

# IMPROVING FOOD TOGETHER

Opportunities  
offered in EIT Food



Co-funded by the  
European Union

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# EUROPE'S ONE-STOP SHOP FOR INNOVATION

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) drives innovation by supporting entrepreneurs, innovators and students across Europe to turn their best ideas into reality. For each major societal challenge, there is an ecosystem of partners, the EIT's Innovation Communities, that creates and finds innovative solutions.



## EIT Climate-KIC

Working to accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy



## EIT Digital

Driving Europe's digital transformation



## EIT InnoEnergy

Achieving a sustainable energy energy for Europe



## EIT Health

Giving European citizens greater opportunities to enjoy a healthy life



## EIT RawMaterials

Developing raw materials into a major strength for Europe



## EIT Food

Building a future-fit food system that produces and sustainable food for all



## EIT Manufacturing

Bringing European manufacturers together



## EIT Urban Mobility

Mobility for more liveable urban spaces



## EIT Culture & Creativity

Transforming Europe's cultural and creative sectors and industries



## EIT Water

Contribute to a circular and sustainable water economy

# OUR REGIONS

With teams on the ground across Europe, we unlock innovation potential in businesses and higher education and create and scale agrifood startups to bring new technologies and products to market.

EIT Food is structured around 3 European regions with similar food system and market challenges, and managed by 6 regional offices.



## NORTH & EAST

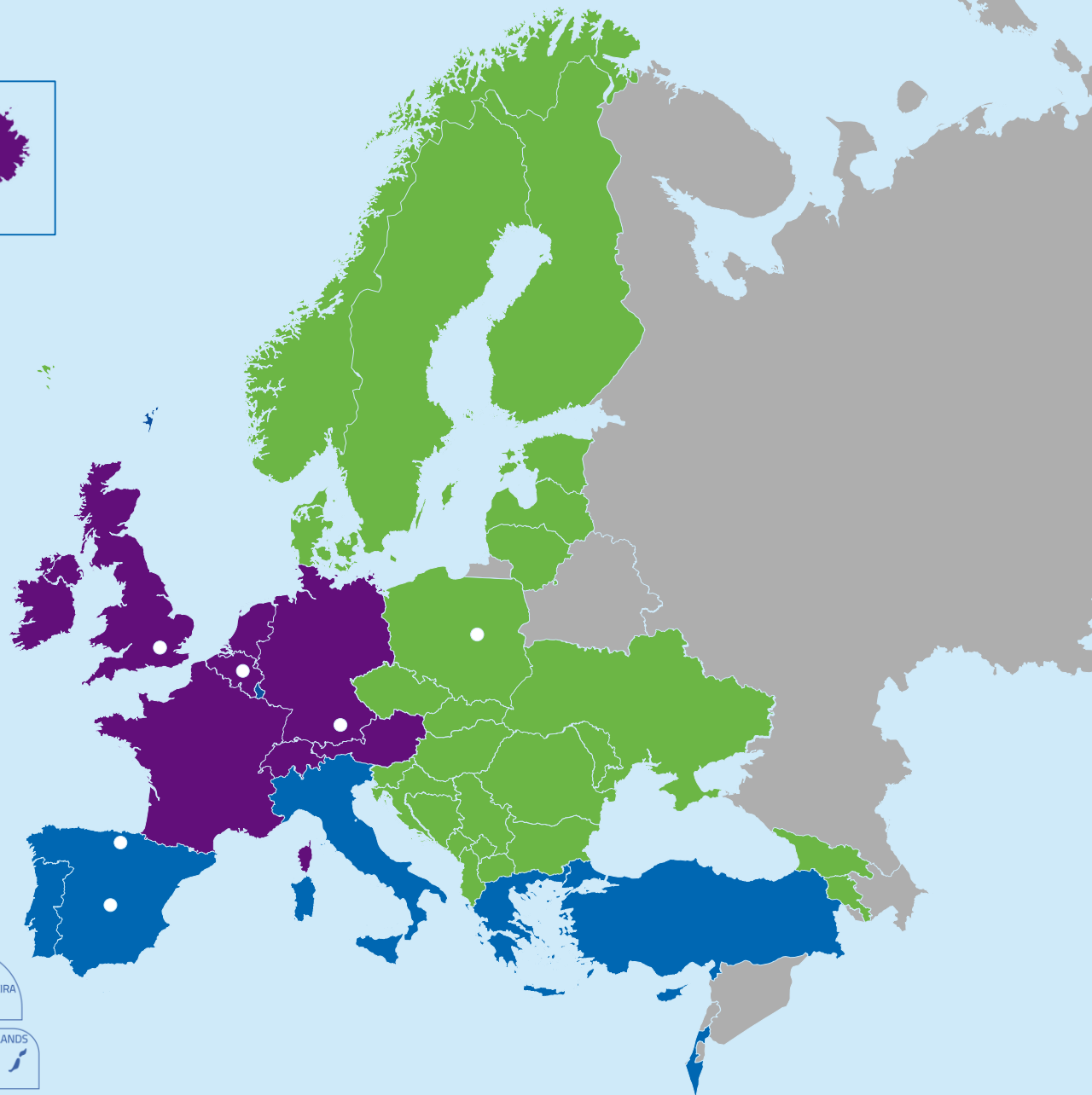
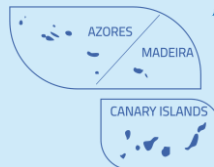
- Warsaw, Poland

