startup commercialising graphene-based water filtration technologies. This venture rapidly transitioned from lab research to market readiness, demonstrating the Academy's role in empowering doctoral students to bridge academia and industry effectively. Reflecting on the programme, the founder said:

'PhD BalticTeach transformed how I viewed my research, equipping me with practical tools and mentorship to create real-world impact.' Her startup now actively contributes to Europe's clean water solutions, exemplifying the societal and economic value generated through targeted educational interventions.' – Mohamed Elamir

6.4.4 FEATURED EDUCATION PROJECT

PROJECT NAME	AMIR: Master Programme on Advanced Materials Innovative Recycling
Duration	2021–2027
List of Partners / Details of Collaboration	AMIR is coordinated by the Université de Bordeaux (France) and brings together a strong consortium of six European universities and multiple research and industry partners. Core academic partners include the University of Bordeaux, NOVA University Lisbon, TU Darmstadt, University of Liège, Polytechnic University of Madrid, and University of Miskolc. These institutions span four co-location centres (CLCs), representing a truly pan-European collaboration.

	Industry and research partners such as Fraunhofer, ArcelorMittal, CRM Group, and CEA contribute through internships, curriculum co-development, and hands-on training.
Project Overview and EIT KIC Contribution	AMIR is the EIT-labelled Master's programme focused specifically on advanced materials recycling. It addresses the critical European need for professionals who can innovate in sustainable materials processing and substitution. The programme trains 'T-shaped' professionals – combining deep expertise in materials science and recycling with transferable skills in entrepreneurship, sustainability, and innovation. In its renewed phase (2021–2027), AMIR-LIH contributes directly to two EIT RawMaterials Lighthouses: Circular Societies and Future Mobility.
Key Results and Impact	Cohort capacity expanded to 48 students/year across six universities. 95% of graduates employed within 6 months, with ~90% working directly in the raw materials sector. AMIR consistently met or exceeded its target gender balance KPI (up to 44%). Integrated entrepreneurship & innovation curriculum has led to several student-led startup ideas. Graduates now work across Europe in sustainability, battery innovation, industrial R&D, and recycling ventures.
Testimonials	*'The AMIR programme has helped me gain immense amounts of technical knowledge and socio-cultural awareness to immerse myself in different disciplines. The innovation and entrepreneurial activities were enhanced by networking with experts in the recycling and materials recovery industry. I believe AMIR is the right programme for anyone looking for inter-personal and academic growth.'* – Annu Pawar
Further Information	Project website: AMIR- Master in Advanced Materials: Innovative Recycling

6.5 EIT FOOD

EIT Food's education strategy is a direct response to the challenges facing the food system. As a collection of some of Europe's biggest sectors with a €1.4 billion turnover, the food system is the largest manufacturing sector in the EU, providing close to 40 million jobs in the European geographical space. Yet, 99.1% of companies are SMEs with 63.3% of sector employment and 49.6% of turnover – and traditionally low levels of investment in R&D (less than 0.5% of output by private sector entities). It is highly fragmented and siloed, with different stages of production, processing, distribution, and consumption often operating in isolation from one another.

SCAN. WATCH. BE INSPIRED.

According to the OECD Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Paper (2023), agriculture and the food sector have the highest rate of skills misalignment across all economic sectors, and these challenges are projected to amplify in the future with an ageing workforce and low numbers of new entrants. Employment in the sector is expected to fall by 13%, with the most significant decline among low-skilled workers. As stated in the final report of the study on promoting education, training and skills across the bioeconomy conducted by Deloitte, Empirica and FGB, conversely, there is a growing demand for professionals with higher levels of entrepreneurial and management skills, technical and digital know-how, and business and sustainability expertise.

EIT Food's education strategy therefore focuses on seeding sufficient – and sufficiently skilled – individuals throughout the food system to foster ideas, entrepreneurship, and collaborations across the silos. In parallel, the strategy covers the upskilling and reskilling of the current workforce to build the capacity and capabilities to support food system transformation.

6.5.1 KEY IMPACTS OF EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS

Since the start of the EIT Food KIC, over 200 education activities have reached over 320 000 learners in skills-based and MOOC courses and engaged over 17 500 farmers. In 2024, about 40 startups were created and over 200 startups received support in the form of training and/or talent.

MASTER'S IN FOOD SYSTEMS

The flagship EIT-labelled Master's in Food Systems programme is EIT Food's unique master's offering to develop top talent for the food sector. The programme is based on a combination of essential skills to become effective innovators and entrepreneurs in the food sector, along with key technical skills tailored to the individual career pathway of each student. The Master's in Food Systems programme is structurally distinct from what any of the universities are currently offering – and indeed unique for the sector and beyond. To date, the programme has resulted in 147 graduates, many of whom have joined startups as a career choice.

GLOBAL FOOD VENTURE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

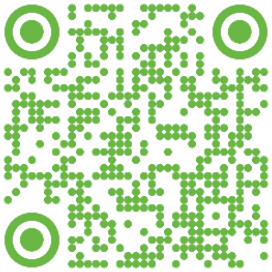
The EIT-labelled Global Food Venture Doctoral Programme fosters the development of a highly talented entrepreneurial talent pool in order to catalyse transformations in the agrifood sector in Europe. The model is complementary to existing doctoral programmes and has produced 250 alumni and over 20 startups.

EIT FOOD EDUCATION COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The EIT Food Education Competency Framework is a comprehensive model designed to equip professionals in the agrifood sector with the essential skills and knowledge needed to drive sustainable transformation within the food system. It outlines eight core competencies, each structured across four proficiency levels – from foundational understanding to the ability to inspire systemic change. Rooted in sustainability, the framework emphasises promoting healthier lives through food, striving for a net zero food system, and fostering a transparent, fair, and resilient food supply. By providing clear pathways for professional development, the framework supports individuals and organisations in advancing their careers and ensuring high-quality education in the agrifood industry.

INSPIRE PROGRAMME

The EIT Food Inspire Programme is a comprehensive initiative aimed at nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship within the agrifood sector. It offers a range of educational opportunities designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to drive sustainable transformation in the food system. The programme includes various courses and workshops that focus on different aspects of the food industry, encouraging participants to develop innovative solutions to current challenges.



SCAN. WATCH. BE INSPIRED.

The Inspire programmes aim to develop a new generation of entrepreneurs and innovators equipped to shape a new kind of innovative, resilient, and sustainable food system.

The Inspire summer schools and Food Solutions programmes are extracurricular CV builders for students, in which innovation, entrepreneurship, and food system science are central. To date, over 4 000 students have completed the programmes, and this has resulted in at least 18 startups.

EIT FOOD RIS FELLOWSHIPS

The EIT Food RIS Fellowships offer paid internships lasting three to six months for MSc students, graduates, and young entrepreneurs from EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) countries. Participants gain hands-on experience in the agri-food sector, enhancing skills such as analytical thinking, problem-solving, and communication. Interns are matched with host organisations across Europe, engaging in real-world projects and daily operations. The programme provides monthly scholarships ranging from €800 to €1 500, depending on the internship mode (online, hybrid, or onsite). Through this initiative, EIT Food aims to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in the agri-food industry by empowering young professionals from diverse backgrounds.

To date, over 500 fellows have completed a placement in industry or in a startup, spurring a wave of entrepreneurial innovations in their home countries.

GROW

GROW is a capacity-building programme supported by EIT Food that combines innovation with the knowledge and perceptions already held by farmers, offering a set of initiatives to empower farmers, producers, and agri-food professionals across Europe to move towards a sustainable and resilient food system. It focuses on digital technologies, circular economy, and regenerative agriculture.

