



15
NEW COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES
Accelerating agrifood innovation in Europe

6 universities

10 innovation hubs

8 business organisations

New EIT Food Country Representatives

Across Europe, regional ecosystems play a critical role in shaping how innovation is developed, adopted, and scaled.

To strengthen these connections, EIT Food is welcoming 15 new Country Representatives who will act as key links between local agrifood communities and our wider European network.

Their role is to:

- ✦ Support local innovators and entrepreneurs
- 🌱 Strengthen collaboration across the value chain
- 🌐 Connect regional ecosystems to European opportunities

By working at the intersection of local insight and European collaboration, they help ensure that innovation reaches the people, places and markets where it can create real impact.

This is how EIT Food continues to build a more connected, inclusive and resilient food system across Europe.

👉 [Read more on EIT Food website](#)



EWA Explore

Discover **EWA Explore**— a self-paced **20-hour online course** designed to provide foundational entrepreneurship knowledge and practical tools to help participants explore, develop and validate agrifood business ideas through a gender-aware lens.

The course covers:

- the food system: from farm to fork
- innovation and idea generation through design thinking
- business model development and strategy
- financial literacy and legal basics
- leveraging technology and data
- networking and communication

Format: self-paced online

Cost: €35 per participant

Applications are open **all year long**.

[Read more on EIT Food website](#)



EWA Grow

Women with an early-stage agrifood startup or business idea can now apply to join **EWA Grow 2026** — a six-month programme offering training, weekly 1:1 mentoring, networking opportunities, a masterclass and a final Demo Day.

The programme is designed to help participants:

- develop and validate their business ideas
- strengthen entrepreneurial and leadership skills
- connect with experts, mentors, and investors
- grow within a supportive European ecosystem

Applications are open until **11 May 2026**.

[Read more on EIT Food website](#)



EWA Advanced

EIT Food is looking for **women founders and representatives of women-founded agrifood startups** with innovative solutions already showing **sales and market traction**.

EWA Advance is a pan-European scaling programme designed to accelerate:

- commercial growth
- investor readiness
- corporate readiness
- scalable expansion

Selected participants will benefit from expert sessions, mentoring, networking, a masterclass and a final Demo Day.

Up to **10 participants** will be selected, and the top finalists will compete for prizes of **€20,000** and **€15,000**.

Applications are open until **11 May 2026**.

[Read more on EIT Food website](#)



RisingFoodStars

RisingFoodStars 2026 is a programme designed to support startups that have already demonstrated:

- strong market traction
- a scalable business model
- ambition to expand internationally

The programme aims to accelerate:

- strategic growth and expansion
- access to investors and corporates
- visibility within Europe's leading food innovation ecosystem
- long-term collaboration opportunities

Selected companies will benefit from tailored support, networking, and access to a powerful community of industry leaders and partners.

Applications are open until **30 April 2026**.

[Read more on EIT Food website](#)



EIT Jumpstarter

 Innovating in food and agriculture? **EIT Jumpstarter** can help you turn your ideas into a start-up.


Applications are now open for the **Food & Agritech cohort** of EIT Jumpstarter 2026, powered by EIT Food.

This European pre-acceleration programme **supports early-stage innovators in transforming promising ideas into viable businesses**. Participants gain practical entrepreneurial training, mentorship from industry experts, and support to develop a validated business plan.

The Food & Agritech category welcomes ideas related to:

- Sustainable agriculture
- Food innovation and food tech
- Alternative proteins
- Circular food systems
- Agri-digital solutions

Participants also gain access to the EIT Food innovation ecosystem, Europe's leading community for transforming the food system.

 Applications are open until **8 May 2026**.

 [Read more on EIT Food website](#)

EIT Food Education Opportunities



Co-funded by the European Union



Master in Food Systems

The **Master in Food Systems** is a dynamic postgraduate programme designed to combine **business and entrepreneurial skills**, as well as **technical knowledge** tailored to your career goals.

Delivered by leading academic institutions and industry partners, the programme gives you the opportunity to:

- collaborate with experts across the agrifood sector
- gain real-world experience
- actively contribute to transforming the future of food systems

Applications are open until **25 June 2026**.