## WEST

- Reading, UK
- Leuven, Belgium
- Freising, Germany

## SOUTH

- Bilbao, Spain
- Madrid, Spain





# OUR MISSIONS

We operate through a **mission-led approach** which puts improving outcomes for people and planet as the starting point for our work.



## HEALTHIER LIVES THROUGH FOOD

We will make a material difference to quality of life by enabling more consumers to have better choices through access to affordable, healthier products and actionable information.



## NET ZERO FOOD SYSTEM

We will scale a systems approach that enables the transition to sustainable and regenerative agriculture practices, creates new markets and opportunities for food waste and loss reduction, and empowers all stakeholders to play an active role in the circular food economy.



## FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE

We will improve food security and safety for consumers everywhere by enabling and establishing resilient and dependable digitally enabled food supply chains.

# EIT FOOD PRIORITIES OF FUTURE

The EIT's mission is to contribute to sustainable economic growth and competitiveness across the Union by reinforcing the innovation capacity of Member States in order to address major societal challenges.



EIT Food translates this mandate to **agriculture & food challenges**, aligning with the **Vision for Agriculture and Food**

**Our missions:**  
Responding to major societal challenges



Healthier Lives through Food



Net Zero Food System



Food System Resilience

**Thematic clusters:**  
Scaling for impact



Regenerative Agriculture

Vision for Agriculture and Food



Biotechnology

Biotech Act and Biotech JU



Protein Diversification

Member states' food strategies

Create an **innovation ecosystem** to tackle the challenges of the food system through **Knowledge Triangle Integration**

# EIT FOOD THINK TANKS

Convening experts from across the food system to foster knowledge sharing, impactful initiatives, and drive policy conversations to accelerate food system transformation.

## PROTEIN DIVERSIFICATION THINK TANK

Protein diversification should be at the forefront of all relevant policies, and it is the goal of the EIT Food Protein Diversification Think Tank to enable this by fostering dialogue. As a neutral, independent body, the **Think Tank engages all stakeholders of the food system to identify gaps, barriers, and opportunities.** Collectively, the Think Tank members also co-create evidence-based roadmaps and recommend actions and policies for protein diversification to drive the food systems transformation.

