



European Institute of
Innovation & Technology

A body of the European Union



**EIT
WATER**

New EIT KIC launched
in the water, marine,
maritime sectors and
ecosystems

EIT WATER LAUNCHES: DRIVING SOLUTIONS FOR EUROPE'S WATER FUTURE

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) has launched **EIT Water**, a new Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) dedicated to water, marine, and maritime ecosystems. Following a competitive call in January 2025 and expert evaluation, in November 2025, the EIT Governing Board selected the winning consortium to lead Europe's response to pressing water challenges.



What is the mission of the new KIC?

EIT Water will take on Europe's most urgent water challenges:

- scarcity, drought, and flooding;
- ecosystem degradation in oceans, lakes, and rivers;
- the shift to a circular and blue economy.

To meet these challenges, EIT Water will deliver entrepreneurial education, create and accelerate startups, and support innovation-driven research. By uniting education, research, and business, it will build a strong European innovation ecosystem, and it will also align with key EU partnerships and missions, pioneering an integrated approach across water, marine, and maritime sectors.

What are the next steps?

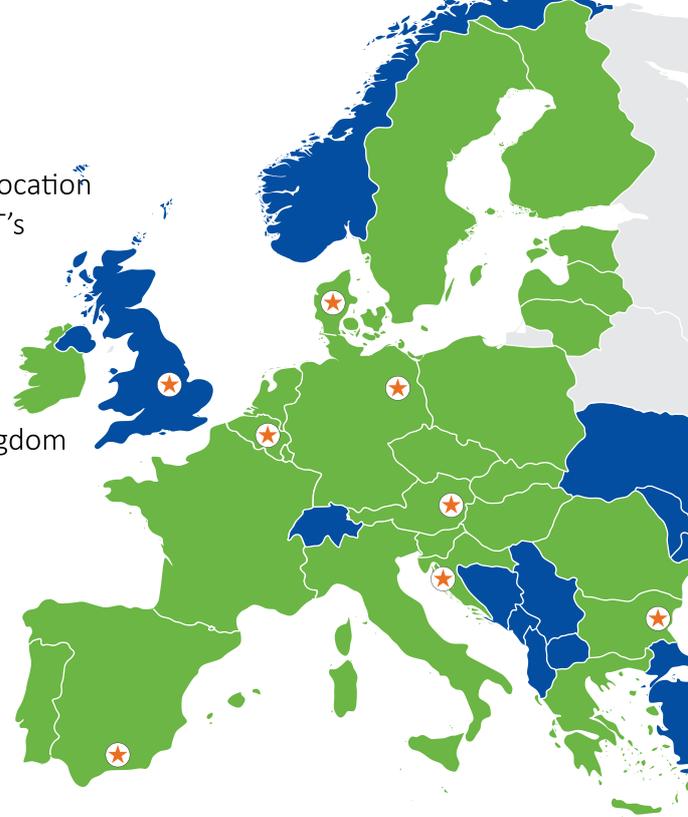
EIT Water will receive up to €5 million in startup funding through 2026 to build its governance, operations, and first business plan. Full operations will launch in 2027, with up to 100% of eligible costs covered by EIT funding. Over time, funding will gradually decrease as EIT Water secures additional investment and moves towards financial sustainability, in line with the EIT's unique model of building financially sustainable innovation communities.



Where will EIT Water be based?

EIT Water will establish eight local offices, known as Co-Location Centres (CLCs) providing access to its services and the EIT's Europe-wide network for innovators, students, and entrepreneurs. The CLCs will be located in:

- **HQ - CLC North:** Aarhus, Denmark
- **CLC United Kingdom and Ireland:** Leeds, United Kingdom
- **CLC Central and Baltic:** Berlin, Germany
- **CLC West:** Antwerp, Belgium
- **CLC Central and Danube:** Vienna, Austria
- **CLC South:** Sibenik, Croatia
- **CLC Iberian Peninsula:** Malaga, Spain
- **CLC Black Sea:** Varna, Bulgaria



Who are the founding partners?

EIT Water will bring together 50 partners from across Europe.

Austria

TIWAG-Tiroler Wasserkraft
BOKU University
Vienna University of Technology

Belgium

Aquafin
Blue Cluster
Jan De Nul Group
North Sea Port Flanders

Bulgaria

Marine Cluster Bulgaria
Tech Tour Global

Croatia

Digital Innovation HUB Innovamare
Ruđer Bošković Institute

Cyprus

Limassol District Local Government
Organisation

Czech Republic

BIOEAST HUB CZ

Denmark

Aarhus University
Danfoss Power Electronics
Grundfos Holding
UNICEF Denmark
Water Valley Denmark

Estonia

University of Tartu

Finland

University of Helsinki

France

French National Research Institute
for Agriculture, Food and
Environment
Toulon Var Technologies

Germany

BRYCK
RWE Offshore Wind
Society for Chemical Engineering and
Biotechnology (DECHEMA)
SUBMARINER Network for Blue
Growth

Greece

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Igoumenitsa Port Authority
Region of Central Macedonia

Hungary

MAHART-Freeport

Ireland

University College Dublin

Italy

Second Degree Irrigation
Consortium for the Emilia Romagna
Canal (CER)
International Center for Advanced
Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
(CIHEAM)

Netherlands

Deltares
Wageningen University

Norway

Akvaplan-niva

Poland

Elbląg Seaport Authority
Warsaw University of Life Sciences

Portugal

University of Coimbra

Spain

FCC Aqualia
Institute of Agrifood Research and
Technology (IRTA)
Navantia
Port Authority of Vigo
Ricardo Valle Innovation Institute
Foundation

Sweden

Stockholm International Water
Institute

Türkiye

Entertech Istanbul Teknokent

Ukraine

National University of Life and
Environmental Sciences of Ukraine

United Kingdom

The James Hutton Institute
PepsiCo
University of Leeds

What will EIT Water achieve?

- **247 innovations** will be marketed by 2033;
- **58 startups** will be created through innovation activities;
- **26 created startups** will reach sales revenues of at least **€10 000**;
- **126 marketed innovations** will be launched and reach sales revenues of at least **€10 000**;
- **1 380** startups and scale-ups will be supported;
- **€1.2 billion** in economic losses resulting from ecosystem degradation will be avoided.



About the EIT – Europe’s largest innovation network



The EIT strengthens Europe’s ability to innovate by powering solutions to pressing global challenges and by nurturing entrepreneurial talent to create sustainable growth and skilled jobs in Europe.

As an integral part of Horizon Europe, the EU framework programme for research and innovation, the Institute supports dynamic pan-European partnerships, known as EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) among leading companies, research labs, and universities. Currently, nine EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities are supported: [Climate KIC](#), [28DIGITAL](#), [InnoEnergy](#), [EIT Health](#), [EIT RawMaterials](#), [EIT Food](#), [EIT Manufacturing](#), [EIT Urban Mobility](#), and [EIT Culture & Creativity](#). EIT Water is the tenth EIT KIC.

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

Find out more!

