



Shaping the future of innovation in Europe

EIT Innovation Forum Diary

15-17 October 2017, Budapest, Hungary



Shaping innovation in Europe

INNOVEIT, the EIT's annual innovation forum, was held on 16 and 17 October 2017 in Budapest, Hungary. Over 500 participants from across the globe attended this year's event, which had a specific focus on shaping the future of innovation in Europe.

The two-day event showcased success stories emerging from EIT Community activities, presented the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs, and invited stakeholders to share their thoughts on the EIT's role in Europe's future innovation strategy.

One of the key activities taking place at INNOVEIT 2017 was the EIT Awards – an annual opportunity to celebrate the entrepreneurial achievements of the EIT Community, highlighting successful innovations and the teams that created them.

INNOVEIT 2017 was preceded by the EIT Alumni CONNECT event on 15 and 16 October – an annual forum that gives students and alumni from across the EIT Innovation Communities the chance to share knowledge, experience and ideas to continue developing the EIT Alumni Community.

If you weren't one of the 500+ attendees at INNOVEIT 2017, don't worry!

In the following pages, you can find highlights from both **INNOVEIT 2017** and **EIT Alumni CONNECT**, as we take a look back at the key points and conclusions drawn from a highly productive and enjoyable three days in Budapest.





Connect, Collaborate, Innovate



Over 100 students and alumni from the EIT Community came together to share their knowledge, enthusiasm and experiences at EIT Alumni CONNECT 2017.

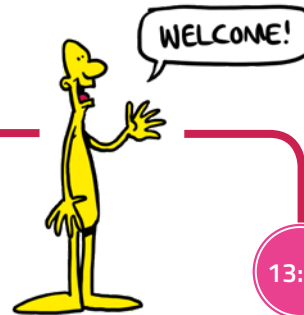
The mission: to facilitate collaboration and knowledge transfer to help boost entrepreneurial action, and to amplify the impact of our exciting community of talented alumni.

15 October 2017

DAY 1

13:00

Welcome to EIT Alumni CONNECT



13:30



The event began with a warm welcome from the new members of the EIT Alumni Board: Francesco Bonadiman, Esmee Kooijman, Falko Döring, Antonio Martínez-Millana.

A vision for the future

Martin Kern, EIT Interim Director, followed by sharing the EIT's vision for the future, explaining the crucial role the alumni will play in helping the EIT improve the innovation landscape in Europe.



With all the challenges Europe faces, we need a community like this; we need to share ideas and work together.

Falko Döring, EIT Alumni President

EIT entrepreneurial education programmes have educated 1 224 graduates and created 305 start-ups to date. By 2020, the number of alumni will have grown to almost 5 000 and start-ups to 545.



Tips and tricks on becoming a founder

14:10

Pedro Oliveira, co-founder of Landing.jobs, gave an insightful keynote speech on the ups and downs of entrepreneurship.



Passion is the fuel of every successful entrepreneur I know.

Pedro Oliveira



Top five tips for start-up success:

1

Find your passion

2

Get a co-founder

3

Maintain a healthy body and mind

4

Be ready for fast growth

5

Learn how to recruit and manage people

15:20



Inspiring stories from the Community



Before getting stuck into an intense co-creation session, participants were treated to a few presentations describing successful projects from recent years. **Lara Obst** took to the stage first to present her well-known initiative, the **EIT Alumni Start-up Days**.

Kevin Caners then followed suit, presenting his climate change podcast: **The Elephant**.

Just as fun, don't be afraid to start things. And remember, the whole EIT Alumni Community is here to support you!

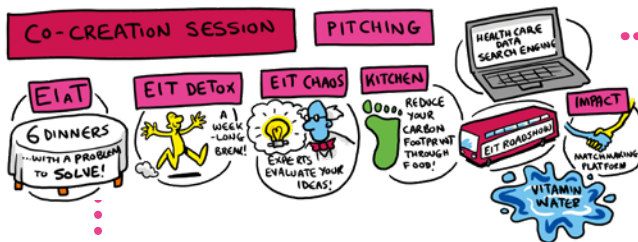
Kevin Caners



Powering ideas ... together!

15:20

The students and alumni split into 14 groups for a **dynamic co-creation session**. Participants were given three hours to brainstorm ideas, develop a project, and present a one-minute pitch to a jury.