To date, over 17 500 farmers have been engaged through the programme. For youth, the annual hackathon and collection of youth programmes have engaged over 20 000 young people in skill-building and demonstrating career opportunities in the food system.

6.5.2 FOOD EDUCATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD

With the Draghi, Heitor and Letta reports and the EU Competitiveness Compass all positioning skills as a crucial issue for innovation and competitiveness, the outlook for EIT Food Education is to significantly scale impact and reach. The ambition is to train 1% of the entire workforce working across the food system in key underpinning skills over the next seven years.

The main delivery mechanism for this will be the establishment of three EU Skills Academies in response to the Union of Skills policy. Each of the three Academies will train 100 000 learners in the European geographical space; another 200 000 learners will be trained in parts of the food system not covered by the Academies, across Europe and key countries supplying food to Europe. In total, the target is to train 500 000 individuals by the end of 2031.

The EIT Food Skills Academies will be announced in 2025 and will cover the following sectors:

- Resilient Agriculture Academy – responding to a strong industry and policy drive to modernise the agricultural sector;
- Biotechnology Academy – responding specifically to the Commission's identification of biotech as a critical technology, as per the STEP platform.

6.5.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON)

Eleni Ntokou, a molecular biologist by training, made a significant career shift from academia to industry, stepping into a management role at Unibio, a company pioneering sustainable protein solutions. To strengthen her leadership capabilities – especially as she returned to work following maternity leave – Eleni joined EIT Food's WE Lead Food and NPD Skills programmes. These initiatives are designed to empower professionals in the agri-food sector with practical leadership, innovation, and product development skills. Today, Eleni leads a cross-functional team, applying her skills to foster collaboration and sustainable innovation, illustrating the value of targeted professional development and the importance of supporting women in science-driven industries.

Isa Entenmann, a graduate of the innovative EIT-labelled Master's in Food Systems (MFS) programme at the University of Hohenheim, successfully transitioned from nutritional science to food innovation. The programme's interdisciplinary approach – spanning R&D, technology, law and agriculture – broadened her expertise and led her to join Viva la Faba, a Stuttgart startup creating plant-based cheese from organic faba beans and itself an outcome of EIT Food's education programme Food Solutions. As an Innovation Expert, Isa drives R&D, product optimisation and recipe development while also contributing to business development and

marketing. Her journey, alongside Viva la Faba's growth, illustrates how EIT Food Education empowers professionals with the skills and mindset to advance sustainable food ventures.

Miguel Molina Romero's path from telecommunications engineer in Spain to CTO and co-founder of Orbem highlights the transformative power of interdisciplinary innovation. After exploring MRI during his master's in telemedicine and bioengineering and PhD in neuroimaging at the Technical University of Munich, he recognised its potential when combined with artificial intelligence for industrial use. Joining EIT Food's Global Food Venture Programme in 2018 gave him crucial entrepreneurial skills, and in 2019 he co-founded Orbem with Pedro Gómez and Maria Laparidou. Their flagship product, Genus, allows hatcheries to determine the sex of an egg in under a second, tackling chick culling — a major ethical and environmental challenge. With over 45 million eggs scanned, €30 million in funding, and support from EIT Food's business creation services, including the Food Accelerator Network and Access2Finance, Orbem has grown to a team of 100 and is now scaling its AI-driven MRI technology beyond poultry to advance a more sustainable food system.

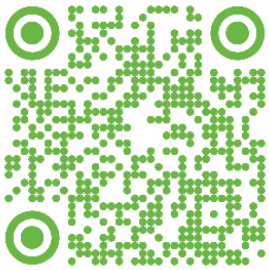
6.5.4 FEATURED EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

PROJECT NAME	EIT Food Learning Services and EIT Food Assessment
Duration	The project began in 2018 and is ongoing.
List of Partners / Details of Collaboration	The EIT Food Learning Services consortium brings together leading organisations from across Europe. EIT Food ivzw (Belgium) oversees the overall strategy, alignment with the Pact for Skills in Agrifood, and manages marketing, operations, and financial sustainability. Fraunhofer FIT (Germany) developed the EIT Food Assessment infrastructure and manages independent certification. The University of Reading (UK) contributed to its design and operations and accredits course providers. The University of Turin (Italy) leads programme design and implementation, ensuring sector expertise and addressing RIS country needs.
Project Overview and EIT KIC Contribution	The EIT Food Professional Education & Assessment system is a strategic initiative to meet the evolving needs of the European agrifood sector. It offers a robust framework to build and recognise competencies, developing a skilled workforce ready to tackle climate change, resource scarcity, and sustainability. The system gives professionals clear pathways to demonstrate essential skills for innovation and entrepreneurship, while also supporting HR practices.
Key Results and Impact	Specific results include: • The system provided the model for the extension of the EIT Label for non-degree programmes and set the gold standard for course accreditation.

	• Since 2023, 70 courses have been accredited, resulting in more than 15 000 learners completing an EIT-labelled course or programme. In addition, 294 learners have received a certificate through the independent certification system.
Testimonials	*'I really found that the skills that I learned in a formal sense via this course – I could apply those directly to the area of work that I'm in at PepsiCo, which is global regulations. EIT Food was able to provide a lot of benefit to PepsiCo, and to me personally, in learning about these concepts in a more formal setting, that also provided a qualification at the end.'* – Alan Barry, Director, Regulatory Affairs, PepsiCo R&D
Further Information	EIT Food Learning Services platform (EIT Food) EIT Food Assessment and Certification System (EIT Food) Case Study – EIT Food Professional Education & Certification System (EIT, 2023, PDF)

6.6 EIT MANUFACTURING

EIT Manufacturing aspires to be Europe's catalyst for manufacturing innovation by equipping a highly skilled and adaptable workforce. It addresses critical skills gaps, supports the green and digital transitions, and drives industrial competitiveness across strategic manufacturing sectors in Europe – with particular attention to RIS countries.



SCAN. WATCH. BE INSPIRED.

EIT Manufacturing's strategy is centred on delivering agile, high-impact academic and non-degree training programmes, developing innovation and entrepreneurship capabilities, and strengthening industry–academia collaboration. The KIC balances academic and market-driven learning through a blend of digital, green, and human-centric curricula, while fostering a pan-European talent pool via its EITM Academy, Alumni network, and diverse partnerships.

By transitioning from a centralised to a decentralised model, EIT Manufacturing is scaling its reach through local ecosystems and enhancing flexibility in delivery. Key priorities include launching project-based blended training, expanding its network of training providers, and implementing pre-acceleration programmes to support startup development. The Community's performance is guided by KPIs and strategic alignment with EITM's goals, while a robust impact framework is in development to further support evidence-based decision-making and long-term sustainability.

6.6.1 KEY IMPACTS OF EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS

EIT-LABELLED EDUCATION & TRAINING OFFERINGS

EIT Manufacturing now offers 24 non-degree EIT-labelled courses, with this number steadily growing. A pilot of a non-degree labelled programme was successfully executed, engaging over 1 500 participants and resulting in 38 new labelled tracks being added to the EITM non-degree portfolio.

Currently, 24 of these labelled tracks are available through the the EITM Academy platform – representing 17% of all non-degree courses hosted online. An additional 14 labelled tracks are delivered outside the platform.

EIT MANUFACTURING ACADEMY

The upgraded EITM Academy is now fully operational and publicly accessible to learners, professionals, and companies across Europe and beyond. As the largest online learning and training platform in the manufacturing sector, the EITM Academy offers a comprehensive portfolio that combines asynchronous online modules with live, blended learning sessions. In 2024 alone, over 200 new lessons were added, and more than 35 800 lessons were consumed – a clear indicator of growing learner engagement and market relevance. The platform currently features 209 curated learning paths, addressing both technical and transversal skills gaps, and directly supporting the upskilling and reskilling needs of the industry. This strong uptake confirms the Academy's strategic positioning and paves the way for its full-scale launch and promotional campaign in April 2025.

MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL SCHOOLS

The Master's School reached a record-breaking 540+ applicants for the 2024–2026 cohort, while three new HEIs are expected to join in 2025. The Doctoral School currently supports a final cohort of 13 candidates, aimed at piloting an EIT-labelled non-degree modular science-to-market support programme to foster startup creation. Online engagement surged: website traffic doubled (+86.9% in unique views) and social media audiences expanded (1 900+ LinkedIn followers, high post engagement, and a newly launched Instagram). In total, EITM has, as of December 2024, six PhD and 59 MA graduates.

TEACHING FACTORIES COMPETITION

In 2024 EIT Manufacturing launched Teaching Factories Competition Deep Tech edition, catalysing real-world impact: a student-founded startup emerged from the winning team, and the second-placed team continued working supported by prize funding from the industrial partner. This successful format is set to expand in the future.

SPRING, SUMMER, AND WINTER SCHOOLS

EIT Manufacturing also organises a series of seasonal hackathons, which are intensive educational experiences designed to engage students, young professionals, and industry experts in cutting-edge manufacturing topics.

- Spring School focuses on manufacturing trends and innovations in fields like advanced materials, sustainable manufacturing practices, and digitalisation. It provides participants with valuable insights into emerging technologies and sustainable practices shaping the future of the sector.
- Summer School offers a more comprehensive, hands-on approach to learning, where participants dive deep into manufacturing technologies and the implementation of innovation in real-world industrial settings. The Summer School is aligned with the Master's School's curriculum and includes project-based learning, industrial visits, and direct interaction with experts.

- Winter School is aimed at fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration. It focuses on combining technical knowledge with entrepreneurial skills. It emphasises the application of innovation in manufacturing processes, providing students with the opportunity to create prototypes and solutions for contemporary industry challenges.

ENTREPRENEURIAL OUTCOMES

Education KPIs saw strong performance in 2024 with 1 960 non-degree participants and 594 graduates from EIT-labelled programmes (39 at Master's/PhD level). Notably, four startups were founded by learners: two from non-degree programmes (Textilloop, SUS4.0), one from the Doctoral School (TutelEdge OÜ), and one from the Master's School (Becary Academy).

6.6.2 MANUFACTURING EDUCATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD

EIT Manufacturing's education strategy for the upcoming years is designed to accelerate Europe's manufacturing innovation by developing competitive skills, supporting societal and financial sustainability, and expanding access to EIT-labelled programmes. A cornerstone of this strategy is the EIT Manufacturing Academy – a comprehensive digital platform offering blended, action-based learning formats. Strategic priorities include integrating previously developed content into the non-degree EIT-labelled portfolio, strengthening engagement channels, and launching sustainable business models for lifelong learning.

The Education Department will continue advancing targeted upskilling and reskilling for a broad spectrum of learners – from vocational students and university graduates to professionals in SMEs and large companies. Initiatives such as the Lifelong Learning for Competitive Manufacturing call aim to engage over 1 000 participants, with at least 15% from RIS countries per year. A growing emphasis is placed on project-based learning, pre-acceleration activities, and aligning education offerings with industry needs and EU priorities to ensure relevance and measurable impact.

Looking ahead, the strategy will increasingly focus on a 'science-to-market' approach – empowering students and researchers to transform ideas into viable startups, while also equipping them with entrepreneurial and intrapreneurial mindsets. A transition to decentralised delivery models, supported by local ecosystems and diverse partnerships, will enhance flexibility and scalability. The further development of its competency framework and quality assurance system will underpin quality and enable expansion, while inclusiveness efforts will continue to drive gender balance, attract learners to manufacturing topics, and support under-represented groups in manufacturing.

6.6.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON)

From graduate to founder, Fabrizio Valdivia, an alumnus of the EIT-labelled MA programme 'Zero Defect Manufacture for a Circular Economy', founded Becary in Bolivia – a platform connecting European and Latin American students with academic programmes and scholarship mentorship – demonstrating EITM's role in fostering entrepreneurial impact.

EIT Manufacturing Master's School students have earned significant recognition:

Miran Shirwan Zyad Ghafoori, also from the 'Additive Manufacturing for Full Flexibility' programme, won the Young Manufacturing Leaders Thematic Case Study Award at the World Manufacturing Forum for his work on preparing manufacturing leaders for social and environmental challenges.

Julian Wesch, a graduate of the 'Zero Defect Manufacture for a Circular Economy' programme (University College Dublin & Aalto University, 2022–2024), leveraged his EITM education to secure a role as analyst at McKinsey & Company.

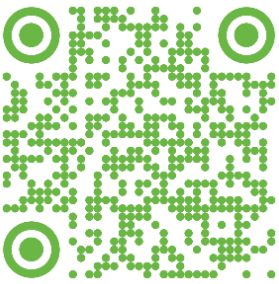
6.6.4 FEATURED EDUCATION PROJECT

PROJECT NAME	TEACHING FACTORIES COMPETITION
Duration	The project has a duration of three months.
List of Partners / Details of Collaboration	Participants (in 2024 edition): Pannon Business Network Association (Hungary), KATTY FASHION S.R.L (Romania), Istya (France), Aleistyn LLC (Ukraine), Is CLEAN AIR Italia S.r.l. (Italy), Prostoria d.o.o. (Croatia), Consorzio Intellimech (Italy), Laboratory for Manufacturing Systems & Automation – Patras University (Greece), University of Zagreb Faculty of Textile Technology (Croatia), National University of Water and Environmental Engineering (NUWEE)
Project Overview and EIT KIC Contribution	The Teaching Factories Competition (TFC) bridges universities, Vocational Education and Training (VET) institutions, and industry to foster real-world, challenge-based learning, where companies present manufacturing challenges and student teams co-develop innovative solutions through structured training and collaboration. This hands-on approach equips students with entrepreneurial and soft skills while offering industries fresh ideas and future talent.
Key Results and Impact	The Teaching Factories Competition (TFC) strengthens industry–academia collaboration, addressing skills shortages and enhancing students' practical experience, employability and entrepreneurial mindset. Through hands-on learning, structured training and guidance, the Teaching Factories Competition prepares students for careers in intrapreneurship and entrepreneurship, while helping companies improve manufacturing processes and products. The last two editions demonstrated strong replicability across the EIT Manufacturing community, engaging multiple solver teams of students and companies. TFC's low-cost, high-impact model drives business development, innovation in education and Europe's industrial transformation.
Testimonials	*'The Teaching Factories Competition was a game-changer for my students. They gained hands-on experience, tackled real industry challenges, and developed innovative solutions that directly benefited companies. The collaboration between academia and industry creates a unique learning environment that prepares students for real-world careers'.* – Professor Panagiotis Stavropoulos, Laboratory for Manufacturing Systems and Automation, University of Patras.

