

# EIT Community in Slovakia

Making innovation happen!

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

Budapest, Hungary | 2017/2018

[www.eit.europa.eu](http://www.eit.europa.eu)



## METHODOLOGY NOTE

### **Financial data: 2017.**

Presented financial data of partners and linked 3<sup>rd</sup> parties include a share of the EIT grant transferred to the Legal Entities (LEs) and the Innovation Hubs. The share is calculated based on each partner's / linked 3<sup>rd</sup> party's received EIT grant, in proportion to the total EIT grant received by all the Innovation Communities' partners / linked 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.

### **Data on Innovation Community structures, EIT RIS, EIT-labelled programmes, and participations: Sept 2018.**

Please note that the number of participations per country may include several participations from a single organisation, and include both partner organisations and linked 3<sup>rd</sup> parties. The data on participations was retrieved on 13 September 2018 from the EIT's partnership management database. Organisations whose partnership requests were being processed at that time (entering and exiting organisations) may not have been included in the factsheet.

The information contained in the following pages about students, graduates, entrepreneurs, companies, and/or innovation projects is gathered from publicly available sources, as well as from the EIT Innovation Communities and the innovators themselves.





The challenges the world faces are well documented. Climate change, for example, will exacerbate the scarcity of resources. This influences food, water and energy supply, and affects health and national security. **The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)** was set up to find solutions to such challenges and this is exactly what we deliver. We do this with tangible results, bridging innovation gaps among regions.

## Europe's largest Innovation Community

- Headquarters
  - Innovation Hubs
  - Offices
  - EIT RIS Hubs
- Newly selected Innovation Communities
- Headquarters
  - Innovation Hubs
  - Offices



### RESULTS & IMPACT

- € 890 + million investment raised by EIT ventures
- 6100+ jobs created
- 1700+ graduates
- 1250+ ventures supported
- 600+ new products

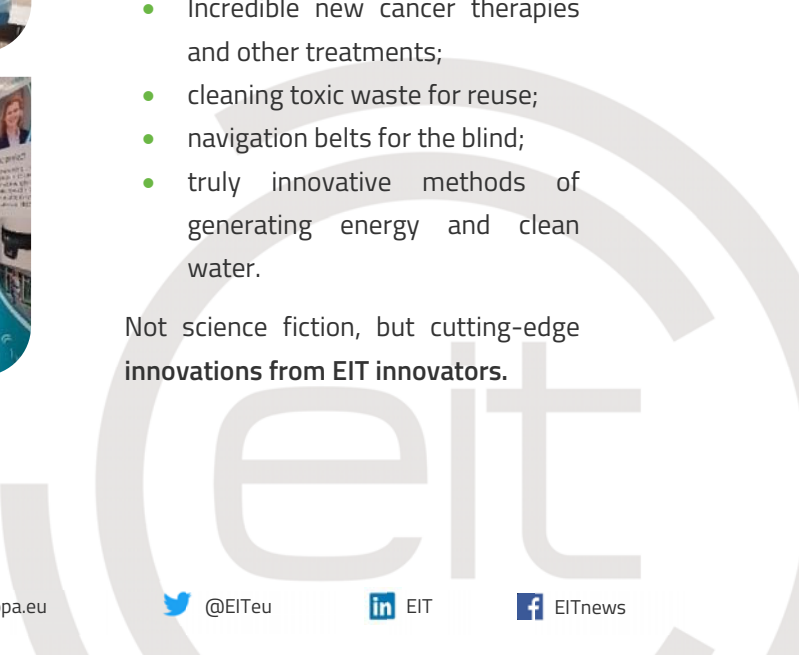


### Did you know?

The EIT is home to innovations that **make the difference for this planet, the EU and its citizens.**

- Incredible new cancer therapies and other treatments;
- cleaning toxic waste for reuse;
- navigation belts for the blind;
- truly innovative methods of generating energy and clean water.

Not science fiction, but cutting-edge innovations from EIT innovators.



## What EIT Innovation Communities are there?

- **EIT Climate-KIC** - working to accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy
- **EIT Digital** - driving Europe's digital transformation
- **EIT Food** - leading a global revolution in food innovation and production
- **EIT Health** - giving EU citizens greater opportunities to enjoy a healthier and active life for longer
- **EIT InnoEnergy** - achieving a sustainable energy future for Europe
- **EIT Raw Materials** - turning Europe's dependence on raw materials into a strategic strength

In December 2018, two new Innovation Communities joined us:

- **EIT Manufacturing** - strengthening and increasing the competitiveness of Europe's manufacturing industry
- **EIT Urban Mobility** - providing sustainable solutions for urban mobility

## The EIT Community brings together:



570+ companies, including SMEs



190+ higher education institutions



150+ research centers



80+ cities, regions and NGOs

## The EIT: Working across Europe

Our mission is to build up Europe's ability to innovate. We bridge the existing gaps in innovation performance across Europe. We achieve this through the **EIT Regional Innovation Scheme**.