It's amazing what you can do in three hours!

The top three projects selected by the jury would receive EIT funding to be put into practice.



#EITCONNECT pitching time. After #cocreation #session, it is time to go on #stage! Which will be the best #innovative #idea? #staytuned! @digitalumni



And the winners are EIT Roadshow, EIT Chaos, and Impact!

EIT Roadshow

Idea: teaching schoolchildren about entrepreneurship and innovation

EIT Chaos

Idea: a feedback system provided by alumni relating to start-ups and innovation ideas

Impact

Idea: solving challenges proposed by NGOs in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals





16 October 2017

Want to know more about the EIT Alumni?

visit eitalumni.eu or scan here



DAY 2

09:00

Rise, shine ... and stretch!



Participants enjoyed a short yoga session to start day two of CONNECT.

10:00

Let's talk about ... community!



Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much #EITConnect @EITHealthAlumni

Andrea Solomonides, founder of politica.io, delivered a passionate keynote speech on community building.

You don't build a community to satisfy your ego, you do it because you want to contribute to making things better for somebody other than yourself.



Putting women entrepreneurs in the spotlight

10:50



EIT Digital alumna **Maria Kanov** introduced her student-led initiative 'Women@EIT', which sparked an interesting debate in the room about the importance of gender diversity in innovation.



... AND MEN ARE WELCOME Too!





11:10

EIT Alumni in 2020

The alumni took part in a dynamic mapping session to help shape the future of the EIT Alumni Community.



Cross-KIC summer schools, women entrepreneur programmes, more co-creation sessions – all are ideas for EIT Alumni development! #EITCONNECT @EITalumni

CONNECT closes ... INNOVEIT opens!

12:00



Falko Döring, EIT Alumni President, was joined by Laurent Roux, EIT Entrepreneurship Officer, to officially bring CONNECT 2017 to a close. Time to turn everyone's attention to INNOVEIT after an enjoyable and inspiring 24 hours together.



From #EITCONNECT to #INNOVEIT! Curious to see what the future of innovation holds! @jeroenvlent

You can also read their comic book coverage of the event here:



COMIC BOOK



16 October 2017

DAY 2



13:30

Welcome to INNOVEIT 2017



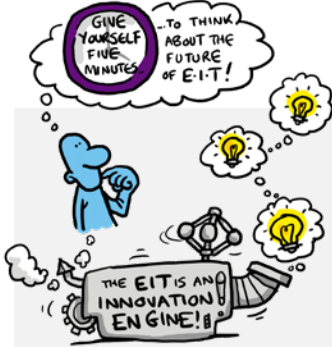
Peter Olesen, Chairman of the EIT Governing Board, opened INNOVEIT 2017 by delivering his views on how the EIT can better contribute to Europe's innovation landscape in the coming years.

13:45

My journey: from academia to entrepreneurship



Nora Khaldi, founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Nuritas, delivered a fascinating keynote speech, sharing her experiences of the innovation landscape in Europe and commercialising science.



The EIT is an innovation machine, but to constantly innovate we need to know where we will be in the years to come. So this year, the EIT is discussing its future, and we need your opinions!

The EIT's Strategic Innovation Agenda calls for the EIT to have a greater role in European innovation and a greater budget to do this. Imagine the potential for EIT Community boosted European innovation with a budget of €6 billion! The 40 innovation hubs we have today could become 80 or 100 with this budget. And when our Innovation Communities become financially sustainable, as they will do, our unique ecosystem will continue to boost innovations and deliver benefits to citizens far beyond the end of EIT funding. This is real European added value and real justification for a greater budget.



As a child, I wanted to be a scientist. Scientists were my superheroes; they were the people who were changing the world and leaving a legacy.

In Europe, we need to get better at spotting unicorns early on, and develop the innovation ecosystem that allows these companies to flourish here in the EU, without them needing to go elsewhere.

I'm very impressed with what the EIT is doing; they are paving the way for an innovation ecosystem in Europe which is greatly needed. This is the reason I'm here, because I'm proud of Europe and I don't want to see it go extinct in terms of innovation.



14:00

Shaping innovation in Europe



“We need to make Europe more resilient. Science and innovation are key to providing our citizens with the right skills to tackle global challenges and advance innovation in Europe.”

Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, joined Peter Olesen and Nora Khaldi on stage for an open and stimulating panel discussion on the future of Europe’s innovation strategy and the EIT’s leading role in innovation.



Next #EUBudget should have #innovation as one of its priorities to help European companies become even more competitive #INNOVEIT #MFFtour27
@TNavracsicsEU



“Education is a necessary precondition of innovation. So, we should focus on the educational potential of the EIT to make a stronger contribution to the future of innovation in Europe.”

Building a strong basis for Europe’s future

14:30



Paul Rübiger, Member of European Parliament
Lise Honsinger, CCO, Skipping Rocks Lab/Ooho!
Diego Pavía, CEO, EIT InnoEnergy

The **second panel discussion** of the day presented and discussed the EIT’s achievements and impact on European innovation; the panellists even got to find out what EIT Community achievement tastes like, by testing the EIT Climate-KIC supported ‘edible water bubbles’ – rehydration with no plastic packaging!



@ClimateKIC-supported @OohoWater on stage at @EITeu’s #INNOVEIT. They create waste-free alternatives to plastics!

“By 2050, there will be 10 billion people on the planet. The EIT’s work in supporting education and innovation in Europe will be crucial in ensuring we have the technology and knowledge required to stay sustainable.”

Paul Rübiger

“With the support of EIT Climate-KIC, we have created ‘Ooho!’ – an edible bubble of water that is 100% natural and biodegradable. Our mission is to make packaging disappear. There are three key areas where we have benefited from the EIT – access to funding, access to the EIT Community’s network, and access to education, where we were taught how to commercialise our idea.”

Lise Honsinger

“The EIT must be a one-stop shop for innovators – a place where they can get access to the best researchers, the best human capital and the best supply chains. We must continue to develop these unique ecosystems so they cannot be matched for their multi-dimensional approach to innovation. The EIT Community has delivered, our track record is there, and we now need sufficient resources to fulfil our ambitions.”

Diego Pavía

15:00

A tour through European innovation



Participants were given the chance to meet 22 of Europe's top entrepreneurs and change-makers, as they were taken on a guided tour showcasing innovations from EIT Community teams and nominees for the EIT Awards.

Two floors of the Budapest Congress Centre became a hive of activity, as nominees passionately explained their innovations and faced questions from groups of captivated participants.



From sustainable eco-homes to cyber-security systems, there was a highly diverse range of innovations on display, each providing different solutions to key challenges in the fields of climate, energy, digitisation, food, health and raw materials.

What was immediately noticeable during this year's innovation tour was the high percentage of women nominated for EIT Awards: eight finalists (40% of the total, and a 22% increase over last year), as well as the number of ground-breaking products or services related to climate change (35%) and to digital technologies (22%).



During the tour, participants were given the chance to vote for their favourite innovation in the first-ever EIT Audience Award.



For more details on all the 22 nominees

visit
eit.europa.eu/innoveit#awards
 or scan here



17:00

Meet the Nominees

Following the innovation tour, the top three nominees for each of the 2017 EIT Awards were invited onto the stage, where they gave a final three-minute pitch to the jury.

EIT CHANGE Award Jury: María Garaña (Microsoft), Veronika Pistyur (Bridge Budapest), Neil Thompson (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

EIT Venture Award Jury: Péter Lakatos (EIT Governing Board), Nora Khaldi (Nuritas), Péter Kovács (xLabs)

EIT Innovators Award Jury: Bruno Revellin-Falcoz (EIT Governing Board), Eugene Sweeney (Iambic Innovation Ltd), Roland Kozłowski (LSBC)

The 9 finalists

The finalists were introduced by having their innovations summarised in five words or less (shown below):

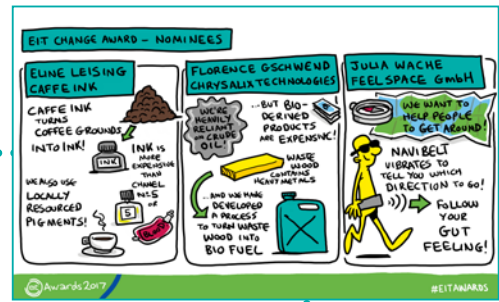
EIT CHANGE Award

Rewards graduates who spur innovation and bring about societal change

Eline Leising – ‘turning coffee waste into ink’