[READ MORE >](#)



## HEALTHY AGEING THINK & DO TANK

The EIT Food Healthy Ageing Think & Do Tank brings together strategic partners across Europe to drive innovation, knowledge exchange, and impactful initiatives that support active and fulfilling lives for older adults across Europe. The Think Tank has established **three working groups focused on critical areas: dietary strategies for preventing non-communicable diseases, targeted approaches for healthy ageing, and enhancing well-being through microbiome health.**

[READ MORE >](#)



## RESILIENT AGRICULTURE THINK & DO TANK

This initiative leads the way in the rapidly evolving agricultural landscape by uniting partners to influence policy, close critical systemic gaps, and translate insights into public awareness and actionable solutions. Our primary objective is **to accelerate the adoption of resilient agriculture to ensure food security and planetary health across Europe**, utilizing innovation to secure farmers' livelihoods and overcome key social, financial, technical, and regulatory barriers to transition.

[READ MORE >](#)



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# What do we do?

## THE THINK TANK FOSTERS THE DIALOG, BRIDGES KNOWLEDGE AND ACTION BY:



**Convening experts and stakeholders** to identify **gaps, barriers, and opportunities.**



**Mainstreaming protein diversification** for the benefit of people and the planet.



**Providing policy recommendations** and advocate for actions and policies to drive meaningful change

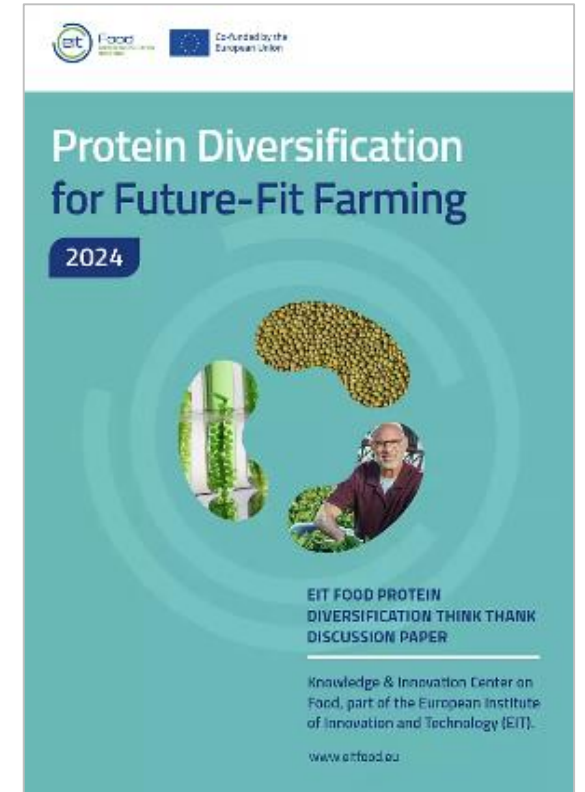
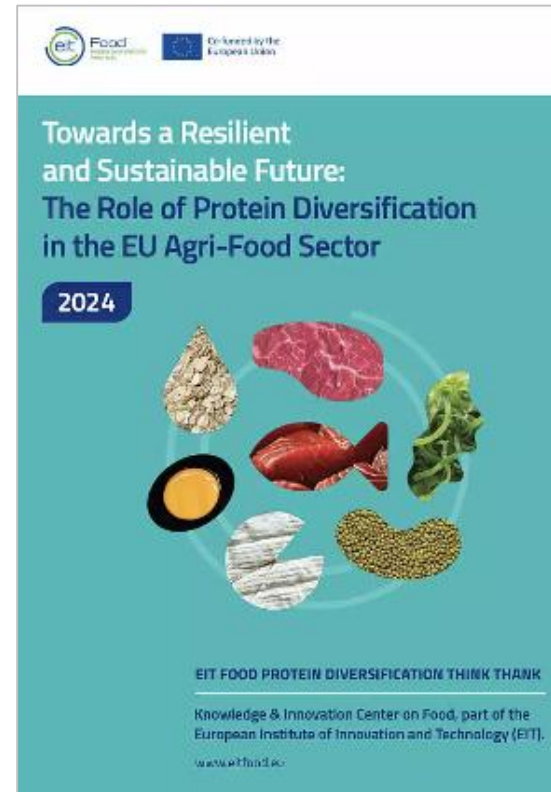
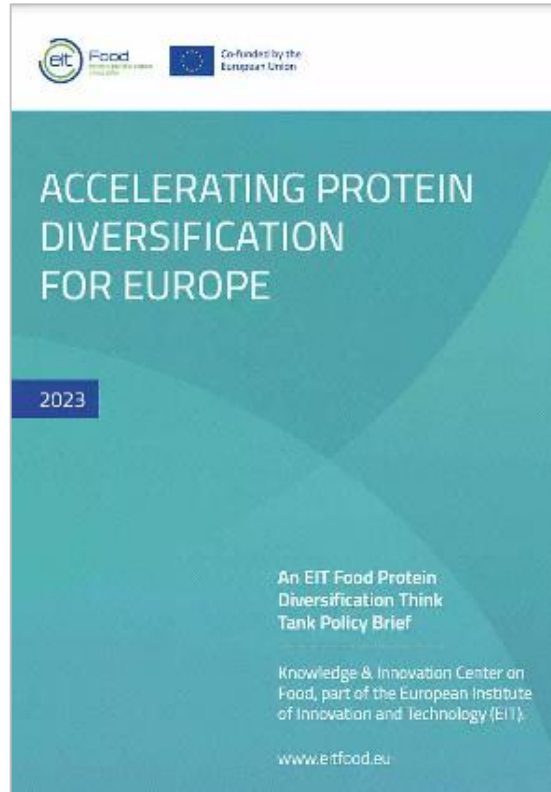
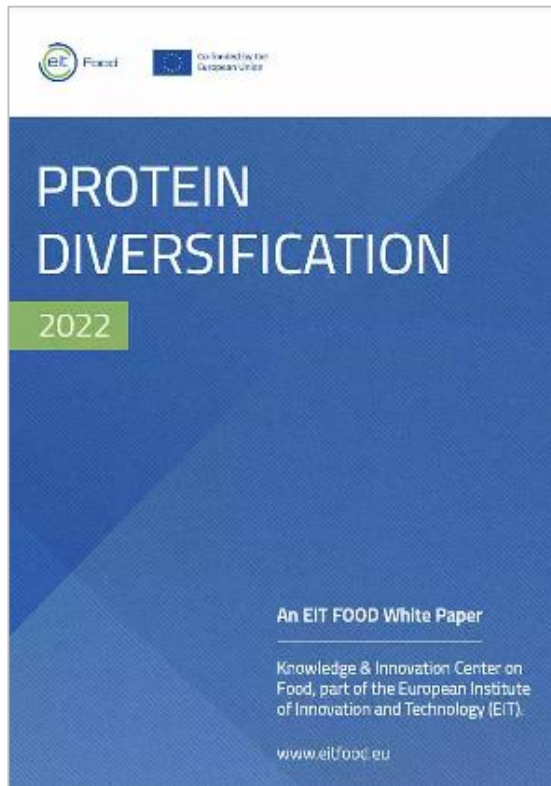


Ensuring every recommendation leads to **real-world impact.**





# EIT Food Protein Diversification Think Tank - PUBLICATIONS



<https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/eit-food-protein-diversification-think-tank>



# Consortia and project initiation



The Think Tank facilitated the emergence of 2 successful consortia in 2023-2024:



Fostering European Cellular Agriculture for Sustainable Transition Solutions, funded by the EU



EPIC-SHIFT



Securing Holistic and Impactful Food Systems Transformation with Novel Foods based on alternative proteins





# European Agri-Food Biotech Alliance: From Vision to Action

16 October 2025



Co-funded by the  
European Union





# Why Biotech? The Opportunity

## Global Growth

- Advanced food biotech projected to reach €250–300B global market by 2040 (McKinsey, 2025).

