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# InnoStars Assessment of Healthcare Innovation Ecosystem Maturity

in selected countries of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme With this study, we have attempted to assess the maturity level of the innovation ecosystems of specific healthcare programmes. Among many other programmes and activities, EIT Health runs multiple healthcare-related start-up support programmes in Central, Eastern and Southern European Union countries. The assessment also analysed how some of the selected country's healthcare start-up ecosystems utilised these programmes' benefits and what measurable outcomes they achieved. It is essential to highlight that the performance indicators collected are limited to the EIT Health start-up programmes in the selected countries and do not cover the whole country's innovation or start-up ecosystems.

While multiple innovation ecosystem ranking studies and reports are available, these reports have severe limitations. Based on the frequently quoted ecosystem rankings using general statistical data from public sources, it is difficult or impossible to measure the outcome and productivity of the programmes to which the EIT community contributes. This measurement issue is a general problem in the case of other EU or governmental programmes as well.

In the analysis, we used the following programme-specific Hard Indicators collected by EIT Health to measure the performance of the observed start-up ecosystems: valuation, employment, external funding raised, external grants obtained and the ratio of market-entry start-ups. We also measured the perceived innovation ecosystem maturity level with Soft Indicators using questionnaires based on the following dimensions: funding, talent pipeline, government, know-how and network.

In addition, we carried out in-depth interviews with selected ecosystem development experts. Finally, an EIT Health expert panel categorised the observed ecosystems using a so-called 'Ecosystem Maturity Model'. The maturity level is not a ranking system. The information the study was seeking was not which country has a better or worse ecosystem but rather where their maturity stands in effectively and efficiently utilising the resources to which they have access.

A strong correlation was found between the number of questionnaire respondents and most of the performance indicators, and a moderate but still significant correlation between the perceived ecosystem maturity level and the performance indicators. The results suggest that collaboration is an essential factor in the success of ecosystems and highlight that the behaviour of the actors predicts outcomes better than their partially subjective perceptions.

Hard Indicators are measurable but not actionable. Increasing the valuation or the ratio of market-entry start-ups is a goal but hardly applicable to day-to-day work life. Soft Indicators are actionable but less measurable. People work on community building and knowledge sharing, but their work is less appreciated due to the lack of cause-effect relationships with economic output. Ecosystem stakeholders can focus on actionable tasks leading to measurable outcomes.





The study demonstrates that the Ecosystem Maturity Model works. Higher levels of collaboration and co-ordination are strongly related to better quantitative outcomes.

As a result of this study, it was concluded that the Maturity Model helps to analyse, categorise and benchmark ecosystems. More importantly, it is an excellent logical model for identifying development actions. At the end of this summary, practical methods that could be used in different maturity levels to improve innovation ecosystem performance have been included.

Countries	Hard Indicators Performance of EIT Health- supported start-up portfolio	Soft Indicators Perceived Maturity Level based on questionnaires	Ecosystem Maturity Based on Hard and Soft Indicators and in-depth interviews
Israel (Benchmark)	5	5	5 (Expert)
Portugal	4	4	4 (Connector)
Poland	3	3	3 (Experimenter)
Italy	3	3	3 (Experimenter)
Hungary	3	2	3 (Experimenter)
Romania	3	3	3 (Experimenter)
Czechia	2	4	3 (Experimenter)
Estonia	2	4	3 (Experimenter)
Slovakia	1	2	2 (Builder)
Slovenia	1	2	2 (Builder)
Latvia	1	2	2 (Builder)

#### InnoStars Innovation Ecosystem Maturity Assessment Results





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**EIT Health** is one of eight Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), an EU body and an Institutionalised Partnership under Horizon Europe's Pillar III – Innovative Europe.

Today, approximately 130 Partner organisations and institutions collaborate across disciplines, borders, and sectors to reinforce excellence, create know-ledge and innovation, and to encourage more significant investment. What connects us is our joint ambition to drive healthcare innovation and create societal impact in Europe.

