

Synergies with EIT Manufacturing for prospective EIT Higher Education Initiative applicants



1. Who we are

[EIT Manufacturing](#) is the leading European innovation community for manufacturing, created by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union. Our community unites over **200 partners**, including industry leaders, universities, research organisations, SMEs and startups across Europe, to accelerate the green, digital and competitive transformation of the manufacturing sector.

Manufacturing represents **15% of Europe's GDP, 30 million jobs and 2.2 million enterprises** – making the sector essential for Europe's resilience and prosperity.

EIT Manufacturing was created to foster innovation, develop talent and entrepreneurship, and help Europe remain at the forefront of technological leadership.

Our work is driven by three strategic objectives:

- **Putting people at the centre of manufacturing innovation**, through skills development, training and lifelong learning.
- **Accelerating green manufacturing**, supporting industry in reaching net-zero and circularity ambitions.
- **Fostering competitiveness and technological sovereignty**, strengthening Europe's industrial capabilities and innovation ecosystem.

EIT Manufacturing operates through a **pan-European [network of regional offices](#)**, offering both local proximity and global reach.

2. What we do

EIT Manufacturing delivers impact through **three pillars** that align closely with the Higher Education Initiative's Call for Proposals 2025 priorities:

Innovation

We fund, support and scale innovative manufacturing solutions, from early-stage concepts to market adoption. Our work focuses on five strategic sectors — **automotive, electronics & semiconductors, energy-intensive industries, clean tech, and aerospace & defence** — and is guided by key thematic priorities, including **advanced materials & processes, circular economy, clean energy & decarbonisation, digital transformation driven by artificial intelligence (AI), and workforce & workspace development**.

Together, they aim at strengthening Europe's industrial competitiveness, fostering sustainable growth and accelerating the adoption of strategic manufacturing innovations.

Entrepreneurship

We support startups and scaleups through pan-European accelerator programmes, business creation services and corporate–startup matchmaking. Since 2020, we have supported **1,000+ startups** (typically at TRL 4–8), facilitated **€100M+ in attracted investment** and created numerous corporate innovation success stories across Europe.

Education & lifelong learning

Through the [EIT Manufacturing Academy](#) – one of Europe's most comprehensive manufacturing learning ecosystems – we deliver advanced programmes for:

- students (Master School, Doctoral School, mobility modules)
- higher education professionals
- industry specialists, engineers and blue-collar workers

Digital learning is delivered through our platform, offering **6,000+ learners** more than **230 high-quality courses** in the catalogue, all aligned with industry needs.

Our programmes embed entrepreneurship, innovation, sustainability and advanced technologies to strengthen Europe's talent pipeline.

Community building

Our online platform, **AGORA**, connects **3,500+ industry professionals**, researchers and innovators from 40 countries, creating a powerful network for collaboration, peer learning and events.

3. EIT Manufacturing and the EIT Higher Education Initiative

EIT Manufacturing has been an active participant in the EIT Higher Education Initiative since its launch. As a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC), we support partner higher education institutions through:

- monitoring, evaluation and learning guidance
- quality assurance for innovation & entrepreneurship (I&E) activities
- access to regional manufacturing ecosystems
- thematic expertise (AI, robotics, circular economy, deep tech)
- connection to corporate partners, startups and European innovation infrastructures

Our experience in **bridging academia and industry** positions EIT Manufacturing as a strong partner for HEIs aiming to strengthen their I&E capacity, especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, digital manufacturing and industrial innovation – directly aligning with **Topic 1** and **Topic 2** of the Call for Proposals 2025.

4. Collaborating with EIT Manufacturing

For prospective applicants under **Topic 1 (STEM)** and **Topic 2 (EUAs)**, it may be possible to integrate meaningful cooperation with EIT Manufacturing in the following areas:

4.1. Curriculum & training development

- Co-creation of STEM innovation, entrepreneurship and digital learning modules.

- Integration of real industry challenges into coursework (AI, robotics, circularity, net-zero manufacturing).
- Joint development of micro-credentials and lifelong learning pathways via the EIT Manufacturing Academy.

4.2. Strengthening research–innovation–market pathways

- Access to corporate innovation challenges and early-stage pilot opportunities.
- Collaboration with industrial partners to bring research prototypes to market.

4.3. Talent, mobility and career development

- Opportunities for student and staff mobility across EIT Manufacturing's partner network.
- Startup creation pathways through entrepreneurship programmes and mentoring.
- Exposure to real-world manufacturing contexts through AGORA communities and events.

4.4. Ecosystem integration for EUAs (Topic 2)

The European Universities alliances (EUAs) are encouraged to:

- define long-term collaboration roadmaps with EIT Manufacturing
- embed manufacturing innovation into alliance-wide strategies
- coordinate with EIT Manufacturing to reinforce Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO) capabilities and research-to-market infrastructures

This cooperation supports the Call's aim to create **durable, structured collaboration** between EUAs and the EIT ecosystem, laying the groundwork for **future KIC membership pathways**.

5. Examples of potential collaboration actions with EIT Manufacturing

Domain 1: Institutional engagement

- Joint leadership roundtables with EIT Manufacturing to integrate I&E into STEM strategies.

Domain 2: Innovation and entrepreneurship

- Exploring the co-development of *additional, standalone activities* (e.g., innovation bootcamps, maker challenges, hackathons).
- Embedding manufacturing-focused entrepreneurship modules in curricula.

Domain 3: Knowledge triangle integration

- Collaborative innovation projects with industrial partners (robotics, automation, energy efficiency).
- Startup incubation using the EIT Manufacturing network.

Domain 4: Capacity building

- Joint training for TTO/KTO staff on IP, deep tech commercialisation and industrial collaboration models.

Domain 5: Community integration

- Participation in AGORA, deep tech talent programmes and pan-European thematic events.

6. Why collaborate with EIT Manufacturing?

Working with EIT Manufacturing can help consortia:

- Align STEM I&E capacity-building activities with real industrial needs.
- Access one of Europe's largest manufacturing innovation ecosystems.
- Strengthen entrepreneurship outcomes and startup creation.
- Integrate deep tech, circular economy and AI-driven manufacturing knowledge.
- Build sustainable long-term cooperation aligned with European strategic industrial priorities.
- Increase the maturity and relevance by embedding industry-aligned pathways.

7. Contact & next steps

EIT Manufacturing welcomes general enquiries from applicants preparing proposals for the EIT Higher Education Initiative Call for Proposals 2025. We can provide **publicly available information** on our activities and point applicants to **general opportunities for collaboration**.

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