

EIT REGIONAL INNOVATION BOOSTER (EIT RIB) 2025 Polish edition

Terms & Conditions

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1. ABOUT MAIN PARTNERS OF THE EIT REGIONAL INNOVATION BOOSTER

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 12 May 2025 by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology of the Republic of Poland, both institutions will jointly provide resources for the implementation of the EIT Regional Innovation Booster in Poland.

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT):

The EIT strengthens Europe's innovation capacity by driving solutions to pressing global challenges and nurturing entrepreneurial talent to create sustainable growth and skilled jobs. As an EU body and an integral part of [Horizon Europe](#) — the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation — the EIT supports dynamic pan-European partnerships, known as [Knowledge and Innovation Communities \(KICs\)](#), bringing together leading companies, research centres, and universities.

The EIT Community offers a wide range of innovation and entrepreneurship activities across Europe, including entrepreneurial education courses, business creation and acceleration services, and innovation-driven research projects.

Ministry of Economic Development and Technology of the Republic of Poland:

[Ministry of Development and Technology](#) (MRiT) is a central government institution in Poland responsible for shaping the country's economic and technological development. Its key areas of responsibility include the economy, construction, and housing. MRiT collaborates with entrepreneurs, employees, and social organizations to create optimal conditions for the growth of Polish companies, ranging from large industrial enterprises to small and micro businesses. MRiT also fosters international trade, manages special economic zones, and participates in European innovation initiatives. Through programs and incentives, it helps businesses adapt to Industry 4.0 and the digital economy.

2. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE EIT REGIONAL INNOVATION BOOSTER (EIT RIB)

2.1 Description of EIT RIB

The EIT Regional Innovation Booster (EIT RIB) is a new flagship initiative of [European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\)](#), designed to tackle Europe's innovation unbalance by boosting innovation ecosystems in emerging and moderate innovator regions. Building on the interim evaluation of [Horizon Europe's Innovative Europe Pillar](#) and aligned with the [EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021–2027](#), the EIT RIB leverages the EIT's pan-European network and its Knowledge Triangle model to provide tailored, integrated, and place-based innovation support.

EIT RIB specifically targets start-ups and scale-ups in less-developed regions—those performing below the EU average in terms of innovation ecosystem maturity, as identified by the [European Innovation Scoreboard](#). The initiative, based on a place-based approach, aims to simplify and streamline the start-up and scale-up support landscape by connecting national, regional, and EU-level initiatives into a cohesive entrepreneurial support pathway. Implementation is led by the EIT Community Strategic

Regional Innovations (SRI) Cluster, ensuring alignment with regional priorities, especially Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3), and promoting long-term ecosystem capacity-building.

The EIT RIB aims to:

- Enable the international growth of deep-tech start-ups and ventures from moderate and emerging innovator regions.
- Create a seamless support pathway across local, national, and EU levels to help high-potential start-ups and scale-ups succeed in national and international markets.
- Strengthen collaboration between EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) and local innovation actors and instruments.
- Boost innovation output and visibility of emerging ecosystems within European networks.
- Provide targeted funding, mentoring, and strategic resources to selected ventures.
- Promote synergies, best practice sharing, and efficiency gains across the EIT Community and national authorities.

