

Co-founder matching program

Matching brilliant scientists with business professionals to develop innovative agrifood products and solutions

What: Universities and research institutes produce high-quality technologies which often get stuck in the lab because the scientists do not have the entrepreneurial skills, time or desire to commercialise their innovations. **Our solution is to support strong team formation by matching researchers and scientists with business professionals to create and grow impactful agrifood startups.**

For whom

- + **Researchers and scientists with great technologies or early-stage agrifood startups** struggling to commercialise their innovations or not interested in the business side of running a startup
- + **Entrepreneurial talents (e.g. business school graduates, experienced entrepreneurs etc.)** who would like to join a team of professionals and apply their business skills to innovative agrifood solutions or products*

Program structure

- ✓ A series of workshops to facilitate a meaningful matchmaking between researchers/tech startups and business professionals;
- ✓ If successful co-founder matches are made – further support with coaching and a small stipend;
- ✓ If teams are formed – the possibility of further funding from EIT Food;
- ✓ Depending on the stage, the team will be encouraged to apply to other EIT Food programs - [Seedbed Incubator](#) or [Food Accelerator Network](#) 2022.

*This program is eligible for applicants from 17 [Regional Innovation Scheme](#) (RIS) countries: **Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy (selected regions), Latvia, Lithuania, Poland (selected regions), Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain (selected regions) and Turkey.**

Program benefits

For researchers and tech-driven agrifood startups:

- + Find the right co-founder to boost your startup or commercialise your innovation

For business professionals and entrepreneurial talents

- + Join a team of professionals and apply your business skills to innovative agrifood solution

- + Get quality business training and mentoring
- + Receive financial support to grow your business
- + Get a chance to access EIT Food's network and other startup programs

Timeline

The 'Co-founder matching' program is a new program of EIT Food that will be launched and open for applications in the spring of 2021. At the moment, the program is being designed by the EIT Food team and our program partners. We are open to ideas and feedback from the industry experts to ensure an effective design and outreach of the program.

Contact

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About EIT Food

[EIT Food](#), established by the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT), is Europe's leading food innovation initiative, working to make the food system more sustainable, healthy and trusted. We are building an innovative community of diverse [food sector partners](#) and offer [educational](#) and [startup support](#) programs to drive innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe.