

IMPROVING FOOD TOGETHER

EIT Food: příležitosti pro
spolupráci a inovace v
zemědělství a potravinářství

EIT Food Country Representative Czechia



Co-funded by the
European Union

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EUROPE'S ONE-STOP SHOP FOR INNOVATION

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) drives innovation by supporting entrepreneurs, innovators and students across Europe to turn their best ideas into reality. For each major societal challenge, there is an ecosystem of partners, the EIT's Innovation Communities, that creates and finds innovative solutions.



EIT Climate-KIC

Working to accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy



EIT Digital

Driving Europe's digital transformation



EIT InnoEnergy

Achieving a sustainable energy energy for Europe



EIT Health

Giving European citizens greater opportunities to enjoy a healthy life



EIT RawMaterials

Developing raw materials into a major strength for Europe



EIT Food

Building a future-fit food system that produces and sustainable food for all



EIT Manufacturing

Bringing European manufacturers together



EIT Urban Mobility

Mobility for more liveable urban spaces



EIT Culture & Creativity

Transforming Europe's cultural and creative sectors and industries



EIT Water

Contribute to a circular and sustainable water economy

FOOD SYSTEM CHALLENGES

Our current food system is a leading cause of some of the biggest challenges the world is facing, from climate change, resource depletion and waste, to malnutrition, obesity and other diet-related diseases.

SOCIAL



We need to feed **10 billion** people by 2050 (*UN, 2017*)



Over too **2 billion** people are currently overweight (*WHO, 2018*), while **800 million** are undernourished (*FAO, 2019*)



Up to **35%** of children under 5 globally are affected by stunting, wasting or overweight (*UNICEF, 2019*)

ENVIRONMENTAL



1/3 of our food is wasted globally (*FAO, 2019*)



70% of global freshwater withdrawals come from the food industry (*FAO, 2016*)



Food production accounts for **26%** of greenhouse gas emissions (*Science, 2018*)

ENTREPRENEURIAL



Only **3.4%** of all EU startups are in the food industry (*ESM, 2016*)



9 out of 10 startups fail due to lack of a market need for their products (*Munich Business School, 2016*)



Meeting the UN SDGs could create innovation opportunities worth **US\$200 billion** for the European business sector in agrifood by 2030 (*BSDC, 2016*)

WHAT WE DO

At EIT Food we aim to overcome food system challenges **by accelerating innovation to build a future-fit food system that produces healthy and sustainable food for all.**

COLLABORATION

We connect stakeholders right across the food system that stimulate new ideas and invention to drive change. Together with our community, we will build **an innovative and resilient food system** that in turn creates a healthier society and planet.

IMPACT

Supported by the EU, we invest in projects, individuals and organisations that share our goals to deliver positive impact at speed and scale.

INCLUSION

We believe **inclusive systems innovation**, which enables all people and places to participate and benefit, is essential to a strong food system that is better for everyone.

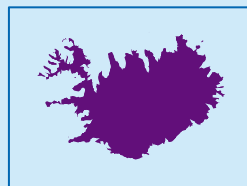


We are the
world's largest and
most dynamic
food innovation
community

OUR REGIONS

With teams on the ground across Europe, we unlock innovation potential in businesses and higher education and create and scale agrifood startups to bring new technologies and products to market.

EIT Food is structured around 3 European regions with similar food system and market challenges, and managed by 6 regional offices.