Our operational arms are the **EIT Innovation Communities**. They cooperate closely with the local ecosystem.



Being an entrepreneur never occurred to me before EIT Climate-KIC. They brought out the entrepreneur in me!

Florence Gschwend, co-founder Chrysalix Technologies and EIT CHANGE Award winner 2017



EIT Health really opens doors for start-ups! They really helped us on our journey to reach our patients.

Carsten Mahrenholz, CEO COLDPLASMATECH and EIT Audience Award winner 2017

## The future of the EIT

In **Horizon Europe**, the EIT will continue to:

- generate ground-breaking products and services;
- start revolutionary companies;
- train a new generation of entrepreneurs.

We also want to find more solutions to **Europe's key challenges and set up new Innovation Communities**. Do you wonder where our water will come from? Do you think about the future of European culture and creative industries, security and migration? We do too, so we want to **roll out our model to new countries and regions**.

We will also expand our entrepreneurial education model, because **education is at the heart of innovation and our future**.



The EIT boosts innovation across the EU and all of its Member States. In Slovakia, the EIT Community delivers education, innovation and entrepreneurship activities through its outreach strategy, the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS). The aim of the EIT RIS is to boost innovation in European countries that are defined as modest or moderate innovators by the European Innovation Scoreboard. The EIT Community works towards this objective by engaging local organisations and individuals in our Innovation Communities' activities, transferring good practices to local innovation ecosystems, and providing tailor-made services to bridge innovation gaps.



**EIT Climate-KIC's** Innovation Hub for Slovakia is based in Poland and is located in Wrocław. The Polish Hub also coordinates EIT-Climate KIC's activities in Central Europe and has one partner in Slovakia (Technical University of Kosice).

**EIT Climate-KIC** through its Innovation Hub Poland offers business creation services to start-ups and scale-ups, as well as educational programmes for Slovak students and professionals. Additionally, EIT Climate-KIC sets up innovation projects that gather researchers, SMEs and industrial leaders.

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🌐 [www.climate-kic.org/our-community/our-partners/eit-ris/](http://www.climate-kic.org/our-community/our-partners/eit-ris/)



**CIVITTA** Slovakia (Neulogy), based in Bratislava, acts as **EIT Digital's** Innovation Center in Slovakia. This cooperation promotes regional and national growth by providing access to EIT Digital's Innovation Activities, Business Communities, Market and Finance Services.

Through the Hub, EIT Digital implements the **ARISE** Europe programme as part of the EIT RIS. EIT Digital connects the most innovative local ecosystems to their European-wide network of global companies, leading research centres, and top ranked universities, strengthening local innovation centres by linking them to EIT Digital's innovation and entrepreneurship activities, and fostering entrepreneurial skill development by connecting local talents and educators to their excellent education programmes.

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🌐 [www.eitdigital.eu/about-us/arise-europe](http://www.eitdigital.eu/about-us/arise-europe)

☎ 00 421 2 5441 41 00



CIVITTA Slovakia (Neology), based in Bratislava, acts as EIT InnoEnergy's Hub in Slovakia.

In 2017, the EIT allocated € 15,662 to EIT InnoEnergy activities in Slovakia. EIT InnoEnergy offers Business Creation Services to energy-related start-ups and scale-ups at different stages of maturity. Additionally, EIT InnoEnergy offers entrepreneurial education programmes and sets up innovation projects that bring together researchers and industry to create commercially viable technologies.

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In 2018, EIT Health selected T-Systems Slovakia, located in Kosice, to serve as its Hub in Slovakia. The Hub focuses on developing the local innovation ecosystem, implementing the EIT RIS programme and helping EIT Health find the best Slovak talents, start-ups, and entrepreneurs.

EIT Health offers a wide range of services to innovators. Their business creation and acceleration programme is open to entrepreneurs at every stage of the innovation process. EIT Health also provides comprehensive support to innovation projects and education programmes for aspiring entrepreneurs and professionals in the healthcare sector.

✉ [innostars@eithealth.eu](mailto:innostars@eithealth.eu)

🌐 [www.eithealth.eu/regional-innovation-scheme](http://www.eithealth.eu/regional-innovation-scheme)



EIT RawMaterials cooperates with the Technical University of Kosice, which acts as the Regional Innovation Scheme Hub in Eastern Slovakia and partners with the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava. In 2017, the EIT allocated € 7,041 to EIT InnoEnergy activities in Slovakia.

