

EIT Higher Education Initiative

Funding to Transform, Funding to Go Beyond!

Taylor Hall

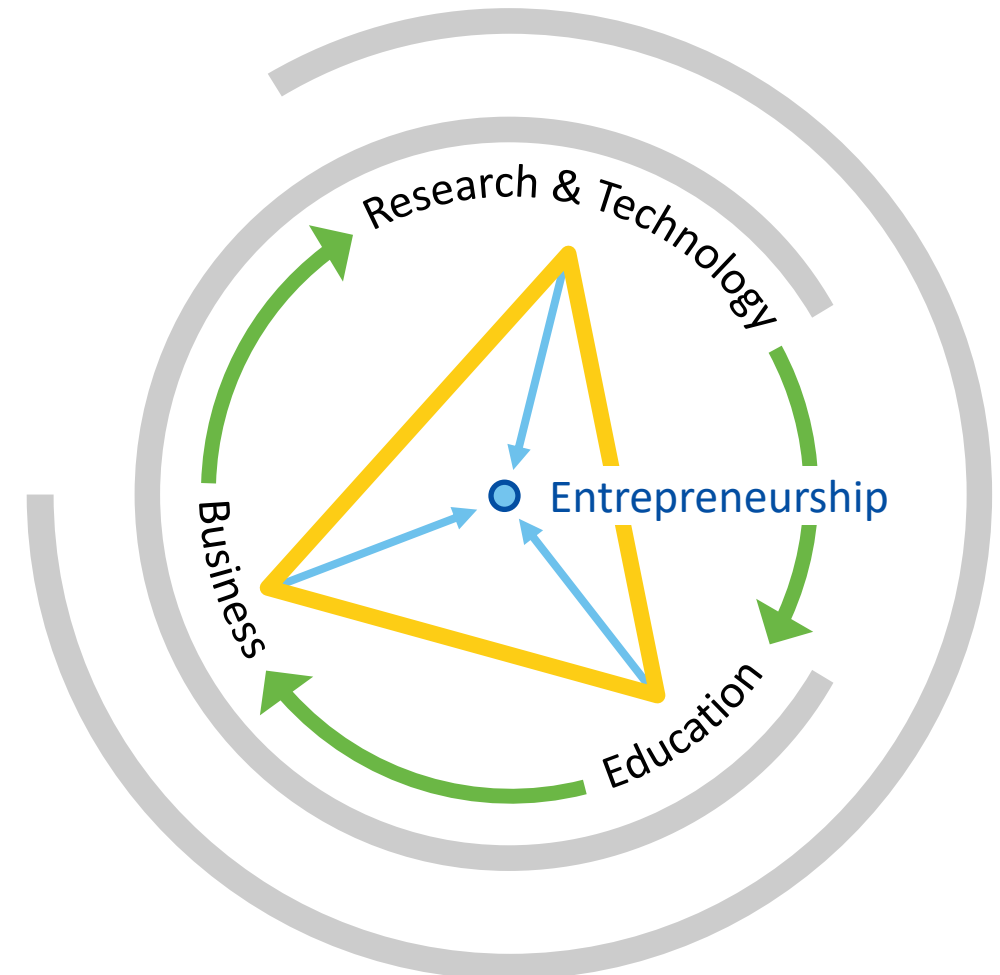
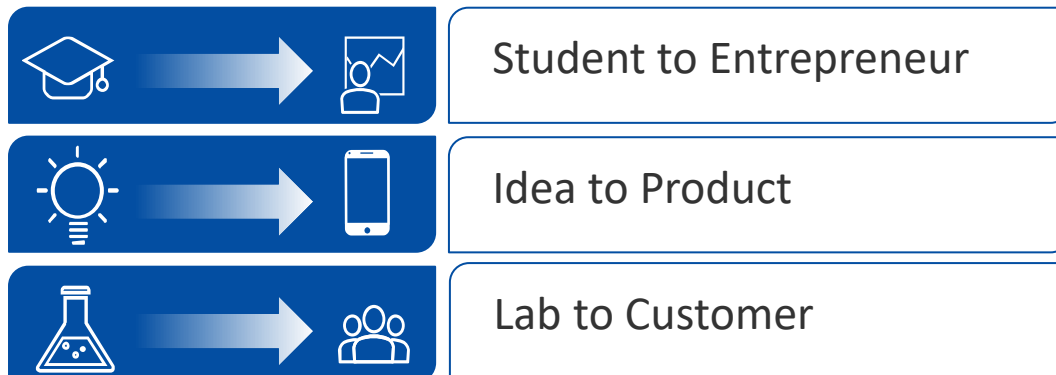
15 Oct. 2026, EUA Funding Forum

