



European Institute of
Innovation & Technology

YEAR IN REVIEW



**THE EIT HAS HAD A BUSY YEAR - TAKE A LOOK AT OUR MOST
MEMORABLE MOMENTS FROM 2021 AS WE GET READY TO POWER
INNOVATION IN 2022!**



A body of the European Union



United in Innovation

The new year kicked off with a strengthened commitment of cooperation between the European Innovation Council (EIC) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). The EIT and the EIC signed a memorandum of understanding to work closer together for Europe's innovators.

Throughout 2021 and beyond the two organisations will join forces to fast-track support to highly innovative start-ups, as well as to coordinate efforts to support women innovators and innovators from less represented regions.



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EIT Strategy 2021-2027 agreed

The EIT welcomed the political agreement reached between the European Parliament and EU Member States on its legal basis and its new [Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021 – 2027](#).



The new strategy will see the EIT **increase its support to more innovators, entrepreneurs, students and citizens across Europe**. It also saw the EIT launch two new initiatives in 2021, the new EIT KIC dedicated to Culture and Creative Sectors and Industries (*see page 12*) and the new initiative to boost the innovation capacity of Higher Education Institutions (*see page 5*). Innovation is key to ensuring a green and sustainable European recovery, and now, with a budget of almost EUR 3 billion, the EIT is well placed to strongly contribute.

EIT Crisis Response Initiative – One Year On

On 10 March, the European Innovation Council and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology organised an online event opened by Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, titled ['One year on: How European support is helping innovators develop solutions to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic'](#).

EIT's Contribution: The EIT allocated EUR 60 million to 62 innovative projects and 145 start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs, through the [EIT Crisis Response Initiative](#) in a record time (applicants reported feedback received in only 2 weeks). This investment was mobilised by Europe's largest innovation network to tackle the unprecedented social and economic challenges that the pandemic created. It resulted in concrete support for innovators and ventures working in health, climate change, digitalisation, food, sustainable energy, urban mobility, manufacturing and raw materials.

Innovations such as reusable, self-cleaning masks, an antibody platform to treat severe cases of infection and devices that can monitor patients remotely have addressed the immediate impact the pandemic has had on society.



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New EIT Call Launched To Boost Innovation In Higher Education

As part of its new strategy, the EIT launched the HEI Initiative: Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education to unlock the full innovation potential of higher education institutions (HEIs). The initiative makes a systemic impact in increasing HEI's entrepreneurial and innovation capacity whilst integrating them into Europe's largest innovation ecosystem.

The open call for proposals drew 64 applications from close to 700 partners. Altogether 24 consortia of higher education institutions (HEIs) and non-academic organisations were selected and awarded EUR 1.2 million to implement their projects over a 24 month period starting from July 2021.

In November 2021, building on the success of the first call, a second call for proposals was launched under the EIT HEI Initiative which will see an additional 40 projects green-lit.



[Website](#)

[Factsheet](#)

MAY 2021

Welcoming new Governing Board Members

The EIT welcomed four new Governing Board Members: Jan Figel, Janis Grevins, Nora Khaldi, and Razvan Nicolescu, enhancing the gender and geographic balance of the EIT steering body.



Jan Figel served as the first Slovak European Commissioner. He was also a Chief Negotiator in the accession process of Slovakia to the EU. In national politics he has served as Vice-President and Member of the Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister and State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Janis Grevins is an academic executive with a strong focus on institutional development, technology implementation and business linkages. He has been the Director of Riga Business School at Riga Technical University since April 2003. He also serves as the independent member on the Supervisory Board of Tet Ltd., Latvia.



Nora Khaldi is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Nuritas, a biotech company committed to finding disease-beating molecules in food. Since launching in 2014, Nuritas has grown rapidly and boasts well-known funders and support from EU Horizon 2020 and the European Investment Bank, among others, raising over EUR 60 million to date.



Razvan Nicolescu served previously as the Romanian Minister of Energy. He is currently a partner of Deloitte Romania responsible for energy and climate change practice and an associate professor of the Romanian Academy for Economic Studies.



JUNE 2021

Celebrating the launch of the EIT Strategy 2021 - 2027

EIT and the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union co-organised a hybrid event that featured:

- 9 Sessions - 34 Speakers
- +1020 participants from 50 countries
- +400 comments
- 3.5 hours average viewing time
- 86% of participants satisfied

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[Watch the full event here](#)



Strengthened EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS)

The EIT is pleased to announce the adoption of its [EIT Regional Innovation Scheme](#) (EIT RIS) Implementation Framework for 2022 - 2027. The new framework improves the innovation capacities of local ecosystems, through capacity building activities and closer interactions between local organisations from business, education and research.