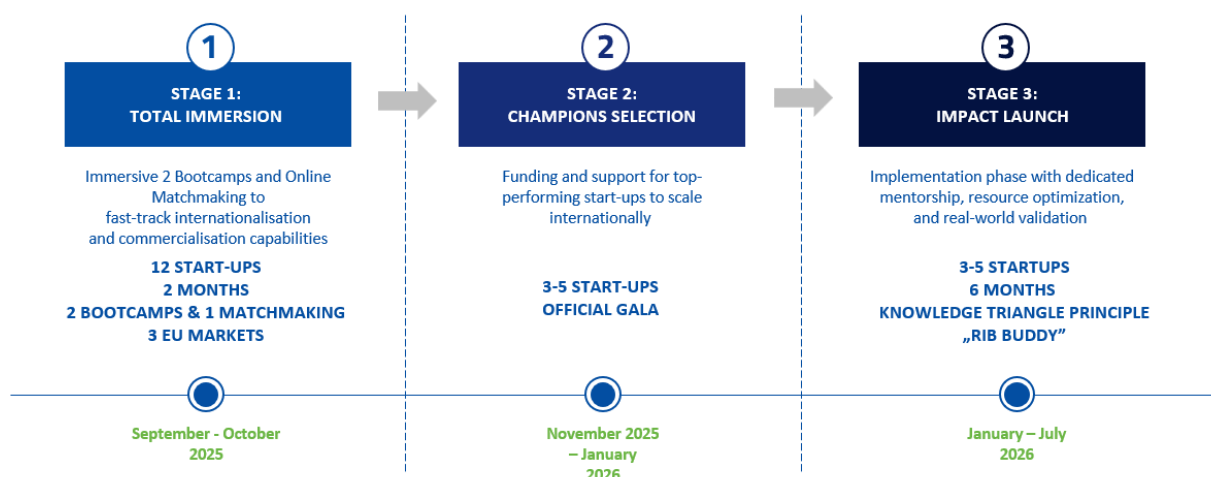
The EIT Regional Innovation Booster 2025 – Polish Edition - is the first initiative of this kind globally. The programme, as a pre-pilot, is held in cooperation with of the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). It is exclusively available to Polish start-ups and scale-ups at TRL 7 or higher. **“Polish start-up or scale-up”** refers to a company that, prior to the launch of this call, is legally registered with its headquarters in Poland and maintains active business operations within the country. Start-ups and scale-ups can submit their applications in one of the industry-specific categories, each supported by a different EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (EIT KIC):

- Climate
- Digital
- Food & Agritech
- Healthcare
- Energy and Renewables
- Metals, minerals, industrial side streams
- Urban Mobility

2.2 Structure of EIT RIB 2025 – Polish edition

The EIT Regional Innovation Booster programme in Poland in 2025 (the programme) will be organised in three stages; however, this call for proposal is dedicated to the **Stage 1 only. The Calls for Stage 2 and Stage 3 will be open only for participants of the Stage 1.** At the end of this stage, the start-ups and scale-ups will be invited to apply for the second stage of the EIT Regional Innovation Booster 2025 – Polish Edition - to obtain additional funding from the Polish Ministry of Economic Development and Technology for internationalisation. Please note that the additional funding will be considered as state aid and delivered via de minimis scheme. In later stages, start-ups and scale-ups may also receive further support services from the EIT Community.

Fig. 1. Scope and timeline of the programme



In Stage 1 over the course of two months, up to **12 selected start-ups/scale-ups** will be selected in the open call. The selected participants will join **two intensive weekend Bootcamps**, held in on-site (Bootcamp 1) and online (Bootcamp 2) format, and **one online Matchmaking**, designed to accelerate internationalization and commercialization in one of the target markets: Nordic countries, Germany and Spain. The participating start-up/scale-up can choose only one country in the programme. Stage One will be held in partnership with the **National Contact Point in Poland (NCP department)**, which will play an advisory role in identifying high-potential ventures originating in Poland, and providing experts familiar with EIC requirements.

While the **EIT NCP** will contribute to the implementation of Stage One, its primary role will be support and advisory.

The Bootcamps and online Matchmaking sessions will equip start-ups and scale-ups with knowledge, industry connections, and access to potential clients and partners who can support the commercial deployment of their product or solution in the chosen markets.

Up to 12 participating start-ups and scale-ups will be divided into three cohorts, each focusing on one of the target EU markets. Each cohort will follow the similar **Bootcamp track**, which includes:

- **Thematic training sessions** with world-class experts,
- **Market benchmarking** for the target regions,
- **One-on-one mentoring** with industry specialists.

Through the Bootcamps, start-ups and scale-ups will create a **Market Landing Roadmap** to support their continued growth, along with a financial plan for internationalisation activities. These elements will be further developed during Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the EIT Regional Innovation Booster, with additional details provided in a separate call document.

The design of Stage 1 of the EIT Regional Innovation Booster includes the following elements, put in the context of chosen market:

Bootcamp 1 (on-site): Market Readiness & Strategic Fit

Objectives of the Bootcamp are to refine financial and operational readiness, tailor value propositions, and prepare for international scaling with expert guidance.

