



EIT HEI INITIATIVE Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education

Accelerating Innovation in Europe Through
Startup Development and Co-Creation

EUAccel



Participating partners

Hochschule München University
of Applied Sciences (Lead partner)
GERMANY

Edinburgh Napier University
UNITED KINGDOM

FH Campus Wien
AUSTRIA

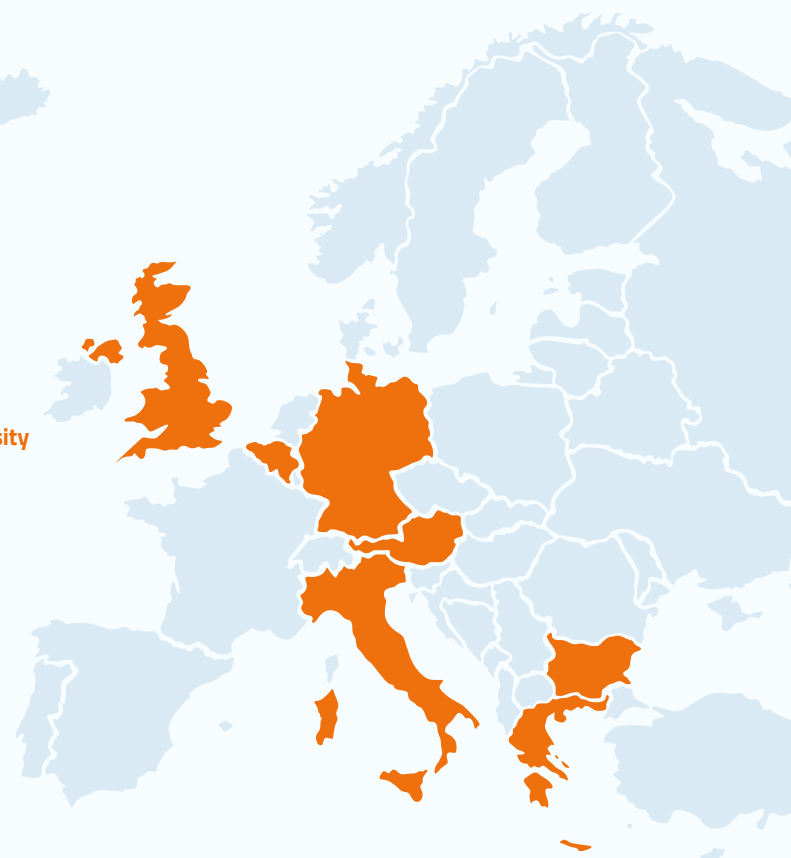
Ghent University
BELGIUM

GründES! Esslingen University
GERMANY

Research Centre of Athens University
of Economics and Business
GREECE

The Edge
BULGARIA

University of Pisa
ITALY



Max. funding Phase 1

€400,000

Max. funding Phase 2

€800,000

Project description

EUAccel is an initiative of several higher education institutions (HEIs), their incubators, a research and development centre, start-ups, and established industry partners. It aims to accelerate innovation in Europe through open innovation, co-creation, and start-up development. EUAccel's vision is to create an international innovation ecosystem in Europe with all knowledge triangle actors involved. The goal is to foster innovation and start-up development with speed and quality, implement synergies with other innovation network initiatives, and create a leading European programme for entrepreneurship and innovation.

EUAccel has three core pillars: an open entrepreneurship and co-creation framework, a scalability and sustainability plan, and an impact assessment framework.

EUAccel sets a new paradigm that leverages entrepreneurial talents and start-ups, existing formats, and an infrastructure of a growing number of entrepreneurial HEIs and EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). EUAccel's objectives are as follows:

- integrate and assess impact in entrepreneurship education, start-up development, and co-creation;
- internationalise and collaborate within entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurial structures, including regional innovation ecosystems, to scout talents, start-up teams, and start-up ideas;
- implement an open entrepreneurship and co-creation framework to help HEIs and ecosystem actors to iterate innovation activities, and foster innovation and start-up development with speed and quality;

- digitalise the open entrepreneurship and co-creation framework through virtual formats of entrepreneurship education and digital platforms for matching and co-creation;
- develop new business models to ensure funding opportunities for international start-ups, and continuation and growth of the initiative;
- scale the EUAccel initiative with new HEIs, innovation ecosystem actors, and content to address additional EIT KICs;
- implement the scalability and sustainability plan of EUAccel, and transform to a new Open Entrepreneurship Alliance entity.

Implementing EUAccel's core initiative pillars and objectives will support entrepreneurial HEIs in internationalising and strengthening their entrepreneurship education and start-up development formats. Furthermore, EUAccel will co-create a digital ecosystem to bring continuous innovation opportunities to key targets and ecosystem stakeholders.

By 2023, EUAccel will reach 15 universities in Europe, educate 900 students, support and train 120 professors and incubator consultants, develop 60 new start-ups, onboard 20 companies, and bring over 2,500 innovation ecosystem actors to the initiative.

By 2030, EUAccel will become the leading holistic programme that unites entrepreneurial universities, research and development centres, industry partners, and a new generation of start-ups, and will change the innovation landscape in Europe and beyond.

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.