Florence Gschwend – ‘converting wood into biofuels’

Julia Wache – ‘navigation belt for the blind’



Very strong pitches @EITeu #EIT Awards. Wouldn't like to have to judge this incredibly high standard from all over Europe #InnovEIT @fionaalston

Every day we produce enough coffee waste to equal three Eiffel Towers." @CafeInk, a @ClimateKIC start-up, at @EITeu's #INNOVEIT

EIT Venture Award

Recognises Europe's most promising ventures

Bert Bult – ‘purifying scrap metal’

Carsten Mahrenholz – ‘Star Trek medical device’

Hans Constandt – ‘healing patients with smarter data’



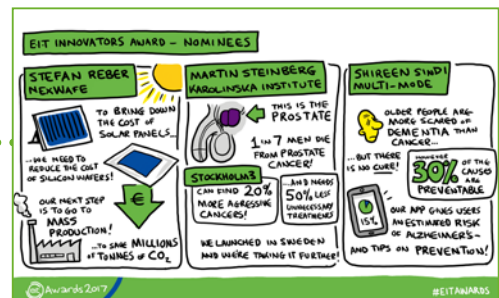
EIT Innovators Award

Recognises innovation teams developing a product or service with a high potential for societal and economic impact

Stefan Reber – ‘high-quality solar power’

Martin Steinberg – ‘miracle blood test’

Shireen Sindi – ‘predicting dementia’



Cold plasma, curved graphene, AI biopeptides, silicon wafers – nothing like a day at #eitawards #INNOVEIT to restore trust in the future @dusseldorp

We are very proud to see that the EIT continues to identify the European entrepreneurs that can compete on the global stage. The number of women in this year's awards is also real recognition of the many women who are part of the EIT Community and our efforts to promote women entrepreneurship – it is starting to happen! Peter Olesen, Chairman of the EIT Governing Board

To explore each of the finalist's innovations in more detail

visit eit.europa.eu/innoveit#awards or scan here



18:00

And the winners are ...

eit Awards 2017



The EIT Awards promote the outstanding achievements of European entrepreneurs who bring solutions to today's major societal challenges and create the future of Europe. This year's winners and nominees are impressive agents of change. Their vision, courage and inventiveness are an inspiration to entrepreneurs and students everywhere.

Martin Kern, EIT Interim Director

Being an entrepreneur never occurred to me before getting in touch with the events and programmes organised by EIT Climate-KIC. They helped bring out the entrepreneur in me, and this award is now a major step in pursuing my goal of implementing the BioFlex technology in the real world. In 10 years' time, I want to be converting one million tonnes of waste wood every year.



EIT CHANGE Award Winner
Florence Gschwend, EIT Climate-KIC
 (Switzerland)

Co-founder and Director of Operations of Chrysalix Technologies, for the BioFlex process that enables contaminated waste wood from construction and demolition to be transformed into inexpensive fuels, materials and chemicals, contributing to a cleaner tomorrow for us all.



Awarded €15 000



EIT Innovators Award Winner
Martin Steinberg, EIT Health
 (Sweden)

Project Leader at the Karolinska Institute, for the Stockholm3 Test (STHLM3), an innovative cancer-detecting blood test. The test detects the risk of aggressive prostate cancer by combining five protein markers, more than 100 genetic markers, clinical data and a proprietary algorithm. Developed with the support of EIT Health, this non-invasive blood test reduces the number of unnecessary biopsies by 50% compared to current clinical practice.

All the members of the STHLM3 team hope our work will have a significant positive effect on society by reducing individual harm from over-diagnosis, mortality and overall healthcare costs. Most importantly, aggressive cancers will be detected early in more men, giving them a greater chance of survival. EIT Health has been a catalyst for this project, and for the close collaboration between academia, industry and healthcare providers we needed for testing, validation and market access.



Awarded €50 000

“We are becoming a world leader in semantic search, and the EIT Community has contributed in many ways to this success. Many of their experts advised and helped us to pivot, optimise our pitch, meet customers and partners, review our materials, develop go-to-market strategies and much, much more. I accept this award on behalf of an extremely intelligent and motivated team that truly believes we can heal patients by democratising Big Data.