## European Potential

- EU could unlock €30–50B and create 30,000 - 50,000 high-skilled jobs (PwC, 2025).

## Commercialization Momentum

- Biotech foods moving from niche to mainstream.
- EU leads in R&D but lags in scaling - risking innovation flight outside Europe.

## Sustainability Dividend

- Biotech can cut GHGs by up to 90%, land & water use by >70%, and valorise side streams (FAO, McKinsey).

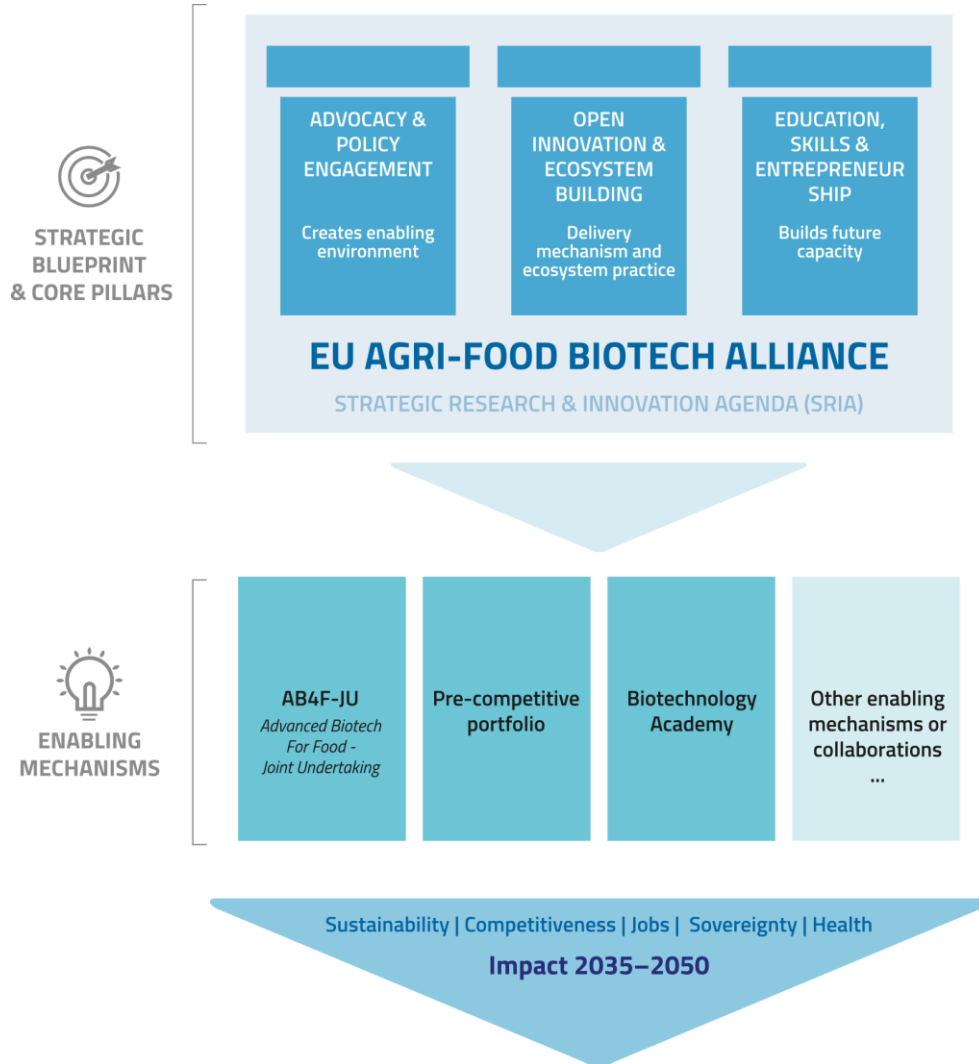
## Strategic Resilience

- Reduces import dependence and boosts EU food sovereignty (EC, 2023).