NORTH & EAST

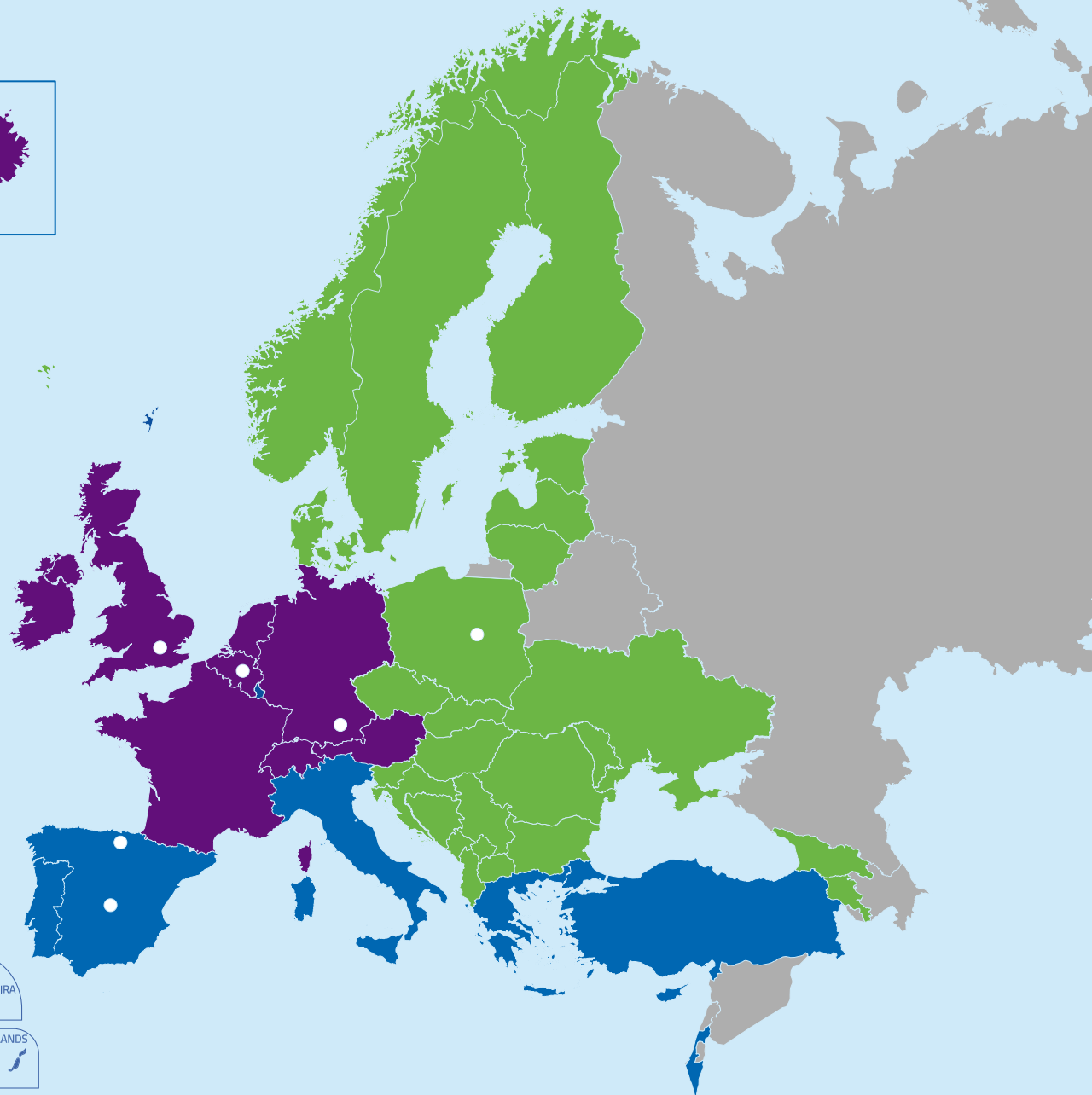
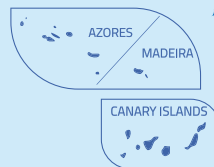
- Warsaw, Poland

WEST

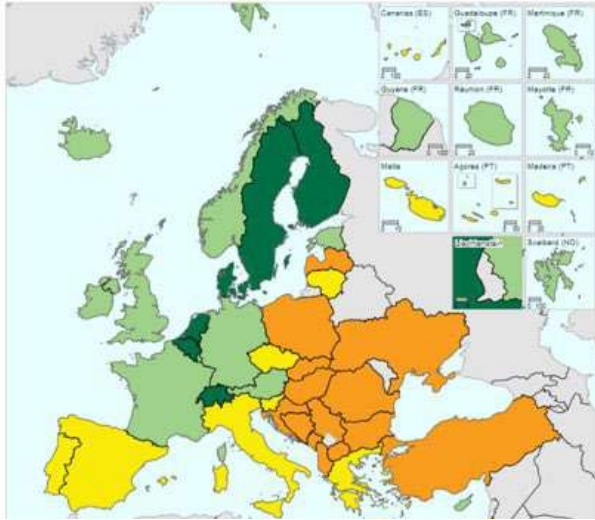
- Reading, UK
- Leuven, Belgium
- Freising, Germany

SOUTH

- Bilbao, Spain
- Madrid, Spain



EIT REGIONAL INNOVATION SCHEME (EIT RIS)



