



# EIT HEI INITIATIVE Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education

Innovation and  
Entrepreneurship in HEIs

INVENTHEI



## Participating partners

University of Porto  
(Lead partner)  
PORTUGAL

INOVA+ Innovation Services  
BELGIUM

Science and Technology Park of  
University of Porto  
PORTUGAL

TTK University of Applied Sciences  
ESTONIA

University of Pardubice  
CZECHIA

University of Santiago de Compostela  
SPAIN

University of Sheffield  
UNITED KINGDOM

Valahia University of Targoviste  
ROMANIA



Max. funding Phase 1

**€400,000**

Max. funding Phase 2

**€800,000**

## Project description

INVENTHEI envisions that by 2025 a critical mass of highly educated young entrepreneurs and innovators will be trained by the participating higher education institutions (HEIs), contributing to the emergence of highly dynamic innovation districts and favouring the setup or inshore of knowledge-intensive companies offering cutting edge technologies, added-value products and services, and innovative business models. Innovation districts also have enhanced capacity to provide students with new ideas, skills and entrepreneurial talent. Students are the new generation of professionals, but they can also be trained and encouraged to become innovators and entrepreneurs, contributing to the creation of jobs and economic growth.

INVENTHEI builds on existing practices and infrastructure to enhance regional innovation ecosystems and promote innovation-driven research. One of the objectives is to setup a HEI-driven European network of innovation districts. The consortium will build on existing experience and explore synergies with research and innovation activities to nurture and foster an innovation and entrepreneurial culture in the participating universities.

INVENTHEI will implement an Innovation Vision Action Plan (IVAP) built around three dimensions connected to the EIT pillars:

- learning and mentoring programmes, focused on training, mentoring and engaging students and staff (education pillar);
- learning and teaching structures, focused on providing testbeds and innovation-driven research (innovation pillar);
- learning and collaboration, focused on programmes for collaboration and exchange between industry, research and academia (business pillar).

INVENTHEI's methodology is inspired by the 'lean start-up' and will be used to define and implement the IVAP by partner HEIs. INVENTHEI will develop the IVAP during Phase 1 of the project and combine the development of a hypothesis that will be experimented with by the partner HEIs. The findings from the experiments will be used to prepare a second release which will guide Phase 2 of the project. During Phase 2, the project will use a 'build-measure-learn' approach, using the lessons learnt from applying the IVAP to improve it every six months. INVENTHEI is organised in three 'build-measure-learn' work packages: designing the innovation vision, the minimum viable innovation vision, and scaling the innovation vision.

INVENTHEI's replicability and transferability strategy will adopt a lighthouse/follower model, where the involved faculties from partner HEIs will act as lighthouses to other faculties of the same or other HEIs.

INVENTHEI will achieve the following KPIs:

- 40 start-ups/scale-ups supported (10 in Phase 1);
- 1,390 students trained and 76 mentored (290 and 20 in Phase 1);
- 84 academic staff members trained and 32 mentored (26 and 10 in Phase 1);
- 51 non-academic staff trained and 23 mentored (12 and 8 in Phase 1).

## 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.