As part of the Bootcamp, selected start-ups and scale-ups will participate in workshops focusing on: Partner Selection & Collaboration Models, Value Proposition Design for Market Fit, Market Prioritisation & Regulatory Landscape Mapping, Scaling Internally: Org Readiness, Governance & Hiring for Expansion, Localization Strategy: Messaging, Pricing, and Channel Fit, Navigating Public Funding Rules, Market-Specific Go-To-Market Strategies, Investor & Corporate Pitching, Securing Pilots & Financial Roadmapping, Intellectual Property. Participants will have the chance to receive personalized insights from leading experts and take part in peer-to-peer feedback sessions.

Bootcamp 2 (online): Market Execution & Growth Roadmap

This hands-on bootcamp is all about execution. Dive deep into market strategy, Go-To-Market plan, and unlock the power of EIT's Knowledge Triangle through personalised mentoring. Across three focused days, Participants will shape a tailored roadmap for international expansion — with expert guidance, strategic insights, and actionable next steps to help you scale with confidence.

Matchmaking (online): Successful & Efficient Expansion

Objective of the Matchmaking is to enable high-impact connections between start-ups and key ecosystem players in selected EU markets as well as to gain direct feedback on selected solutions, explore partnership potential, and chart the path to successful market entry.

Specific areas and topics may be slightly adjusted based on participants' needs indicated during the application stage; any changes will be duly reported by the project management team.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

3.1 Who can apply

Applicant eligibility criteria:

1. Company Stage & Type:

- The entity is a for-profit small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) according to the [EU definition](#).
- Only registered legal entities are eligible to apply; sole entrepreneurs are not permitted.
- The entity must be registered and keeping operation in Poland prior to launch of the call.
- SME applies alone, not in the consortium.
- The entity must have a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 7 or higher, indicating a mature product nearing market deployment. The solution must demonstrate clear potential for commercialisation and scalability.
- The entity needs to be owner of the IPR or full exploitation rights of the solution that will be promoted in new market.

2. Participation Requirements:

- The entity must have at least 2 FTEs working at the time of the proposal submission.
- The entity must have a CEO engaged full-time in the company at the time of the proposal submission.

Note: A maximum number of two co-founding members or management representatives per entity is eligible to take part in the EIT RIB programme to ensure high quality and comfortable conditions of the training activities. In justified cases, the EIT RIB Coordinator may allow the participation of more team members in specific activities.

3. Main Focus:

- The entity must be developing innovative solutions, services, products, or business models that address relevant societal challenges in line with one of the industry-specific challenges and categories mentioned in point 2.1 of this call.
- The entity must have a clear intent to scale up, aiming to expand its workforce, revenue, or market presence. Companies must be committed, and a solution should be applicable to be scaled to one or more of the following markets: Nordic countries, Germany and Spain.
- The special focus is on deep tech ventures offering advanced and emerging technology solutions responding to deep societal challenges.

Note: Deep Tech definition¹ for EIT RIB programme - Deep tech is technology that is based on cutting-edge scientific advances and discoveries and is characterised by the need to stay at the technological forefront by constant interaction with new ideas and results from the lab. Deep tech innovations are understood to be those that have the potential to deliver transformative solutions, rooted in cutting-edge science, technology and engineering, including innovation that combines advances in the physical, biological and digital spheres. Deep tech is distinct from 'high tech' which tends to refer only to R&D intensity.

4. Dual Use Policy:

- Solutions with [dual-use](#) potential (civilian and non-offensive defence applications) are allowed.
- Purely military-focused solutions are strictly excluded from the programme.

5. Market Traction & Proof:

- Applicants must demonstrate early market traction, through:
 - Proof of customer traction in Poland — ideally Letters of Intent (LoI) or similar agreements with existing clients validating the technology.
 - and/or
 - Funds obtained from other public and/or private sources for the solution proposed in the application.

6. Ethical Constraints:

- Entities must have no ties (founders, shareholders, partners, etc.) to Russian Federation and/or the Republic of Belarus.

