



EIT HEI INITIATIVE Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education

Boosting Innovation and Entrepreneurship
through European Universities

BOOGIE-U



Participating partners

University of Trento
(Lead partner)

ITALY

Trentino Innovation Hub
- Foundation

ITALY

Linköping University

SWEDEN

University of Stavanger

NORWAY

Autonomous University of Barcelona

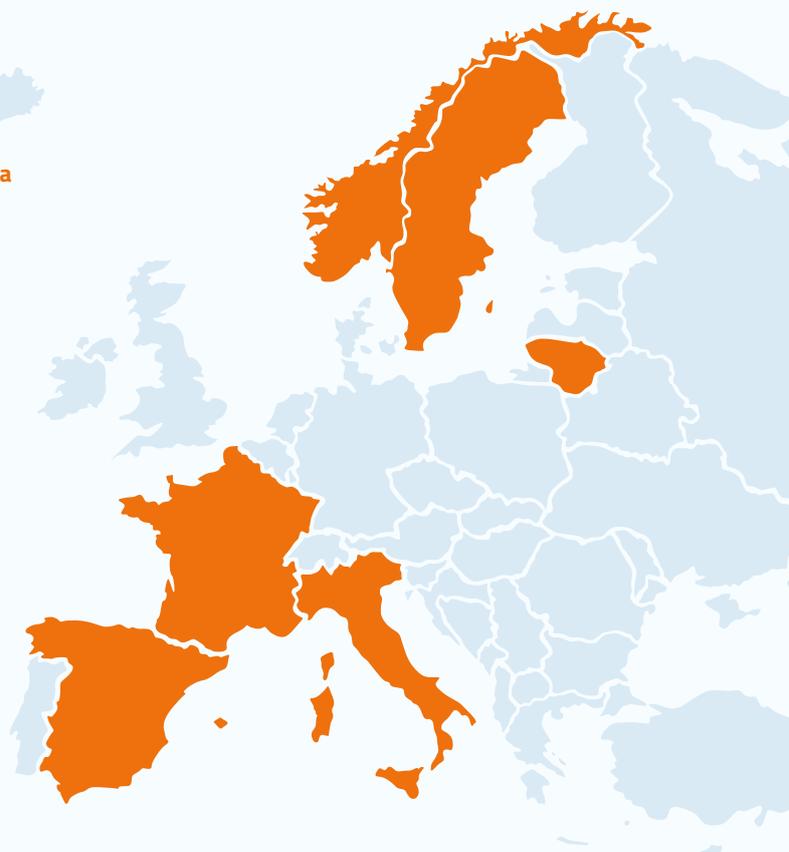
SPAIN

Kaunas University of Technology

LITHUANIA

National Institute of Applied
Sciences of Toulouse

FRANCE



Max. funding Phase 1

€400,000

Max. funding Phase 2

€800,000

Project description

One of the major obstacles to boosting innovation and entrepreneurship in the EU is the Higher Education system, which is considered the key knowledge engine of Europe. This system is still fragmented, and requires a deep process of modernisation and co-creation with external players in order to address increasing intra-EU innovation divide. Both the interactions within higher education institutions (HEIs) and external stakeholders play a pivotal role in this effort by pooling competences and resources within local, regional, and European knowledge ecosystems.

In its Innovation Vision Action Plan, BOOGIE-U contributes to EU efforts to boost EU sustainable economic growth and competitiveness by executing novel models for increasing Innovation and Entrepreneurial (I&E) capacity within the consortium. In doing so, the project aims to contribute to the evolution of local innovation systems.

The IVAP is based on:

- the HEInnovate self-assessment of the consortium members;
- experience in cutting edge I&E education coming from three Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) partners involved mainly in three KICs (EIT Digital, EIT RawMaterials, and EIT Manufacturing);
- experience and competencies developed in the more recent European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU) University European University alliance, involving all partners in this consortium;
- a deep-rooted network of collaboration within each partner's regional economic and innovation ecosystem that will be used to tackle the intra-EU innovation divide;

- the use of a novel systemic challenge-based innovation approach (currently piloted in the ECIU University European University alliance) that covers the whole cycle of I&E, from public and private engagement in the co-creation of actual societal challenges, to the use of a playground setting for solving them in an entrepreneurial, innovative way, and the final grounding of the best solutions in new start-ups, or through valorisation in existing enterprises.

In particular, the consortium members will engage in the following main objectives, involving students, academic and non-academic staff, companies, start-ups, regional business development agencies, and public administration:

- sustainable institutional engagement, with the creation of six Innovation Hubs as multi-disciplinary open spaces in all HEIs;
- strengthening partnerships by exchanging good practices between KIC and non-KIC partners, as well as with the ECIU University European University alliance;
- establishing new collaborations, and enhancing the nature, content, and types of collaborations with external partners, co-creating at least six challenge-based initiatives;
- contributing to the development of innovations and businesses with dedicated structures and practices to support the grounding of the best solutions generated by the proposed challenge-based innovation model;
- enhancing the quality of I&E education by developing innovation and entrepreneurial training programmes and mentoring schemes for staff and students, while assessing teaching and learning practices.

Pilot Call Timeline



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.