**EIT Health InnoStars**, one of EIT Health's eight locations, covers half of Europe in its **EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS)**. EIT RIS was established with the understanding that different countries on the continent have varied innovation performances, and that there is a need to minimise the gap between the ecosystems. The countries included are the following: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain. Additionally, some Horizon Europe Associated Countries and outreach locations are also included.\*

**EIT Hub Israel** is an outreach location of the EIT. The hub creates synergies between the EIT community and the Israeli innovation ecosystem to support the growth of innovative start-ups and increase the number of EU-Israel and Cross-KIC collaborative projects. EIT Hub Israel is part of an international co-operation project, including a parallel hub in Silicon Valley. This allows the EIT access to the latest knowledge and the best talent worldwide, and creates business opportunities in new markets.

\* For a full list of countries included in the RIS region, please see the Appendix (p.30)





# Methodology

The hypothesis in this study is that ecosystems are performing better where the level of collaboration between actors is higher. To understand each ecosystem's maturity level, the Innovation Ecosystem Maturity Model by Monika Rozalska-Lilo\* was used; this classifies maturity on a scale from 1–5. The final scoring was done by an EIT Health expert panel based on Hard quantitative Indicators, Soft Indicators from questionnaire responses, and in-depth interview results. In addition, the relationship between measurable performance and the perceived maturity level of the observed innovation ecosystems was analysed.

Hard Indicators – EIT Health Programmes start-up performance In the analysis, EIT Health start-up programme-specific Hard Indicators were used, and collected by EIT Health to measure the performance of the observed (EIT Health programme participant) start-up ecosystems. The aim was to analyse how the selected country's healthcare start-up ecosystems utilised these programmes and what measurable outcomes had been achieved. It is essential to highlight that the performance indicators collected are limited to the EIT Health start-up programme participants and do not cover the whole country's innovation or start-up ecosystems. An untapped and unique quantitative data set was collected from different EIT Hubs. The following indicators were used:

- Last valuation of start-ups (valuation) the accumulated value in EUR of the measured start-ups (limited data available)
- External funding raised by start-ups supported the accumulated external funding raised by the start-ups
- Market-entry start-ups the percentage of measured start-ups already on the market selling their technology and solutions
- Number of FTEs employed (employment): the cumulative number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employed by the measured start-ups
- External grants raised external (non-EIT) governmental grants obtained by the measured start-ups

This approach helps to measure the success of the specific programmes in contrast with collecting general statistical data describing the observed countries' overall social and economic environment rather than the specific programme outcomes. The portfolio of start-ups is based on participation in EIT Health acceleration programmes in 2016-2021, while Hard Indicators relates to the years 2014-2022. (Source: EIT Health Dealroom database).

An online questionnaire was used to measure the perceived innovation ecosystem maturity level with Soft Indicators. More than 200 responses from diverse innovation ecosystem players were received. Participants were asked to rank their innovation ecosystem maturity on a scale of 1-5 using the following dimensions:

- Money
- People
- Government
- Know-how
- Network
- \* Monika Rozalska-Lilo is a value creator and ecosystem development expert. She has co-created and, until recently, served as the CEO of CREATORS, an innovation lab based in Tel Aviv that supports organisations in developing and improving innovation practices. Monika's expertise includes corporate innovation, start-up ecosystems, ideation methodologies, and building and facilitating innovation programmes. Before CREATORS, Monika served as Deputy Director of TheHive by Gvahim, a start-up accelerator programme for international teams in Israel. She is currently a Senior Startup & VC Business Development Manager at AWS.

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Soft Indicators

Maturity Level

based on online questionnaire

Perceived

Ecosystem

responses

# Methodology



# **Innovation Maturity Model**

The Innovation Maturity Model was chosen, as it does not establish which countries have a "worse" or "better" ecosystem, but rather ascertains where their maturity stands regarding innovation capabilities and existing tools, and, more importantly, how to gain the missing components to grow and prosper. To avoid a classic ranking scenario, the Model divides the ecosystem into five stages, ranging from a "Beginner" to an "Expert" level, with five different categories within each of the stages. This model is not about the availability of resources but about the community that transforms available resources (such as money or talent) into valuable outcomes for society. More mature ecosystems have managed to build more social capital. In other words, they created more robust personal networks and better working human relationships. As a result, these communities are more successful in accessing available resources and translating them into tangible outcomes, such as health benefits, financial success in the health economy, or more sustainable health systems.

