



European Institute of
Innovation & Technology

The European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT)

*Western Balkans Innovation and Research Platform
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The EIT is a body of the European Union

THE EIT – A UNIQUE APPROACH TO INNOVATION

- Enhances Europe's **innovation capacity, competitiveness & quality of life**
- **Building innovation ecosystems** by integrating business, education and research
- Addresses **societal challenges**



Student to entrepreneur



Idea to product



Lab to customer



2010



EIT Climate-KIC

Accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy



EIT Digital

Drive Europe's digital transformation



EIT InnoEnergy

Achieve a sustainable energy future for Europe

2015



EIT Health

Give EU citizens greater opportunities for a healthy life



EIT RawMaterials

Develop raw materials into a major strength for Europe

2026



EIT Water

Contribute to a circular and sustainable water economy

2022



EIT Culture & Creativity

Unite Europe's creatives



EIT Urban Mobility

Smart, green and integrated transport

2019



EIT Manufacturing

Strengthen and increase the competitiveness of Europe's manufacturing industry

2017



EIT Food

Lead a global revolution in food innovation and production



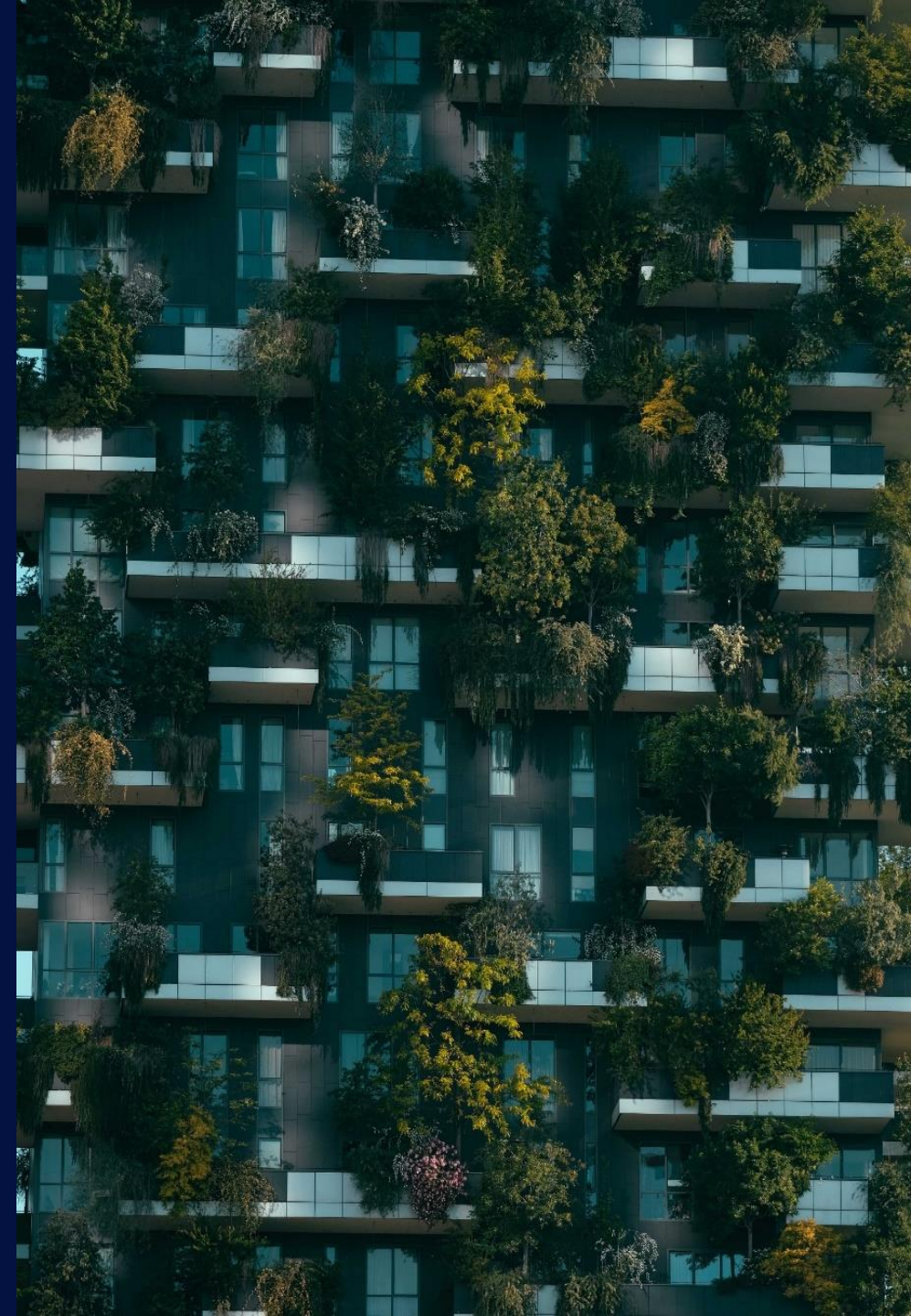
EIT MAIN ACTIVITY AREAS

- **EDUCATION:** educating the next generation of entrepreneurs, innovators & change-makers
- **EIT BUSINESS CREATION & ACCELERATION:** tailored support for entrepreneurs and ventures
- **INNOVATION DRIVEN RESEARCH PROJECTS:** transdisciplinary co-creation and responsivity to market and social trends



