

InfraBooster Practitioner Application Form

Call for participants of EIT InfraBooster Practitioner WB+ (Western Balkans, Moldova, Ukraine and neighboring countries cohort)

- the 2nd module of the EIT InfraBooster programme

What is EIT InfraBooster?

EIT InfraBooster is a modular training programme for representatives of scientific organisations that own research infrastructures. It offers capacity building and support in designing infrastructure-based services that could be offered for companies. EIT InfraBooster will bring you closer to the industry, increasing the collaboration, international exposure and innovativeness of your institution. It will help you establish new source of revenues. During the project you will find out how to leverage the existing assets: commercially-relevant research infrastructures, skills and knowledge of research teams.

EIT InfraBooster received funding from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union, under the Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, which makes it free of charge for the selected participants.

EIT InfraBooster consists of 3 modules offering different levels of expertise: Foundation, Practitioner and Expert.

Team application is now open for EIT InfraBooster Practitioner 2024!

EIT InfraBooster Practitioner is the second level of EIT InfraBooster educational modules. It will help you better understand the competitive edge of your research infrastructures, design innovative infrastructure-based services, identify potential industrial partners and start your industrial outreach. EIT InfraBooster Practitioner will help participants prepare marketing collateral that highlights differentiators and benefits important for their target clients, understand the needs of specific industries/companies, identify potential clients and initiate service sales processes. EIT InfraBooster Practitioner training is delivered by the team from Faculty of Management, University of Warsaw as part of EIT Community Strategic Regional Innovations Cluster (Cross-KIC SRI 2023-2025) and EIT Food RIS Public Sector Representatives Activity Line (PSRAL).

Who are we looking for?

Are you employed by a university or research institute that owns publicly funded research infrastructures? Do you wonder how to provide innovative services to companies, including startups and SMEs? Or, maybe you are interested in building cross-border collaboration with key industry players to leverage your research infrastructures? Have you graduated from EIT InfraBooster Foundation training?

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Then EIT InfraBooster Practitioner is for you!

Eligible applicant teams need to meet the following criteria:

- **Apply as team** of 3 or 4 members, **including at least one member who has already graduated from EIT InfraBooster Foundation** in 2023 or 2024. (Please note that priority will be given to teams with diverse background, including researchers and support personnel (such as technology transfer, marketing specialists, financial or administration officers, technicians.)
- **Reside and work in** one of the following countries targeted by EIT Community SRI Cluster dedicated activities for Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine: **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine** or in the neighbouring countries: **Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia**.
- Be employed at a higher education institute or public research institute which owns commercially relevant research infrastructures and get confirmation by top management of the institute.

Notes:

- Members of shortlisted team applications who have not yet graduated from EIT InfraBooster Foundation will be obliged to attend the July intake of Foundation training and graduate from the training, as a pre-condition for the teams acceptance for EIT InfraBooster Practitioner training. Conditionally approved might be the applications submitted by the teams not including a graduate from EIT InfraBooster Foundation, in case that all members have applied and the minimum required number will have graduated from EIT InfraBooster Foundation in July.
- Team participants are required to attend all training online sessions on specific days as indicated below in July-November 2024 and the final session in November 2024.
- EIT InfraBooster Practitioner only invites applicant teams who have obtained the support of top management (dean/rector/director) confirming that: the institution owns research infrastructure described in the application; the management supports the application and has the intention to use the research infrastructure for collaboration with industrial companies; team members will be able to attend all training modules on dates specified in the call; team members will be involved in the future sales and delivery of services based on the research infrastructure.
- Applicant teams must describe only one research infrastructure in one application. The same institution can submit more than one application (no upper limit), but each application should list a different team of applicants.
- EIT InfraBooster organisers also reserve the right to accept only a limited number of applicant teams on a rolling basis (first come, first served). The exact number will be decided proportionally to the total number of received applications.

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- EIT InfraBooster Practitioner will be held in English, and training participants will prepare individual and team assignments in English. Therefore, good command of English is required from all participants (including the ability to engage in team discussions, prepare documents and present in English).

How the programme will be delivered?

The EIT InfraBooster Practitioner comprises self-study, online training and mentoring sessions spread across five months (July–November 2024) and delivered by educators and mentors from the University of Warsaw and EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities. The programme is highly interactive and combines multiple learning methods (e.g., presentations, case studies, management simulations, design thinking, team assignments, group discussions, online quizzes, Q&A, and team assignments) combined with mentoring sessions dedicated for each team. Participants are expected to work on individual and team assignments aligned with training timelines and deadlines, with regular progress tracking and feedback from educators. EIT InfraBooster Practitioner ends with each team presenting their innovative infrastructure-based service, available to companies and promoted in European markets. Practitioner training helps participants specify, prepare, promote, present, negotiate and initiate infrastructure-based collaboration with private companies. The most successful participants will also be able to progress to the third module of EIT InfraBooster Expert at advanced level and receive further training and mentoring support.