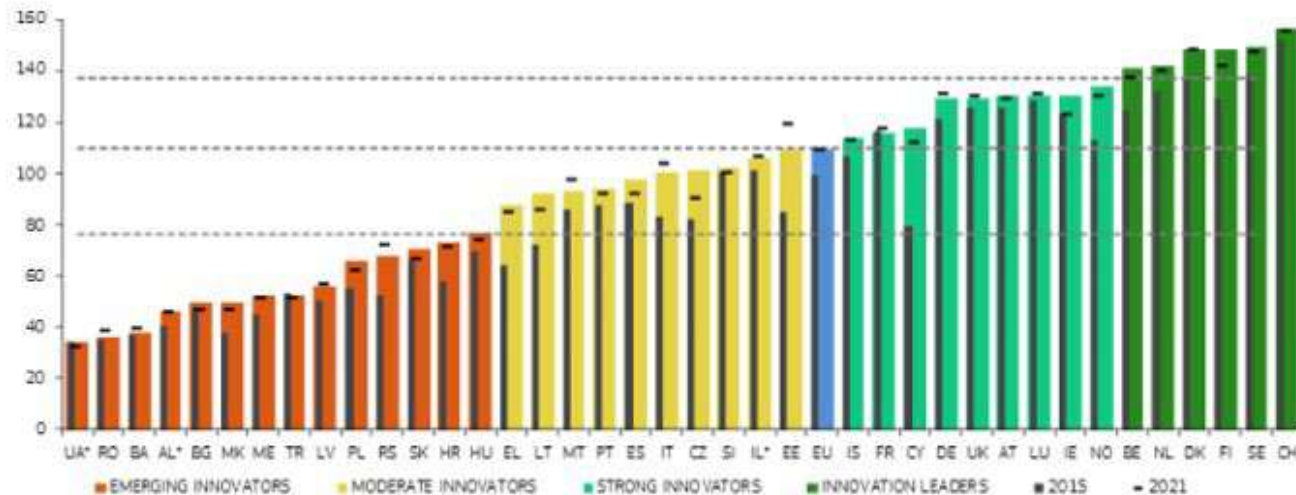
Impact

Contribute to enhancing of the **innovation capacity in moderate and emerging innovators** (*European Innovation Scoreboard*)

Widen participation in EIT Food programmes activities and facilitate access to wider networks: **applications to our Entrepreneurship and Education programmes**

Share and Scale good practices and experience emerging from the EIT Food community **achieving tangible impact**

Support collaboration in regions and countries in line with the priorities set out in Agrifood Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3) and **attract funding from ESIF** (European Structural Investment Funds)



Coloured columns show countries' performance in 2022, using the most recent data for 32 indicators, relative to that of the EU in 2015. The horizontal hyphens show performance in 2021, using the next most recent data, relative to that of the EU in 2015. Grey columns show countries' performance in 2015 relative to that of the EU 2015. The dashed lines show the threshold values between the performance groups, where the threshold values of 70%, 100%, and 125% have been adjusted upward to reflect the performance increase of the EU between 2015 and 2022.



OUR MISSIONS

We operate through a mission-led approach which puts improving outcomes for people and planet as the starting point for our work.



HEALTHIER LIVES THROUGH FOOD

We will make a material difference to quality of life by enabling more consumers to have better choices through access to affordable, healthier products and actionable information.



NET ZERO FOOD SYSTEM

We will scale a systems approach that enables the transition to sustainable and regenerative agriculture practices, creates new markets and opportunities for food waste and loss reduction, and empowers all stakeholders to play an active role in the circular food economy.



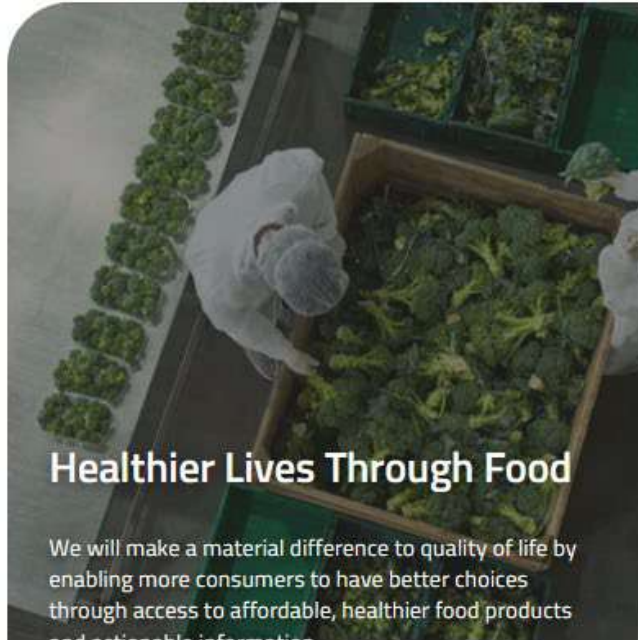
FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE

We will improve food security and safety for consumers everywhere by enabling and establishing resilient and dependable digitally enabled food supply chains.