**Funding** - The funding being tunnelled towards the ecosystem and its various components along with R&D expenditures. The components being measured are EIT Health's grants given to supported start-ups in the ecosystems, R&D expenditure and access to money for different stages of the start-up's life cycle and research.

**Talent Pipeline** –The human capital of the ecosystem, combined with the innovative mentality of its people. The components measured here are the number of educated people in the country and statements from interviewees in the study regarding the general innovation mentality in the country, and access to academic and professional local talent in the ecosystem.



# **Innovation Maturity Model**

**Government** - The innovation support by the supranational EU government, national governments and local authorities. The components measured are the number of programmes and amount of funding available through governmental means, and how easy it is to access these funds and programmes.

**Know-how** - Cumulative experience of the ecosystem, which allows the ecosystem to grow and prosper. The components measured are the number of innovative programmes in the country which provide its players with different skills and tools, and access to mentoring and learning in the ecosystem.

**Network** - The ability of the different components to interact with each other and work inside the ecosystem as one living organism. The components measured are mainly based on the testimonies of the different ecosystem players, who confirmed whether and how their ecosystem is networked and wired between the different players.



#### Innovation Maturity Model

Credit: Monika Rozalska-Lilo



# **MATURITY ASSESSMENT RESULTS**

# Significant part of the Central, Eastern and Southern Europe covered by the Maturity Assessment



#### Hard performance indicators and soft perception of Maturity Assessment go hand in hand with EIT Health community engagement







# Hard Indicators

#### Measured start-ups in numbers



#### Hard Indicator score







# Soft Indicators



#### Questionnaire respondent demographics

#### Soft Indicator score









#### Maturity Level

based on hard and soft indicators and expert assessment







# Network Image: Constraint of the second of the second

Soft indicator score: 5

Questionnaire responses

This study uses Israel as the benchmark; its "expert" ecosystem contains all the components that make an ecosystem mature. The country's highly-educated and skilled workforce, with technological and scientific expertise, has allowed it to cultivate a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. A substantial amount of government support and investment has been made in research and development, which has facilitated the growth of start-ups in the country. A culture of daring, risk-taking and familiarity within this ecosystem encourages people to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams, not being ashamed of failing, and being willing to ask for assistance from others within the ecosystem. As indicated by the high participation in the questionnaire, there is good engagement with the ecosystem as well, a factor that can be attributed to the existence of EIT Hub Israel under EIT Health InnoStars since 2019, which has further connected the Israeli and European ecosystems. Highlighted success story: Voiceitt is an Israeli speech recognition company that has developed proprietary automatic speech recognition (ASR) technology which translates non-standard speech patterns into clear speech in real time, enabling individuals with severe speech impairments and disabilities to access mainstream voice-activated technologies and devices. The Voiceitt team benefited from the EIT Health programme Bridgehead Europe 2020, which helped them to expand on the EU markets. In 2020, the start-up reached the Series A funding round of USD 10M from Microsoft's venture fund M12, Dreamit Ventures, AARP Community, Connecticut Innovations, Amazon Alexa Fund, Quake Capital, Cahn Capital Corp, and The Disability Opportunity Fund. In 2022, they closed another funding round led by AMIT Technion, with participation from Cisco Investments and Third Culture Capital.

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Portugal is among the four countries within the observed country group where EIT Health has a dedicated Ecosystem Lead. The country has a vibrant and rapidly-evolving healthcare ecosystem, enjoying privileged conditions to leverage start-ups from numerous successful incubators, ecosystems catalysts such as Start-up Portugal or the Health Cluster Portugal, and universities with extraordinary dynamics in creating spin-offs. For example, the Institute Pedro Nunes and the University of Coimbra (associate and core partners of EIT Health) established one of the top 10 leading incubators in the world, the IPN Incubator, revolutionising the national landscape for start-ups. The only Unicorn growing from the EIT Health Ecosystem in the observed countries is Sword Health, founded in Portugal.