EIT Venture Award Winner
Hans Constandt, EIT Health (Belgium)

Founder and CEO of ONTOFORCE, for DISCOVER, an innovative search tool that finds medical data faster, smarter and simpler to heal patients more effectively. DISCOVER aggregates data from an unlimited number of public, third-party and private sources. Supported by EIT Health, this advanced search technology will have a global impact on bringing drugs to market faster.



Awarded €50 000



(He won on his birthday!)

EIT Audience Award Winner
Carsten Mahrenholz, EIT Health (Germany)

Chosen by the participants of INNOVEIT Co-founder and CEO of COLDPLASMATECH GmbH, the company behind the innovative “Plasma Patch” – a Star Trek-like device that uses cold plasma to kill multi-resistant bacteria and treat chronic wounds. Carsten’s goal is to pioneer the next step in modern medicine, by “fighting a problem that could take us back to the Middle Ages: antibiotic resistance”.

“This Award is very important to us at COLDPLASMATECH, because it will help us on our journey to reach the patient. It proves that the product speaks to the people, and this is what we want to do – bring this technology to the people.



Reaction from the European Commission



Congratulations to the 2017 #EIT Awards winners – great to see young people turn their dreams into #EUinnovation @TNavracsicsEU



Conclusions and recommendations

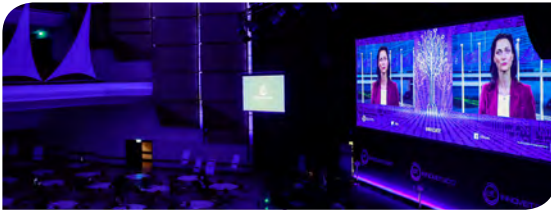


17 October 2017

DAY 3

09:00

Investing in the EU's digital transformation



The final morning began with a video message from **Mariya Gabriel**, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, who expressed her belief that increased investment is needed within the EU to ensure the successful digital transformation of our economy.

The positive economic benefits of digitisation are clear, but the EU is still lagging behind. The level of expenditure in ICT in the EU is well below that of the US and Japan. In the face of such global competition, Europe has to do more by massively investing in digital technologies. The next EU multi-annual financial framework will thus need to reflect that level of ambition in order to assure that we can achieve a genuine digital transformation in the interests of European citizens and businesses.



09:10

Stepping up: the EIT's future strategy for innovation in Europe post-2020

Here are some #EITCommunity numbers: 2 242 #business #ideas 305 #start-ups 430 #products & #services 1 224 graduated #alumni #INNOVEIT @EITeu



Martin Kern, EIT Interim Director, looked back at some of the EIT's achievements to date, before outlining future ambitions and strategic direction for innovation in support of Europe's economic growth and prosperity.

The EIT Community is Europe's largest innovation network. Now we have proven the model works, we are ready to increase our ambition. Our vision is to go global, to become a global innovation leader, delivering world-class solutions to societal challenges that create jobs and improve the quality of life of citizens. This increase in ambition will also require an increase in budget and resources to help make the EIT a more central player in the innovation landscape in Europe and beyond.

Martin Kern, EIT Interim Director

EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda for 2021 to 2027:

- Strengthen sustainable ecosystems.
- Bring solutions to societal problems to the market.
- Encourage a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Share good practice and everything we learn.



09:30

Participants have their say ... parallel sessions

Participants then broke off into four parallel workshops to discuss and debate with stakeholders how the EIT can better deliver world-class solutions to societal challenges that create jobs and improve citizens' quality of life.

The outcome of their discussions resulted in a set of recommendations for the EIT to take into consideration; these were then fed back to a high-level panel for discussion.



Parallel session #1 Future societal challenges and the next EIT Innovation Communities



RECOMMENDATIONS

Security and resilience

A future innovation community on security and resilience should focus on education and prevention tools for citizens to be prepared for threats, including natural disasters and cyber-attacks, especially in rural areas.

Inclusion and integration

Use boot camps to showcase successful examples of inclusion and integration to help empower minority groups through entrepreneurship, combined with new EIT-labelled courses on inclusion and integration.

Water, marine and maritime

Leverage existing European knowledge to bring coherence to the water challenges at a global level.

Cultural and creative industries

An innovation community on cultural and creative industries should connect European cultural diversity to enhance social cohesion.

