EIT HEI Initiative

Innovation Capacity Building
for Higher Education

European Institute of
Innovation & Technology

Funded by the
European Union

Call for Applications: DE-TECH Entrepreneurship Training and Mentoring Programme

The application period is now open for students, academic staff, and non-academic staff from universities wishing to participate in the Entrepreneurship Training and Mentoring Programme, as part of the De-TECH Project, funded by the EIT Higher Education Initiative.

Istanbul, September 2025

The call for **De-TECH Entrepreneurship Training and Mentoring Programme 2025** is now open for bachelor's, master's, and PhD students, as well as academic (faculty and researchers) and non-academic staff (administrative, professional services). The programme aims to build deep-tech entrepreneurial capacity across higher education institutions, equip participants with fundamental business and innovation skills, and connect them with a strong European trainer and mentorship network.

The programme is led by a consortium of prestigious universities —the Technical University of Madrid (UPM), the Estonian Business School (EBS), the Istanbul Technical University (ITU), and the Leibniz University Hannover (LUH)— which will facilitate the connection between participants, mentors, and the European innovation ecosystem.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

✓ Provide participants with core entrepreneurship knowledge (idea valorization, market validation, business modeling, financial planning, governance, and IPR strategy).

✓ Support the commercialization of deep tech research and innovations through structured mentoring.

✓ Build an inclusive innovation community, fostering collaboration between students, researchers, and industry mentors across Europe.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Participants will benefit from a structured 10-week online programme (October–December 2025), comprising 60 hours:

- 23 of in-class hours
- 3 hours of Innotech Pills Videos
- 20 hours of self-study and pitching presentation preparation

Schedule: After 3:00 PM (CET), 2–3 hours per week.

Training Modules (Weekly Topics)

1. Idea & Technology Valorization – 29 September – October 3, 2025
2. Customer Journey & Need Analysis - 6-10 October 2025
3. Product-Market Fit & QFD Analysis - 13-17 October 2025

Leibniz
Universität
Hannover

POLITÉCNICA

UNIVERSIDAD
POLITÉCNICA
DE MADRID

ITÜ

Estonian
Business
School

EBS

technoport®
business incubator | coworking | fab lab

•EFFECTIA
Consultoría Estratégica

ISTANBUL
METROPOLITAN
MUNICIPALITY

Tech
Istanbul

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4. Market Validation & Testing - 20-24 October 2025
5. Financial Modeling & Funding, 27-31 October 2025
6. Company Scaling & Governance, 3-7 November 2025
7. Intellectual Property Rights & Strategy, 10-14 November 2025
8. Pitching and Entrepreneurial Communication Training, 17-21 November 2025
9. Business Model and Plan Pitching Presentation Submission, -24-28 November 2025
10. Mentoring to the teams/individuals whose ideas were selected for mentoring round

Alongside training, participants will engage in mentoring sessions led by distinguished deep-tech mentors. Mentors will be drawn from the De-TECH Mentorship Network, including industry leaders, venture partners, and alumni entrepreneurs. These sessions will provide participants to further develop and refine their entrepreneurial projects.

At the end of the training, the most successful business ideas will have the chance to receive mentoring sessions:

✓ Stage 1: Tech-to-Market Validation (idea, TRL assessment, business model basics).

✓ Stage 2: Business Validation (market testing, investor and partner engagement).

✓ Stage 3: Growth & Communication (scaling strategies, governance, final pitching).

WHAT WILL YOU GAIN?

- Practical Skills: Innovation management, market validation, funding strategies.
- Mentorship Access: Guidance from experienced mentors across Europe.
- Networking: Opportunities with peers, corporates, and investors.
- Recognition: Certificate of completion, with potential micro-credentials.

SELECTION AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be affiliated with a university.
- Active participation in weekly trainings and mentoring sessions is mandatory.
- Both teams and individuals are welcome to apply.
- Selection will be based on motivation, innovation potential, and commitment.

HOW TO APPLY

- Interested candidates should submit the online application form by **26 September 2025**.
- Programme starts in **October 2025** and **ends in December 2025 with a demo session.**

📩 Apply now through the application form by clicking here

📧 For questions: detech@itu.edu.tr

Deep Tech European Venture Builder

What is the Deep Tech European Venture Builder Consortium?

The Deep Tech European Venture Builder Consortium is coordinated by the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM) and includes the Estonian Business School, Istanbul Technical University, and Leibniz University Hannover. The consortium also includes two industrial partners: Technoport, a high-tech incubator based in Luxembourg, and Effectia, an innovation consultancy from Spain. Additionally, the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality participates as a public sector partner.

The European Union funds the Deep Tech European Venture Builder Competition 2025 through the EIT HEI Initiative. It is structured around four key pillars to bring university-based innovations to market:

- Identify promising technologies developed at the partner universities through collaboration with their Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs), and assess their market potential.
- Launch innovation challenges that connect universities and companies with real-world needs, promoting creative and entrepreneurial thinking among students and researchers.
- Run the De-TECH competition, supported by an intensive start-up acceleration programme that includes training, mentoring, and financial assistance. Winning projects will receive funding and present their ideas to investors at DemoDay events.
- Deliver training in entrepreneurial and technological skills for students, researchers, and university staff, aiming to foster an entrepreneurial mindset and equip participants with the tools they need to lead innovation.

www.detechproject.eu