	'The competition gave me the confidence to apply my skills in a real-world setting. Working directly with industry professionals and academic mentors helped me grow as an engineer and an entrepreneur. I now feel more prepared to pursue innovative projects and contribute to the future of manufacturing'. – Niko Bucalo, Founder of Textiloop and former Solver Team participant *'This initiative has already shown potential benefits by addressing critical challenges within our operations while contributing to operators' wellbeing. It sets a strong precedent for future collaborations between academia and industry, where mutual growth and innovation can thrive'.* – Alissa Zaccaria, EU Project Manager at Consorzio Intellimech *'The Teaching Factories Competition provided an excellent creative environment where we could work with students to test and explore the potential of AI in the fabric-quality control area'.* – Alexandra Popa, Business Development Consultant at Katty Fashion.
Further Information	Teaching Factories Competition 2025 – Call for Solver Teams (EIT Manufacturing) Teaching Factories Competition 2025 – Call for Industrial Challenge Owners (EIT Manufacturing) Student Solutions for Intellimech – Teaching Factories Competition (EIT Manufacturing, 2024) Startup Success: Textiloop Closes the Loop on Textile Waste (EIT Manufacturing, 2024) Teaching Factories Competition: Enhancing Industry–Academia Collaboration (EIT Manufacturing, 2024) AI-Enhanced Fabric Quality Control Prototype by Students at Katty Fashion (EIT Manufacturing, 2024) Double Degree Master's Studies – Fabrizio Valdivia's Experience (Aalto University, 2024) Textiloop – Official Website

6.7 EIT URBAN MOBILITY

EIT Urban Mobility's mission is to accelerate the transformation towards sustainable mobility and more liveable urban spaces. The EIT Urban Mobility Academy aims to close the knowledge gap related to the transformation of the urban mobility system and focuses on three main areas: implementation of new technology; entrepreneurship and innovation; and change and transformation management. The long-term aim is to develop the EIT Urban Mobility Academy into a top-of-mind, financially sustainable education and training provider within the urban mobility sector. These education activities are intertwined with – and support – the two other main pillars of EIT Urban Mobility: Innovation and Impact Ventures.



SCAN. WATCH. BE INSPIRED.

6.7.1 KEY IMPACTS OF EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS

The EIT Urban Mobility Academy is organised based on its main programmes: Academic Programmes, including the Master's School and Doctoral Training Network; Competence Hub, the Professional school including a wide variety of formats and topics; and Education Capacity Building, focusing on Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) and cross-KIC activities together with other KICs.

EIT URBAN MOBILITY ACADEMY

Activities started in 2020, including the launch of the Master's School and the Doctoral School. The Master's School will have its sixth cohort starting in autumn 2025. The Doctoral Training Network has passed 100 PhD candidates enrolled, and the Competence Hub has surpassed 100 courses and 35 000 learners. In addition, EIT Urban Mobility has hosted 50 universities in the EIT Higher Education Initiative (EIT HEI) capacity building activities and launched and supported a large number of RIS education and cross-KIC activities.

Over the last five years, the EIT Urban Mobility Academy has generated significant impact – both in terms of the number of educated learners and EIT-labelled graduates, and in terms of actual change on the ground. While the first is easy to measure, the latter is illustrated here with some examples.

EIT URBAN MOBILITY MASTER'S SCHOOL

The EIT Urban Mobility Master's School was launched in 2020 and has since been running two EIT-labelled programmes – Sustainable Urban Mobility Transitions and Smart Mobility Data Science & Analytics – with 200 enrolled students to date. The majority of graduates have been employed by the time of graduation.

EIT URBAN MOBILITY DOCTORAL TRAINING NETWORK

The EIT Urban Mobility Doctoral Training Network (DTN) has so far enrolled 110 PhD candidates from 15 different universities across Europe, of whom 20 have graduated. As part of the DTN activities, EIT Urban Mobility in 2022 launched the Journal of Urban Mobility together with Elsevier to better bridge research and business by promoting cross-disciplinary research across urban mobility-related disciplines. This peer-reviewed academic journal has already achieved a 2.7 impact factor, over 85 000 downloads, and has 56 editors across 23 countries.

START FOR FUTURE COMMUNITY

EIT Urban Mobility is one of the founders of the cooperative Start For Future Community (SFF), initiated by partners Hochshule München and Strascheg Center for Entrepreneurship. SFF is a network of organisations and individuals focused on student startup creation and incubation. SFF generates and supports about 150 startups annually. This is a strong example of an education and student-based business creation initiative bridging the gap between academia and business. Since its inception, SFF has been well recognised and has received a number of awards, such as the International Chamber of Commerce Startup Ecosystem Stars award in 2024.

URBAN MOBILITY CONSULTANCY

Another EIT Urban Mobility example of closing the gap between research and industry is the Urban Mobility Consultancy. Based on the Doctoral Training Network's activities, a pool of around 60 PhD candidate consultants has been created. The consultancy currently has about 15 clients and is growing fast. PhD candidates are offered the opportunity to work part-time on projects in smaller tech companies, thereby giving these organisations access to niche tech competence in a convenient and flexible way. This provides the PhD candidates with valuable real-world job experience and exposes their talent to companies – companies that would otherwise struggle to acquire this type of very specialised skill and knowledge.

EIT EDTECH CONFERENCE

In addition to offering courses and programmes, EIT Urban Mobility has also initiated the annual EIT EdTech Conference. Edtech is critical for meeting the increasing demands for upskilling and reskilling, and also serves as a strong complement and support to any education and training. However, the technology and its application are still far from reaching their full potential. The EIT EdTech Conference brings together all relevant European stakeholders to discuss and launch initiatives to further develop the area. The 2025 conference will be held in Brussels on 30 October.

CITIZENS ON THE MOVE

The Citizens on the Move training programme, offered by EIT Urban Mobility, is designed to empower civil servants with the necessary skills and tools to effectively engage citizens in urban mobility decisions. The programme combines online modules with an in-person site visit to Rotterdam, focusing on co-creation techniques, communication strategies, and evaluation tools. Participants also apply their learning to a real-life case study from their own city. It has trained over 40 civil servants in two years and is expected to expand cohort sizes.

6.7.2 URBAN MOBILITY EDUCATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD

Given the rapid development in the urban mobility sector – driven by the demand for safe and sustainable solutions, digitalisation, better use of public space, and already high levels of urbanisation – there is increasing demand for education and training. This applies both to academic programmes (with new ones expected in areas such as autonomous vehicles and sustainable urban planning) and to lifelong learning,

upskilling and reskilling in a wide range of urban mobility-related topics. The transformation of the automotive sector is a recent example of this trend.

Over its first five years, EIT Urban Mobility has launched and established Academy programmes (Master's School and Doctoral Training Network), a professional lifelong learning school (UMX), and initiated, launched or supported a number of Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) and cross-KIC initiatives (e.g. EIT Campus, EdTech Conference, HEI Initiative, etc.). These collectively create a solid platform for future expansion to meet the educational and training needs of the urban mobility field.

EIT Urban Mobility will, going forward, both expand current activities and launch new initiatives to address the needs of currently underserved segments. In particular, these include initiatives on:

- research to business, through the creation of a Student Venture Builder – aiming to facilitate student startup creation while addressing gaps in emerging value chains or networks;
- talent to business, by further expanding the successful pilot of the Urban Mobility Consultancy – providing students with real on-the-job experience while embedding critical competence in startups, scale-ups and SMEs, and facilitating recruitment of niche tech talent;
- Vocational Education and Training (VET), by establishing an initiative that combines existing urban mobility-related VET programmes with innovation and entrepreneurship skills;
- the European City Academy (ECA), launching a pilot in 2026 to support cities in addressing skills gaps required for achieving carbon neutrality. ECA has the long-term objective of training 10 000 people at executive management level and 100 000 city officials.

6.7.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON)

EIT URBAN MOBILITY MASTER'S SCHOOL

Axel Rimbaud enrolled in EIT Urban Mobility's Master's in Sustainable Urban Mobility Transitions in 2021 with a specific goal in mind. Already on a mission to reduce speed-related traffic fatalities in Chile through his NGO Movimiento contra el Exceso de velocidad Letal, he wanted to raise the game of his technical and leadership skills to achieve a wider environmental and societal impact.

