



JUMPSTARTER

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European Union



# EIT JUMPSTARTER 2025

## Terms & Conditions



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## 1. THE DESCRIPTION AND STRUCTURE OF THE EIT JUMPSTARTER

### 1.1. Description of EIT Jumpstarter

*EIT Jumpstarter is a flagship programme of the EIT Community Strategic Regional Innovations Cluster, an initiative funded by the [European Institute of Innovation & Technology \(EIT\)](#). The programme is steered by the EIT Health InnoStars, while each cohort is coordinated by a different EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community.*

#### **What is the EIT Jumpstarter?**

The EIT Jumpstarter is an award-winning pre-acceleration programme funded by the European Union. The programme is designed to help scientists, researchers, innovators, and idea holders validate their innovative ideas and develop business skills to create and run their start-ups in innovative industries. The programme, powered by the EIT Community, focuses on talents coming from the countries located in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe (further specified under point 2.e below), where the overall pace of innovation is moderate or emerging<sup>1</sup> and are, for the most part, eligible for the [EIT Regional Innovation Scheme](#) (more about the eligible geographies can be found in section 2. The Eligibility Criteria). Since 2017, the EIT Jumpstarter has brought to life 124 start-ups and trained over 1180 researchers, scientists, and professionals. It is free of charge for beneficiaries and doesn't require equity shares.

#### **Who are the participants?**

The EIT Jumpstarter creates a new European cohort of innovators and early-stage entrepreneurs, curious and eager to find solutions to some of the most pressing global intersectional challenges such as climate change, the energy crisis, access to raw materials, health, well-being and active ageing, sustainable manufacturing or smart and liveable cities. Very often, they have the necessary scientific background and research experience, but they lack business skills or have never validated their idea on the market. During the seven-month-long programme, the participants are equipped with an essential business skill set that is a must for future entrepreneurs, including business modelling and validation of the market need. They also gain best-in-class networking and understand how to turn their innovation from an idea to a marketable product or service and make a potential impact in their respective industry. The EIT Community carefully selects the best candidates to enable quality peer-to-peer learning. The most promising teams will be awarded with financial prizes to support their further development. All details regarding the Funding terms are explained under point 3.

#### **What kind of ideas can be submitted?**

Participants can submit their ideas in one of the eight categories, powered and mentored by different EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (EIT KICs):

- Healthcare powered by EIT Health
- Food & Agritech powered by EIT Food
- Metals, minerals, advanced materials & industrial side streams powered by EIT RawMaterials
- Energy and Renewables powered by EIT InnoEnergy
- Advanced and Green Manufacturing powered by EIT Manufacturing
- Smart Cities and Mobility powered by EIT Urban Mobility
- New European Bauhaus (NEB)<sup>2</sup> powered by EIT Culture & Creativity
- Rebuild Ukraine powered by EIT Health

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<sup>1</sup> According to the European innovation scoreboard: [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/statistics/performance-indicators/european-innovation-scoreboard\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/statistics/performance-indicators/european-innovation-scoreboard_en)

<sup>2</sup> DISCLAIMER: In 2025 the New European Bauhaus category will be managed by EIT Culture and Creativity.

The detailed scopes of each thematic field are further described under point 2.d below.

## 1.2. Structure of EIT Jumpstarter

This competition is divided into several phases:

### ***Phase 1: Submission of ideas and selection to the Online Bootcamps***

The call for applications opens on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025 and closes on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025 at 23:59 CET. Please apply through our [online application form](#). The applicants should emphasise: the innovative concept, what is unique in their technology, the development stage of their idea, the team description, explaining the need the innovation solves, and the current challenges of the team. Applications can be submitted once under the most appropriate thematic field (See Section 1.1).

A team of experts will carefully assess the submitted applications (please see Annexe 1 – Scoring criteria). A total of 190 teams – 20 per each thematic field and an additional 30 teams from the Western Balkans – will be selected to participate in the Competition. Due to the cross-sectoral character of the programme, there may be possible shifts of qualified teams between thematic cohorts: in case the scope of a business idea fits better into another thematic cohort, the team will be requested to change the earlier selected vertical.

