

**EIT HEI Initiative**

Innovation Capacity Building  
for Higher Education



European Institute of  
Innovation & Technology

Funded by the  
European Union



# IMPACT-Campus

**Knowledge Valorization Centres for Sustainable  
Entrepreneurship and Digital Transformation**

**Proposal No. 24289 | Strand A – EIT HEI Initiative Call 2024**

# **EIT HEI Initiative Call 2024 Overview**

## **Enhancing Innovation in European Higher Education**

The EIT Higher Education Initiative Call for Proposals 2024 has a strong focus on enhancing the quality and competitiveness of European higher education. It will improve research and technology transfer from higher education and support business creation through strengthening collaboration between HEIs and business partners across Europe.

Strand A: Innovation and entrepreneurship capacity building at higher education institutions (HEIs).

### **Funding**

Up to **42 projects funded**

Total project duration: **25 months**

Total budget per project: **€1.34 million**

The IMPACT-Campus project establishes a network of Knowledge Valorization Centres (KVCs) located in European higher education institutions (HEIs) and extending to underrepresented regions, integrating universities into regional, European, and global innovation ecosystems. Using the Quadruple Helix Model for collaboration among academia, industry, policymakers, and civil society, and the Triple Helix Model emphasizing education, research, and business, the project facilitates institutional transformation and sustainable development. KVCs function as hubs for entrepreneurship, digital transformation, and inclusivity, addressing societal and economic challenges in line with the EIT HEI Initiative, European Green Deal, and Digital Europe Programme.

The project equips universities with tools, infrastructure, and methodologies to act as innovation engines driving societal and institutional impact. By embedding technology transfer systems, interdisciplinary collaboration frameworks, and entrepreneurship strategies, KVCs align Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) with local, national, and European innovation agendas, addressing climate change, digital skill gaps, and socioeconomic inequalities.



# Knowledge Valorization Centres (KVCs)

## KVCs as Innovation Hubs

Serve as engines for:

**Entrepreneurship**

**Digital transformation**

**Inclusivity**

Address societal and economic challenges in line with:

EIT HEI Initiative

European Green Deal

Digital Europe Programme

## Strategic Functions of KVCs

Equip universities with:

**Innovation tools, infrastructure, and methodologies**

**Embedded technology transfer systems**

**Interdisciplinary collaboration and entrepreneurship frameworks**

Align with Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) and EU innovation agendas.





## Knowledge Valorization Centres (KVCs)

### Target groups & priorities

Target marginalized groups:

**Women, youth, veterans, people with disabilities**

Provide mentorship, entrepreneurial opportunities, and equitable access to innovation ecosystems.

Reflect EIT Culture & Creativity and Digital priorities.

### Technology Integration

IMPACT-Campus develops a network of KVCs integrating advanced technologies, including AI, AR/VR (Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality), and blockchain, into operational strategies.

# EIT HEI Initiative

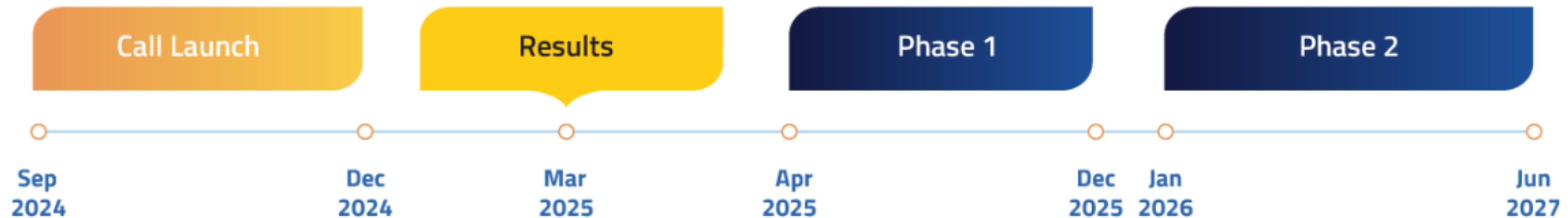
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## Timeline



## Funding Phases:

- Phase 1 (1 April to 31 December 2025): Up to EUR 540,000 (partner institutions work on their own)
- Phase 2 (1 January 2026 to 30 April 2027): Up to EUR 800,000\* (mixing partner institutions according to similarities)

(Subject to successful Phase 1 completion & approval)

## Project description

**IMPACT Campus** is a pan-European initiative that seeks to transform higher education institutions (HEIs) into engines of systemic innovation, sustainability, and societal resilience. Through the establishment of 15 Knowledge Valorization Centres (KVCs) across Europe, the project aims to bridge regional disparities, enhance inclusivity, and foster interconnected innovation ecosystems capable of addressing global challenges such as climate change, digital transformation, and socioeconomic inequality.

