



EIT HEI INITIATIVE Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education

**InnoChange: Driving Change and
Capacity Building Towards Innovative,
Entrepreneurial Universities**

InnoChange



Participating partners

**Eötvös Loránd University
(Lead partner)**
HUNGARY

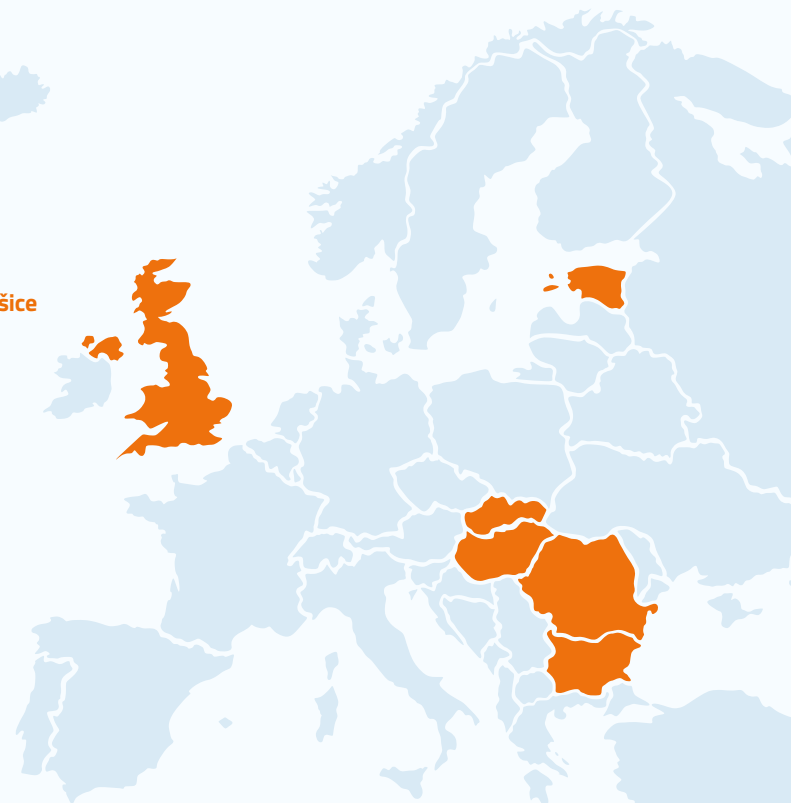
Babeş-Bolyai University
ROMANIA

Heriot-Watt University
UNITED KINGDOM

Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice
SLOVAKIA

**Plovdiv University
Paisii Hilendarski**
BULGARIA

Startup Wise Guys Foundation
ESTONIA



Max. funding Phase 1

€400,000

Max. funding Phase 2

€800,000

Project description

InnoChange aims to increase the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity and attitude of higher education institutions (HEIs). Another objective is to strengthen and better integrate into, and engage with, innovation ecosystems in Central and Eastern Europe. The project brings together HEIs from various innovation backgrounds.

InnoChange aims to:

- develop and improve the entrepreneurial education curriculum and associated teacher training;
- soak up and nurture innovation from all corners of student, faculty, and research activities at university;
- provide effective support to deserving early-stage innovation projects;
- build a pragmatic, yet comprehensive network of multi-faceted industry partnerships;
- enable support structures for entrepreneurship communities at HEIs through mutual learning.

A key impact will be to significantly advance the capacity of HEIs in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship and to bridge the gap between theory and practice. The project also aims to create a sustainable innovation management structure with a well-defined framework for innovation, which is supported by a mature innovation culture of transforming ideas into products. Entrepreneurship could be seen as a key transversal competence relevant to all

researchers regardless of whether they are interested in setting up a business. Training non-academic staff will enable them to sharpen processes and other key factors that together will bring substantial improvement in tech transfer practices.

The participating partners' complementary expertise will create a solid foundation for implementing innovation education based on the knowledge triangle. Industrial associate partners will provide the business and innovation part of the knowledge triangle. They will also provide input for the research and education aspects of the triangle and exploit the potential of innovation-skilled students and staff, tightening the link between academy and industry.

InnoChange triggers and links various ecosystems at universities and industry for the benefit of digital transformation.

During the project funding period, the primary beneficiaries of the project are students (undergraduate, graduate and PhD), and academic and non-academic staff supporting innovation activities. In addition, further beneficiaries of the project will be HEIs (InnoChange partners and network universities), EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community partners, innovation project groups, industry, business companies, incubators, and accelerators.

European citizens and consumers will benefit from the project's innovative results and technical digital innovations already during the lifetime of the project, as well as after its completion.

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.