01

BACKGROUND & THE HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

- The EIT is an EU body that enhances Europe's ability to innovate by **nurturing young entrepreneurial talent** and **supporting new ideas** through the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs).
- The EIT is the first EU initiative bringing together the three sides of the 'knowledge triangle': **Business** (companies and SMEs), **Higher Education** Institutions and **Research** Centres.
- The EIT aims to increase the cooperation and integration between education, business and research to facilitate the transition from:



KICs involved in the **EIT Higher Education Initiative**



Develop raw materials into
a major strength for Europe



Drive Europe's
digital transformation



Accelerating the transition to
a zero-carbon economy



Increase Europe's manufacturing
competitiveness



Smart, green & integrated
transport



Healthier lives
for EU Citizens



Unite Europe's creatives

Generating lasting change

Skills to develop talent.

Structures that support innovation.

Partners help ideas to progress.



Support works together



Tailored support

Providing resources, activities and opportunities to secure long-term sustainability and impact



Knowledge for impact

Showcasing insights and good practices from previous HEI partners and I&E pioneers



Community building

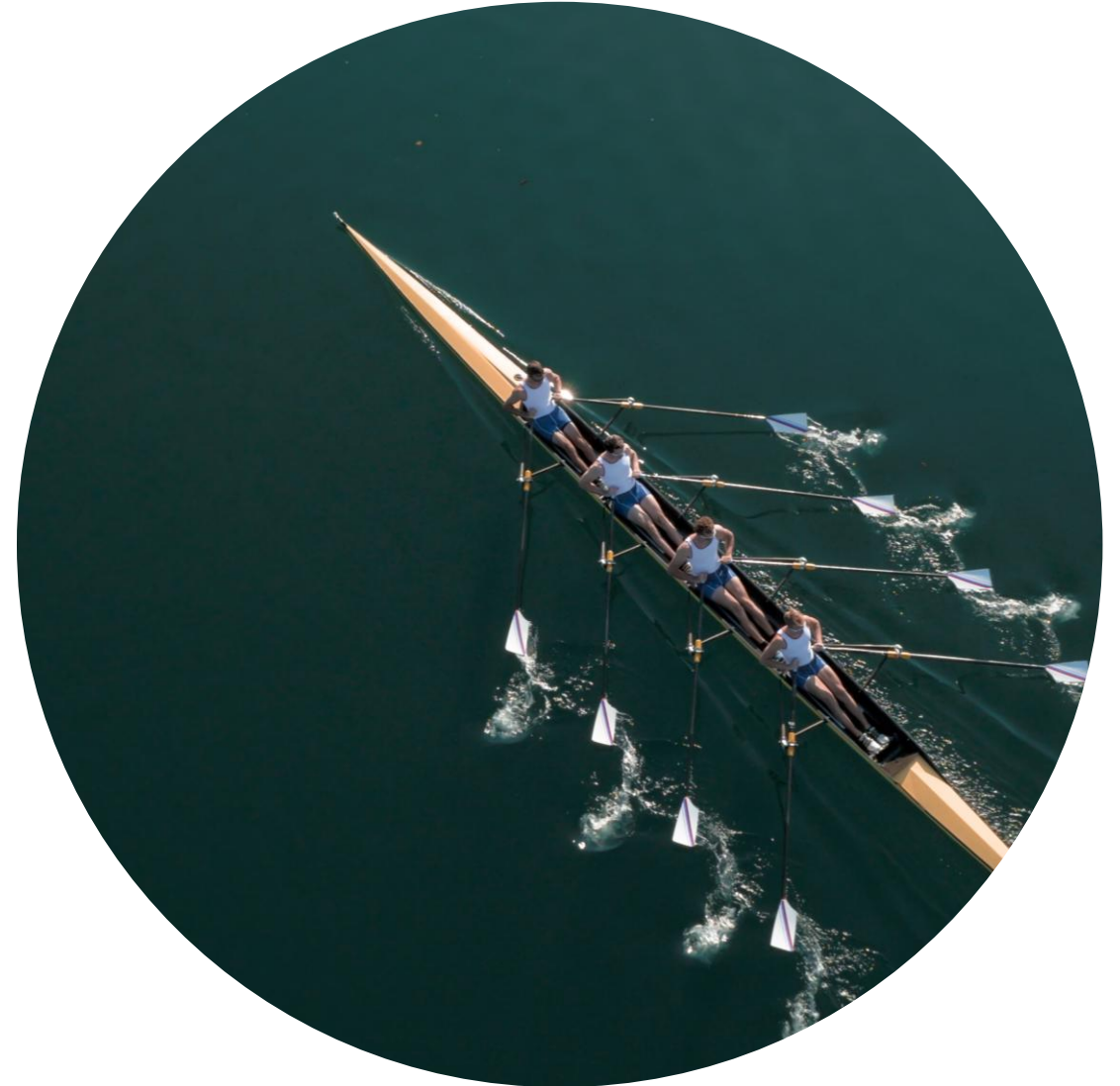
Creating a space to exchange knowledge, learn from one another, engage in discussions, and network