[Read more on EIT Food website](#)



EU Skills Academies

The **EU Skills Academies** are designed to bridge critical skills gaps in the agrifood sector, equip professionals and organisations for rapid industry change and strengthen Europe's food system from farm to fork.

They bring together:

- industry leaders, employers & innovators
- education providers and researchers
- policymakers and ecosystem partners


With initial focus areas including **Biotechnology** and **Resilient Agriculture**, the EU Skills Academies aim to drive innovation, sustainability, and long-term competitiveness in the sector.

[Read more on EIT Food website](#)

EIT Label Accreditation

Co-funded by the
European Union

Accredit your training with the EIT Label

 The **EIT Label accreditation** is designed for organisations delivering high-quality agrifood training that demonstrates strong industry relevance, clear learning outcomes, and innovation in education.

The accreditation helps to:

- validate the quality and impact of your training
- strengthen credibility and visibility across Europe's food innovation ecosystem

Accredited programmes benefit from:

- independent expert recognition
- inclusion in the EIT Food Course Catalogue
- access to a pan-European network of learners, educators, and industry leaders

 [Read more on EIT Food website](#)

EIT Food - Useful Links



Co-funded by the European Union

About EIT Food



[EIT Food](#) is growing Europe's food innovation ecosystem to build a healthy, sustainable and resilient food system. We empower innovators and entrepreneurs, invest in ideas and talent, and we create space for science, research, industry, and policymakers to accelerate systemic change across the food sector.

Supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union, EIT Food has been at the forefront of food system innovation in Europe since 2016.




About EIT

The [European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\)](#) is an EU body and an integral part of [Horizon Europe](#), the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Institute supports dynamic pan-European partnerships, EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities, among leading companies, research labs and universities. Currently ten EIT Knowledge & Innovation Communities are supported: [Climate KIC](#) (formerly EIT Climate-KIC), [28DIGITAL](#) (formerly EIT Digital), [InnoEnergy](#) (formerly EIT InnoEnergy), [EIT Health](#), [EIT RawMaterials](#), [EIT Food](#), [EIT Manufacturing](#), [EIT Urban Mobility](#), [EIT Culture & Creativity](#) and [EIT Water](#). Together with its leading partners, the EIT Community offers a wide range of innovation and entrepreneurship activities across Europe: entrepreneurial education courses, business creation and acceleration services and innovation driven research projects.

EIT Food Open Calls & Procurements





-  [EIT Food Open Calls](#)
-  [EIT Food Open Procurements](#)

EIT Food Education

-  [EIT Food Education](#)
-  [EIT Food Learning Services](#)
-  [EIT Food course catalogue](#)



EIT Community

-  [EIT Food Community](#)
-  [FoodHIVE](#)
-  [EIT Community Hub in Greece](#)
-  [EIT Community Initiatives](#)

EIT Food Country Representative Greece

Co-funded by the
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About EIT Food Country Representatives

EIT Food Country Representatives are members of the EIT Community Hubs in their respective countries. They are independent organisations appointed to connect national agrifood ecosystems in Southern and Eastern Europe with EIT Food's ecosystem, activities, and opportunities. A central part of their role is to build strong pipelines of agrifood startups for EIT Food's entrepreneurship programmes by scouting promising ventures, engaging incubators and accelerators, and providing hands-on support during application processes.

They also attract learners to EIT Food's education initiatives, including the EIT Food Master in Food Systems and the EU Skills Academies in Biotechnology and Resilient Agriculture. In addition, EIT Food Country Representatives help strengthen national innovation networks by facilitating collaboration, sharing information about relevant opportunities, and delivering activities that build innovation and entrepreneurship capacity within the agrifood sector.

This appointment is part of the [EIT Regional Innovation Scheme](#) (EIT RIS), one of EIT's key measures to broaden participation in the EIT Community and address regional disparities in innovation capacity.

In Greece, the EIT Food Country Representative is a consortium coordinated by [Democritus University of Thrace](#) and implemented in collaboration with [Mantis Beyond Innovation](#).



Democritus University of Thrace



Mantis Beyond Innovation