The project consortium includes HEIs and partners from Switzerland, the Western Balkans, Ukraine, Turkey, and other RIS regions. Together, we will:

- Train over 1,300 students and staff in digital skills and sustainable entrepreneurship;
- Support 12 existing and 2 newly created start-ups;
- Promote inclusion by ensuring 40% of participants come from marginalized groups;
- Create 90 strategic partnerships across sectors and borders;
- Institutionalize the KVCs as permanent hubs for innovation and collaboration.

By embedding advanced technologies such as AI, AR/VR, and blockchain into education and entrepreneurial training, the project empowers underrepresented regions to lead in digital and green transformation. The initiative follows a phased approach—from piloting innovation hubs to building a pan-European network—and ensures long-term sustainability through policy alignment, regional integration, and diverse funding models.



## Key Outcomes by 2027

**950 students and 365  
staff trained**

**12 startups and  
scale-ups created**

**90 strategic partnerships  
established**

### Long-Term Impact

- KVCs institutionalized as permanent centers of excellence Adapt
- to ongoing technological, economic, and societal shifts Strengthen
- HEIs' role as innovation leaders
- Address regional disparities and scale creative initiatives





EIT KPIs

In the below table, indicate the number of EIT KPIs your project commits to achieving in Phase 1 (1 April – 31 December 2025), Phase 2a (1 January – 31 December 2026), and Phase 2b (1 January 2027 – 30 April 2027). Please ensure your indicated target requirements for Phase 1 and Phase 2 (meaning 1 January 2026 – 30 April 2027). The planned breakdown of KPI targets across Phase 2a and Phase 2b are at the project's discretion, there are no rules on distribution.

Click the edit pencil on the left to add KPI targets.

	Overview		Phase 2 breakdown to sub phases		Total
EIT KPI	Phase 1 (1 April 2025 – 31 December 2025)	Phase 2 (1 January 2026 – 30 April 2027)	Phase 2a (1 January 2026 – 31 December 2026)	Phase 2b (1 January 2027 – 30 April 2027)	Total
# start-up/scale-ups supported	4	8	4	4	12
# students trained	350	600	500	100	950
# students mentored	35	55	30	25	90
# academic staff member trained	50	200	200	0	250
# academic staff members mentored	20	26	16	10	46
# non-academic staff trained	50	65	35	30	115
# non-academic staff mentored	20	26	16	10	46
# improved support structure and mechanisms	5	10	5	5	15
# of new partnerships established	30	60	40	20	90
# Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications	3	6	3	3	9
# start-ups established/created	0	2	0	2	2

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**Coordinator:** Kyiv National  
University of Technologies and  
Design (KNUTD) Ukraine

**DiTELC**

Swiss Center of Excellence in Digital Transformation  
and Ecosystem Leadership

Conceptual and methodological framework  
of the project developed by **DiTELC**  
**Switzerland** - Swiss Centre of Excellence in  
Digital Transformation and Ecosystem  
Leadership ([www.ditelc.ch](http://www.ditelc.ch)).

### Consortium Partners and Their Contributions

Organization Name	Type	Country	Role and Contribution
<b>Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design</b>	HEI	Ukraine	Expertise in light and chemical industries, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Provides infrastructure like research labs and educational clusters for entrepreneurship training and innovation hubs.
<b>Open International University of Human Development</b>	HEI	Ukraine	Focus on inclusive education and digital transformation, leveraging extensive MOODLE-based learning centers for accessibility.
<b>University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I"</b>	HEI	Romania	Contribution in sustainable agricultural sciences, knowledge sharing to Africa, Latin America and beyond.
<b>International Balkan University</b>	HEI	Macedonia	Active in fostering innovation through the InnoX Innovation Center, promoting creative and digital industries with a focus on fashion, design, and architecture.
<b>Mediterranean School of Business</b>	HEI	Tunisia (Africa)	Promotes entrepreneurial ecosystems through innovative pedagogy, digitalization, and applied research relevant to sustainable business and management practices with Africa contexts.
<b>Institute of Social and Economic Initiatives</b>	NGO	Ukraine	Focus on social enterprises, fostering local economic growth, and international cooperation.
<b>Kyiv Education, Training and Youth Centre</b>	Private Enterprise	Ukraine	Provides expertise in business and industry, supporting entrepreneurial skill-building through practical training.
<b>PAR University of Applied Sciences</b>	HEI	Croatia	Specializes in dual education models, connecting academia with the private sector through initiatives like DIGIPARC and creative industries-focused hubs.
<b>University of Montenegro</b>	HEI	Montenegro	Drives innovation in cultural heritage and digital transformation through micro-credentials and the Science and Technology Park collaboration.
<b>University College "CEPS-Center for Business Studies"</b>	HEI	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Expertise in sustainability and renewable energy, fostering lifelong learning and innovation through initiatives like the Knowledge Hub for Climate and Sustainability.
<b>University FINRA Tuzla</b>	HEI	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Focused on interdisciplinary innovation and digitalization in education, bridging academia and industry with initiatives like the Digital Innovation Hub.
<b>International Telematic University Uninettuno</b>	HEI	Italy	Leader in e-learning and virtual education, providing innovative master's programs in sustainable architecture and cultural heritage.
<b>Poltava University of Economics and Trade</b>	HEI	Ukraine	Active in business incubation, veterans and war displacement people business integration, support and digital education through initiatives like STEAM-Hub and FinTech virtual hubs, supporting entrepreneurship and veterans' reintegration programs.
<b>Ministry of National Education (ETKIM)</b>	Public Body	Türkiye	Key contributor in educational technology innovation, leveraging extensive resources for large-scale digital education initiatives.
<b>ODTU TEKNOKENT</b>	Private	Türkiye	Drives entrepreneurship and innovation through incubation programs and partnerships, acting as a