Our Missions

<https://www.eitfood.eu/missions>

Our Missions respond to major societal challenges within the food system. These challenges we target are aligned towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have established these three missions to aid us in prioritising our efforts to improve the food system from the ground up.



Our Priorities

Protein Diversification

[READ MORE →](#)

Regenerative Agriculture

[READ MORE →](#)

Labelling, Packaging and Transparency

[READ MORE →](#)



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EIT FOOD PRIORITIES OF FUTURE

The EIT's mission is to contribute to sustainable economic growth and competitiveness across the Union by reinforcing the innovation capacity of Member States in order to address major societal challenges.



EIT Food translates this mandate to **agriculture & food challenges**, aligning with the **Vision for Agriculture and Food**

Our missions:

Responding to major societal challenges

Start-ups through
accelerators and
programmes



Healthier Lives through
Food



Net Zero Food System

Projects through calls



Food System Resilience

Thematic clusters:

Scaling for impact



Regenerative
Agriculture

Vision for Agriculture
and Food



Biotechnology

Biotech Act and
Biotech JU



Protein
Diversification

Member states'
food strategies

Create an **innovation ecosystem** to tackle the challenges of the food system through **Knowledge Triangle Integration**

EIT Food Funding Opportunities



Impact Funding Framework 2023 - 2025

- **Goal:** Funds collaborative projects driving sustainable food system change (Net Zero, Health, Resilience).
- **Two Tracks:** Offers Collaborative Missions (large-scale programmes) and Single Projects (fast-paced innovation).
- **Focus Areas:** Prioritizes Regenerative Agriculture, Protein Diversification, and Labelling/Packaging.
- **Eligibility:** Requires a consortium of at least 2 partners from 2 different countries with mandatory co-funding.

Biotech Innovation Call 2025

- The maximum funding amount allocated to this call was €3.000.000. We expect to fund commercial projects with EIT grant funding of maximum 400K€ per project over a period of no longer than 10 months initially.
- Participants from Member States of the European Union (EU) and from Horizon Europe Associate Countries.
- Project Duration – February 2026 – December 2026
- Topics:
 1. Design sustainable Downstream Processing to increase energy/water savings;
 2. Develop Real-time Process Monitoring and Control technologies.

2026 - 2028

**70% of EIT Food Budget
Financial Support for Third Parties
(FSTP)**



**Details of the calls will be
announced soon.**

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



Collaborative Programmes

- Series of **connected workstreams** or activities across a whole value chain
- Primarily responding to Mission **targets**
- Demonstrate how you can **work with** EIT Food
- Led by an **organisation** with **resource** and **capacity** to move quickly and effectively to create impact
- Use the **EOI form** (Expression Of Interest) to access early support

Conditions for previous program !



Single Projects

- Focussing on **point solution** or single intervention point
- Responding to the **Priority Challenges** listed
- Demonstrate **why EIT Food funding** is needed
- Can be led by **all types of organisations** including start-ups and NGOs (meeting eligibility)

Impact Funding Framework

Conditions for previous program !

One Framework 2023–2025



- 30% cofunding
- Min. 2 organisation from 2 sides of KTI
- Min. 2 countries
- Duration up to 18-24 months
- Funding for Single project up to 1 mil €, for Collaborative program up to 750 000 €/year

- **Launched September 2023**
Three-year Missions funding roadmap
- **€30m fund**
5 out of 7 submission windows complete
- **Two routes:**
Collaborative Programmes
Single Projects
- **IMPACT** focussed
- **Open to all types of food systems innovation**