# How we make this happen: strategic blueprint



**Alliance:** a shared umbrella and roadmap for action

- **The SRIA is our backbone:** a unified strategic roadmap that will guide our collective efforts and ensure we speak with one strong voice to EU institutions and key decision-makers.

**Together, we move from vision to action** — by co-developing enabling mechanisms like:

- **The Joint Undertaking:** EU + industry funding at scale
- **Pre-competitive Portfolio:** unlock private and public partnerships
- **Biotech Academy:** training the future biotech workforce
- **Other Strategic Collaborations**

# LOWER SILESIA 360°

Regenerative Innovation Portfolio

Scaling regenerative  
agriculture in Poland



## WHY REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE MATTERS FOR EUROPE?

Improves soil health and biodiversity

Enhances the  
nutritional value  
of food

Supports climate  
action through  
carbon storage

Reduces  
dependence on  
synthetic inputs

Strengthens rural  
economies and  
farmer livelihoods



# ScaleUp Regenerative Agriculture in Czechia

Our partner for supporting farmers to transition to regenerative agriculture practices in Czechia:



**2022**  
Start of  
programme  
implementation

**114**  
Total  
farmers  
trained in CZ

**18**  
Farmers enrolled in  
individual advisory  
programme



[Transforming Farming in Czechia](#)



# EIT Food Funding Opportunities



## Impact Funding Framework 2023 - 2025

- **Goal:** Funds collaborative projects driving sustainable food system change (Net Zero, Health, Resilience).
- **Two Tracks:** Offers Collaborative Missions (large-scale programmes) and Single Projects (fast-paced innovation).
- **Focus Areas:** Prioritizes Regenerative Agriculture, Protein Diversification, and Labelling/Packaging.
- **Eligibility:** Requires a consortium of at least 2 partners from 2 different countries with mandatory co-funding.



## Biotech Innovation Call 2025

- The maximum funding amount allocated to this call was €3.000.000. We expect to fund commercial projects with EIT grant funding of maximum 400K€ per project over a period of no longer than 10 months initially.
- Participants from Member States of the European Union (EU) and from Horizon Europe Associate Countries.
- Project Duration – February 2026 – December 2026
- Topics:
  1. Design sustainable Downstream Processing to increase energy/water savings;
  2. Develop Real-time Process Monitoring and Control technologies.

**2026 - 2028**

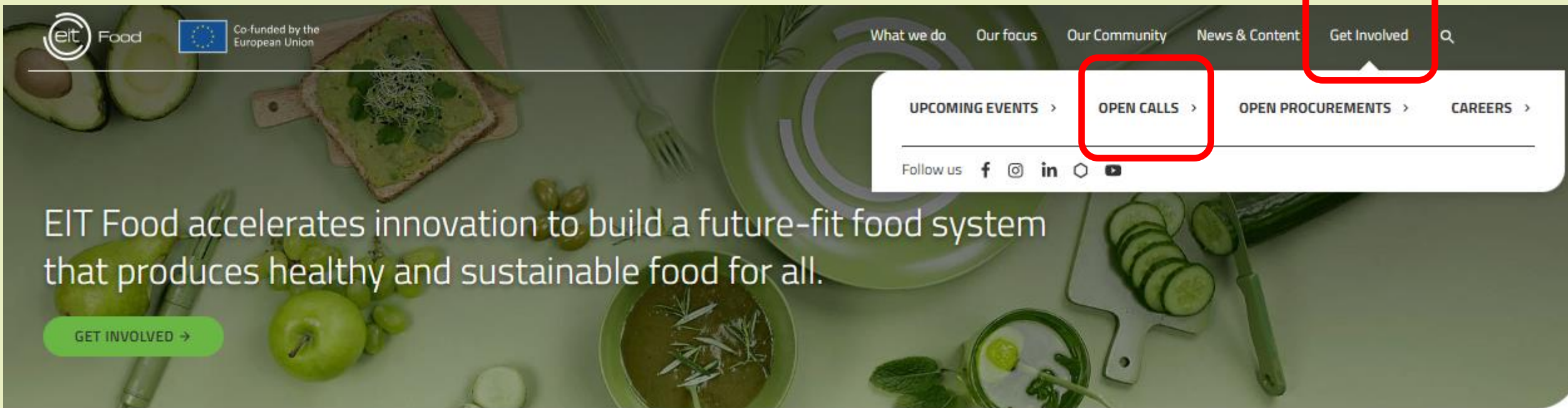
70% of EIT Food Budget  
Financial Support for Third Parties  
(FSTP)