Applications shall be evaluated on a rolling basis; therefore, applicants are encouraged to complete their application form earlier than the expiration of the application deadline. The Organisers reserve the right to extend the application deadline at their sole discretion, without the obligation to provide further explanation. In case the application deadline is extended the organisers will inform about it via the [eitjumpstarter.eu](http://eitjumpstarter.eu) website.

- A reserve list of eligible idea-holders will be prepared for each thematic field. If a selected applicant resigns from the Competition, the applicant with the highest score from the reserve list shall be invited to participate. Please note, that teams from the reserve list can only be invited during the first two weeks of the learning programme's commencement. This timing allows for adequate integration into the curriculum process and interaction with mentors and coaches.
- If the number of eligible applications (fulfilling the selection criteria and submitted before the deadline) is lower than the number of available places in the Online Bootcamps, the deadline for applications may be extended. In such a case additional recruitment of participants will be launched and carried on until all places are taken. The selection for the remaining vacant places will be held separately upon the same criteria as the initial one. The additional recruitment might be terminated earlier without any prior notice.
- During the evaluation process of submitted applications, additional points will be given to STEM students graduated from [the EIT-labeled programmes or HEI projects](#), teams comprising at least one founder coming from the EU Outermost Regions, teams co-founded by at least one woman as well as participants of [the COST Actions or other COST Association programmes](#).
- The invitations will be sent to accepted participants directly by the respective EIT KIC's Contact point (listed under point 6) until the end of April 2025.

### ***Phase 2: Online Bootcamps and learning group coaching***

The training aims to deliver the fundamental qualitative and quantitative skills of developing a business case for an entrepreneurial idea; as well as knowledge on pitching the business case to get investor funding. Focus areas: pitch deck development, creation of business-critical assumptions, and identification of next steps. Bootcamps will be organised online in May-June 2025. The length of this stage

is approximately 15 hours in total. Bootcamps are composed of online modules and learning group meetings where participants will be supported with expert coaching to master the different topics while interacting, networking, and learning from fellow teams. Once the team joins one learning group, they will not be eligible to participate in another. The EIT Jumpstarter project management team will assign the teams to the learning groups and coaches. Attendance of the team in learning group meetings is mandatory to proceed and pitch at the Online Pitch Day, and will be scored along with the pitch delivered during the Pitch Days.

### ***Phase 3: Online Pitch Day and Selection to the Local Joint Training***

After the Online Bootcamps, teams will pitch their business ideas during an online, thematic Pitch Day in late June – early July 2025. During the Online Pitch Day, the teams will pitch live and will be evaluated by a jury panel. Only in exceptional cases, after the consent from the EIT Jumpstarter Programme Lead, the pitch can be pre-recorded and sent to the EIT KIC's representative prior to the Online Pitch Day.

During the online event teams will have the opportunity to answer the jury's questions. Based on their pitches and answers, the organisers will select the best performing, most committed 80 teams – up to 10 teams per each category – and invite them to the next Phase of the programme, the Local Joint Trainings, which partially takes place in person. In case any of selected teams refuse or are unable to participate in the Local Joint Trainings, the next highest-ranking team will be invited to take the vacant place.

The invitations will be sent to participants directly by the respective EIT KIC's Contact point not later than July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### ***Phase 4: Local Joint Trainings***

The Local Joint Trainings will be organised in various European locations in July-September 2025. The Training will build on the knowledge acquired by teams during the Online Bootcamps. The Local Joint Trainings aim to help teams test and validate their main assumptions set up in the previous phase, expand existing knowledge and practice new skills, master their presentation skills, and learn how to set up a start-up. Teams will ideally be directed to the location nearest to their place of residence. The total length of the Local Joint Training is approximately 40 hours. Teams will be asked to prepare home assignments during the training namely, to work on business modelling tools. At the end of the training, teams will be required to write concise Business Plans considering the outcomes of the analyses prepared and delivered during the training. Furthermore, teams will have the possibility to receive individual mentoring from industry and business experts. The Local Joint Trainings will be organised partially in person. Teams will be supported by small grants to cover the travel and accommodation costs related to their participation in the training (further specification under point 3). The attendance of the team in the Training is mandatory to proceed and submit a Business Plan for evaluation.

