



EIT HEI INITIATIVE Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education

**E³UDRES² Entrepreneurship and
Innovation Network for Smart and
Sustainable European Regions**

E.I.N.S.



Participating partners

**St. Pölten University of Applied
Sciences (Lead partner)**

AUSTRIA

**Hungarian University of Agriculture
and Life Sciences**

HUNGARY

Politehnica University Timisoara

ROMANIA

Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal

PORTUGAL

UC Leuven-Limburg

BELGIUM

**University Industry Innovation
Network**

NETHERLANDS

**Vidzeme University of Applied
Sciences**

LATVIA



Max. funding Phase 1

€400,000

Max. funding Phase 2

€800,000

Project description

E³UDRES² Entrepreneurship and Innovation Network for Smart and Sustainable European Regions (E.I.N.S.) co-ideates novel pathways for entrepreneurial universities, drives the development of entrepreneurial education, co-creates advanced support for innovation and business creation, and enhances collaboration across the knowledge triangle beyond the state of the art.

E.I.N.S. empowers 'Ent-Re-Novators' (entrepreneurs, researchers, innovators) including young talent, experts, management, SMEs, local authorities, and engaged citizens. It strengthens the E³UDRES² European University (www.eudres.eu), which will be supported by the University Industry Innovation Network (UIIN) (www.uiin.org) and collaborate with EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs).

The focus on smart and sustainable regions is in reference to their importance in driving bottom-up innovation, the major contribution of SMEs to the European economy and labour market, as well as the role regions play in supporting European cultural identities and maintaining a high quality of life. While global innovation is concentrated in urban areas and large universities compete in global rankings, E.I.N.S. connects small, but agile HEIs that promote their regions.

A wide variety of associated partners connect E.I.N.S. to the knowledge triangle. These include business agencies, incubators, accelerators, venture funds, start-up communities, and other agents of change for a digital and green transition. They are both anchored regionally and connected globally, offering access to regional communities and resources, as well as relevant European networks.

In order to further develop and strengthen innovation capacity, E.I.N.S. defines four long-term strategic priorities:

- empower and support 'Ent-Re-Novators' to bridge the gaps within the knowledge-triangle;
- enhance entrepreneurial education to enable learner driven innovation;
- link smart specialisation and open innovation to connect regional ecosystems with pan-European networks;
- provide expertise and resources to turn ideas into value for smart and sustainable European regions.

These priorities are broken down into six selected actions and eight core objectives carried out in the following work packages:

- Management & dissemination
- Entrepreneurial universities & innovation policies
- (Open) Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Connected research & innovation (R&I)
- Networked innovation ecosystems & OI-hubs
- Continuous coaching and training on staff level in R&I skills
- entrepreneurial education
- Support innovation and business creation.

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.