¹Deep Tech definition based on [EIC Work Programme 2025](#)

7. Gender balance:

The European Commission and the EIT are strongly committed to advancing gender equality in research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. As an integral part of Horizon Europe, the EIT emphasizes the importance of gender balance as a driver of innovation excellence, organisational performance, and societal impact. EIT upholds these values by promoting gender diversity across all supported and funded activities. This includes fostering inclusive working environments, ensuring compliance with EU and national gender-related regulations, attracting and retaining diverse talent, and leveraging gender balance as a catalyst for organisational and systemic change.

- Accordingly, proposals submitted under this call are expected to reflect gender balance within entity management teams. Additional attention will be given during evaluation to how gender aspects are addressed, in line with Horizon Europe requirements and EIT's commitment to inclusive innovation.

Only proposals that meet all admissibility criteria will proceed to the eligibility assessment stage. As English is the working language of the EIT, applicants are required to submit their proposals in English. If any attachments are provided in another official language of the European Union, the EIT may request an English translation of the relevant documents. Furthermore, all submitted proposals must be accessible and legible.

3.2 How to apply

The application will be made through the [EIT Application Form](#). Proposal submission deadline is set for **31 August 2025, 16.00 CET**. In order to avoid disappointment, we strongly advise applicants to familiarise themselves with EIT Application Form before beginning their application, and to begin the application process at least 24 hours in advance of the deadline. All applications for the programme must be completed as follows:

- a. Applicants must fill in all required information tabs in the application form.
- b. Incomplete submissions or submissions via any other means (e.g. email) will be rejected.
- c. Proposals must be submitted before the deadline; all late applications will be rejected.
- d. The application must be within the scope of the main challenges:

- *Place-based transformations that ground climate action at the local level powered by Climate KIC*. We seek solutions to plan, map, analyse, engage, design, test and invest in a **portfolio of solutions** in cities, bioregions and value chains. More details are accessible here: <https://www.climate-kic.org/>

- *Digital Tech, Digital Cities, Digital Industry, Digital Wellbeing, and Digital Finance powered by EIT Digital*. EIT Digital invests in strategic areas to accelerate the market uptake and scaling of research-based digital technologies (deep tech) focusing on Europe's key societal challenges. More details are accessible here: <https://www.eitdigital.eu/>

- *Food & Agritech powered by EIT Food*: optimising resource efficiency and environmental sustainability of agriculture supply, primary production, processing, storing, packaging, logistics/distribution, retail, consumer research, nutrition monitoring, and food service; developing nutritionally customised food products, addressing unmet needs and generating consumer relevant functionalities; building trust in the food system, securing traceability and auditability of food quality, safety, and authenticity, combining digital and sensor technologies to acquire and transmit information through the food value

chain. In general – the development of solutions that will put new products on the market, introduce new and improved commercial processes and services, and achieve: Healthier Lives Through Food, A Net Zero Food System, and A Fully Transparent, Fair, and Resilient Food System. More details are accessible here: <https://eitfood.eu>

- *Healthcare powered by EIT Health*: New models to deliver healthcare; Facilitating the uptake of digital medical devices in Europe; Harnessing the full potential of health data for innovation; Supporting the deployment of Important Project of Common European Interest in Health (IPCEI) to address market failures. More details are accessible here: <https://eithealth.eu/who-we-are/our-focus-areas/>

- *Energy and Renewables powered by InnoEnergy*: energy costs reduction, system performance increase, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions decrease, circular economy (particularly in the context of energy usage), green hydrogen, solar energy, energy management systems, energy usage of waste, recycling related energy sector, new solutions to energy-heavy industries that optimise energy usage or change its sources to more sustainable and energy storage. Any other innovative approaches that are based on sustainable energy generation, storage, or usage are welcome. More information is here: <https://www.innoenergy.com/>