### ***Phase 5: Business Plan Evaluation and Selection of the Finalists of the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Final***

After the Local Joint Trainings, teams should submit their Business Plans prepared with the support of local trainers to the EIT KIC's representative responsible for a respective thematic cohort. The Business Plans will be evaluated by the evaluation committee.

The prizes at the Grand Final are considered a part of the pre-seed funding stage. This is the earliest phase of financing for a start-up, typically occurring when the company is still in the ideation or concept stage. These prizes are intended to incentivise product or service development efforts aimed at commercialising innovative solutions by start-up companies. Therefore, across all EIT Jumpstarter categories, only those teams who are ready to set up a new business enterprise by end of 2025 will be eligible to enter the final phase of the competition. In this context, teams will be asked to submit their Business Plans together with one of the Supporting Documents: a Letter of Intent confirming that the team will incorporate its company by the end of December 2025 or a Registration certificate or a Proof of

Filling the Registration<sup>3</sup>, if the team members have already started the company registration process in order to establish a corporation related to their application.

Participants must deliver their Business Plans and a Supporting Document by October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. In case teams will not provide a supporting document, their Business Plans will not be evaluated.

Based on the submitted Supporting Document and the Business Plans, the organisers will invite the best 48 teams – up to 6 per category – to deliver a pitch at the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Final event. The invitations will be sent to participants directly by the respective EIT KIC's Contact point, but not later than October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

If a member of the selected team is not an EU citizen, they may receive a letter of invitation to obtain the appropriate visa.

### ***Phase 6: EIT Jumpstarter Grand Final***

The **EIT Jumpstarter Grand Final is the final pitching stage** and the culmination of the EIT Jumpstarter programme. The Grand Final is an annual public event where the most promising teams, selected after months of rigorous preparation, compete for prizes. It is going to take place in one of the European countries in November 2025. The teams will be grouped into eight sessions according to their categories (Healthcare, Food and Agritech, Metals, minerals, advanced materials and industrial side streams, Energy and Renewables, Advanced and Green Manufacturing, Smart Cities and Mobility, New European Bauhaus, and Rebuild Ukraine) and will pitch and compete in the respective category. The teams will pitch their ideas in front of a jury panel, composed of experts appointed by the EIT Community and in front of the broader audience. The top 3 winners will be selected in each category by the Jury and awarded with financial prizes:

- 1st prize: EUR 10,000
- 2nd prize: EUR 5,000
- 3rd prize: EUR 2,500

Special prizes will be given to the best teams coming from the Western Balkans, EU Outermost Regions and the Mediterranean regardless of the category in the amount of:

- EUR 5,000 will be awarded to the best team from the Western Balkans, regardless of category. The best team is selected based on the highest score achieved by any team from the Western Balkans for their pitch during the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Final.
- EUR 2,500 will be awarded to the best team from the EU Outermost Regions regardless of category. The best team is selected based on the highest score achieved by any team from the EU Outermost Regions for their pitch during the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Final.
- EUR 2,500 will be awarded to the best team from the Mediterranean regardless of category. The best team is selected based on the highest score achieved by any team from the Mediterranean for their pitch during the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Final.

In order to participate in the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Final, participants must deliver the final version of their pitch decks to the EIT Jumpstarter Programme Lead and the respective EIT KIC's representative by November 1<sup>st</sup> 2025. Please note that during the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Final the teams will be ranked based on the evaluation of the jury members present.