BE INFORMED ABOUT CALLS and other OPPORTUNITIES

<https://www.eitfood.eu/>

The screenshot displays the EIT Food website. The header features the EIT Food logo, a European Union flag with the text 'Co-funded by the European Union', and a navigation menu with links: 'What we do', 'Our focus', 'Our Community', 'News & Content', and 'Get Involved'. The 'Get Involved' link is highlighted with a red box. Below the navigation menu, a secondary menu contains links: 'UPCOMING EVENTS >', 'OPEN CALLS >', 'OPEN PROCUREMENTS >', and 'CAREERS >'. The 'OPEN CALLS >' link is also highlighted with a red box. Below this menu is a 'Follow us' section with social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube. The main banner area features a background image of fresh food and the text: 'EIT Food accelerates innovation to build a future-fit food system that produces healthy and sustainable food for all.' Below this text is a green button labeled 'GET INVOLVED →'. The main content area is titled 'EIT Food Open Calls' with a breadcrumb trail 'Home > EIT Food Open Calls'. The text below the title reads: 'Are you a startup looking for a food grant to get your idea off the ground? Or perhaps you are an investor looking to fund an idea? By working with EIT Food you will become part of the largest and most dynamic food innovation community in the world. We often have opportunities for food grants and we list all our active opportunities here - or you can sign up to be the first to know about them. Find a food grant opportunity below and let us know if you are interested in getting involved - we cannot wait to hear from you.' At the bottom of the page, there are two buttons: 'SUBSCRIBE TO OPEN CALL NOTIFICATIONS →' (highlighted with a red box) and 'SEE OUR OPEN CALL CALENDAR →' (highlighted with a yellow box).

EIT Food

Co-funded by the European Union

What we do | Our focus | Our Community | News & Content | **Get Involved**

UPCOMING EVENTS > **OPEN CALLS >** | OPEN PROCUREMENTS > | CAREERS >

Follow us: f i in

EIT Food accelerates innovation to build a future-fit food system that produces healthy and sustainable food for all.

GET INVOLVED →

Home > EIT Food Open Calls

EIT Food Open Calls

Are you a startup looking for a food grant to get your idea off the ground? Or perhaps you are an investor looking to fund an idea?

By working with EIT Food you will become part of the largest and most dynamic food innovation community in the world. We often have opportunities for food grants and we list all our active opportunities here - or you can sign up to be the first to know about them.

Find a food grant opportunity below and let us know if you are interested in getting involved - we cannot wait to hear from you.

SUBSCRIBE TO OPEN CALL NOTIFICATIONS → **SEE OUR OPEN CALL CALENDAR →**

FoodHIVE Community

 Find collaborations Community news Pitch your idea Post your opportunity EIT Food events

Participants @ EIT Food

 Participant resources Participant news

Links

 Community guidelines FAQs Download the Android ... Download the iOS app About EIT Food

Your space to connect with the EIT Food community

Welcome to FoodHIVE, EIT Food's **community platform** bringing together partners, innovators, startups and students from across the food system.

Here you'll find the latest **events, opportunities and conversations** from across the platform, tailored to your profile and interests.

 Use this feed to **discover what's happening in the network, learn from others and connect with members working to shape the future of food.**

Log in now to experience the true benefits of FoodHIVE.

Upcoming events

8
SEP

Info session: Introduction to the EU Agri-Food Biotech Alliance (September)

1:00 – 2:00 PM CEST

28
OCT

Next Bite Satellite Resilient Agriculture

10/28/2026, 9:00 AM – 10/29/2026, 6:00 PM CET

Trending posts



EDIBLE Benelux 2026 | 13–16 October Antwerp & Brussels

Mariana Meira e Cruz



Next Bite Satellite Resilient Agriculture

Mariana Meira e Cruz

<https://www.eitfoodhive.eu/>

Proposal Topics:

- Biotech
- Resilient / Regenerative Agriculture
- Protein Diversification
- Healthy Ageing
- Systematic Challenges in Agri-Food

Specialization:

Cluster 6
Widening

Preferred role in Consortium:

- Coordination
- Multi-actor approach
- Financial support to third parties
- Policy making and public engagement activities
- Communication and Dissemination



PARTNERING FOR IMPACT

Our flexible partnering programmes are designed to support startups, SMEs, large global corporates, universities and research organisations.



DELIVERY PARTNERS

Helping you deliver excellence and impact through projects and programmes



STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Providing an influential voice at sector and policy levels both in the EU and beyond while shaping our strategic direction



COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP

Being part of a dynamic network, to connect with and support strategic and delivery partners



