



The Hungarian Innovation Agency and EIT join forces to provide opportunities for innovative Hungarian companies to support their international expansion

Budapest, 15 September 2026 - The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and the Hungarian Innovation Agency (NIÜ) have opened a call for applications under the EIT Regional Innovation Booster to support innovative startups and scaleups in Hungary in 2027. The seven-month programme aims to help Hungarian companies expand internationally across EU markets and secure commercial partnerships through access to the EIT's innovation ecosystem.

The programme will help Hungarian scaleups to develop a strategy for entering their chosen EU market, build business connections and secure commercial contracts. For the first time, the Hungarian Innovation Agency and the EIT have established structured cooperation, which provides tailored support to meet the needs of Hungarian companies. The programme is delivered under a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) signed by the EIT and the Hungarian Government.

Hungary is the third country to launch a national EIT Regional Innovation Booster, after Poland in 2025 and Malta in 2026. These pilots are part of the [EIT Regional Innovation Scheme](#), an EIT initiative to support innovation ecosystems in emerging and moderate innovator countries.

László Bódis, CEO of the Hungarian Innovation Agency said: *'Through the EIT Regional Innovation Booster programme, we are offering Hungarian startups an opportunity that not only prepares them to enter international markets but also provides them with direct connections to European mentors, investors and potential business partners. I encourage Hungarian startups working in the fields of energy, mobility, new technologies or environmental protection to make use of this opportunity and take another important step towards international growth.'*

Martin Kern, Director of the EIT said: *'The EIT's Regional Innovation Scheme is a flagship initiative in our commitment to closing Europe's innovation gap and ultimately aims to enable talents and startups to succeed regardless of where they are based in Europe. We are proud that, together with the Hungarian Innovation Agency, we can now provide concrete opportunities to companies in Hungary to benefit from being part of a more connected and competitive European innovation ecosystem.'*

From market preparation to expansion

The programme will run from December 2026 to June 2027 in two phases:

- During Phase 1, **Market Preparation**, the selected scaleups will validate their target EU market and develop a market-entry strategy through workshops and expert mentoring. Each will then be matched with an experienced 'Buddy' from its chosen market and sector.



- During Phase 2, **Market Expansion**, the companies will implement their strategies with hands-on support, further workshops and international matchmaking through the EIT Community. Each participant will receive a **€2 500 travel and conference package** for in-person activities during this phase.

Who can apply

Applicants must:

- be a for-profit SME, as defined by the EU, legally registered and operating in Hungary, with at least three full-time employees at the time of application;
- fully own, or hold exclusive commercialisation rights to, the intellectual property behind a novel, market-ready product, service, technology or deep-tech solution, with demonstrated product-market fit in Hungary and proven commercial traction; and
- operate in one of the programme's eight thematic areas: climate; digital; food and agritech; healthcare; energy and renewables; raw materials; urban mobility; or culture and creativity.

How to Apply

Applicants must submit a completed application form in English, a valid SME company registration certificate and a pitch video of up to four minutes through the EIT Urban Mobility Programmes Portal (NetSuite). An online information session on **21 September 2026** will explain the call, eligibility requirements, submission procedure and evaluation process. Applications close on **15 October 2026 at 17:00 CEST**. Full eligibility criteria and application details are available on the [EIT Regional Innovation Booster website](#).

Key Dates

- Call opens: 15 September 2026
- Info webinar: 21 September 2026, 11:00 CEST [please register here](#).
- Application deadline: 15 October 2026, 17:00 CEST
- Evaluation and communication of results: November 2026
- Tentative start of projects: December 2026
- Programme duration: December 2026 – June 2027

About the Hungarian Innovation Agency (NIÜ)

[The Hungarian Innovation Agency \(NIÜ\)](#) is Hungary's national agency for innovation, supporting partners from idea development through to market success. Its activities include monitoring and strengthening the national innovation ecosystem, networking and facilitating multidisciplinary collaboration, mentoring, and market-entry support, with a focus on digitalisation, health and the green transition. In addition, NIÜ promotes a culture of innovation in education and business and ensures quality assurance for technology transfer processes carried out by Hungarian universities and research institutes.

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

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. The



EIT is an EU body and an integral part of [Horizon Europe](#), the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Institute supports dynamic pan-European partnerships, EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), which bring together leading companies, research labs and universities. Currently, nine EIT KICs are supported: [Climate KIC](#) (formerly EIT Climate-KIC), [28DIGITAL](#) (formerly EIT Digital), [InnoEnergy](#) (formerly EIT InnoEnergy), [EIT Health](#), [EIT RawMaterials](#), [EIT Food](#), [EIT Urban Mobility](#), [EIT Culture & Creativity](#) and [EIT Water](#). Together with their 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.