Highlighted success story: iLoF is an Oxford- and Porto-based company pioneering an AI platform to accelerate personalised drug discovery and development. Using cutting-edge optical lasers, the company first analyses blood samples from patients before using AI-powered technology to create a unique digital molecular profile of a patient. Patients' digital profiles are then compared to iLoF's cloud-based library of biological profiles in search of potential matches. In 2022, iLoF closed the funding round of USD 4M, led by Faber, with participation from Microsoft's venture fund M12, Quiet Capital, Lunar Ventures, Alter Venture Partners, and Fluxunit. With over USD 8M in funding to date, iLoF can implement its vision of cutting the time and costs of recruiting patients for clinical trials. Consisting of 20 international scientists, entrepreneurs and investors, the widely acclaimed iLoF team was initially formed during the EIT Health Wild Card programme in 2019 which provides world-class mentorship and training to innovators with life-changing ideas to improve healthcare. iLoF has also previously won EIT's Jumpstarter pre-accelerator programme, which boosts innovation and entrepreneurship within Central, Eastern and Southern-European regions.



Companies that participated in EIT Health programmes in Poland are performing among the best in external grants won, and above the average in employment and in the percentage of market-entry startups. Poland is among the four countries within the observed country group besides Italy, Hungary and Portugal, where EIT Health has a dedicated Ecosystem Lead and a partner network of leading enterprises, universities, and research institutes.

Highlighted success story: UVera is a Polish company that aims to provide natural, healthy and safe UV protection solutions with a concomitant decrease in negative environmental impact on the planet in the zero-waste process. In 2018, UVera received €200 000 from the

National Centre of Research and Development in Poland (BRIdge Alfa programme).

In 2019 and 2020, they won two EIT Health acceleration programmes: InnoStars Awards and EIT Health Catapult. In 2020, the start-up received €660 000 from business angels. In 2020, UVera secured €2.5M funding from the European Innovation Council within the "Green Deal".

In 2021, they attracted  $\leq$ 60 000 from the Polish Agency of Enterprise Development and another  $\leq$ 1.1M from business angels. The start-up was also shortlisted by the European Investment Bank in the Social Innovation Tournament and named among the best 3% of innovative, impactful and sustainable projects recognised in the EU. In 2022, UVera provided the first technology license to a previously-contracted client.





#### The companies that participated in EIT Health programmes in Italy are performing among the best in employment and above average in external funding raised and valuation. Italy is among the four countries within the observed country group besides Italy, Hungary, and Portugal, where EIT Health has a dedicated Ecosystem Lead and a partner network of leading enterprises, universities and research institutes. Synlab Italia, the EIT Health core partner in the country, is a national network of laboratories, bloodcollection points and diagnostic centres. This unique diagnostic network introduces a new "integrated" approach to medical innovation, prevention and healthcare in Italy, an approach in line with the quality standards of excellence in Europe.

Highlighted success story: In 2021, US-based Alira Health acquired Patchai, an EIT Health-supported start-up headquartered in Italy. Patchai offers intelligent digital health solutions to engage and empower patients in clinical research and care pathways. Their intelligent platform embeds an empathetic virtual companion which delivers personalised human-centric interactions to patients and collects real-world data in real time. Patchai was a 2020 Catapult finalist, one of EIT Health's programmes.

#### Soft Indicator score: 3

Questionnaire responses

З

4







Questionnaire responses



In terms of measurable outcomes, the companies that participated in EIT Health programmes in Hungary are performing among the best in the percentage of market-entry start-ups and above the average in the areas of employment and external funding raised, while underperforming compared to their peers in external grants received. Hungary is among the four countries within the observed country group besides Italy, Poland and Portugal, where EIT Health has a dedicated Ecosystem Lead and a partner network of leading enterprises, universities and research institutes. GE Healthcare is an outstanding global MedTech player with significant R&D capacity in Hungary, is a core partner of EIT Health, and has initiated successful open-innovation and education programmes in collaboration with EIT Health, such as HelloAl and the Health Venture Lab.

The above-average funding raised score is strongly related to the activity of the state-owned VC Hiventures, which is very active in early-stage financing of local start-ups.

Highlighted success story: HandInScan is a Hungarian company that develops, validates and commercialises a novel hand-hygiene control system for direct and objective assessment of hand sanitising. The HandInScan team benefited from the EIT Health Bridgehead Europe 2019 programme to help them expand into EU markets. So far, they have received over  $\in 2.5M$  in external funding.