OUR PARTNERS AND WIDER COMMUNITY

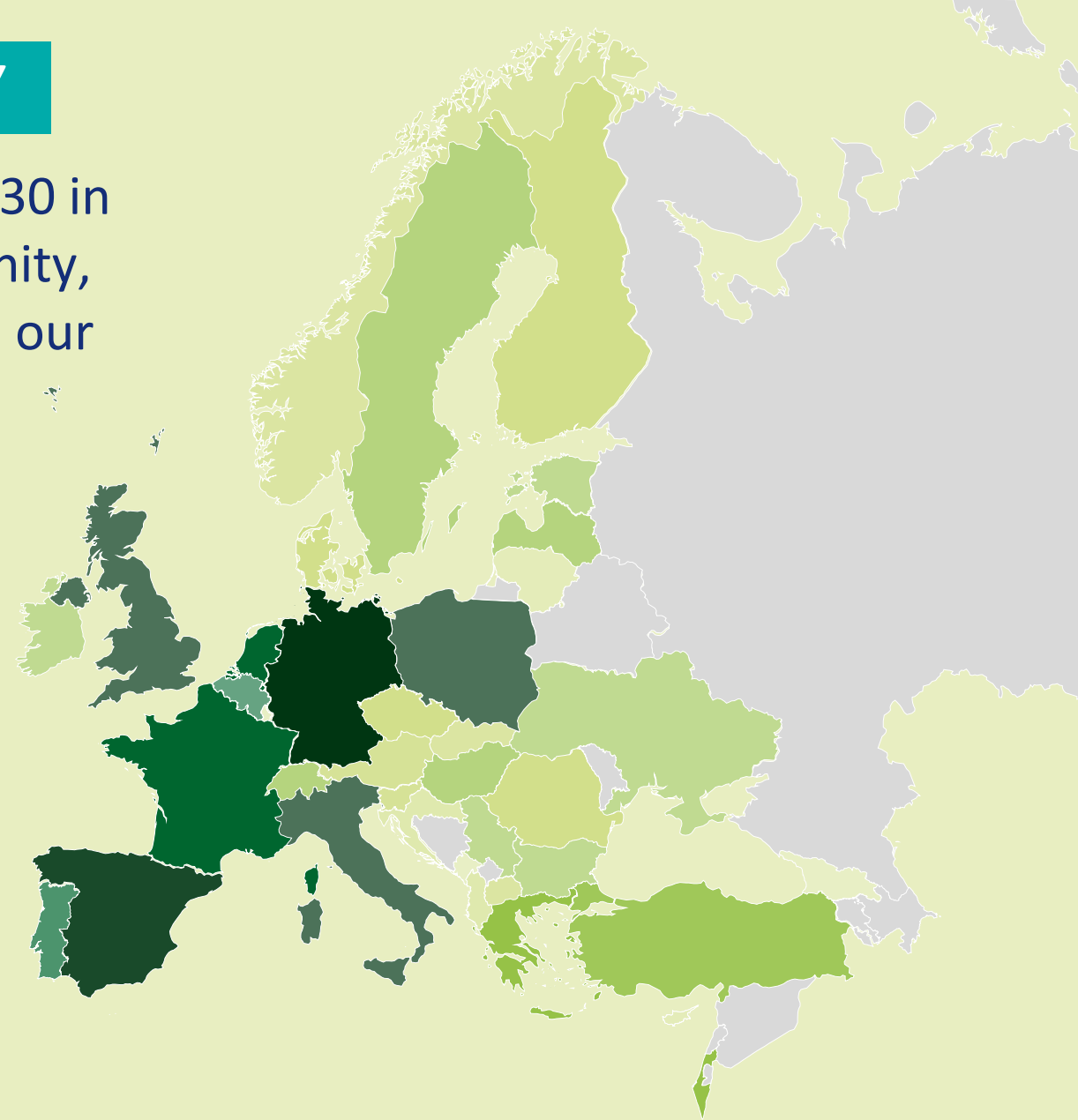
We've expanded our **Partnership network** from 130 in 2023 to over 200 today. Beyond this core community, we collaborate with 1,000+ organizations through our funding, programs and services.

Over 250
organisations in the
EIT Food Partner
network

433 organisations
receiving funding in
2023 & 2024

27 organisations
in our Corporate
Venturing services

577 startups
applied for the
2024 cohorts



OUR COMMUNITY

Our strength comes from our community, which brings together key players from across the food value chain. Our Partner Network is made up of industry organisations, businesses, research centres and universities from across Europe.



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EIT FOOD THINK TANKS

Convening experts from across the food system to foster knowledge sharing, impactful initiatives, and drive policy conversations to accelerate food system transformation.

PROTEIN DIVERSIFICATION THINK TANK

Protein diversification should be at the forefront of all relevant policies, and it is the goal of the EIT Food Protein Diversification Think Tank to enable this by fostering dialogue. As a neutral, independent body, the **Think Tank engages all stakeholders of the food system to identify gaps, barriers, and opportunities.** Collectively, the Think Tank members also co-create evidence-based roadmaps and recommend actions and policies for protein diversification to drive the food systems transformation.