Please note that all EIT Jumpstarter Grand Final Prize Winners need to finalise the registration of their

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<sup>3</sup> The Proof of Filling the Registration should include the forecasted date of the registration of the company.

company<sup>4</sup> and provide the EIT Communities with a Registration Document (extract from the state registry or equivalent) within 15 days from the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Final to be able to receive the monetary prize. In exceptional circumstances this deadline can be prolonged with maximum 15 days by the decision of the EIT Jumpstarter Programme Lead.

In case a prize winner cannot submit all the required documents within the deadline, the next eligible team in the ranking, who took part in the EIT Jumpstarter Grand Final shall receive a notice regarding this and is entitled to receive the prize. In this case the next ranked start-up is obliged to submit the Registration Certificate to the EIT Communities within maximum 15 days from the notice received.

If less than three Finalist meets the conditions on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2026, than the Organisers may decide to pay the cash prize only for the team eligible for it on this date (meaning that only eligible team having sent the registration certificate till this deadline shall be entitled for the cash prize).

## 2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

**The competition is open to all individuals and teams of natural persons holding the citizenship of the following EIT RIS eligible countries and Moldova:**

- EU Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia
- Horizon Europe Associated Countries and territories: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, \*Kosovo<sup>5</sup>, Türkiye, Ukraine
- EU Outermost Regions: Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain)

Natural persons: researchers, Masters, and PhD students or research groups from universities and research organisations; professionals, idea holders, or idea owners that have an idea/solution that is targeting the scope of one of our categories (further specified under 2.d below) and wants to start a company. Those teams who already have registered start-ups (legal entities) before January 1st 2025, connected to their business ideas submitted in the application phase, are not eligible to participate and will not be accepted to this particular competition. Start-ups who registered their company in the given calendar year (from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025) are eligible for the programme.

The evaluation methodology used during the entire programme is as follows:

### Eligible participants:

- **Individuals – citizens of one of the following EIT RIS eligible countries and territories and Moldova:** Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, \*Kosovo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Türkiye, Ukraine, Outermost Regions: Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain)
- Team of individuals (natural persons), where **at least** one out of two team members must be a

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<sup>4</sup> The newly created company connected to the business idea should hold shares or stocks (for example, in: GmbH, LLC, Ltd, OU, Sarl, SL, Sp zoo, Srl, TOB) and be registered during the year 2025 in the following EIT Regional Innovation Scheme eligible Countries and territories and Moldova: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine (must operate in territories under the control of the Government of Ukraine), Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), the Canary Islands (Spain), or in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, \*Kosovo.

<sup>5</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

citizen of these countries;

- Legal entities – not applicable

### Eligible applications:

The applications can be submitted either by a single idea holder or by a team represented by a contact person. There is no pre-set number of members in a team, but a maximum of two (2) co-founding members are eligible for financing (further specified under point 3 below). The participation of a team is welcome and appreciated in the evaluation, especially when the team is covering different competencies required in running a start-up. However, a maximum number of two (2) co-founding members per team is eligible to take part in the EIT Jumpstarter programme to ensure the high quality and comfortable conditions of the training activities. In justified cases, the EIT KIC contact-point or trainer/mentor may allow the participation of more team members in specific activities. Up to two team members can receive grants (financial support) for travel and accommodation purposes.

All applications for the programme must be completed as follows:

- Applicants must fill in all required information tabs in the application form.
- Applicants must introduce a project team consisting of 1 to any number of participants.<sup>6</sup>
- Proposals must be in English. Proposals in other languages will not be accepted.
- Incomplete submissions or submissions via any other means (e.g. email) will be rejected.
- Proposals must be submitted before the deadline; all late applications will be rejected.<sup>7</sup>
- The idea must be within the scope of the main challenges:
  - *Healthcare cohort 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/>
  - *Metals, minerals, advanced materials and & industrial side streams cohort 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; Advanced materials' processing, incl. additive manufacturing; 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/about-us/our-mission>
  - *Food & Agritech cohort powered by EIT Food*: optimising resource efficiency and environmental

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<sup>6</sup> However, only two participants from the project team will be eligible for project funding.

