



EIT Food Education Start-up Award 2025

PZ-EDU-21308-25-01

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1. Overview

The EIT Food Education Start-up Award celebrates the entrepreneurial achievements of students and alumni from **EIT Food Education programmes**.

The initiative recognises students, graduates, and professionals who have developed a start-up addressing key challenges in the food system.

To recognize the most promising entrepreneurial journeys, EIT Food will grant up to **10 awards of €4,000 each** to the most successful startups created by EIT Food Education participants and alumni.

Details of the prize, application process, and eligibility are below. The deadline for applications is 23/11/25 at 23:59 CET, and the Award Winners will be announced during the Inspire Final online Event on **10 December 2025**.

Education Start-up Award overview	
Maximum funding available	€ 40,000
Number of awards	10 awards of €4,000 each
How to apply	MyEITFood Portal
Contact Information	Chiara Menini (inspire@eitfood.eu)
Call Timeline	
Application Open Date	23th October 2025
Application Close Date	23th November 2025, 23:59 CET
Communication from EIT Food to selected Award winners	10th December 2025
Contracting obligation	Up to two days, after EIT Food notification

2. Eligibility criteria

To participate in the Education Start-up Award, applicants must:

1. Be a student or graduate of one of the **EIT Food Education programmes**, being currently enrolled or having completed one of the EIT Food Education courses that carry the EIT label.

2. Have created a **start-up during their participation in an EIT Food Education programme, or within 3 years of graduation**. To be eligible, the start-up must be registered and have proof of a first financial transaction for a service/product sold to a customer.
3. Provide the following supporting documents:
 - **Registration certificate** of the start-up (year N).
 - **Proof of first financial transaction**, such as an invoice or online sales record.
 - **Start-up description form**.

Applicants may submit only one application per startup.

An applicant cannot win more than one award for this competition.

Application Eligibility	Each application must:
	• Be complete, with all mandatory application documents uploaded. • Be submitted on time via our submission template. • Be fully written in English.

3. How to participate

All applications must be submitted electronically via [MyEITFood Portal](#).

- Required information must be uploaded with the application and supporting documents must be provided.
- The **deadline for submission is 23 November 2025 (23:59 CET)**. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure accuracy and completeness of their submissions.

4. Evaluation and selection process

All submitted applications will undergo an eligibility check and evaluation.

During the eligibility check, if EIT Food identifies obvious or technical errors in a proposal, applicant will have the opportunity to correct or resubmit their proposal within two (2) calendar days following the call submission deadline. Such errors may include system malfunctions, typos, or missing documents.

The correction window is intended to ensure that these issues do not unduly affect the evaluation of otherwise eligible proposals. Please note that this opportunity is strictly limited to rectifying technical errors and does not permit substantive modifications to the proposal content.

All entries will be evaluated against the four core criteria:

Innovation – originality of the solution, degree of technological or business model novelty, and contribution to solving food system challenges.	1-5
Entrepreneurial Journey – demonstrated traction such as first sales, partnerships, or pilot projects but also resilience to pitfalls and setbacks.	1-5
Impact – contribution to environmental, social, and/or health challenges in food systems.	1-5
Scalability and Growth Potential – potential of the startup to expand its operations, markets, or customer base.	1-5

Weighting: Innovation 25% | Entrepreneurial Journey 25% | Impact 25% | Scalability and Growth Potential 25%

The highest scoring proposals will be awarded.

Applications will be evaluated by an EIT Food evaluation committee of a minimum of 3 members. EIT Food will ensure the absence of conflict of interest of the members of the Evaluation Panel, ensuring a fair, transparent evaluation and equal treatment of all entries and participants. Evaluators must contractually agree to recuse themselves in the event of a conflict of interest.

4.1. Appeal on Evaluation Results

All applicants will be alerted in writing to the outcome of their proposal.

They can submit an appeal within 5 days of receiving their result, if the evaluation of their application has not been carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in this document.
For more details, please refer to [EIT Food Redress guidance](#).

5. Award agreement and payment

Agreement

- The Award Winners shall receive the Prize amount through a bank transfer and subject to the signature of Award Agreement between the respective Winner and EIT Food.
- The Award Winners will have two days, after the notification and receipt of the agreement, to sign (each team member) and send electronically the “Education Start-up Award Agreement” to EIT Food.
- If the Award Agreement has been successfully completed, the corresponding prize shall be issued to the bank account specified in the agreement.
- Winners agree that their name, startup name, logo, and a short description of their project may be used by EIT Food for promotional and reporting purposes.

Payment

- The award can only be granted as a full package, and not divided.
- The award winners shall be responsible for all possible taxes, wire transfer costs and other possible costs related to the payment of award amounts.

6. Support

If you have any questions about this Prize, please contact inspire@eitfood.eu. Please visit our website for any update to this call.

ANNEX 1 – Eligibility

Please Note:

1. Failing any of the above call specific criteria will make your application ineligible. If an applicant is ineligible, the participant will be informed.

2. According to EU policies and measures, Russian and Belarus entities will not be authorised to participate in any new grant under the EU Research and Innovation programmes. This ban applies not only to their potential participation as beneficiaries, but to their potential participation in any kind of role: beneficiaries, linked third parties/affiliated entities, subcontractors, in-kind contributors, international partners/associated partners, and third parties receiving financial support. Find the full statement from the European Commission [here](#).

3. Pursuant to Article 2 (2) of the Decision 2022/2506 of 15 December 2022 on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary *where the Commission implements the Union budget in direct or indirect management pursuant to of Article 62(1) points (a) and (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, **no legal commitments shall be entered into with any public interest trust established on the basis of the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity maintained by such a public interest trust.*** This prohibition applies to financial support to third parties (sub-grants and prizes), hence the proposal of any entity or group of entities where a Participant is included in the list of public interest trusts shall be considered as not eligible.

4. Applicants will be deemed ineligible if:

a. bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding-up procedures, where its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, where it is in an arrangement with creditors, where its business Activities are suspended, or where it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under national laws or regulations;

b. it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the organisation is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the applicable law;

c. it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the organisation is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the organisation belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which has an impact on its professional credibility where such conduct denotes a wrongful intent or gross negligence;

d. is found to be attempting to influence the decision-making process of the call during the process;

e. attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon its undue advantages in the call process;

f. it has been established by a final judgment that the organisation is guilty of fraud, corruption or money laundering.