**Details of the calls will be  
announced soon.**

# BE INFORMED ABOUT CALLS and other OPPORTUNITIES

<https://www.eitfood.eu/>



## Proposal Topics:

- Biotech
- Resilient / Regenerative Agriculture
- Protein Diversification
- Healthy Ageing
- Systematic Challenges in Agri-Food

## Specialization:

Cluster 6  
Widening

## Preferred role in Consortium:

- Coordination
- Multi-actor approach
- Financial support to third parties
- Policy making and public engagement activities
- Communication and Dissemination





# EIT Food's Entrepreneurship Programmes 2026-2028

## CREATION

TECH TRANSFER – VENTURE BUILDING



Seedbed

**Aspiring researchpreneurs,  
entrepreneurs supported by  
Venture Builders & TTOs  
TRL 1-3**

Turn IP into ventures with  
tailored founder support

- Co-founder matching
- Market validation
- Technology building

## ACCELERATION

TECH VALIDATION – PRODUCT LAUNCH – COMMERCIAL UPSCALING



EIT Food Accelerator Network

**Early-stage startups with traction indicators  
TRL 4-8**

### CORE PROGRAMME

Tech validation and business  
acceleration

### ON-DEMAND SPRINTS

Boost growth with focused  
tailor-made support

## NETWORK ACCESS

### Corporate Access

Facilitating corporate  
innovation by  
connecting world-  
leading industry with  
impactful agrifood  
startups.

### Investment

Direct startup funding  
for most promising  
cohort startups and  
alumni.



RisingFoodStars



SEAL OF EXCELLENCE FOR  
ALUMNI

[Home](#) > [Our Impact](#)

# Our Impact

Through targeted funding and collaboration, EIT Food is driving tangible change that improves lives, strengthens resilience, and protects our planet. Every story here highlights the added value and the real-world impact of our shared mission.

<https://www.eitfood.eu/impact-stories>

## Impact delivered since 2018

**279**

Marketed innovations

**1,540**

Individual startups and scaleups supported

**316**

Partners in our network

**167k+**

Learners benefitting

# PARTNERING FOR IMPACT

Our flexible partnering programmes are designed to support startups, SMEs, large global corporates, universities and research organisations.



## DELIVERY PARTNERS

Helping you deliver excellence and impact through projects and programmes



## STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Providing an influential voice at sector and policy levels both in the EU and beyond while shaping our strategic direction