UMX E-COURSES

From the start of the EIT Urban Mobility Academy in 2020, the importance of online material and e-courses was acknowledged – further emphasised by the impact of the pandemic, which restricted movement and gatherings in the same year that EIT Urban Mobility was launched. The online courses built on the success and visibility generated through the highly successful UMX video channel – an initiative and collaboration with Passion Digital, which was awarded at the BIMA Awards in 2024. From the start, over 50 e-courses have been launched with a large number of contributors and partners, and the community of learners now exceeds 35 000. Six courses have been awarded at the LearnX Awards in 2022, 2023 and 2024. These courses cover urban mobility topics related to areas such as real estate, walkability, ageing populations, the New European Bauhaus, liveability, and reintroducing nature into the city.

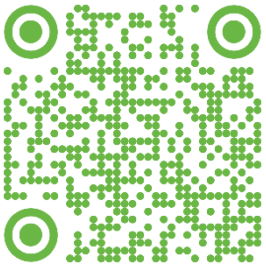
These e-courses have the majority of learners across Europe, but they also serve as another good example of how the European model and experiences are recognised and can be inspiring globally.

6.7.4 FEATURED EDUCATION PROJECT

PROJECT NAME	URBAN MOBILITY EXPLAINED
Duration	The Urban Mobility Explained video channel started in 2022.
List of Partners / Details of Collaboration	The UMX video channel fully utilises the vast partner network of EIT Urban Mobility, comprising more than 300 partners and beyond. For each video produced, several key stakeholders are engaged.
Project Overview and EIT KIC Contribution	Urban mobility is a topic engaging all Europeans living in cities – around 70% of the total European population. Among them, millions are professionals within the transport sector, working with urban planning, logistics and other urban-related topics. At the EIT Urban Mobility Academy, the challenge of reaching such a wide and diverse audience was recognised and initially seemed an almost impossible task. Another key issue identified was the lack of a common understanding and language when discussing and jointly addressing the barriers to transformation – given that this demands intensive dialogue across several disciplines. A video channel raising awareness of the issues to tackle and generating common references appeared to be a potential solution. In August 2022, the UMX video channel on YouTube was launched – initially with a video every week, later maintaining a frequency of one video every second week. The aim was to create the main channel for urban mobility topics and an engaged community. The target was set to reach half a million views annually within five years
Key Results and Impact	The UMX video channel now encompasses close to 200 videos and has nearly 30 000 subscribers. Growth in terms of views has already gone far beyond the initial target – and to date, in less than three years, the total number of views has reached nearly 6 million. In addition, being a fully digital service, the channel provides valuable data regarding which topics are particularly in focus, and where. This data feeds into education and training planning – such as what courses to develop, for which target groups, and in which geographies. The channel has also clearly built awareness of EIT Urban Mobility and the EIT Urban Mobility Academy as a knowledge hub within the urban mobility ecosystem in Europe and beyond.
Further Information	EIT Urban Mobility profile on All Things Urban Urban Mobility Explained YouTube channel EIT Urban Mobility – UMX LinkedIn showcase page

6.8 CLIMATE KIC

For years, Climate KIC (formerly EIT Climate-KIC) has empowered groups and individuals to tackle tough climate challenges. It does this by boosting skills, connections, and opportunities, often using systems thinking – a way of understanding how different parts of a problem interact.



SCAN. WATCH. BE INSPIRED.

Climate KIC works with key organisations in regions, cities, and businesses, like government ministries, local councils, and development agencies. Through its place-based innovation model, Climate KIC brings these groups together to create widespread change and build real climate actions on the ground. It learns and gathers valuable insights from these efforts using its unique learning-by-doing approach and advanced sensemaking methodology. Climate KIC captures the insights, learning, and knowledge generated from the education interventions and transformations, scaling them up to create widespread ripple effects and accelerate transformation across more places and industries.

6.8.1 KEY IMPACTS OF EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS

Climate KIC has evolved its learning and capacity-building efforts to equip leaders, organisations, and communities with the skills needed to drive systemic climate transformation. This has transitioned from standalone training programmes to an integrated, multi-level approach, ensuring that learning is embedded within governance, business, and education systems. Climate KIC's learning programmes are now structured into four core areas:

1. Climate KIC Academy
2. Learning Partnerships
3. Educational Institutions
4. Embedded Learning

CLIMATE KIC ACADEMY

Over half of the global workforce lacks the necessary green skills for a sustainable transition to the green economy. Drawing on its 15 years of experience from delivering over 100 green transition programmes in Europe and beyond, Climate KIC launched the Climate KIC Academy to address the gaps in leadership skills needed for the transition to the green economy. The Climate KIC Academy addresses this challenge by integrating technical green skills with transversal leadership capabilities–ensuring that sustainability efforts are not just understood but effectively led.

Climate KIC Academy serves as a central hub for entrepreneurship, innovation, leadership training and systems innovation. It provides public and private sector leaders and individuals with real-time, hands-on development and innovation skills tailored to their green sustainability ambitions. Climate solutions can't thrive without people who know how to collaborate across sectors, navigate entrenched power dynamics, and inspire action at all levels of society.

The Climate KIC Academy was created to bridge both parts of the gap. The programme integrates technical knowledge with the essential transversal skills that are often overlooked. It prepares individuals not just to understand the challenges but to lead through them – bringing together policy, industry, technology, and grassroots action to accelerate meaningful change.

LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS

Climate KIC has established Systems Innovation Learning Partnerships (SILP) to mainstream systems thinking and climate innovation within governments, organisations, and communities.

The SILP is designed and delivered by Climate KIC in cooperation with the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) to build partnering organisations' capacities for knowledge transfer and collaboration – addressing power inequalities when working with people in the Global South.

As a community of learners, SILP brings together international partners, stakeholders, and community members in a coordinated learning programme that fosters peer-to-peer coaching, the sharing of knowledge and insights, and the funding of grassroots experiments through an innovative participatory grant-making model.

Climate KIC invites leaders in international development, community development, and civil society to join the SILP programme as partners – to strengthen and evolve their capacities to empower the Global South through community learning and participatory grant-making. These partnerships help integrate systemic climate knowledge into local, national, and regional governance structures – ensuring that decision-makers are equipped to navigate the complexities of climate change.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Climate KIC has actively collaborated with universities and research institutions to transform higher education into a driver of climate action – actively participating in different EIT Community initiatives as well as Climate KIC's Journey programme and summer schools. These programmes have been supported by different funders and are developed and delivered in collaboration with education institutions – to ensure that future generations of climate leaders and entrepreneurs are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and networks to drive systemic climate action. They aim to strengthen the European innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem through learning, keeping a multi-disciplinary and collaborative angle between programmes and KICs at the core.

EMBEDDED LEARNING PROGRAMMES

Climate KIC has adopted a systems-level approach to education by embedding climate-focused capacity-building initiatives directly within broader policy and industrial transformation processes. This approach is exemplified through its collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in the development of the Climate Adaptation Innovation and Learning project – presented by UNIDO and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which is being implemented in collaboration with Climate KIC, the Global Adaptation and Resilience Investment Working Group (GARI), and the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI). This project accelerates innovation and private sector engagement in climate change adaptation by creating a unique knowledge-sharing platform and establishing three Communities of Practice (on investment funds; micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) incubation and acceleration; and climate change adaptation measures).

