EIT HEI INITIATIVE
Innovation Capacity Building
for Higher Education

European Institute of Innovation & Technology

Responsible Innovation-Led Entrepreneurial University Transformation Centres (Ecosystem Integration Labs)

RiEcoLab

Participating partners

University of Łódź (Lead partner)
POLAND

Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities
GERMANY

EBAN
BELGIUM

Helixconnect Europe
ROMANIA

National School of Political and Administrative Studies
ROMANIA

University College Dublin
IRELAND

Wageningen Economic Research
NETHERLANDS

Yaşar University
TURKEY

Max. funding Phase 1
€400,000

Max. funding Phase 2
€800,000

Project description

The overall joint vision of RiEcoLab for 2030 is to develop a novel way of performing research and development in universities to ensure immediate commercialisation (spin-offs) and involvement of a large number of internal stakeholders (academic and non-academic staff, as well as students). The new operational framework will be introduced via Ecosystem Integration Labs (EILs), which will be developed and implemented by each participating university (by relying on existing infrastructures, such as research support offices and technology transfer offices). The EILs will be tailored based on each university's HEInnovate needs assessment and smart specialisation areas, which will govern the focus of the envisioned spin-offs. As a result, this will motivate each higher education institution (HEI) to commit to their Innovation Vision Action Plan (IVAP).

The EILs and the IVAP will build on capacity developed around the following toolkits:

- Toolkit 1: participatory engagement strategy for facilitating the entrepreneurial discovery process;
- Toolkit 2: setting up, institutionalising and operationalising the EILs;
- Toolkit 3: embedding responsible research and innovation in the innovation spin-off strategy of HEIs;
- Toolkit 4: bridging public and private impact investors to support spin-offs;
- Toolkit 5: implementing an inclusive performance measurement system (operationally, environmentally and socially) to monitor the impact of the spin-offs;
- Toolkit 6: effective collaboration, innovation, entrepreneurship, participatory engagement, and co-creation in a digital environment (DigComp and EntreComp).

Targets and metrics (during the project lifecycle):

- 24 start-ups/scale-ups supported;
- 600 students trained;
- 60 students mentored;
- 150 academic staff members trained;
- 30 academic staff members mentored;
- 90 non-academic staff trained;
- 30 non-academic staff mentored;
- 200 Quadruple Helix actors involved in the pilots;
- eight commercialisable ideas developed via the pilots;
- four prospective start-ups/scale-ups to be discussed with investors as a result of the pilots.

Impact (1–5 years after the project):

- at least one start-up/scale-up per HEI receiving impact investment;
- at least EUR 100,000 of funding received by HEIs from regional development agencies to further develop innovations/start-ups/scale-ups (per HEI for a three-year period);
- at least 50% of staff (academic and non-academic) from each HEI trained yearly via the EILs;
- at least 50% of students from each HEI trained yearly via the EILs,
- at least 85% of innovation development projects from each HEI to use RiEcoLab's IVAP;
- 50 HEIs to establish RiEcoLab EILs or to incorporate RiEcoLab's IVAP;
- cooperation with all EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities;
- four policy changes (one per HEI country) made by policymakers to enforce new transformational changes derived from the IVAP.

Pilot Call Timeline

2021   **2022**   **2023**

Phase 1   Phase 2

July   December   January   July

About the EIT's HEI Initiative

The EIT's HEI Initiative: Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education was launched by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and is led by EIT RawMaterials – one of the EIT's Knowledge and Innovation Communities.

The initiative is part of the EIT's 2021–2027 EIT Strategy, and it aims to help higher education institutions to build the capacity to innovate and to teach innovation and entrepreneurship. More specifically, the initiative aims to encourage these institutions to look at their own practices and develop concrete actions to increase their impact on their ecosystems.

In March 2020, the HEI Initiative launched a Pilot Call for Proposals, inviting higher education institutions to design activities that will improve their entrepreneurial and innovation capacity. We are pleased to announce the results of this Pilot Call. To stay updated on the latest developments, visit the initiative website (https://www.eit-hei.eu/) and subscribe to our newsletter.