# OUR PARTNERS AND WIDER COMMUNITY

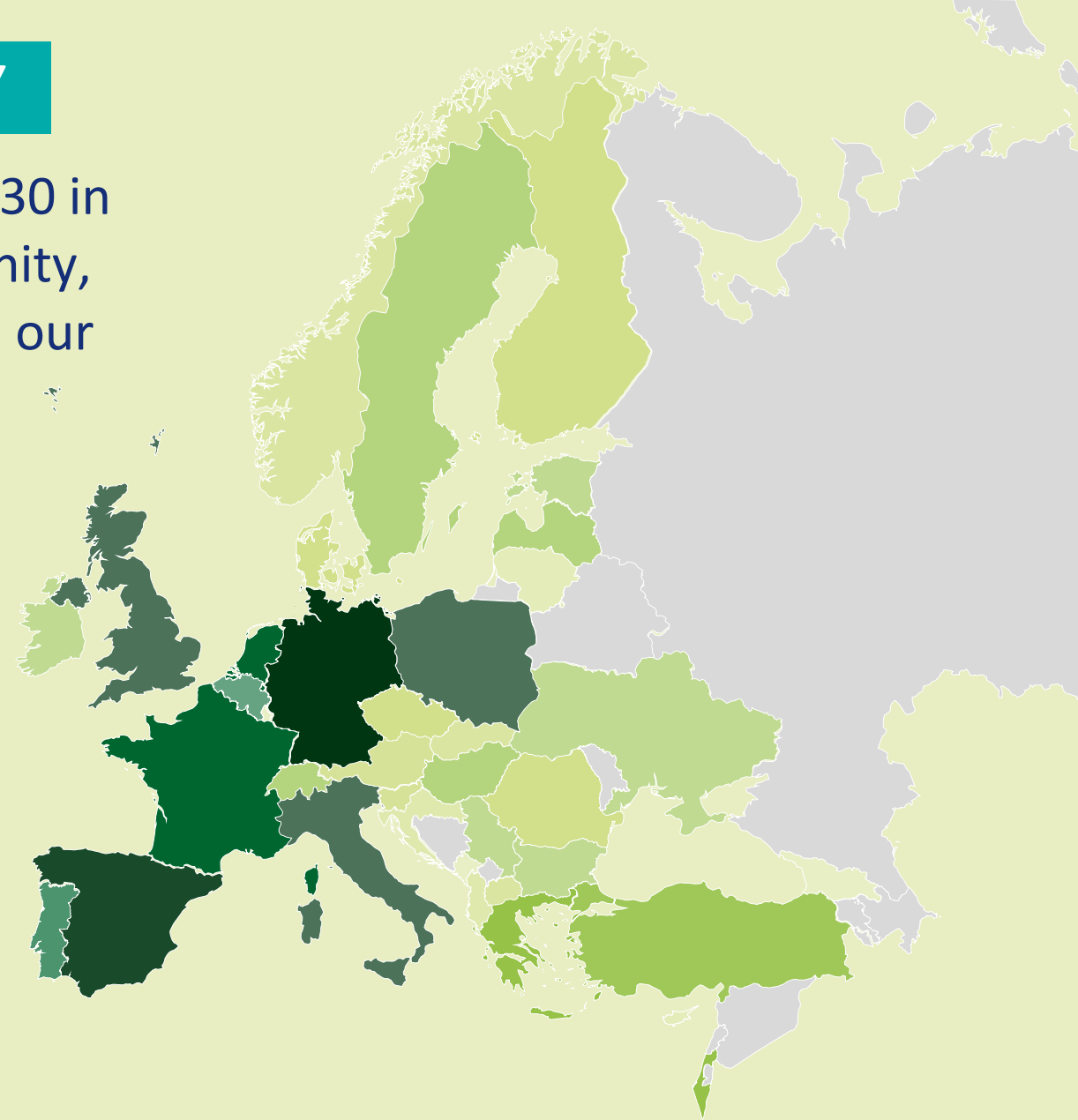
We've expanded our **Partnership network** from 130 in 2023 to over 200 today. Beyond this core community, we collaborate with 1,000+ organizations through our funding, programs and services.

**Over 250**  
organisations in  
the EIT Food  
Partner network

**433** organisations  
receiving funding  
in 2023 & 2024

**27** organisations  
in our Corporate  
Venturing services

**577** startups  
applied for the  
2024 cohorts



# OUR COMMUNITY

Our strength comes from our community, which brings together key players from across the food value chain. Our Partner Network is made up of industry organisations, businesses, research centres and universities from across Europe.



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# LET'S CREATE THE FUTURE OF FOOD TOGETHER



BECOME PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

HELP US TRANSFORM THE FOOD SECTOR

FIND OUT MORE AT

[www.eitfood.eu](http://www.eitfood.eu)



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