EIT RawMaterials goal in Slovakia is to mobilise all components of the knowledge triangle, to support the local ecosystem and give rise to innovation in the region – aligned with the EU strategies.

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🌐 <https://hub.fberg.tuke.sk/en/home/>



In early 2019, EIT Food selected the Slovak university of Agriculture in Nitra to serve as its hub in Slovakia.

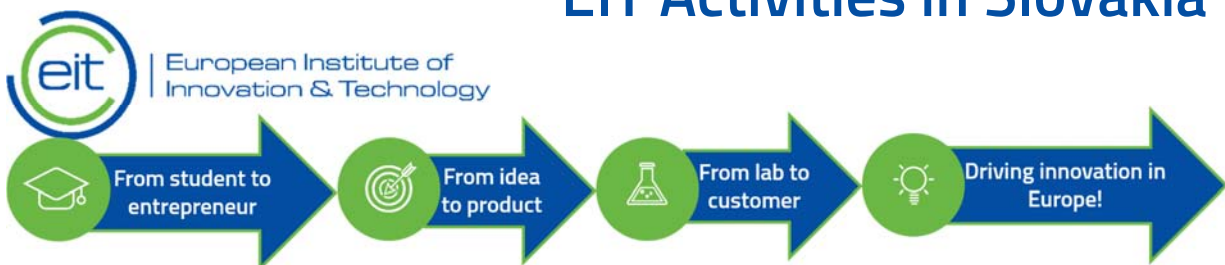
The Hub aims to connect the Slovak start-up community to the EIT Food's innovation ecosystem and ensure that local innovators can benefit from EIT Food's portfolio of innovation instruments. Furthermore, the Hub will act as the regional contact point for interested stakeholders, maintaining relations with key regional players, and organising events and workshops for students, graduates and entrepreneurs.

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🌐 <https://eit.uniag.sk/>




# EIT Activities in Slovakia



## EIT Education Activities in Slovakia

Through the **EIT's Education Activities**, the EIT Community supports tomorrow's entrepreneurs and strengthens Europe's entrepreneurial culture. **EIT-labelled Master's and Doctoral degrees** make up the EIT's flagship initiative in education. These programmes combine excellent technical knowledge with robust entrepreneurship education. By completing an EIT-labelled programme, students earn a **double degree** from two of our partner universities **spread across Europe**.

In addition to EIT-labelled university degrees, the EIT Community offers European citizens a long list of other education activities: **lifelong-learning; professional and executive trainings; short courses and summer schools; and online courses**. Furthermore, several of our Innovation Communities offer **education activities in Slovakia** or **directed at Slovak citizens** through the EIT's Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS).

 **EIT Food's RIS Fellowships** offer 30 students and graduates from RIS countries unique, three-month paid internships. During a multi-step recruitment process, candidates participate in networking and case study workshops led by EIT Food's hubs. The best candidates are offered internships in different areas of operations in EIT Food's **partner companies** or **RisingFoodStars companies**. The interns take on learning-by-doing activities and tackle real-life challenges faced by the food industry.


 **EIT Health's StarShip Programme** is an EIT Health educational initiative in cooperation with the University of Coimbra, IESE Business School, the RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, and Instituto Pedro Nunes, as well as six partnering companies. Using blended education approaches, such as the [Stanford Biodesign Concept](#), the StarShip is a unique opportunity to be involved in industry-driven, life-science innovation. During the one-year long programme, fellows work together in multidisciplinary teams and learn a proven, action-based approach to find solutions to health challenges in collaboration with key industrial players. The outcomes are the development of – or crucial contributions to – market-relevant products or services.

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## EIT Business Creation & Acceleration Services in Slovakia


The EIT Community's programmes cover the entire innovation chain from pre-incubation to business acceleration in the fields of climate, digital, energy, food, health, and raw materials. These programmes are open to ventures and budding entrepreneurs from Slovakia. Furthermore, EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Health, and EIT InnoEnergy offer several activities specifically directed at Slovak innovators.




 **EIT Climate-KIC** offers entrepreneurs a chance to participate in the **Climathon** – a global 24-hour climate change hackathon, which gathers innovators, students and professionals with the aim of solving climate challenges. EIT Climate-KIC's **Climate Launchpad** is the world's largest green business idea competition, offering training, coaching, and financial support.