<sup>7</sup> The application deadline will be set according to the Central European Time zone (CET). Teams which will represent countries outside the Central European time zone, please take into account the hourly time difference.



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>

- *Energy and Renewables powered by EIT InnoEnergy*: energy costs reduction, system performance increase, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions decrease, circular economy (particularly in the context of energy usage), green hydrogen, energy management systems 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/>

- *Advanced and Green Manufacturing cohort powered by EIT Manufacturing*: Flexible Production Systems for Competitive Manufacturing, Low Environmental Footprint Systems & Circular Economy for Green Manufacturing, Digital & Collaborative Solutions for Innovative Manufacturing Ecosystems and Human-machine coworking for socially sustainable manufacturing. More details are accessible here: <https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/focus-areas-flagships/>

- *Smart cities and Mobility powered by EIT Urban Mobility*: Active Mobility, Sustainable City Logistics, Future Mobility, Mobility and Energy, and Public Realm, 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](#)

*New European Bauhaus powered by EIT Culture & Creativity*: *New European Bauhaus powered by EIT Culture & Creativity*: Selected ideas should propose innovative solutions that contribute to developing beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive places, products, and ways of living. The New European Bauhaus (NEB) is a crossroad between art/culture and science/technology. Eligible projects may include accessible living spaces, alternative building methods that respect the environment and/or integrate cultural heritage, innovative solutions in architecture, materials and structures, design and production methods, smart infrastructure solutions, and circular and sustainable design and architecture. Proposals should focus on at least one of the three NEB dimensions: sustainability, aesthetics, or inclusion. For more details, please visit: [About the initiative - European Union](#)

- *in Rebuild Ukraine powered by EIT Health*: expecting ideas from all thematic fields that participate in the EIT Jumpstarter program (Health, Food, RawMaterials, Manufacturing, Urban Mobility, InnoEnergy, New European Bauhaus). Applicants must be Ukrainian citizens who either habitually reside in Ukraine, or if they are habitually not residing in Ukraine, they are willing to commit to incorporating their future company in Ukraine. *If there is an intention to register the company in another EIT RIS-eligible country, it is advisable to apply for the relevant category that aligns with the project.* The category aims to provide special support to Ukrainian innovators in their start-up development and prevent brain drain from the country.

- g. 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.

- h. At least one of the co-founders having citizenship in one of the countries or territories: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Kosovo<sup>8</sup>, Türkiye, Ukraine, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), the Canary Islands (Spain) and Moldova.
- i. Teams with at least one female co-founder will receive additional evaluation points.
- j. Participants of the former editions of the EIT Jumpstarter<sup>9</sup> cannot be selected for the programme and receive any financial support at any stage of the competition.
- k. The submitted project must be exclusively concentrated on civil applications, with no intention of military use or serving military purposes, in adherence to ethical considerations, to be eligible for participation. If a product/service/model involves dual-use items as defined by [Regulation 2021/821](#) or other items requiring authorisation, participation, and support can still be considered, but we will add a specific note to make sure the Project complies with the relevant regulatory framework.
- l. Multiple submissions are not accepted. Each applicant must use a unique email address for submission.
- m. 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. FUNDING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

#### 3.1. General conditions

The EIT Jumpstarter programme stipulates the provision of financial support to the teams during the competition cycle. Teams will be eligible to receive financial support at different stages of the competition, depending on their successful completion of each stage. Financing is based on teams, no matter if the team is represented by just one or two or more members. Team members will receive financial support according to each EIT KIC Financial Procedures and Compliance twice during the competition cycle.

#### 3.2. The stages of obtaining financial support

- Online Bootcamps phase (May-June 2025)
  - Not applicable
- **Local Joint Training phase** (July-September 2025)
  - Each team will receive financial support up to EUR 2,000 to cover their own individual travel and accommodation costs related to attending the local training as well as to finance other eligible project development activities.
- **Grand Final phase** (November 2025)
  - The six finalists teams of each cohort in the competition will receive an additional up to EUR 1,000 to cover travel and accommodation for participation in the Grand Final as well as to

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<sup>8</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

<sup>9</sup> The former EIT Jumpstarter participants - Former EIT Jumpstarter participants are teams of individuals who have been selected for one of the EIT JS cohorts in Phase I (Online Bootcamps) in previous years of the programme.

finance other expenses related to the implementation of the project.