## Work Packages

WP ID	Title	Start-End	Lead Partner(s)	Main Activities
WP1	Project Management and Coordination	04/2025-04/2027	KNUTD; DiTELC Switzerland; All Partners	Oversight, financial management, reporting, risk management, partner coordination.
WP2	Creation, Deployment, and Integration of KVCs	04/2025-04/2027	DiTELC Switzerland; KNUTD; ISEI; All Partners	Establish and integrate Knowledge Valorization Centres (KVCs) with local ecosystems and global interconnection.
WP3	Training Programs for Knowledge Valorization	04/2025-04/2027	University of Montenegro; Newman University Ukraine; KNUTD; DiTELC Switzerland; All Partners	Design and deliver synchronous and asynchronous training for students, staff, and entrepreneurs, organize alumni events, and enhance further communication.
WP4	Startup Support and Innovation Acceleration	01/2026-04/2027	International Balkan University; PUET; DiTELC Switzerland; All Partners	Mentorship programs, startup incubation, networking events, and innovation hub activities.
WP5	Dissemination, Engagement, and Impact Assessment	04/2025-04/2027	Kyiv Education, Training and Youth Centre; KNUTD; ISEI; All Partners	Develop communication plans, disseminate project results, implement sustainability planning, and deliver impact assessment reports.



On **4 June**, from **15:00 - 16:30 CET**, the EIT Higher Education Initiative's Communications agency will deliver a **webinar** to all Cohort 4 partners, taking you through the branding guidelines and sharing tips on how to bring visibility to your projects.

**Please indicate your participation on this page and don't forget to register for the Zoom event [here](#).**

**You can also make use of the discussion thread accompanying this event: [Here](#)**

<https://eit-hei-alumni.eu/networks/events/180765>

Interactive and practical Masterclass on **11 June**, from **15:00 - 16:30 CET**, on why embedding gender diversity is good for business and how ventures can effectively embed gender mainstreaming into how they hire, communicate and design products. The training will be split into two modules; firstly, looking in-depth at the connection between entrepreneurship and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), and secondly, the tangible ways to embed DEI principles. You will leave the masterclass with ideas that can be put into action right away.





**Please indicate your participation on this page and don't forget to register for the Zoom event [here](#).**

**You can also make use of the discussion thread accompanying this event: [Here](#)**

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**Startup Success: Tips from Entrepreneurs Who Made It, Date: June 18th from 15:00 - 16:00 CEST.**

**Speakers:**

 Beixi Jia – Co-founder of Mind Vacations (EIT Higher Education Initiative alumna)  
 Karin Fleck – CEO & Founder of Vienna Textile Lab (EIT Supernovas & NEB Catalyse)  
 Javier Peña – Co-founder & CEO of Torch Smart Urban Solutions  
 Luisa Esposito – Project Manager at EIT Campus

Perfect for students, alumni, startup teams, and anyone curious about entrepreneurship, this session will also spotlight the power of upskilling and the role of community support in building a successful venture.

Participants will also have the opportunity to engage with them directly through Q&A.

**If you are planning to attend, please register [HERE](#).**

<https://eit-hei-alumni.eu/networks/events/180767>

**19 June**

**Co-creation Workshop #1**

**June 19, 2025 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM EEST**Online EventOnline event:

<https://www.eventbrite.es/e/co-creation-workshop-for-hei-cohort-4-projects-unlocking-opportunities-tickets-1345025791349?aff=oddtcreator>

[Add to calendar](#)

The **first Co-Creation Workshop on IVAP Implementation**, designed to support the rollout of Cohort 4 projects. It is the first in a series of four Co-Creation Workshops that you will attend across the project funding period.

This interactive online workshop will feature special guest speakers —experienced HEI project pioneers — who will share valuable insights, lessons learned, and best practices across the most popular funded actions within the five impact domains of the Initiative. The goal is to foster collaboration, support your implementation efforts, and unlock new opportunities found across the EIT Higher Education Initiative activities. It is mandatory for all projects to attend.

**Please indicate your participation on this page and don't forget to register for the event [here](#).**

**You can also make use of the discussion thread accomanying this event: [Here](#)**

<https://eit-hei-alumni.eu/networks/events/180769>

Thank you for  
your attention.