At the regional and municipal level, Climate KIC has initiated targeted learning programmes to foster systemic climate literacy. In Slovenia, the Climate Coaching for Teachers (Slovenia) programme adapts the Young Innovators methodology – to train educators in delivering climate education through a systemic lens. Similarly, in Bulgaria, the Climate Change Académie embeds climate education into university curricula using a challenge-based learning approach – equipping students to address real-world climate issues through interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation.

6.8.2 CLIMATE EDUCATION OUTLOOK: THE YEARS AHEAD

The green transition is not moving fast enough. Right now, only one in eight workers has the green skills needed to drive the transition to a safe and just future where we live within planetary boundaries. This skills gap is holding humanity back and slowing down the progress we so urgently need. Without the right people equipped to lead the necessary changes – across industries and sectors – we are going to see delays and our future put at risk.

Climate KIC envisions a global network of individuals identifying as climate leaders – who inspire action and build supportive partnerships to address the urgent challenges that societies are facing. Through collective effort, it is possible to reshape how people live, work and innovate to sustain both humanity and the planet.

It is easy to feel concerned by everything going on in society – but it is vital for all to continue learning how to work together effectively in the face of structural challenges. Otherwise, we cannot create change.

Climate KIC does not simply teach the 'how' of climate solutions – it equips participants with the 'why' and 'who' by cultivating collaboration, systems thinking and the ability to inspire action across industries, communities and governments. The community's holistic approach ensures that participants leave with practical skills, a global perspective and the confidence to tackle entrenched challenges.

6.8.3 SUCCESS STORIES (INCLUDING AWARDS WON)

CLIMATE KIC ACADEMY AND SILP

'Participating in the Climate KIC Academy was a valuable opportunity to rethink governance and build a long-term climate strategy through collaboration. Analysing environmental issues and integrating practical tools acquired during the training provides a foundation for developing a long-term climate neutrality strategy.' – Rivne's Deputy Mayor, Artem Hanushchak, highlighted the Climate KIC Academy Ukraine pilot's impact

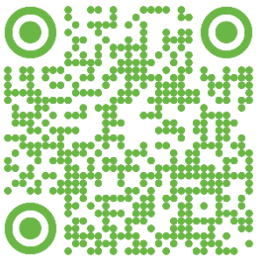
6.8.4. FEATURED EDUCATION PROJECT

PROJECT NAME	CLIMATE KIC ACADEMY: J-STARX CLEANTECH JOURNEY
Duration	2024-2025
List of Partners / Details of Collaboration	The programme was funded by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), which supported preparatory meetings and joined the three-week European phase. Deloitte Tohmatsu Venture Support (DTVS) partnered by facilitating collaboration with JETRO, contributing to programme delivery, and also joining the overseas phase.

Project Overview and EIT KIC Contribution	As part of the Climate KIC Academy, this blended programme that built climate leadership skills to close the green skills gap. It empowered students and professionals from diverse backgrounds to navigate complex systems and drive change through entrepreneurship. The curriculum combined innovation, leadership and systems transformation with experiential and contextualised learning. Participants developed entrepreneurial mindsets through reflection, coaching and practical business tools, strengthening their confidence in leadership, decision-making, financial modelling and market analysis. Visits to Station F in Paris and Climate House, alongside networking with EIT Alumni and startups, further connected participants to Europe's innovation ecosystem.
Key Results and Impact	Key results: ▪ increased confidence and climate leadership skills ▪ enhanced communication clarity ▪ broadened perspectives and emotional intelligence The programme strengthened business acumen through financial modelling, market analysis and scalability, while enhancing communication and collaboration for stronger networks and impact.
Testimonials	'*Partnering with Climate KIC was an outstanding experience for Deloitte Tohmatsu Venture Support. The Climate KIC team members offered a wide range of recommendations to the Japanese participants, leveraging their extensive network within the climate tech community.'* – Ryo Tokoshima, DTVS (partner)
Further Information	J-Startup/J-STARX – support for Japanese entrepreneurs (JETRO) Yusuke Nagao on Japanese cleantech entrepreneurs in Europe (LinkedIn, 2025) Climate-KIC on cleantech entrepreneurship and innovation (LinkedIn, 2025) Japanese entrepreneur's cleantech journey in Europe (Note, 2024)

6.9 EIT CULTURE & CREATIVITY

Founded in 2023, EIT Culture & Creativity is the latest Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC), supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). By fostering interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaboration in education, innovation and business creation, EIT Culture & Creativity addresses key societal and economic challenges within the sector. It unlocks the innovative potential of Europe's fragmented Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI), unleashing their untapped societal impact and contributing to Europe's triple transition – green, digital and social – while accelerating competitive and resilient cultural and creative entrepreneurship.



TAP. WATCH. BE INSPIRED.

6.9.1. EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

The EIT Culture & Creativity education strategy seeks to future-proof students and professionals within the CCSI by equipping them with entrepreneurial and cross-disciplinary skills essential for the green and digital transitions. This strategy is designed to foster a more resilient EU CCSI with enhanced competitiveness and growth. By 2027, the KIC will have trained over 3 360 learners; at least 972 will have obtained new entrepreneurial skills, and 32 startups will have been created.

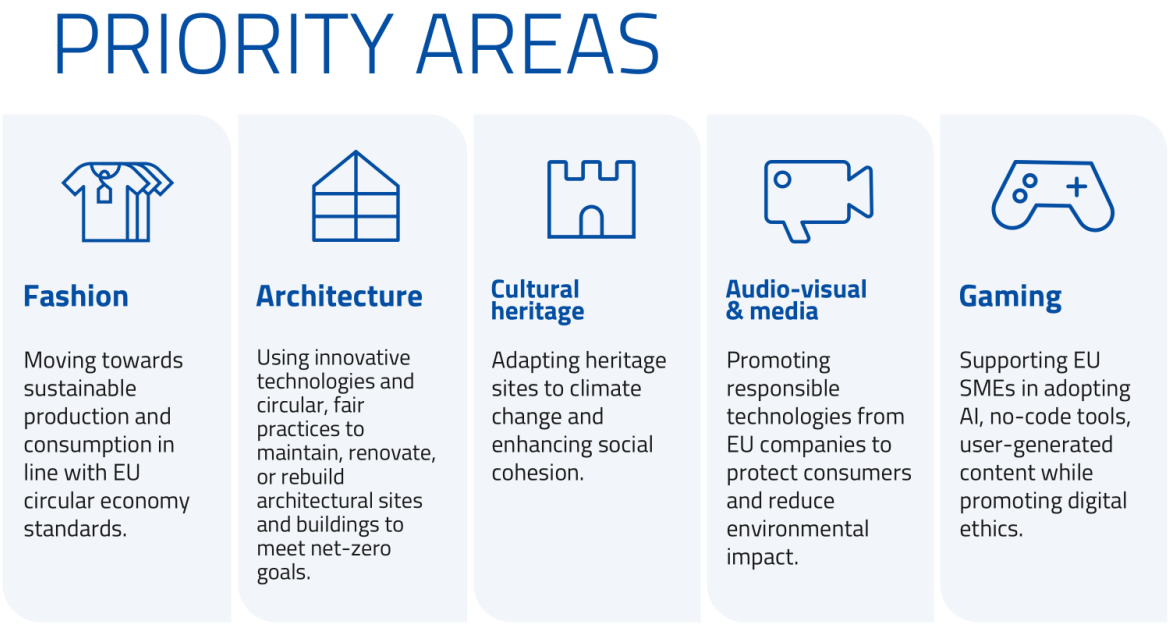
The EIT Culture & Creativity education portfolio fosters innovation and entrepreneurial capacity within and beyond the cultural and creative sectors, industries and higher education – promoting sustainability, circular practices and responsible economic growth. It enhances regional innovation through the RIS and is building a strong alumni network to support career advancement and deliver high-quality, relevant educational experiences in line with EIT Label standards.