Parallel session #2 Education for innovation and entrepreneurship

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Increase the mobility** aspect of the EIT-label programmes. Create a special fellowship for mobility.
- **Create a "teach the teachers"** programme.
- **Change the education** programme and create credits for community outreach with under-represented groups, to incentivise members of the EIT Community.



Parallel session #3 Delivering innovations to the citizens – the EIT way

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Demonstrate collaboration** with existing networks, e.g. clusters promoted by the European Commission and others.
- **Directly engage citizens** from the age of 15 upwards in the co-creation process and make this a standard for the EIT's co-creation.
- **Use modern communications** platforms, e.g. YouTube series of entrepreneurial stories.



Parallel session #4 Boosting regional excellence

RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is a need for **strong priority areas** and local direction, based on inclusiveness, with global outreach.
- The **hubs should be well-embedded** locally, with the role of facilitating knowledge and technology transfer. They should act as a catalyst.
- The **EIT Regional Innovation Scheme** should build on existing local knowledge bases and networks – it should not start from scratch.



12:45

Shaping innovation in Europe: closing panel discussion

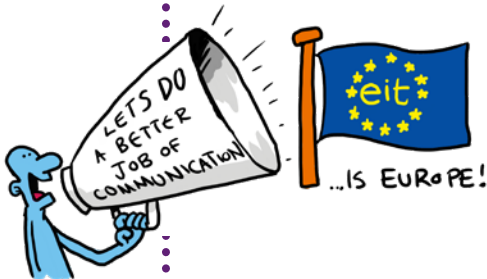
A high-level panel then used the recommendations from the parallel discussions as a basis to debate how the EIT can refine its future strategy to maximise the effect on Europe and its citizens.

Willem Jonker, Chief Executive Officer, EIT Digital
 Sylvie Bove, Chief Executive Officer, EIT Health
 Falko Döring, EIT Alumni Board President
 Ana S. Trbović, EIT Governing Board member



It will take time for some parts of Europe to catch up with the more competitive, typically innovative countries. We must make an effort to help narrow this competitive gap, because there is innovation potential across Europe that we should harness, and ecosystem development is a very important part of that process.

Ana S. Trbović



Anyone from the #EITCommunity can be an EIT representative. @AnaTrbovich #INNOVEIT @EITeu



We do a lot of great things at the EIT, but people don't always know about them. When people discover the EIT for the first time they say 'wow', but they shouldn't have to wait seven years to find out about us. We need to do a better job at communicating all the great things we do to a wider audience.

Sylvie Bove

If you want to be the best, you should interact with the best. So, the EIT needs to interact with the best in class, wherever they are in the world, to help us develop strong global hubs and deliver our global ambitions.

Sylvie Bove



“The success of the EIT’s RIS policy can only be measured once; after 5 to 10 years of consistent EIT investment, we have successfully transformed a region or ecosystem that was not previously recognised as an area of excellence in innovation, into a leading hub. Then you have a concrete measurable, uplift success. That for me would be a clear ambition that we have to write into the mission of the EIT in the next framework.

Willem Jonker

“We still have a lot of work to do in embedding entrepreneurship into higher education systems.

Willem Jonker



“We need to spread the entrepreneurial spirit even more, both within our own institutions and externally, among schools and higher education institutions across Europe.

Falko Döring



Consensus in the @EITeu #innoveit panel on focus on #impact and developing a business mindset throughout Europe @nancykegelaers1



We need YOU to help spread the word

13:00

Martin Kern, EIT Interim Director, closed INNOVEIT 2017 with a clear message for participants:



“Having a strong ecosystem in Europe that pushes innovation is absolutely critical for our global ambitions. If you, like us, are convinced that the EIT works and adds value within Europe, then I encourage you all to go out and spread that message further. This is needed now more than ever. Please spread the word to external stakeholders, colleagues and decision-makers, to help us deliver a strategy that makes a real difference to the future of innovation in Europe.