### 3.3. Form of financial support

Financial support to teams will be provided based on a signed financial support agreement and/or a consent form. All documents **must** be signed by each team member. Each EIT KIC responsible for its cohort will provide all necessary documentation to the teams after all participants of the Local Joint Trainings and the finalists of the Grand Final are selected and confirmed. If a participating team does not accept the financial support agreement, this team will not be eligible for the financial support. Financial support Agreement templates of each KIC will be published at the EIT Jumpstarter website.

### 3.4. Prizes at the Grand Final

The top 3 winners will be selected in each category by the Jury and awarded with financial prizes:

- 1st prize: EUR 10,000
- 2nd prize: EUR 5,000
- 3rd prize: EUR 2,500
- EUR 5,000 will receive the best team from the Western Balkans regardless of the category.
- EUR 2,500 will receive the best team from the EU Outermost regions.
- EUR 2,500 will receive the best team from the Mediterranean.

To be eligible for a cash prize a team must have a registered company within a time frame defined in the Section 1.2. The founders of the companies and the holders of the shares must be team members. Trusted persons, proxies and official representatives, who will be displayed as the company's founders, will not be taken into consideration. The underlying economic activity of the established companies should be the same as the essence of the team's project. All charity organisations, NGOs, non-profit organisations, or associations will not be accepted in the means of "company".

**Please note:** In case a prize winner cannot receive the prize (e.g. resigns, cannot submit all the required documents on time, receives a higher prize), the next eligible team in the ranking, that fulfils the criteria, is entitled to receive the respective prize.

The special prize can be won by a team which also wins in the thematic cohort.

## 4. EIT COMMUNITY'S REPRESENTATION / COMMUNICATION POLICY

Participants who receive funding **must** display the EIT Community and EIT Jumpstarter logo on their website (if you have any) in a visible place. EIT Jumpstarter organisers will share the relevant guidelines with the teams during the programme.

By signing the consent form or Financial support agreement the applicants commit to taking part in the EIT Jumpstarter's follow-up questionnaire, including statistical questions about the company registered and the Project. The participants who received a cash prize are requested to inform the EIT Jumpstarter organisers about the first sales generated since the incorporation of their start-up

Finalists are eligible to be interviewed, and they shall participate in any interview the organisers request from them during the Grand Final. After the Grand Final, some participants might receive an interview request from a medium through the organisers. The Finalists who have set up a company should take part in interviews and surveys up to three years after finishing the programme and should always mention that they were created during the EIT Jumpstarter programme.

When participants announce that they became a member of the EIT Jumpstarter community, they shall

make sure to have the programme's logo displayed somewhere on the image they are using or should mention the EIT Jumpstarter 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 Jumpstarter, 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.

## 5. IP RIGHTS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

The applications submitted to EIT Health, EIT RawMaterials, EIT Food, EIT InnoEnergy, EIT Manufacturing, EIT Urban Mobility, EIT Culture & Creativity and for the New European Bauhaus and Rebuild Ukraine categories for the EIT Jumpstarter 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 Competition, applicants consent to access, keep, and use their data by the EIT Communities for the Competition. 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 Competition, 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 Jumpstarter are fully owned by the leading EIT KIC, EIT Health InnoStars. Participants cannot share them with externals or use them for other purposes not related to the EIT Jumpstarter.

**Please note:** The submitted project should be grounded in the unique ideas and creations of the applicant. If it incorporates intellectual property (IP) not originally the applicant's, it's crucial to have clear permissions, like a license agreement or a formal transfer of IP rights from the IP rights holder.