DEGREE AND NON-DEGREE COURSES

A key component of the EIT Culture & Creativity education strategy is the development and delivery of both EIT-labelled and regular (non-labelled) education and training programmes through open calls. These programmes encompass degree (Master's, PhD) and non-degree courses, including lifelong learning, continuous professional development (CPD), and vocational training.

In 2025, the KIC intends to fund up to five EIT-labelled Master's and PhD modules across its five priority areas (architecture, audiovisual media, cultural heritage, fashion and gaming), and an additional transversal Master's/PhD module in Emerging Technologies for CCSI, which integrates AI, AR or VR for skill development, cross-sector collaboration and innovative creative processes, while addressing ethical, privacy and societal implications.

Addressing skills gaps in entrepreneurship across EIT Culture & Creativity's five priority areas – fashion, architecture, audiovisual media, cultural heritage and gaming – and supported by three additional transversal courses, namely Entrepreneurship & Creative Thinking, Entrepreneurship & Emerging Technologies and Youth Entrepreneurship, the 2025 call for CPD courses creates a workforce ready to lead Europe's creative industries into a sustainable, competitive future. Education and training on cross-cutting and interdisciplinary skills related to the green transition, circularity and social transformation will be reflected in every project.



Eleven new EIT-labelled CPD programmes will be funded and are expected to apply for the EIT Label in 2025, leading to at least 114 graduates, of whom 34 or more will be from RIS countries. These EIT-labelled courses are professionally ambitious and integrate technical expertise, entrepreneurial competencies and sustainable practices. They align with EIT Label standards and principles, contributing the best CCSI practices for sector-specific and cross-disciplinary applications. For example, one EIT-labelled CPD course topic (Course 3) focuses on Entrepreneurship & Sustainable Architecture: circular design, bio-based materials and climate-resilient urban planning – promoting sustainable practices and entrepreneurial ventures in a discipline that has been slow to embrace entrepreneurship.

In addition, seven new, regular (non-labelled) CPD programmes will be funded in 2025, targeting 1 000 graduates, including 300 from RIS countries. These courses will address specific and immediate skills gaps and emerging industry needs within the CCSI through a flexible design, supporting rapid upskilling and reskilling. For example, one regular CPD course targets the impact of climate change and environmental challenges in architecture, focusing on areas like eco-friendly design solutions and circular practices.

In addition to being an active member of the HEI and the EIT Community Strategic Education Cluster, EIT Culture & Creativity is also funding five scholarships for the Human Computer Interaction and Design (HCID) Master's programme offered by 28DIGITAL. Combining face-to-face workshops, group activities and hands-on learning, the programme equips students with key skills for careers in open innovation and technology. As interface design is a feature of several creative disciplines such as music, gaming, textiles and architecture, the initiative is a first step towards further collaboration on 28DIGITAL's HCID Master's programme. This reflects EIT Culture & Creativity's commitment to cross-KIC collaboration – advancing a STEAM-driven approach to innovation.

THE EUROPEAN CRAFTS ACADEMY

By 2026, the EIT Culture & Creativity education portfolio will expand to include a CCSI members' venture – the European Crafts Academy. This initiative aims to address the critical challenges and unlock the untapped potential of Europe's craft sector by fostering innovation, education and business development.

The initiative builds upon and extends existing craft education, research, business and publicly funded projects to support:

- skills development – facilitating the acquisition, preservation and transfer of craft skills and expertise;
- business skills – providing craft professionals with essential business skills, including branding, marketing, and the integration of emerging technologies such as AI, VR/AR and blockchain;
- interdisciplinary innovation – combining material knowledge, sustainability and research to enhance and extend craft practices;
- collaborative networks – establishing alliances with cultural organisations, businesses and policymakers to encourage mobility, innovation and knowledge exchange;
- certification & accreditation – implementing EIT-labelled training and courses to provide quality assurance and establish European craft education as a global benchmark.

6.9.2 A GROWING COMMUNITY

EIT Culture & Creativity's education strategy is underpinned by a dynamic and expanding ecosystem of 59 partners, including 17 higher education institutions, seven of which are based in RIS countries. This pan-European network ensures broad geographic and disciplinary coverage: 40% are based in the Nordic region, 24% in the Northwest, 18% in the South, 12% in the Southwest and 6% in the Eastern European region. Leading academic and innovation partners include Aalto University, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Filmuniversität Babelsberg, MIN4CI, Uppsala University, Una Europa, University of Tartu, University of Porto, Politecnico di Milano, NORGES TEKNISK-NATURVITENSKAPELIGE UNIVERSITET (NTNU), Eötvös Loránd University, University of Bologna, D'Annunzio University of Chieti – Pescara, Eindhoven University of Technology, SMK College of Applied Sciences, University of Galway and Aarhus University (Faculty of Arts).

EIT Culture & Creativity's Core Partners

EIT CULTURE & CREATIVITY'S CORE PARTNERS

To enhance long-term engagement and professional development, EIT Culture & Creativity is building a robust alumni network. This network provides exclusive services such as curated job opportunities, access to talent pools and peer-to-peer connections. As of June 2025, the EIT Culture & Creativity Digital Hub hosts 1 675 users, enabling alumni to interact with a global community of practitioners, educators and innovators

The Digital Hub also serves as a gateway to employment opportunities in the CCSI job market, visibility in the EIT Culture & Creativity Marketplace and support for startup creation in collaboration with EIT Culture & Creativity's Business Creation Area. These services ensure a seamless transition from education to entrepreneurship and employment

Together, this growing partner network and alumni infrastructure contribute to the sustainability, inclusivity and long-term impact of EIT Culture & Creativity's education activities – empowering individuals across Europe to thrive in the cultural and creative sectors.

ANNEX I. EIT-LABELLED DEGREE (MASTERS OR DOCTORAL) PROGRAMMES

KIC NAME	PROGRAMME NAME	LINK TO THE PROGRAMME (CLICK TO EXPLORE)
28DIGITAL	Autonomous Systems	Autonomous Systems and Intelligent Robots
28DIGITAL	Cloud and Network Infrastructure	Master's School Programme in Cloud and Network Infrastructures
28DIGITAL	Cybersecurity	Cyber Security
28DIGITAL	Master's Programme in Data Science	Master's School Programme – Data Science
28DIGITAL	Embedded Systems	Embedded Systems Design
28DIGITAL	Human Computer Interaction and Design	Human Computer Interaction and Design
28DIGITAL	Fintech	Fintech
INNOENERGY	Master's in Energy for Smart Cities (EFSC)	Master's in Energy for Smart Cities
INNOENERGY	Masters in Nuclear Energy (EMINE)	Master's in Nuclear Energy
INNOENERGY	Master's in Renewable Energy	Master's in Renewable Energy
INNOENERGY	Master's in Sustainable Energy Systems (SELECT)	Master's in Sustainable Energy Systems
INNOENERGY	Master's in Smart Electrical Networks and Systems (SENSE)	Master's in Smart Electrical Networks and Systems
INNOENERGY	MSC in Energy Technologies (ENTECH)	Masters+
EIT HEALTH	Masters in Technological Innovation in Health (MTIH)	Master's in Innovation in Health
EIT HEALTH	Interuniversity Master's Degree in Health Data Science (MHEDAS)	Master's in Health Data Science
EIT HEALTH	International Master's Innovative Medicine (IMIM)	Master's in Innovative Medicine
EIT HEALTH	Entrepreneurship in Digital Health (EDITH)	Master in Entrepreneurship and Digital Health