Participants **do not pay tuition** and receive a **professional training certificate** of an educational programme accredited with EIT Label upon programme completion (contingent upon regular attendance of the training sessions and submission of assignments).

When and where will EIT InfraBooster Practitioner be held?

EIT InfraBooster Practitioner will be delivered online using digital tools.

Training online sessions and the pitching session in November in 2024 are listed below:

- Introductory session: **11.07.2024** (Thursday)
- Team session: **12.09.2024** (Thursday)
- Mentoring sessions with InfraBooster team at University of Warsaw: **7.10–11.10.2024** (Monday–Friday)
- Mentoring sessions with EIT-KICs: **08.11.2024–15.11.2024** (Friday–Friday)
- Internal pitching session: **21–22.11.2024** (Thursday or Friday) (tbc)
- EIT InfraBooster WB+ Finals: **28.11.2024** (Thursday) (tbc)

The EIT InfraBooster Practitioner training modules will culminate in November with presentations of infrastructure-based services by each of the participating teams. The exact date of the mentoring sessions and the internal pitching session is to be confirmed.

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Selected teams will be invited to attend the EIT InfraBooster Finals in-person event during EIT Regional Innovation Scheme's tenth-anniversary celebrations in Budapest.

The invited teams, eligible for participation in EIT InfraBooster WB+, will be offered financial support for their travelling (please see the Annex)

How to apply?

EIT InfraBooster Practitioner call opens on the **6th of May** and closes on the **28th of June 2024**.

To apply for the EIT InfraBooster Practitioner programme, you need to follow these steps:

1. Download the **APPLICATION FORM** in MS Word format.
2. Complete all sections of the application form accurately (including pages signed by each team member).
3. Obtain the support of top management (signed letter of support, based on the template provided).
4. Submit the complete application form (including pages signed by each team member and the letter of support) as PDF file by corresponding person/representative of the team to: infrabooster@wz.uw.edu.pl with the email title: APPLICATION.

You can find more information about EIT InfraBooster Practitioner at:

eit-ris.eu/infrabooster

<https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/infrabooster/infrabooster-practitioner>

If you have any questions concerning the programme, please feel free to contact us at infrabooster@wz.uw.edu.pl.

Annex

Funding terms (applicable only to participants of EIT InfraBooster Practitioner WB+ (Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine cohort))

1. Please note that there is no funding available for the teams which only participated in EIT InfraBooster Practitioner self-study or mentoring activities or internal pitching session. The funding will be offered only to the selected teams taking part in InfraBooster Practitioner WB+ and participating in specific events.
 - 1.1. Up to 16 best teams participating in EIT InfraBooster Practitioner WB+ will be selected and invited to the EIT InfraBooster Finals. The teams will be offered a financial support of up to 800€ subgrant. Subgrants will be given to allow attending the offline Finals and to support service development.
 - 1.2. Up to 16 teams participating in EIT InfraBooster Practitioner will be selected and invited to attend the EIT Jumpstarter Finals. The teams will receive up to 600€ subgrant. Subgrants will be given to

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allow attending the offline event and networking with startups during EIT Jumpstarter Grand Finals and to support service development and validation.

2. The funding will be offered based on the demonstrated progress in designing the innovative services using research infrastructures. After self-study and initial mentoring activities teams should submit assignments providing details about designed innovation services. These assignments will be evaluated by the EIT KICs' evaluation committee.
3. The basic eligibility criteria for funding are to sign the consent form or the financial support agreement (all participating team members) and to submit the required deliverables.
4. Teams will be supported with subgrants to cover the travel and accommodation costs related to their participation in the respective events, therefore attendance of the team representative in the event is mandatory to receive the subgrant.
5. The exact amount of subgrant will be determined based on each KIC's practice and internal regulations (either based a cost report submitted by the teams and reviewed by the KICs or based on participants agreement/ consent determining exact amount of financial support and criteria for receiving it).
6. Financing is based on teams, no matter how many members will represent the team during the respective event. If there is more than one member representing the team during respective event, team members are sharing their costs and will be reimbursed or paid with a lump sum (depending on the internal processes of the EIT KIC paying the grant) using eligibility criteria and reporting documents.
7. Additional information and guidance will be provided during the programme on how to get and use this support.