European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT)

Overview
Included in Pillar 3 ‘Innovative Europe’, the EIT is part of Horizon Europe. EIT supports the development of dynamic, long-term European partnerships among leading companies, research labs and higher education. These partnerships are called EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) and each is dedicated to finding solutions to a specific global challenge (e.g. climate change, sustainable energy, healthy living and food). Bringing together more than 2900 partners, the EIT is Europe’s largest innovation ecosystem. It connects innovators and organisations. Within and across the KICs various funding programmes and calls are published. Each KIC launches 3 types of calls:
1. Business Creation and Acceleration programmes for start-ups
2. Innovation projects
3. Training programmes.

Goal
To promote synergies and cooperation between higher education, research and innovation, to stimulate entrepreneurship, to enhance the EU capacity for innovation and to bring new solutions to the market to address global challenges.

Eligibility
Swiss-based participants are generally welcome to join EIT initiatives, with only few exceptions excluding the participation of Switzerland (EIT Fast Track calls, Wild Card). We recommend contacting Euresearch to verify eligibility. For the time being, participants from Switzerland cannot coordinate a project. Funding is available by the Swiss government.

Financial Support
Horizon Europe is EU’s key funding programme for research and innovation with a budget of EUR 95.5 billion of which EIT has a budget of EUR 3 billion. Each programme within EIT has different budget rules, for EIT collaborative projects financial support for participation from Switzerland can be applied for by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). SERI has a financial guarantee letter available on their website. Funding rates vary between lump sums in accelerator programmes, free mentoring or varies %of co-funding. Special conditions such as to share revenues on products and services that are generated due to EIT projects, or subscription fees may occur.

Further Details/ Contact European Partnership
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The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT):
https://eit.europa.eu/who-we-are/eit-glance

Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation:
www.horizon-europe.ch

The EIT KIC Collocation Centres for Switzerland:
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EIT Culture and Creativity

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