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2022 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS EIT HEALTH - **INNOSTARS** AWARDS

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Applications open 31st January 2022

Deadline: 27th March 2022

Contact: tamas.bekasi@eithealth.eu;

Website: <https://eithealth.eu/programmes/innostars-awards/>

Apply under the following link:

<https://eithealth.optimytool.com/en/>

Do you have an entrepreneurial mindset with a prototype or minimum viable product (MVP) in the healthcare field? Join us to validate your prototype or MVP in the market, enhance your knowledge and extend your professional network in the InnoStars Awards programme!

Take part and gain the following support:

- 25.000 € smart money¹ or mentoring with 4.000 € value²
- mentoring (individual mentoring for four months)
- trainings (two physical bootcamps throughout Europe)
- invitation to the InnoStars Awards Grand Final pitch event
- opportunity during the later stages to
 - have access to EIT Health's Investor network
 - have access to EIT Health's Living Labs and Test Beds network

¹ Top 20 InnoStars Awards applicants – evaluated by an international expert body – receive 25.000 € tied aid (sub-grant) to spend on travel and accommodation, individual mentoring and training.

² Applicants ranked between 21st and 35th by external evaluators will receive MCN vouchers with 4.000 € value

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Additional benefits of the programme:

- receive support in realising next steps towards the market and shorten time-to-market for products and services
- verify the need/benefit of the product/service for users/customers/payers/partners
- increase the possibility to attract private investment
- Projects with a focus on active ageing have the opportunity to enter into the Healthy Longevity Global Grand Challenge, a global innovation competition founded by the United States National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

Is it for me? Eligible applicants and projects

InnoStars Awards programme is suitable for micro and small enterprises (according to EU SME definition), spin-offs and start-ups that already have a prototype or an MVP, but the product/service is not on the market yet (no income). The company must be incorporated/registered before the sub-granting agreement initiation.

Additional eligibility criteria are:

- All documents must be delivered, and oral pitch should be presented in advanced level English
- Applicants must be available to spend at least 15 days for educational and mentoring purposes.
- Participation in bootcamps and mentoring sessions are obligatory for a stable team (the same team members should be involved in the bootcamps and mentoring sessions).
- Start-ups should be willing and capable to travel to other European locations during the training and mentoring.

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- Submitted through EIT Health InnoStars registration platform, Optimy. Incomplete submissions, late submissions, or submissions via any other routes (e.g., email) will not be accepted.
- Applicants can apply only with legal entities from the following countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine, Turkey.
- Companies who received a grant for the same project/service/product in 2019, 2020 or 2021 from InnoStars Awards, European Health Catapult, or Startups Meet Pharma programme are not eligible to apply for InnoStars Awards in 2022.
- Companies who receive a grant from InnoStars Awards 2022 cannot apply for the RIS Innovation Call 2023 and cannot apply for the European Health Catapult programme in 2022. Furthermore, selected and supported start-ups cannot get funding from the RIS Innovation Call 2022 parallel to InnoStars Awards 2022.

To be eligible, proposals must contain all the required information, be completed via the online form, and be received by the deadline of 27th March 2022, 16:00 (CET).

Late or incomplete submissions, or submissions via any other routes (e.g., email) will not be accepted.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND SELECTION PROCESS

InnoStars Awards offers a 3-stage programme structure where both stages provide challenges, opportunities, and valuable prizes for the best performing applicants.

STAGE 1 – INNOSTARS AWARDS AND NAM SELECTION (for NAM selection, only those start-ups are eligible which have active ageing focus)

Start-ups will be selected that fit the overall EIT Health InnoStars Awards objectives. Those start-ups that fit NAM Health Longevity Grand Challenge objectives cannot get further financial support from EIT Health.

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Selected companies will be eligible to compete for the second tier (Accelerator Awards) of the NAM Grand Challenge and receive educational and networking support.

STAGE 2 – MENTORING AND TRAINING

After completing the “Mentoring and Training” part, submit your business plan by 30th September and potentially qualify for the final pitch of the InnoStars Awards.³

STAGE 3 – INNOSTARS PITCH

Pitch your business plan to an international jury consisting of healthcare professionals, representatives of EIT Health core industrial partners and market experts. Win up to 25 000 €⁴ to launch your product or service, to find first customers and to get in connection with EIT Health Partners from all over Europe. Present your success story in the local and European media.

TIMELINE

27th March	Submission deadline for applications
1st April – 1st May	Evaluation of applications
1st – 27th May	10-15 minutes telephone interview with the selected 20 applicants
30th May	STAGE 1 – Announcement of top 20 applications / top 15 runner-ups and NAM selected startups
1st June	Submission deadline for work plan / MCN voucher distribution for top 20 applicants and 15 runner-ups
1st July – 30th September	STAGE 2 – mentoring and trainings for top 20 applicants
July	I. Two days (on-site) or two weeks (online) bootcamp
September	II. Two days (on-site) or two weeks (online) bootcamp
30th September	Submission deadline for business plans (incl. product development progress)
30th September – 19th October	Business plan evaluation
25th October	Announcement of 10 finalists
November	STAGE 3 – InnoStars Awards Grand Final

³ Business plans of the 20 selected companies will be evaluated by a panel of international experts. Top 10 companies will be invited for the pitch event to pitch.

⁴ Best 3 companies will be awarded at the pitch event (1st: 25.000 €; 2nd: 15.000 €; 3rd: 10.000 €)

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Practical issues

The following rules will be applied for all applicants and winners of the InnoStars Awards:

- The language of the competition is English.
- Selection criteria:
 - Well-defined prototype or MVP
 - Fit with EIT Health strategic objectives
 - Novelty and feasibility of the approach
 - Value proposition
 - Potential market impact of the product/service
 - Qualified team with the capacity to bring the innovation to market
 - Impact of the solution in the local and international market
- Winners will sign a grant agreement with EIT Health InnoStars. Only established legal entities can sign the grant agreement.
- The programme aims to accelerate market entry and create new economic activity; therefore, applications to support research will be rejected.
- Clear IP and IP protection strategy needs to be reported
- Exit or growth strategy needs to be presented

Submit your application by 27th March 2022

EIT Health is one of the largest healthcare initiatives worldwide. Among its members, we can find the biggest players of the European Healthcare sector including, but not limited to, Siemens Healthcare, IBM, Philipps, GE Healthcare, SAP, Medtronic, Abbott, Abbvie, Roche, Sanofi, Thermo Fischer Scientific, Astra Zeneca, Bayer Pharma, Merck, Air Liquide and world-class research organisations in healthcare.