EIT IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

- In 2014-2020, and the EIT Community channelled **over €1.6m** to the Western Balkans, supporting **13** unique local partner organisations working on innovation projects, as well as, **34** ventures which jointly raised over **€9m** in investment.
- Four different **EIT Hubs** are currently established in the Western Balkan region.
- In 2021-2027, the EIT will give priority to its engagement with the Western Balkans, especially through the enhanced **EIT RIS, a Cross-KIC action** supporting Strategic Regional Innovations and the **EIT Action to Support the Innovation Capacity of Higher Education Institutions**.
- Synergies with **IPA III & other organisations / initiatives** are in place or being sought.



EIT REGIONAL INNOVATION SCHEME (EIT RIS)

Objective

- Enhance the innovation capacity in **moderate and modest innovators** Member States, eligible Horizon Europe Associated Countries and EU Outermost Regions

Approach

- **Capacity building activities and closer interactions** between the local knowledge triangle innovation actors and their activities
- **Widen participation** in EIT Innovation Communities, including through **RIS Hubs**
- Strengthen links to **Smart Specialisation Strategies** and leverage additional **private and public funding**, especially **ESI Funding**.
- **Budget: 10-15%** of the EIT grant allocated to EIT RIS activities



EIT Cross-KIC Regional Strategic Innovations Cluster

- EIT Cross-KIC Regional Strategic Innovations Cluster **brings together all 8 EIT KICs to jointly implement support activities targeted Emerging European regions, including the Western Balkans.**
- The **EIT Jumpstarter** pre-accelerator programme is a key initiative of the Cross-KIC Cluster. It supports **early-stage idea holders** through tailored trainings and mentoring which help them to validate their business model and prepare them for the next steps in their entrepreneurial journey, including via the **EIT KICs' individual accelerator programmes**. EIT Jumpstarter also provides a **knowledge and international network** to researchers to commercialise their products.
- A **dedicated Western Balkans initiative** under the Cross-KIC Regional Strategic Innovations Cluster is being explored to kick-off in **2023**.



EIT HEI Initiative Innovation Capacity Building For Higher Education

Objective:

- Create systemic impact by engaging HEIs at institutional level
 - Strengthen the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of HEIs at institutional level
 - Strengthen integration into innovation ecosystems

First pilot Call Results:

- **32** countries, **24** projects x 1.2 Million (2021-2023)

Next steps:

- **2nd Call was open until 28 February 2022!**
- 40 projects x 1.2 Million max per project (2 years)

More info: <https://eit-hei.eu/>



EIT-backed Success Stories in the Western Balkans

Several start-ups from the Western Balkans have been nurtured through the **EIT Jumpstarter** including three which have gone on to win prizes in the programme's Grand Final:

- **Green and Clean Tech** (Serbia);
- **Fejuice** (Serbia); and;
- **Horizer** (Bosnia-Herzegovina).

Many others have gone on to receive smart financing investment and mentoring support from the KICs' Accelerator Programmes.

A growing number of EIT-backed start-ups from the Western Balkans are also experiencing significant commercial success. **ElevenEs** is one of these. The start-up has received investment and support from **EIT InnoEnergy** to build a battery gigafactory in **Subotica, Serbia**. To date, ElevenEs has raised a total of **EUR500 million in investment** and is on track to deliver **major socio-economic development of this host region**, bringing technological progress, reversing brain drain, attracting international talent and directly creating some 2,000 jobs.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL INNOVATORS!



BUSINESS

Access exceptional talent, innovation know-how and new market opportunities



ENTREPRENEURS

Start a new venture, improve your competitiveness, and find commercial success



PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

Leverage Europe's investment in innovation and shape Europe's future towards more sustainable, inclusive and smart growth



UNIVERSITIES

Be part of the movement that enables innovation and creates a more favourable environment for cross-sectorial and cross-border cooperation



STUDENTS

Unleash your innovation potential by combining technical studies with entrepreneurial skills in unique EIT programmes



RESEARCHERS

Get your ideas off the ground, bring great ideas to life, and take your innovation to the market

GET INVOLVED WITH THE EIT COMMUNITY



Partner

Become a partner in one or more Knowledge & Innovation Communities



Collaborate

Collaborate with a KIC partner in an existing activity, e.g., via existing innovation projects



Benefit

Benefit from one of our activities: Master, PhD, professional learning programmes, capacity building actions, incubators, (pre) accelerators etc

Where do I start from?

1) Visit www.eit.europa.eu and check:

EIT Innovation Communities ^

EIT Innovation Communities ^

Join as a partner

 **Opportunities
& Funding**

Which KIC theme interests you?

What value can you bring/get as a partner?

Which activity fits to your needs?

2) Contact your National Contact Point

- https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/n_cp



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