The companies participating in EIT Health programmes in Romania are performing above average in external grants received, in valuation, and in the percentage of market-entry start-ups, while underperforming compared to their peers in external funds raised. The questionnaire response results suggest a solid "experimenter" ecosystem maturity level supported by the numeric indicators. Romanian participants contributed more than any other of the observed countries to the questionnaire, indicating that EIT Health has an outstanding collaboration network. FreshBlood HealthTech Community based in Cluj-Napoca represents EIT Health in Romania.

Highlighted success story: .lumen glasses is a system for blind people who cannot use an advanced mobile solution. It replicates the main characteristics of a guide dog in a scalable product. In 2020, this Romanian start-up was one of the EIT Health Headstart Grand Final winners. It was also among the EIT Health Headstart Grand Final winners who received support from the EIT Health Catapult. In addition to the EIT Health journey, .lumen has established co-operation within the industry: Kaufland Romania and Ascendis. In 2021, the start-up won the Red Dot Luminary Award and received  $\notin 9.3M$  in funding from EIC as the first Romanian start-up.

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While Czechia is one of the leading economies of the observed country group with a vibrant start-up ecosystem, the local healthcare startups are in the early stage of utilising the benefits of being part of the EIT Health Community. The questionnaire responses suggest high potential regarding the existing innovation ecosystem in the country. At the same time, the minimal number of respondents reinforces the message that only a few players have actively joined the EIT Health innovation network so far. The DEX Innovation Centre in the town of Liberec represents EIT Health in the country. Highlighted success story: Vitadio is a diabetes self-management app that complements therapy set by a physician and guides patients in building healthy habits in the areas of nutrition, physical activity, sleep and mental hygiene. The Czech team participated in several EIT Health programmes, including the Smart Ageing Camp in 2018, Bridgehead in 2019 and 2021, and the Health Venture Lab programme, backed by GE Healthcare and powered by EIT Health InnoStars. Vitadio is one of the first non-German digital health applications reimbursed by Germany's statutory health insurance system. It is accepted on the list which healthcare providers can prescribe as DiGA (Digitale Gesundheitsanwendungen).





Hard Indicator score: 2

12 EIT Health supported start-ups



Estonia is well-known for its start-up successes; companies that participated in EIT Health programmes in the EIT RIS region are relatively well-performing compared to the size of the country. The questionnaire also suggests a high potential regarding the existing innovation ecosystem in the country. At the same time, the minimal number of respondents reinforces the message that only a few players have actively joined the EIT Health innovation network so far. Tartu Biotechnology Park represents EIT Health in the country.

Highlighted success story: Antegenes' genetic tests assess a patient's cancer risks and include clinical recommendations for further personalised cancer prevention. Trials are based on polygenic risk score technology, which helps to clarify an individual's genetic predispositions

to cancer. Antegenes raised €1.6M from investors in a seed round led by Pipedrive co-founder Timo Rein, Pipedrive's first investor Peep Vain, and entrepreneurs Aare Kurist and Andreas Henn Otsmaa. Antegenes has also received two grants to bring research-intensive innovation to international healthcare: BRIGHT project, financed with €2.28M by EIT Health, of which €500 000 is a grant to Antegenes for the breast cancer genetic risk test, AnteBC. The project partners are the University of Tartu, IESE Business School, Tartu University Hospital, Estonian Health Insurance Fund, Uppsala University Hospital, North Lisbon University Hospital Centre and GE Healthcare. The second €200 000 grant was through the Norway Grants Green ICT programme. The project partners are the University of Oslo, Oslo University Hospital, Vestre Viken Hospital Trust and Oslo Cancer Cluster.

Soft Indicator score: 4

Questionnaire responses



5





"What we are missing most is the creation of our local talent pool in the ecosystem. Towards that end, we need to improve high-school and university education by making standardised courses which encourage innovation and entrepreneurship skills in young people. Lastly, we need to make a clear path for these people from ideation to investments"

Peter Breyl, Director General, Innovation Center of Košice Region

#### Maturity Level

based on hard and soft indicators and expert assessment



Total

External

Funding

Raised

€0.8M

Market-entry start-ups: 33%

Hard Indicator score: 1 3 EIT Health supported start-ups

Valuation: €3M





Slovakia is among the relatively smaller countries within the observed country group. Numeric indicators, the questionnaire results and the number of respondents suggest that the community-building journey

of EIT Health in Slovakia is at an early stage. Civitta Slovakia represents EIT Health in the country.