EIT RIS Impact Indicators

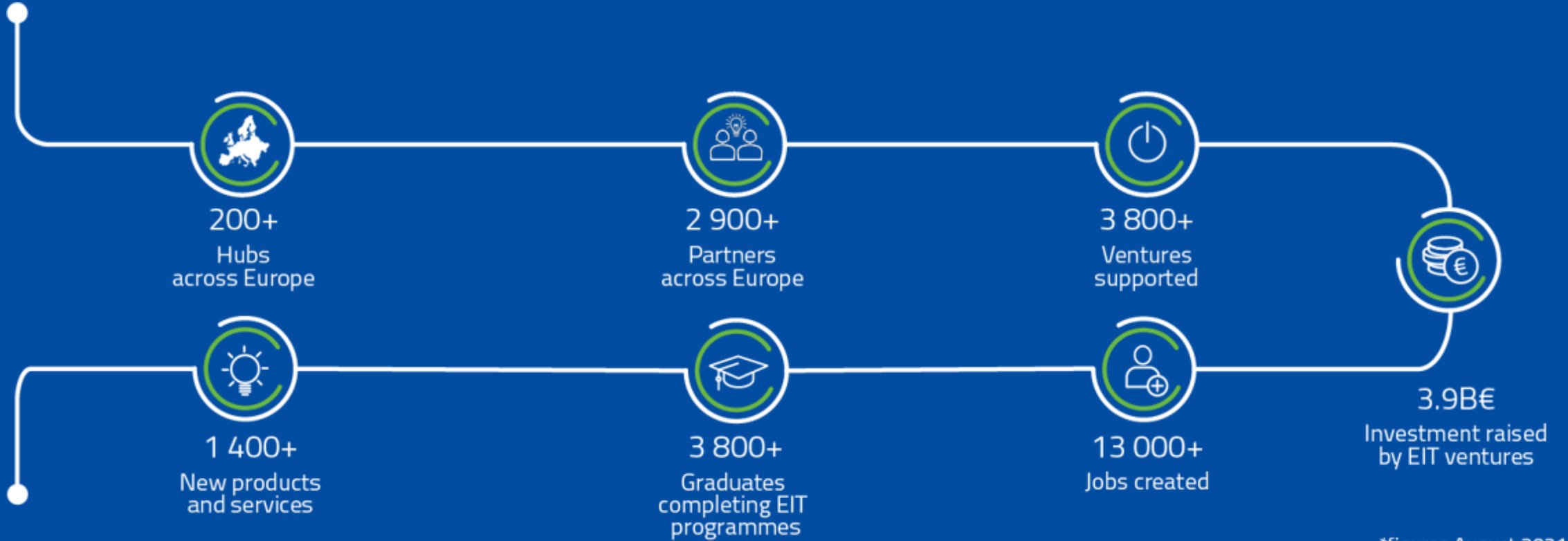
- # of EIT RIS Countries – Start-ups created of/for innovation
- # of EIT RIS Countries – Marketed innovations
- # of EIT RIS Active KIC Partners
- # of RIS HEIs involved in EIT and KIC activities
- # of EIT RIS Success stories
- # of EIT RIS Graduates from EIT labelled MSc/PhD programmes



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EIT Powering Innovation: Results of 2020

After the yearly crunching of numbers, August is an exciting time for the EIT as we publish the results and achievements of Europe's largest innovation ecosystem:

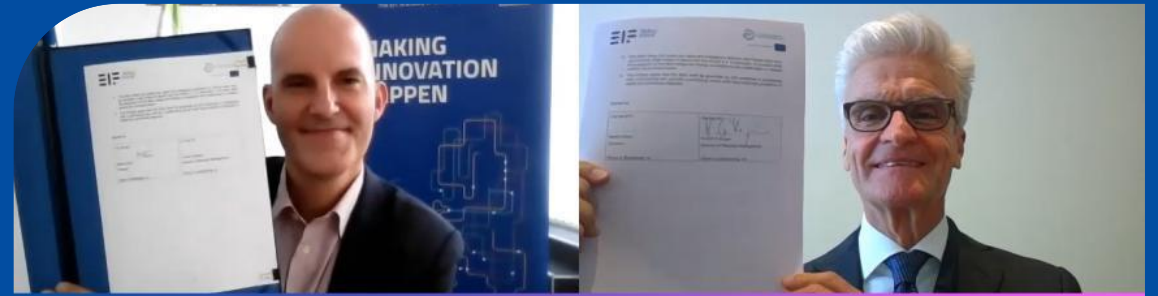


*figures August 2021

EIT & EIF Join Forces to Boost Innovation in Europe

On 20 September 2021, the European Investment Fund (EIF) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) strengthened their existing collaboration with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU creates a framework for the EIF and the EIT to collaborate and share information on financing and innovation opportunities, in areas such as equity investments in European SMEs and start-ups, as well as key European sectors such as climate, digital and deep technologies, education and skills, energy and environmental technologies.



[WATCH the MoU signature event here](#)

[Read More](#)

OCTOBER 2021

EIT Community welcomes Commissioner Gabriel to HQ

The EIT had the pleasure of welcoming Commissioner Gabriel to its headquarters in Budapest, Hungary as part of her EU Member States tour on 28 October 2021. Commissioner Gabriel was introduced to innovators from the EIT Community, entrepreneurs and investors from Hungary, and took part in an innovation tour showcasing products supported by the EIT Community in the newly opened EIT Community Hub in Budapest



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NOVEMBER 2021

Get Ready For EIT Culture & Creativity

The EIT officially launched the [Call for Proposals](#) to create a new sustainable innovation partnership to strengthen Europe's Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI) and has published its [updated EIT Innovation Model](#).

To provide interested applicants with more information about the upcoming Call for Proposals, the EIT hosted a series of [webinars](#) in November and December 2021. Over 850 participants took part in the series of webinars where they had the opportunity to learn about the EIT's innovation model and gain insight into how an EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community fosters innovation.



Deadline to apply: Thursday 24 March 2022 17:00 CET.

EIT Community welcomes a new supported Unicorn

Portuguese EIT Health-supported start-up, SWORD Health, closed a Series D investment round in December worth USD 163 million and has reached a USD 2 billion valuation, thus becoming Portugal's first health 'Unicorn'. SWORD Health offers virtual care for patients with musculoskeletal (MSK) pain by matching them with digital therapists to facilitate pain management with exercise.

SWORD Health has been supported by EIT Health since 2018. The team first worked with the EIT on SwitHome, an EIT Health Innovation project which aimed to let post-stroke patients undergo rehabilitation at home. The SWORD Health team has also benefited from EIT Health accelerator programmes, including Bridgehead, which helped them to expand their growth globally. **The EIT now counts 4 EIT-nurtured Unicorns with many more following!**



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