 **EIT Food's** services include the **RisingFoodStars Association** – EIT Food's start-up club of outstanding agri-food tech start-ups, offering access to knowledge, networks and EIT Food's activities. **EIT FoodSparks™** provides start-ups with funds to bridge the critical early stage of their development. EIT Food's **RIS Innovation Grants** reward the best entrepreneurs and start-ups in Southern and Eastern Europe who have an early-stage business idea with up to € 10,000 in funding.

 **EIT Health's** services include the **InnoStars Awards**, which provides early-stage companies with funding for business development, as well as the opportunity to compete for € 25,000 to launch their initiative, and the **EIT Health Headstart Programme**, which provides funding for early stage companies and SMEs to develop new products and services.

 **EIT Digital** scales fast-growing technology start-ups through two programmes: **EIT Digital Accelerator**, a 12-month programme for start-ups to raise Series A-B funding and scale up internationally and **EIT Digital Challenge** – an international pitching competition for promising scale-ups. The winners get a € 100,000 prize package, as well as the opportunity to participate in their Accelerator programme with comprehensive business support services.


**EIT Digital's ARISE Venture Programme** is a two-stage competition that supports the establishment of deep-tech-based. The Programme offers up to € 15,000 and an intensive acceleration phase for eight early-stage entrepreneurs from the Balkan region.

 **EIT InnoEnergy's Primer** is an educational programme for start-ups in the pre-acceleration phase. Through the programme, aspiring entrepreneurs learn what it takes to build a successful business and how to overcome challenges in the sustainable energy sector. It focuses on different thematic areas, including how to develop a business model, a go-to-market strategy, or the perfect pitch. This programme received 40 applications from Slovakia in 2018 and nine of these were offered a pitch at Demo Day in front of investors.

**PowerUp! Competition** is a competition for energy, cleantech, mobility, cybersecurity, and smart city start-ups from 24 countries. The competition offers financial awards of up to € 30,000, and the opportunity of an investment of € 150,000.

**Danubia Nanotech** from Slovakia won the 2019<sup>th</sup> edition of the competition. They created a solution for real temperature monitoring in the form of a graphene temperature sensor, available as ultra-thin film, applied to any non-metallic substrate.



 **EIT RawMaterials** offers comprehensive Business Creation and Acceleration Services to excellent start-ups and scale-ups, including their **Business Idea Competition**, and their **Kick-Starter and Booster programmes**. These programmes are open to applicants from Slovakia and the Slovakian start-up, **Ekolive** was a successful participant in these programs.





EIT Health, EIT Food and EIT RawMaterials jointly run a cross-sectoral business creation programme for early stage entrepreneurs named [EIT Jumpstarter](#). The curriculum is based on the lean start-up methodology from the Silicon Valley and adapted to the European environment. During the programme, participants are trained in fundamental entrepreneurial skills, taught about market segmentation, as well as having the chance to develop a value proposition, look into financials and work on strengthening their competitive advantage. At the same time the programme validates business concepts, real-life needs for products, and connects best-of-the-best teams with large industrial partners from the Innovation Communities' networks, such as GE Healthcare, Siemens, Philips, Roche, Bosch, Nestlé, Pepsico, MaspeX, among others.

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## EIT Outreach and Dissemination Activities in Slovakia



In order to strengthen the relations with stakeholders in Slovak industry and help them in building competencies in Open Innovation, EIT Digital supported Neulogy in the production of a comprehensive curriculum about open innovation processes and activities for Slovak companies. The Innovation Cookbook was presented to 15 executives and innovation managers from 7 large companies and 4 scale ups at an event held in Neulogy hub in Bratislava on September 24th. Good practices of cooperation between corporates and scale-ups, and access to market deals from EIT Digital Accelerator were also presented by ARISE Country Lead, Jasmina Popovska, along with other opportunities.



To reach out to Slovakia and the Slovakian ecosystem the EIT RawMaterials Hub – Regional Center Košice organized a Matchmaking and Networking event on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May. The purpose of this event was to engage Start-ups and entrepreneurs of Slovakia to take part in thematic sessions, have conversations and face-to-face meetings with interested stakeholders, and discuss next steps for enhancement.

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## Innovation in Action - Slovakia

[Ekolive](#), supported by [EIT RawMaterials](#).

**ekolive s.r.o.** is a Slovakian start-up from the x-KIC RIS Business Idea Competition 2018 that offers ecological biotechnology for refining locally available mineral resources into high-quality raw materials as an on-site service. Low quality of local deposits is caused by metallic impurities that dramatically reduce their value and usability. With low-cost, capex free and non-hazardous removal of impurities on an industrial scale, ekolive increases the value, accessibility and usability of raw materials. This opens up new, highly lucrative business opportunities for local sand pits with nearby consumers of high-quality materials, meeting the increasing needs of the customers' as well as financial limitations.