- *Metals, minerals, industrial side streams powered by EIT RawMaterials*: Technologies and solutions for improved and new mineral exploration; Digital solutions for remote monitoring, analytics, sensing, modelling, digital twins, etc.; Advanced and fully integrated exploration – smart targeting of ore deposits; Technologies and solutions for more efficient, safer and sustainable modern mining; Technologies and solutions for mineral and metal processing and for improved materials production; Improving processing efficiency by reducing resource use and/or emissions and CO₂-footprint; Technology that address equipment-damage problems such as wall thinning, creep or corrosion; Technologies and solutions for materials supply from secondary sources and recycling; Cost-efficient and clever collection, dismantling and sorting of waste; Turning waste resources into a valuable raw materials feedstock for EU industries; New technologies, materials or services that make it possible to substitute or use lower quantities of critical or toxic materials in key industries; Solutions and business models implementing circular economy concepts; Design of products for recycling and lifetime extension; Resource efficient design of materials; Innovation to improve traceability, sustainability, and transparency across raw materials value chains. More details are accessible here: <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/>

- *Urban Mobility powered by EIT Urban Mobility*: Active Mobility (walking and cycling), Sustainable City Logistics (delivery, waste management, circular freight, logistics infrastructures, shared logistics, etc.), Future Mobility (traffic management, waterborne mobility, shared mobility, urban air mobility, etc.), Mobility and Energy (electrification, hydrogen for mobility, battery tech and circularity, net-zero e-fuels, etc.), and Transport Infrastructure, (intermodality, autonomous public transport, demand-responsive transport, smart parking, etc.) are the main focus areas. This is not a closed list, any idea/solution to solving city challenges is welcome. More details are accessible here: [About us - EIT Urban mobility](#)

- e. Additional information, such as a weblink to the project, can be uploaded to support your application. These additional documents are not mandatory, and please be aware that if you do not explicitly refer to such documents in your application, the reviewers may not consider these attachments as the basis for their evaluation.
- f. Multiple submissions are not accepted. Each applicant must use a unique email address for submission.

- g. Individuals, co-founders, and project team members are not eligible to be part of more than one submitted project at the same time and/or submit more than one project at the same time.

3.3 Evaluation process overview

The selection process for this call will consist of a single proposal submission. To be selected, applications must score at least 70/100 in remote evaluation. Following submission, all applications will undergo an eligibility check. All applications must satisfy the eligibility requirements before proceeding to the next step. Please see the relevant section for the general and specific conditions of the evaluation process. Notifications for all applications will be sent to applicants by email.

3.4 Key dates

- Deadline for submitting application: 31 August 2025 at 16:00 CET
- Announcement of selected applicants: 19 September 2025
- Bootcamps 1 (on-site, Warsaw): 3-5 October 2025
- Bootcamp 2 (online): 10-12 October 2025
- Matchmaking (online): 24 October 2025

Dates are tentative and could change, but the project management team will report them appropriately. Any changes will be published in the updated call manual.

4. SELECTION PROCESS IN DETAILS

The selection process aims to ensure that applicants provide information for evaluation only at the necessary moment in the selection funnel, while strengthening proposals to maximise the success and impact of activities ultimately welcomed into the EIT portfolio.

4.1 Eligibility check

Entities will be invited to submit an application form, as well as general information on their activity. The minimum requirements for applying, including eligibility criteria, are specified in the previous section. An eligibility check will be performed against the eligibility criteria stated in section 3.1 to validate the application's compliance with the requirements outlined in this Call. Rejected will receive a notification. Accepted applications will directly move to remote evaluation.

4.2 Remote evaluation

Eligible applications will be evaluated by three external evaluators based on the criteria below (see 4.3 Evaluation Criteria section). Evaluators are instructed to check for conflict of interest and to inform the EIT, if necessary, before evaluation of the proposal proceeds. A maximum of 100 points will be awarded by each of the three evaluators during the remote evaluation. The final remote evaluation score will be the average of all remote evaluators' scores. Projects must score at least 70/100 to be conditionally invited to the EIT RIB programme or put on a reserve list. In case there are more applicants scoring above the threshold than available places (12), the ones with higher scores will be conditionally accepted. In case there are many applicants with same scoring earlier date and hour of submission will decide on higher place of the applicant.

4.3 Evaluation Criteria

For the quality check (remote evaluation), evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

1. Excellence and Strategic Fit (20%)

This criterion assesses the quality of the innovation and its alignment with the EIT RIB goals.

1.1 Excellence

- **Innovative Approach:** Demonstrates a novel approach, unique value proposition clearly differentiated from current market offerings (Competitive Advantage).
- **Risk Management:** Provides a credible assessment of key risks and outlines robust mitigation strategies, particularly for international scaling.