## 6. KEY DATES

- Deadline for submitting business ideas: 02 April 2025 at 23:59 CET
- Selection of ideas and invitation to the Online Bootcamps: 30 April 2025
- Online Bootcamps will be held online in May-June 2025 (to be defined)
- Online Pitch Day: last week of June / first week of July 2025 (to be defined)
- Local joint training: July-September 2025 (to be defined)
- Submission of Business Plans: 03 October 2025
- Grand Final: November 2025 (to be defined)

Dates could change, but the project management team will report them appropriately.

## 7. HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

For general programme-related questions, please contact us [here](#)

For specific, category-related questions, please contact our KIC Contact points:

- Contact from EIT Health: [Mr Piotr Boulangé](#)

- Contact from EIT RawMaterials: [Ms. Kristina Lovrek](#)
- Contact from EIT Food: [Mr. Adam Strzelecki](#)
- Contact from EIT InnoEnergy: [Mr. Piotr Pawelec](#)
- Contact form EIT Manufacturing: [Ms. Patricia Karrer](#)
- [Contact form EIT Urban Mobility: Ms. Celeste Reglá](#)
- [Contact from EIT Culture & Creativity: Javier Arias](#)
- Contact for Rebuild Ukraine category Ms. [Diana Berezhna](#)

More information on EIT Jumpstarter: <https://eitjumpstarter.eu/>

## 8. 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 nine thematic KICs under the EIT umbrella:

- **EIT Food:** Driving innovation in the agri-food sector.
- **EIT Climate-KIC:** Tackling climate change through innovation.
- **EIT Digital:** Fostering digital transformation.
- **EIT InnoEnergy:** Leading the transition to sustainable energy.
- **EIT Health:** Advancing health and well-being.
- **EIT RawMaterials:** Securing sustainable supply chains for raw materials.
- **EIT Manufacturing:** Innovating manufacturing ecosystems.
- **EIT Urban Mobility:** Improving mobility and urban living.
- **EIT Culture & Creativity:** Strengthening Europe's cultural and creative sectors.

The following KICs are actively participating in the **EIT Jumpstarter Programme**: EIT Food, EIT InnoEnergy, EIT Health, EIT RawMaterials, EIT Manufacturing, EIT Urban Mobility, and EIT Culture & Creativity.

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.

### 8.1. 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](http://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](#).

## 8.2. Overview of EIT RawMaterials

Minerals, metals and advanced materials 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 and advanced 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/>

## 8.3. 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/>

## 8.4. Overview of EIT InnoEnergy

[EIT 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e 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).

## 8.5. Overview of EIT Manufacturing

EIT Manufacturing is an Innovation Community within the EIT – that connects the leading manufacturing actors in Europe. Fuelled by a strong interdisciplinary and trusted community, we will add unique value to European products, processes, and services – and inspire the creation of globally competitive and sustainable manufacturing.

EIT Manufacturing will establish an innovation community and build a network of ecosystems where people can acquire skills and find opportunities; and where innovators can attract investors and accede venture capital. For that purpose, the EIT Manufacturing community boasts more than 130 members and network partners, including leading industry players, universities, and research institutes. For more information visit: [www.eitmanufacturing.eu](http://www.eitmanufacturing.eu)

## 8.6. Overview of EIT Urban Mobility

EIT Urban Mobility is an initiative of the EIT that has been working to encourage positive changes in the way people move around cities to make them more liveable places since January 2019. EIT Urban Mobility engages people, connects communities, accelerates market opportunities, and re-imagines public spaces. An innovation community to educate and inspire mobility solutions for 21<sup>st</sup>-century cities.