Shaping the future of innovation in Europe
15-17 October 2017, Budapest, Hungary



European Institution of Innovation and Technology

eit.europa.eu

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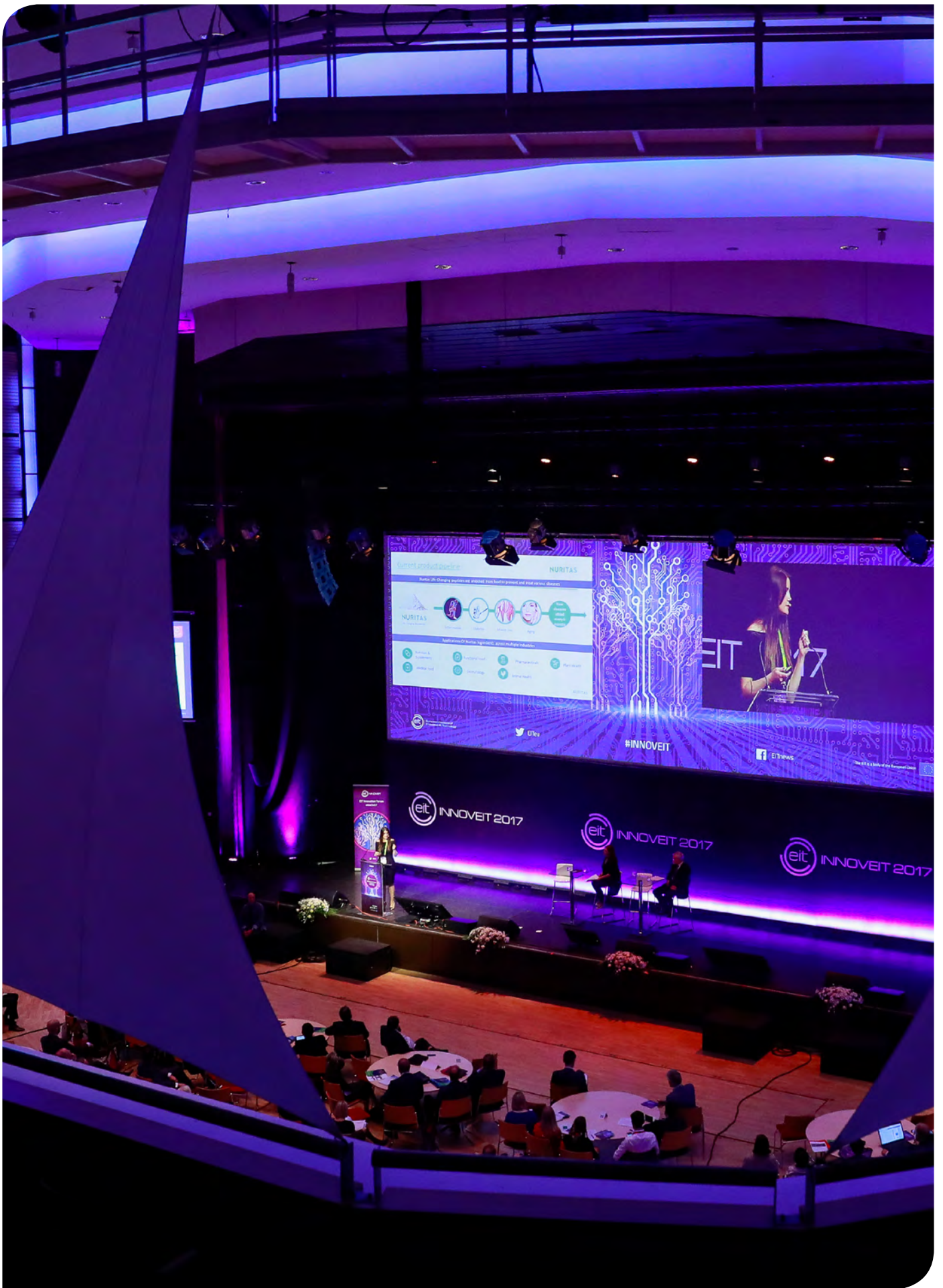
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Current product pipeline

NURITAS

Reduce the changing variables of INNOVET: look for better products and faster times to market

NURITAS

Investment | Clinical | Regulatory | Approval

Assessment of Market | Regulatory | Administrative | Information

- 1. Business & Investment
- 2. Market Need
- 3. Regulatory
- 4. Clinical
- 5. Production
- 6. Distribution
- 7. Market

#INNOVET

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Innovate with us!



The EIT is a body of the European Union