Best Slovakia

Average 🕳

Total

External

Grants

Obtained

€0.04M

Employment 30 FTE







Numeric indicators, the questionnaire results and the number of respondents suggest that the community-building journey of EIT Health in Slovenia is at an early stage. However, Slovenia performs well in the EIT RIS Innovation Pillar programmes: it is one of the leaders in the number of innovative projects supported under the EIT Health RIS Innovation Call

programme. Ljubljana University Incubator (LUI) represents EIT Health in the country. LUI recently received funds from the European Investment Bank, so it will function as a significant regional VC fund in the future.







Latvia is among the small countries within the observed country group. Compared to the size of the country, EIT Health programme participant start-ups have a solid performance in terms of employment, validation and external funding raised. Both the questionnaire results and the number of respondents suggest that the community-building journey of EIT Health in Latvia is at an early stage. Rīga Stradiņš University represents EIT Health in the country.

Highlighted success story: Longenesis, a Latvian start-up, aims to promote patients' involvement and confidence in research organisations and study sponsors, and also allows clinical sites and patient advocacy

organisations to disclose patient data for use in biomedical research. In 2020, the Riga-based medical technology start-up took part in the EIT Health Headstart programme and won €40 000, and, one year later, the company announced the USD 1.2M seed funding. The funds were backed by a group of business angels led by Rustam Gilfanov, who was also joined by Ilya Suharenko, a private investor and one of the Managing Partners of LongeVC. In 2022-23, Longenesis is continuing the EIT Health start-up journey – they reached the semi-finals of Catapult 2022-23.

# Conclusions

The key message of the study is that the Ecosystem Maturity Model works: the ecosystems where the level of collaboration between the actors is higher are performing better. It is excellent news for innovation ecosystem experts for two reasons:



With the Ecosystem Maturity Model, we have a tool to analyse, categorise and benchmark ecosystems and, more importantly, to identify development actions.

Based on the findings, the culture of collaboration and knowledge sharing plays a much more significant role in the success of innovation support programme outcomes than the frequently analysed general macro-level economic, infrastructure or labour statistics. It is good news because, with proper actions, the culture of collaboration and knowledge sharing can be improved much faster and with lower investment than using general social and economic indicators, such as GDP or the quality and quantity of the available labour force. Ecosystem experts can focus on things they can influencerather than keep analysing environmental factors they cannot change.

EIT Health is uniquely positioned in terms of its assets and capabilities to boost healthcare innovation ecosystems in the European Union and, specifically, in the countries of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme. Its core values help all stakeholders to move higher up in the Maturity Model.



#### Collaboration

Collaboration is the reason for the existence of both EIT Health and the communities we nurture. We are more than the sum of all parts; together, we can create a meaningful impact, such as regional competitiveness and job creation.

#### Trust

We are all members of a trusted community who enjoy a culture of honesty, psychological safety and mutual respect. Trust is essential and is the foundation for collaboration. It creates social capital where people move beyond transactional one-to-one relationships and invest in the community ("give first").



#### Caring

Community building is a people-business where the needs of stakeholders, start-ups and innovators are in focus (people-centricity). Belonging, caring, inclusiveness and support are the basis of collaboration and innovation. They require extra effort from the stakeholder representatives to stretch the organisational goals and obtain the necessary mandate to utilise institutional capabilities.



#### Personal and collective growth

People join the innovation ecosystems to grow personally and professionally. They need to grow their mindset's complexity in order to participate efficiently at the higher levels of the Maturity Model. The ecosystems we nurture are learning communities whose knowledge is a decisive edge in global competition.



#### Sustainability

The long-term perspective and positive impact on the innovation ecosystems, economy, healthcare and society give us meaning ("Healthy living and active ageing"). Safeguarding the well-being of our stakeholders keeps us engaged in the long run. Ecosystems need to reach a tipping point where stakeholders experience a return on their time and money invested, which leads to ever-increasing commitment and participation.







