



FROM BOLD IDEAS TO EUROPEAN IMPACT: MEET THE 2026 EIT AWARDS NOMINEES

Budapest, 1 October 2026 – The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) today announced 19 nominees for the 2026 EIT Awards, celebrating outstanding innovators and entrepreneurs from Europe's largest innovation ecosystem whose work is helping shape a more innovative and competitive Europe.

With this year's announcement, the EIT and its Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) celebrate outstanding innovators from across the EIT Community for their breakthrough work in fields including robotics and artificial intelligence, sustainable fashion and the circular economy, regenerative agriculture, and digital and social inclusion. Their innovations include AI-powered voice monitoring to detect worsening heart failure, mycelium-based insulation made from industrial residues, low-carbon self-healing concrete produced from mine tailings, and a smartphone-based medical device that measures menstrual blood loss. Nominees have also been working on safer AI-assisted tram systems, more sustainable cacao production and new technologies for renewable hydrogen.

Stefan Dobrev, Chairperson of the EIT Governing Board, said: *'Behind every innovation is someone willing to challenge how things are done and turn an idea into something that can make a difference. This year's EIT Awards nominees show the power of talent when amplified through our community. With support, networks and opportunities to grow, innovators are turning bold ideas into solutions that improve lives across Europe.'*

With the EIT Community, innovators across Europe gain access to training, mentoring, funding and valuable connections, helping them develop new products and bring solutions to market- from idea to impact. The 2026 EIT Award nominees highlight an impressive variety of successful changemakers, innovators, and entrepreneurs, underscoring the breadth and diversity of the EIT's network across Europe and beyond. They represent **Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Poland, Spain, Türkiye, Ukraine** and the **United Kingdom**. [Discover all the nominees and their innovations.](#)

EIT AWARDS CATEGORIES

The nominees announced today will compete in four categories:

- **EIT Changemaker Award** - highlighting leaders within the EIT Community whose activities and achievements generate significant social impact.
- **EIT Innovation Team Award** - celebrating diverse teams that have developed a unique product, service or process with high added value and breakthrough potential.



- **EIT Venture Award** - recognising successful startups within the EIT Community that address societal challenges and demonstrate strong growth potential.
- **EIT Public Award** - recognising the public's favourite finalist, chosen through an online vote opening in November ahead of the ceremony at eitawards.eu.

Each award comes with monetary prizes of EUR 50 000 for the first place, EUR 30 000 for the second place and EUR 20 000 for the third place. The EIT Public Award has one winner.

The winners will be announced at the 2026 EIT Awards Ceremony on 2 December 2026 in Budapest, Hungary and more details for the conference [will be announced soon](#).

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, among leading companies, research labs and universities. Currently, nine EIT Knowledge & Innovation Communities 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.