1.2 Strategic Fit

- **Alignment with Call Priorities:** The applicant aligns with the thematic, sectoral, and innovation goals described in the call.
- **Sector Alignment:** Start-ups in deep tech or high-growth technology sectors are prioritized.

Evaluation Focus:

- Strength of the innovation and its novelty.
- Fit with EIT RIB objectives and EU strategic agendas (e.g., green/digital transition, competitiveness).

2. Impact and Sustainability (30%)

This criterion evaluates the long-term relevance, market relevance, and systemic impact of the proposed solution.

2.1 Impact

- **Market Potential and Value Creation:** Clear commercial viability and fit with target markets.
- **Societal and Economic Benefits:** Demonstrates measurable positive outcomes for economy, environment, or society.

2.2 Sustainability

- **Funding Strategy:** Presents a viable financial model and credible plan to attract future investment.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Demonstrates willingness to collaborate with institutions, corporates, R&D centres, and international partners.

Evaluation Focus:

- Maturity of the go-to-market plan and financing approach.

- Likelihood of long-term success and societal benefit.

3. Scalability and Growth Potential (50%)

This criterion evaluates the start-up's readiness and capability to scale across EU markets, emphasizing operational strength, team expertise, market alignment, and risk preparedness to ensure successful international growth.

3.1 Market Expansion Readiness and Growth Execution

- **International Expansion Readiness:** Demonstrates both ambition and capability to enter and scale in EU markets.
- **Geographical scope:** Justification and rationale for expansion to chosen market, initial knowledge of the market.
- **Operational Capabilities:** The start-up has the infrastructure and systems in place to manage growth efficiently.
- **Regulatory & Compliance Readiness:** Solutions should be capable of meeting industry regulations and certifications required for international expansion.
- **Personnel Expertise:** The team possesses the right mix of industry, technical, and business skills.

3.2 Risk Management

- **Identification of Risks:** Thoughtful identification of potential technical, financial, or market risks.
- **Mitigation Measures:** Presents solid plans to manage scale-up risks.

Evaluation Focus:

- Confidence in the team and execution plan.
- Evidence that the solution is operationally and strategically ready for growth.

Startups taking part in EIT RIB programme with particular success may be granted additional KIC funding at a later stage of the programme. This process is regulated by the provisions included in the corresponding KIC guidance on the fast-track mechanism.

4.4 Final notification

Up to 12 applications with the highest score will be invited to join the EIT RIB programme. A total of twelve startups will be selected: seven will be chosen based on the highest evaluation scores within each of the seven thematic areas outlined in the call documents (one per area), and an additional five will be selected purely based on the highest overall scores, regardless of thematic area. The list of selected entities will be published no later than **September 19th**. To be formally accepted, participants will need to provide a signed Concept note to participate in the programme.

5. APPEALS PROCEDURE

Applicants to the EIT RIB may appeal through the process for the selection. Similarly, the participants of the programme may appeal for errors in the programme execution. The only grounds for appeal are process errors, technical problems beyond the control of applicants (e.g. the technical failure of the electronic submission system), Human/technical errors made by EIT KICs staff.

Scores awarded in the process of evaluation, regardless of the phase of the programme, do not constitute the grounds for an appeal.

Applicants should send their appeals in writing to the EIT RIB Programme Lead Joanna Broy, joanna.broy@eithealth.eu as soon as they identify an error, but no later than 10 calendar days after the notification letter was sent.

EIT RIB Programme Lead assesses the claim and delivers a first response. If there are grounds for appeal, EIT RIB Programme Lead will attempt to remedy the consequences (e.g. if a technical error of EIT RIB prevented the submission of a proposal or application, a late submission may still be accepted as eligible).

6. IP RIGHTS, CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The applications submitted to EIT for the EIT RIB programme are handled under confidentiality. Everybody who comes in contact with the applications and deliverables during the review process is bound by confidentiality agreements. By applying for the EIT RIB programme, applicants consent to access, keep, and use their data by the EIT Communities as well as evaluators and mentors of the programme. For further regulations regarding personal data protection see our [Privacy Policy](#).