# How To Take Your Ecosystem Forward



To find out more about how to take your ecosystem to the next level, please reach out to EIT Health InnoStars.





# **Ecosystem as a Service**

Using the Innovation Maturity Model, with our experience, knowledge and network as the region's biggest support, we provide the following services to take your ecosystem to the next maturity level according to your challenges:



#### Mapping, Assessing & Strategising

- > Unique Value Proposition recognition
- Perfect your personal pitch to attract a varied number of stakeholders
- > Strategise a roadmap to overcome your personal pain points and strengthen your strong suits using our in-depth knowledge of each ecosystem



#### Ecosystem Operations Support

- Increase your global presence & network by becoming an active part of the global ecosystem, using our services to initiate and organise events for you, based on the model that works best for you:
  - Hackathons
  - Challenge-based programmes
  - Meet-ups



#### Report & Index Crafting

- Political, business or private decisionmakers are provided with on-demand custom reports and indices
- Develop an understanding of specific or regional ecosystems around the RIS region
- Identify the different ecosystem
  components and learn how to navigate
  through them



#### Training Workshops

- Mature your ecosystem capabilities by participating in innovation training workshops
- Gain unprecedented knowledge regarding different innovation models, know-how and existing mind-sets
- > Find the opportunity to listen to experts in the field and be mentored by them
- Expand your network to new spheres by joining a global community of like-minded peers

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## Glossary

#### **Innovation Ecosystem**

An innovation ecosystem is a network of individuals, entities, resources and structures that join forces in a way that catalyses new products, ideas, methods, systems and even ways of life.

#### EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS)

European nations have varied innovation performance. According to the European Innovation Scoreboard, countries are classified into two groups: innovation leaders / strong innovators and moderate / modest innovators. To close the gap between regions that are leaders in innovation and those which are still progressing, EIT introduced its Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS). Countries eligible for the EIT RIS are in the following three groups: EU member states – Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain; Horizon Europe Associated Countries – Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine; Outermost Regions – Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal) and the Canary Islands (Spain). Through the EIT RIS, Innovation Communities disseminate the knowledge emerging from their broad networks of partners and promote broader participation in their activities across Europe.

#### **Open Innovation**

A business management model for innovation that promotes collaboration with people and organisations outside the company. An organisation does not just rely on their internal knowledge, sources and resources for innovation but uses multiple external sources, such as customer feedback, published patents, competitors, external agencies, the public, and so on, to drive innovation.

#### EIT Hub

EIT KICs use a "place-based" innovation approach and engage local organisations to serve as EIT Hubs in EIT RIS regions. Local organisations are selected through an open competition and designated as an EIT Hub for a specific EIT KIC. The primary role of the EIT RIS Hubs is to make the EIT Community more visible and raise awareness of its activities and co-operation opportunities for local players in education, business and research. They also attract and facilitate the engagement of new participants in EIT KIC activities. EIT RIS Hubs can liaise with relevant national, regional and local authorities and facilitate sharing EIT Community expertise with them.

#### Unicorn

"Unicorn" is a privately-owned tech company valued at over USD 1B.



## Glossary

#### European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS)

The annual European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) provides a comparative assessment of the research and innovation performance of EU member states and selected third countries and, the relative strengths and weaknesses of their research and innovation systems. It helps countries assess areas where they need to concentrate their efforts in order to boost innovation performance.

#### New European Innovation Agenda

The New European Innovation Agenda, which was adopted on 5 July 2022, aims to position Europe as a leading player in the global innovation sphere and to implement crucial and new technologies in the European market. The Agenda leverages the many talents and skills Europe already possesses while focusing on the importance of harnessing a new wave of innovation on its way: deep tech. Deep tech is rooted in cutting-edge science, technology and engineering, often combining physical, biological and digital advances. The deep-tech innovations emerging from a growing cohort of innovative start-ups in the EU have the potential to drive innovation across the economy and society. They have the power to transform the EU's business landscape and associated markets, and help address the most pressing societal challenges, including achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The EIT, Europe's largest innovation ecosystem, has a significant role in the flagship strategy.





# Acknowledgments

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