[READ MORE >](#)



HEALTHY AGEING THINK & DO TANK

The EIT Food Healthy Ageing Think & Do Tank brings together strategic partners across Europe to drive innovation, knowledge exchange, and impactful initiatives that support active and fulfilling lives for older adults across Europe. The Think Tank has established **three working groups focused on critical areas: dietary strategies for preventing non-communicable diseases, targeted approaches for healthy ageing, and enhancing well-being through microbiome health.**

[READ MORE >](#)



RESILIENT AGRICULTURE THINK & DO TANK

This initiative leads the way in the rapidly evolving agricultural landscape by uniting partners to influence policy, close critical systemic gaps, and translate insights into public awareness and actionable solutions. Our primary objective is **to accelerate the adoption of resilient agriculture to ensure food security and planetary health across Europe**, utilizing innovation to secure farmers' livelihoods and overcome key social, financial, technical, and regulatory barriers to transition.

[READ MORE >](#)



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EIT Food's Entrepreneurship Programmes 2026-2028

CREATION

TECH TRANSFER – VENTURE BUILDING



Seedbed

**Aspiring researchpreneurs,
entrepreneurs supported by
Venture Builders & TTOs
TRL 1-3**

Turn IP into ventures with
tailored founder support

- Co-founder matching
- Market validation
- Technology building

ACCELERATION

TECH VALIDATION – PRODUCT LAUNCH – COMMERCIAL UPSCALING



EIT Food Accelerator Network

**Early-stage startups with traction indicators
TRL 4-8**

CORE PROGRAMME

Tech validation and business
acceleration

ON-DEMAND SPRINTS

Boost growth with focused
tailor-made support

NETWORK ACCESS

Corporate Access

Facilitating corporate
innovation by
connecting world-
leading industry with
impactful agrifood
startups.

Investment

Direct startup funding
for most promising
cohort startups and
alumni.



RisingFoodStars



**SEAL OF EXCELLENCE FOR
ALUMNI**

Meet the winners of EIT Food RIS Innovation Prizes 2020



Thermosolar Hive™

Winner of the national round of the
EIT Food Innovation Prize 2020 →
3rd place in the European final →
support in the Sales Booster program

Thermosolar Hive is a Czech invention that has made a big impact in apiculture world. It eliminates *Varroa destructor* thanks to solar energy without the need of using chemical products.

SUCCESS STORIES



Ullmanna: Transforming Agriculture with AI-Powered Weeding Solutions

Ullmanna

Participation in the EIT Food Test Farms program → selected for the EIT Food Accelerator Network (EIT FAN) in cohort 2022

Ullmanna's intra-row weeding machine uses artificial intelligence to identify and remove weeds without pesticides, revolutionising sustainable farming. Their innovation is improving efficiency in organic farming and setting new standards in the agritech industry.

SUCCESS STORIES

MarbleMate

Discovered a patented technology designed for elegant food supplements with pharmaceutical-level absorption and customizable delivery.



MarbleMat & MEWERY

Selected for the EIT Food Accelerator Network (EIT FAN) in cohort 2023

MEWERY

Developing cultivated pork meat products using our own hybrid culture medium with microalgae extracts. Working on cell line optimization, our own growth factors, and on developing the bioprocesses needed for scale up.



Empowering Women in Agrifood (EWA)

A 6-months programme to motivate **early-stage female entrepreneurs** to harness their power, understand their capabilities, equip them with the right knowledge, trust and networks to successfully start and develop sustainable businesses.

- 3 editions in Czechia in 2020, 2022, 2024
- 30 participants in total
- Organised by

CATS
2CATS



Co je Živý Uhlík ?

Živý Uhlík je **přírodní přípravek** z rostlinného uhlí, podporující **zdraví trávicího traktu** koní a dalších zvířat.

Pomáhá udržovat rovnováhu střevního prostředí a **snižuje tak riziko výskytu onemocnění**, jakými jsou akutní a chronický průjem, syndrom konečnickové vody, schvácení kopyt a další.



Přes 55 druhů rostlin

Od klasiky jako jsou naše chuťově proslavené brambory, až po méně tradiční romanesco. V našem sortimentu si vybere každý.