Each level adds value

Projects develop experience.

Cohorts exchange what works.

The wider **Community** carries it forward.



Our success in numbers



147 Projects

supporting 700+ HEIs and
400+ non-academic
organisations, across 60+
countries



150,00+ Trained

students, researchers,
and staff were equipped
with innovation and
entrepreneurship skills



2,400+ Start-ups

and scaleups were
supported to launch,
scale and sustain.

02

POWERFUL PROJECTS

EURECA-SPARK, Cohort 5

Partners: Freiberg University of Mining and Technology, Additive|Drives ERZLABOR Advanced Solutions, Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden – Rossendorf, MONOLITHOS Catalysts & Recycling Ltd., MiViA, Mittweida University of Applied Sciences, New energy institute, RINA Consulting – Centro Sviluppo Materiali, RJB Renewable Holdings, Technical University of Crete, University of León, Université de Lorraine, WEEEMET

- supports the EURECA-PRO European University Alliance in building a more structured and sustainable bridge between education, applied research, industry collaboration, and business creation
- fully digital, stackable MicroDegree in Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- establishes a structured start-up pathway that connects microcredential learning, regional incubators, innovation hubs, and EIT business creation and acceleration services



EuroSpaceHub, Cohort 2

Partners: Vilnius Gediminas Technical university, Collabwith Group, ISU, Kyiv Polytechnic Institute, Lunar Explorers Society, Universidad Complutense de Madrid

- connect digitally the space ecosystem in Europe, from tech transfer offices to industry, space accelerator networks, research centres, and other universities
- bridge the gap between academic institutions and industry using a collaborative mindset and entrepreneurship programmes inside the universities connected through tech transfer offices
- New educational program in I&E in space sector



REGINNA 4.0, Cohort 3

Partners: University of Nova Gorica, Arctur, Agricola, Polo Tecnologico Alto Adriatico Andrea Galvani SCPA, RRA Severne Primorske, University of León, University of Udine, Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University

- created a collaborative ecosystem through an interactive platform
- increased collaborative and cooperative engagement of HEIs and industry
- New educational programs in Nanotechnology, Industry 4.0, and Innovation and Entrepreneurship



03

COMMUNITY



There is a place for you

Current **project partners**

Alumni and earlier **participants**

Newcomers with a **shared interest**





Resources at tools

Find your peers

Meet people facing similar challenges

Shared knowledge

Explore resources and good practices

Keep learning

Join webinars, events and exchanges

04

LOOKING AHEAD





CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2026 IS COMING!

Call for Proposals 2026



Funding: up to **1.25 million**
EUR per project



Project duration: **18**
months



Theme: strengthening I&E
in **manufacturing** and
deep-tech



Objectives: **Talent**,
Institutional Capacity, and
Ecosystem Integration

LEARN MORE & STAY CONNECTED



Call for Proposals 2026



EIT HEI Community

THANK YOU!

✉ Email: hei@eitrawmaterials.eu

🖱 Website: eit-hei.eu

🌐 LinkedIn: [@EIT Higher Education Initiative](https://www.linkedin.com/company/eit-higher-education-initiative)