Applicants retain full and exclusive ownership of their prior information and intellectual property rights. The organiser and their authorised representatives in the programme undertake to ensure the confidentiality of the ideas and project details developed throughout the programme, which are not revealed by the participants in the publicly available parts of the programme.

The intellectual property rights of all materials, curriculum, and methodology used during the EIT RIB are fully owned by the leading EIT. Participants cannot share them with externals or use them for other purposes not related to the EIT RIB.

7. EIT COMMUNITY'S REPRESENTATION / COMMUNICATION POLICY

Participants selected to the EIT RIB programme must display the EIT Community logo on their website in a visible place within one month after finalising the Bootcamps and the Matchmaking. EIT RIB organisers will share the relevant guidelines with the teams during the programme.

Participants are eligible to be interviewed, and they shall participate in any interview at the organisers request.

When participants announce that they became a member of the EIT RIB community, they shall make sure to have the EIT logo displayed on the image they are using or should mention the EIT RIB account,

if it is available on that platform (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, others).

It is recommended to promote the programme as the ambassador among local networks, by sharing information about being accepted and completing each step of a programme in the professional network and social media.

All images and assets where an EIT KIC, the EIT Community, the EIT RIB, or the EIT itself is displayed shall be approved by the organizers of the programme. EIT visual guidelines must be respected in this case. Guidelines will be provided to the teams during the programme and upon request.

8. HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

For general programme-related questions, please contact Joanna Broy joanna.broy@eithealth.eu.

9. OVERVIEW OF THE ORGANISING KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION COMMUNITIES

The [European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\)](#) is dedicated to enhancing Europe's ability to innovate by nurturing entrepreneurial talent and supporting groundbreaking ideas. Through its "knowledge triangle" model, the EIT connects leading companies, universities, and research centres to form dynamic cross-border partnerships called Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). These communities work collaboratively to address pressing societal challenges and drive innovation.

Currently, there are seven thematic KICs under the EIT umbrella, actively participating in the EIT RIB Programme:

- Climate-KIC: Tackling climate change through innovation.
- EIT Digital: Fostering digital transformation.
- EIT Food: Driving innovation in the agri-food sector.
- EIT Health: Advancing health and well-being.
- InnoEnergy: Leading the transition to sustainable energy.
- EIT RawMaterials: Securing sustainable supply chains for raw materials.
- EIT Urban Mobility: Improving mobility and urban living.

The [EIT Community Strategic Regional Innovations Cluster \(EIT RIS\)](#) is a horizontal initiative providing a platform for KICs to collaborate, share best practices, and launch joint activities. It focuses on fostering innovation in Emerging European regions, including countries eligible for the [EIT Regional Innovation Scheme](#). The EIT RIS aims to bridge the innovation gap, particularly in countries where innovation performance is considered modest or moderate, as defined by the European Innovation Scoreboard.

9.1 Overview of Climate KIC

Climate KIC is Europe's leading climate innovation agency and community. Climate KIC creates climate-resilient societies and fights climate breakdown, building better futures for local communities globally. Working together with countries, regions, businesses, Climate KIC uses innovation to mobilise systems change and bridge the gap between climate commitments and current reality. Together with partners, Climate KIC generates, implements and integrates climate solutions by mobilising finance, testing business models, and opening pathways for institutional change and behavioural change. Climate KIC

makes systems transformation meaningful by enabling change in the places where people live and work, creating a positive feedback loop for change. <https://www.climate-kic.org/>

9.2 Overview of EIT Digital

EIT Digital embodies the future of innovation by mobilizing a pan-European multi-stakeholder open-innovation ecosystem of top European corporations, SMEs, startups, universities and research institutes, where students, researchers, engineers, business developers and investors address the technology, talent, skills, business and capital needs of digital entrepreneurship.

EIT Digital builds the next generation of digital ventures, digital products and services, and breed digital entrepreneurial talent, helping business and entrepreneurs to be at the frontier of digital innovation by providing them with technology, talent, and growth support.

EIT Digital answers specific innovation needs by, for example, finding the right partners to bring technology to the market, supporting the scale-up of digital technology ventures, attracting talent and developing their digital knowledge and skills. <https://www.eitdigital.eu/>

9.3 Overview of EIT Food

EIT Food is the world's largest and most dynamic food innovation community. We accelerate innovation to build a future-fit food system that produces healthy and sustainable food for all.