CHALLENGE LABS

2021



Challenge Lab: Přejmenujte veganské na rostlinné a uplatňujte holistický přístup i human centred design, zaznívala doporučení pro Nestlé



13. prosince 2021



Impact Hub se pustil do bezprecedentního formátu akce. Po týmech složených z těch, kteří se často vůbec neznali, chtěl, aby pomohli Nestlé vyvinout inovace směřující k jedné z prvních uhlíkově neutrálních potravin v ČR. Účastníci dostali k dispozici tři týdny a online konzultace se zástupci výroby a produkce Garden Gourmet. Náročné zadání vyžadovalo extrémní nasazení stran organizace, zapojení a odhodlání všech zúčastněných, ale povedlo se. Čtyři řešitelské týmy představily porotě ve finále Challenge Labu zcela relevantní návrhy.

2022



Pálenka, larvy nebo květiny? Výzva, jak využít bioodpad z UGO, má svého vítěze



30. listopadu 2022



100 kg bioodpadu denně vyprodukuje každá ze UGO Salaterií. Jak s ním smyslně naložit? To byla výzva pro sedm řešitelských týmů, které měly 5 týdnů a podporu zkušených mentorů na to, aby přišly se svým nápadem. A UGO skutečně má z čeho vybírat – finále letošního Challenge Lab přineslo skvělá řešení, ke kterým jsme přímo v sále mohli přivonět, osahat si je, nebo je dokonce ochutnat!

2023



Challenge Lab 3: z pole rovnou do kuchyně



18. července 2023



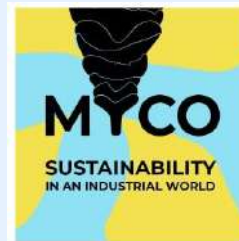
Třetí ročník Challenge Lab je za námi. Tentokrát se zaměřil na oblast mimo hlavní město, a na Tišnov a Podbrněnsko, kde si dal za úkol zkrátit dodavatelské řetězce, a dostat tak lokální potraviny od producentů ke spotřebitelům, ať už do domácností, škol, nebo restaurací co nejrychlejší a nejefektivnější cestou.

2024



Výzva: Když se praží káva, tak se ze zrn uvolňuje ochranná vrstva tzv. chaff (celulóza). Ta se zachytává ve sběrné nádobě, ve které se z bezpečnostních důvodů míchá s vodou. Ve světě již tento materiál našel různá využití, ale žádné z nich pro nás není relevantní. Proto s ním musíme nakládat stejně jako s jiným běžným odpadem. A to nechceme. Takhle tuto výzvu formuluje Michal Stec, founder a spolujitel brněnské pražírny výběrové kávy Rebelbean.

Call to action: Vytvořte inovativní řešení, které pražírám jako Rebelbean (ale i jiným po celém světě) pomůže najít vhodný způsob nakládání s tímto zbytkovým (biologickým) odpadem. Tak, aby našel nové využití a nemusel končit ve směsném odpadu – a tedy na skládce.



Výzva: Při výrobě houbového kompozitu občas dojde k nežádoucí kontaminaci. Viníky jsou obyčejné plísně jako Aspergillus či Trichoderma. Výsledkem je směs převážně ze dřeva a kukuřice, která už není vhodná pro další zpracování. Momentálně putuje na skládku, protože jsme zatím nenašli způsob, jak ji recyklovat efektivně a udržitelně. Hledáme řešení, které by dávalo smysl ekonomicky i ekologicky. Tak to je výzva Davida Šohaje Minaříka z firmy Myco, která se zaměřuje na ekologické materiály.

Call to action: Navrhněte inovativní a ekologicky šetrné řešení pro nakládání s kontaminovanými zbytky při výrobě mycelových kompozitů, které by nejen předešlo jejich uložení na skládku, ale také umožnilo jejich další využití či zpracování.

EIT Food: Challenge Lab 2026

 **Cílová skupina**
Studenti, vědci, inovátoři a nadšenci
v agro-potravinářství

 **Účast**
30 účastníků

Fyzický Kick-off (říjen)

Představení, tvorba týmů a
prezentace reálných výzev pro
budoucí řešení.

5 online setkání (5 týdnů)

Analýza systémů, definice
problémů a customer discovery s
průmyslovými experty.

Mentoring & Zpětná vazba

Strukturované kontrolní body a
strategické dotazování min. jednou
týdně.

Fyzický Demo Day (4.12.2026)

Závěrečný pitching před porotou
a investory s poradenstvím pro
další kroky v EIT Food.



LET'S CREATE THE FUTURE OF FOOD TOGETHER



BECOME PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

HELP US TRANSFORM THE FOOD SECTOR

FIND OUT MORE AT

www.eitfood.eu



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<https://eitfoodhub.vscht.cz/>
<https://dex-ic.com/eit-food>

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