Using cities as living labs, the EIT Urban Mobility industry and university partners demonstrate how new technologies can work to solve real problems in real cities by transporting people, freight, and waste in smarter ways. By fostering innovation and transformation, we can improve people's quality of life, decarbonize mobility, and make Europe's economy more competitive. EIT Urban Mobility aims to become the largest European initiative transforming urban mobility. The help of EIT, a body of the European Union co-funding up to EUR 400 million (2020-2026), will help make this happen. For more information visit: [www.eiturbanmobility.eu](http://www.eiturbanmobility.eu)

## 8.7 Overview of EIT Culture & Creativity

EIT Culture & Creativity is the ninth Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) established by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). This initiative aims to strengthen and transform Europe's cultural and creative sectors and industries (CCSI) by enhancing their innovation capacity and competitiveness.

The main goals of EIT Culture & Creativity include:

- **Fostering Innovation:** Encouraging new ideas and technologies within the cultural and creative sectors.
- **Supporting Collaboration:** Bringing together education, research, business, and cultural players to create long-term partnerships.
- **Enhancing Competitiveness:** Helping cultural and creative industries become more competitive on a global scale.
- **Promoting Sustainability:** Integrating green and digital transitions into the cultural and creative sectors.

[www.eit-culture-creativity.eu](http://www.eit-culture-creativity.eu)

## 9. APPEALS PROCEDURE

- Applicants to EIT Jumpstarter may appeal the process for the selection. Similarly, the participants of the programme may appeal for the errors in the programme execution, following the EIT Jumpstarter Appeals Procedure. 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 [evelin.szasz@eithealth.eu](mailto:evelin.szasz@eithealth.eu) as soon as they identify an error, but no later than 21 days after the error occurred.
- EIT Jumpstarter Programme Lead assesses the claim and delivers a first response
- If there are grounds for appeal, EIT Jumpstarter Programme Lead will attempt to remedy the consequences (e.g. if a technical error of EIT Jumpstarter prevented the submission of a proposal or application, a late submission may still be accepted as eligible)
- The Steering Committee of the EIT Community Strategic Regional Innovations Cluster is notified about the matter if:
  - the applicant does not accept a rejection of the appeal, or the remediation suggested by the EIT Jumpstarter Programme Lead,
  - there are grounds for appeal, but the problem cannot be remedied any more without disrupting the process.
- The final decision regarding the appeal and the suggested remedies shall be brought by the Steering Committee of the EIT Community Strategic Regional Innovations Cluster.

## 10. AUDIT RIGHTS

Participants are aware that EIT Jumpstarter Programme Lead, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, the EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities, the European Commission, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) can carry out checks, reviews, audits, investigations on the participants and evaluations related to the Call.

## Annexe 1 - Scoring criteria

In Phase 1 all applicants will be evaluated in accordance with the pre-defined eligibility and selection criteria.

Eligibility criteria:

- Geographical criteria (yes/no);
- Thematic scope (yes/no);
- Funding limit (Does the sum of grants received from EIT exceed the funding limit of EUR 60,000?) (yes/no)
- EIT KICs programmes (Do you have knowledge of the team/members participating at any EIT related programmes earlier? If yes, which program?) - (yes/no; If yes - name of the programme);
- Application format: Did the team fulfil the application format as set out in the T&C?) - yes/no

Selection criteria:

- 2.A. Innovativeness of idea (The team has a novel/unique/special solution, and the idea cannot be replicated easily) - 0-2;
- 2.B. Identification of an existing problem? (Did the team identify well the "pain" of targeted/future customers?) - 0-2;



- 2.C. Market Opportunity and potential customers (The team identified well the potential customers and there is a clear market need presented as well as a way to take advantage of that need, beneficiary vs. customers) - 0-2;
- 2.D. Implementation of the idea (The team could identify reasonably the expected output, the risks and time of implementation) - 0-2;
- 2.E. Team and Motivation (strong team: the team is composed of strong and willing experts, strong motivation: the team has a clear plan how they will implement knowledge and education received at the training, the team has strong dedication) - 0-2;
- 2.F. Female Founders: if the Team has female co/founders - 0-1;
- 2.G. Teams from the EU Outermost Regions - 0-1;
- 2.H. Graduates from the EIT-labelled programmes or HEI projects - 0-1;
- 2.I. Participants of the COST Actions or other COST Association programmes - 0-1;