Supported by the EIT, we invest in projects, organizations, and individuals that share our goals for a healthy and sustainable food system. We unlock innovation potential in businesses and universities and create and scale agrifood startups to bring new technologies and products to market. We equip entrepreneurs and professionals with the skills needed to transform the food system and put consumers at the heart of our work, helping build trust by reconnecting them to the origins of their food. For more information please visit: <https://www.eitfood.eu/>

9.4 Overview of EIT Health and InnoStars

EIT Health is one of Europe's largest public-private partnerships in healthcare innovation, comprising approximately 150 partners, including leading companies, universities, research and development centers, hospitals, and institutes. Its mission is to build an ecosystem that fosters the development of future healthcare solutions, enabling European citizens to live longer and healthier lives.

Key contributions of EIT Health include:

- Upgrading the skills of healthcare professionals across Europe.
- Investing in Europe's best talent and entrepreneurial projects.
- Facilitating the commercialization of innovative health products and solutions.

EIT Health is co-funded by the EIT, a body of the European Union. For more information, visit their official website: www.eithealth.eu.

EIT Health InnoStars, one of the eight geographical areas within EIT Health, focuses on modest and moderate/emerging innovator countries in Europe, as identified by the European Innovation Scoreboard. It plays a critical role in supporting innovation and entrepreneurship in regions with significant potential for growth. For more information, visit their InnoStars section: [InnoStars](#).

9.5 Overview of InnoEnergy

[InnoEnergy](#) operates at the centre of the energy transition and is the leading innovation engine in sustainable energy. It brings the technology, business model innovation and skills required to accelerate the green deal, progress towards Europe's decarbonisation and re-industrialisation goals, whilst also improving energy security.

[Ranked as the most active investor in the energy sector in 2022 by Pitchbook, named in 2023 as one of Europe's top 10 most active deeptech investors by Sifted, and recognised in 2022 as Europe's leading impact investor in cleantech by Startup Genome](#), InnoEnergy backs innovations across a range of areas. These include energy storage, transport and mobility, renewables, energy efficiency, hard to abate industries, smart grids and sustainable buildings, and cities.

InnoEnergy has a portfolio of more than 200 companies, which are estimated to generate €110 billion in revenue and save 2.1G tonnes of CO₂e accumulatively by 2030. Collectively, these companies have raised more than €9.7 billion in investment to date. InnoEnergy is the driving force behind three strategic European initiatives which include the [European Battery Alliance](#) (EBA), [the European Green Hydrogen Acceleration Center](#) (EGHAC) and the [European Solar Photovoltaic Industry Alliance](#) (ESIA).

9.6 Overview of EIT RawMaterials

Minerals and metals are key enablers of the green and digital transition. Raw materials are critical to preserving the global competitiveness of the EU's most strategic economic sectors. Today, only a fraction of the most relevant raw materials is produced in Europe. This can be changed through a circular economy approach, through innovation in recycling, substitution, processing, mining, and exploration. EIT RawMaterials overarching mandate is to support securing the supply of critical raw materials to the European industry by driving innovation along the raw materials value chain.

EIT RawMaterials builds on the world's largest network of partners in raw materials. EIT RawMaterials mission is to develop raw materials into a major strength for Europe by boosting competitiveness, growth and attractiveness of the European raw materials sector via radical innovation, new education approaches and guided entrepreneurship. For more information visit: <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/>

9.7 Overview of EIT Urban Mobility

Founded in 2019 as an initiative of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union, EIT Urban Mobility is committed to accelerating the transition to sustainable mobility.

We accelerate the sustainable urban mobility transition by providing established businesses, startups, universities, research institutes, and the public sector with access to markets, talent, funding and knowledge. We empower our partners to develop and deploy new solutions that address the mobility challenges European cities face.

We work in partnership with over 250 organisations and collaborate with a wider network of more than 1,100 organisations across 35 countries. Our work supports our vision for sustainable and decarbonised urban mobility and more livable urban spaces for all. For more information visit: www.eiturbanmobility.eu