EIT RAWMATERIALS	Master's in Advanced Materials for Innovative Recycling (AMIR)	AMIR Master's – Advanced Materials for Innovation and Recycling
EIT RAWMATERIALS	Master's Advanced Materials for Innovation and Sustainability (AMIS)	AMIS Master's – Advanced Materials for Innovation and Sustainability
EIT RAWMATERIALS	Emerald Master's in Resources Engineering	EMERALD- Master in Georesources Engineering - EIT RawMaterials
EIT RAWMATERIALS	Nanomaterials for Green and Digital Transition (GREENANO)	Greenano Master's – Sustainable Nanotechnology
EIT RAWMATERIALS	Master's in Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Technology Integration in Mining (MEITIM)	MEITIM Master's
EIT RAWMATERIALS	Sustainable Mineral and Metal Processing Engineering (PROMISE)	PROMISE Master's – Process/Product/Resource Optimisation for Sustainability in Manufacturing Engineering
EIT RAWMATERIALS	Raw Materials Value Chain (RaVeN)	Raven Project – Raw Materials Value Chain Educational Network
EIT RAWMATERIALS	International Master's of Science in Sustainable and Innovative Natural Resource Management (SINReM)	SINReM – Master's in Sustainable and Innovative Natural Resource Management
EIT RAWMATERIALS	Master's Programme in Sustainable Materials (SUMA)	MEITIM Master's – EIT RawMaterials Master's Programme
EIT RAWMATERIALS	T-shaped Master's Programme for Innovative Mineral Resource Exploration (TIMREX)	TIMREX Project – Master's Programme in Raw Materials Exploration and Sustainability
EIT RAWMATERIALS	MSc in Data Science and AI for Competitive Manufacturing	Study MSc in Data Science & AI for a Competitive Manufacturing
EIT RAWMATERIALS	MSc Engineering, Entrepreneurship and Resources (ENTER)	ENTER Master's – EIT RawMaterials Master's Programmes
EIT FOOD	Food System Masters of Science Program	Master's in Food Systems
EIT FOOD	Global Food Venture Programme	Global Food Venture Programme
EIT MANUFACTURING	EIT Manufacturing Doctoral School programme	Doctoral School – Empower Programme
EIT MANUFACTURING	MSc in Data Science and AI for Competitive Manufacturing	Study MSc in Data Science & AI for a Competitive Manufacturing
EIT MANUFACTURING	MSc in Additive Manufacturing for Full Flexibility	MSc in Additive Manufacturing for Full Flexibility

EIT MANUFACTURING	MSc in Human-Robot Interaction for Sustainable Manufacturing	MSc in Human-Robot Interaction for Sustainable Manufacturing
EIT MANUFACTURING	MSc in Digital Manufacturing for Innovative Ecosystems	MSc in Digital Manufacturing for Innovative Ecosystems
EIT MANUFACTURING	MSc in Zero Defect Manufacturing for a Circular Economy	MSc in Zero Defect Manufacturing for a Circular Economy
EIT URBAN MOBILITY	Sustainable Urban Mobility Transitions (SUMT)	Sustainable Urban Mobility Transitions
EIT URBAN MOBILITY	Smart Mobility, Data Science and Analytics (SMDSA)	Smart mobility data science and analytics
EIT URBAN MOBILITY	Doctoral Training Network (DTN)	Doctoral Training Network

ANNEX II EIT NON-DEGREE PROGRAMMES

KIC NAME	PROGRAMME NAME/ LINK
INNOENERGY	EIT InnoEnergy CommUnity+
INNOENERGY	Green Seed Journey
INNOENERGY	European Solar Academy
INNOENERGY	European Battery Alliance Academy
INNOENERGY	C-Suite programme
INNOENERGY	Consulting Club
28DIGITAL	MentorMe Programme
28DIGITAL	Home / EIT Digital Professional School
28DIGITAL	EIT Digital Summer School
28DIGITAL	EMAI4EU
28DIGITAL	RESCHIP4EU
28DIGITAL	ACHIEVE
28DIGITAL	CYCERONE
28DIGITAL	AI Training for EUAN Officials
28DIGITAL	SME4DD
28DIGITAL	Generative AI ESSENTIALS / EIT Digital Professional School
28DIGITAL	SPECTRO
28DIGITAL	Access to Talent
28DIGITAL	(d)Academy by EIT Digital
28DIGITAL	EIC- EIT Digital Venture Building Programme
EIT HEALTH	EIT Health Flagship Call 2025- EIT Health
EIT HEALTH	Certified Innovation Path- Personalised Learning Programmes
EIT HEALTH	Certified Innovation Path: European Health Data Space
EIT HEALTH	Certified Innovation Path: Digital Medical Devices
EIT HEALTH	Certified Innovation Path: European Health Data Space
EIT HEALTH	Top Female Founders | Female entrepreneurs innovating in healthcare
EIT HEALTH	BRIGHTskills
EIT HEALTH	EIT Health Academy
EIT HEALTH	The EIT Health Career Path: From Students to Innovators 2024
EIT HEALTH	New Industry-led Pact for Skills Partnership
EIT HEALTH	EIT Health Deep Tech Venture Builder
EIT HEALTH	i-Days
EIT HEALTH	SmashMedicine
EIT HEALTH	Digi Academy
EIT HEALTH	InnoStars
EIT RAWMATERIALS	[PhD] CLOCKS Circular Economy Summer School 2024
EIT RAWMATERIALS	PRO-SLO
EIT RAWMATERIALS	EIT RawMaterials Academy
EIT RAWMATERIALS	RawMatCop – Copernicus for Raw Materials
EIT RAWMATERIALS	BattValue

EIT RAWMATERIALS	Lab2Market
EIT RAWMATERIALS	RACE
EIT FOOD	Global Food Venture Programme
EIT FOOD	EIT Food RIS Fellowships
EIT FOOD	New Product Development Training "NPD Skills"
EIT FOOD	Food Solutions
EIT FOOD	Inspire Programme- EIT Food
EIT FOOD	GROW: A Farmer-Centric Capacity Building Project
EIT FOOD	Food Accelerator Network- EIT Food
EIT FOOD	Investment: EIT Food Impact Fund
EIT FOOD	WE Lead Food
EIT FOOD	EIT Food Learning Services
EIT FOOD	EIT Food Assessment
EIT MANUFACTURING	EIT Manufacturing Academy- Education Services
EIT MANUFACTURING	EIT Manufacturing Academy- Online Courses
EIT MANUFACTURING	Enhance Flexy Programme
EIT MANUFACTURING	EIT Labelled Fellowship- EIT Manufacturing
EIT MANUFACTURING	Teaching Factories Competition
EIT URBAN MOBILITY	Business engineering in urban mobility
EIT URBAN MOBILITY	Innovation and entrepreneurship fellowship- EIT Urban Mobility
EIT URBAN MOBILITY	Courses- Urban Mobility Courses
EIT URBAN MOBILITY	Teaching Factories Competition
EIT URBAN MOBILITY	Urban Mobility Consultancy
EIT URBAN MOBILITY	Start for Future
EIT URBAN MOBILITY	Citizens on the Move
EIT URBAN MOBILITY	Urban Mobility Explained- YouTube
EIT URBAN MOBILITY	Journal of Urban Mobility | ScienceDirect.com by Elsevier
CLIMATE KIC	Climate KIC Academy
CLIMATE KIC	Systems Innovation Learning Partnerships (SILP)

Disclaimer: Annex II provides illustrative examples of the EIT and its KICs' non-degree education programmes. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list. For a comprehensive and up-to-date catalogue of all degree and non-degree programmes, refer to the EIT Campus Portal.