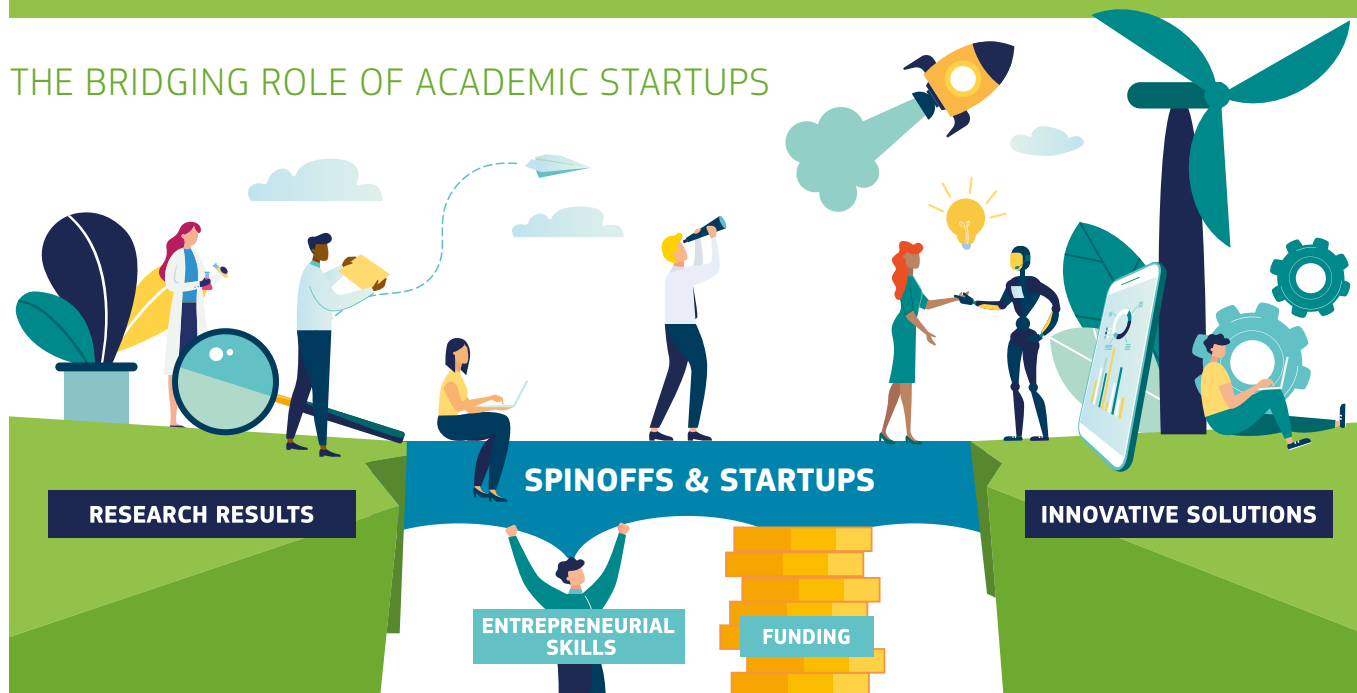


VALORISATION POLICIES

MAKING RESEARCH RESULTS WORK FOR SOCIETY

THE BRIDGING ROLE OF ACADEMIC STARTUPS



WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION?

Transforming research results into solutions for society is key to ensure our health, to support Europe's recovery and to boost the green and digital transitions. **Knowledge valorisation** is the term to describe the transformation of knowledge and ideas into innovative solutions for the benefit of citizens.

SPINOFFS AND STARTUPS AS A CHANNEL FOR KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION

European valorisation policies are promoting the transformation of knowledge through different channels, from intellectual property management and citizen engagement, to academia-industry collaboration. **Spinoffs and academic startups** are among these channels, as they offer students and researchers an entrepreneurial route to commercialising their knowledge and discoveries. Bridging the gap from lab to market, spinoffs and startups are an obvious way to transform research results into valuable products and services as demonstrated during the coronavirus pandemic. Challenging times are ahead of

us and the need for a strong recovery in Europe will open further opportunities for innovative companies. In this factsheet, we focus on two of the key elements for the creation and scaling up of spinoffs and academic startups, namely **entrepreneurial skills** and a **coherent funding structure**.

INCREASING ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

The creation of a new business requires solid **transversal and entrepreneurial competences**. The European Skills Agenda lists "fostering entrepreneurial and transversal skills" as one of the actions to ensure that people have the right skills for jobs. The EU is strengthening support to students and academics to develop these competences. For instance, in the education programmes of the **European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT)**, excellent technical and theoretical skills go hand-in-hand with entrepreneurial skills. To date, the EIT has powered over 3 200 innovative ventures (startups and scale-ups) through its network of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), with more than 13 000 jobs created. These have gone on to raise more than €3.3 billion in external investment.

FUNDING, INVESTMENTS, AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

The efficient valorisation of research through spinoffs and startups also requires a **coherent funding structure**. This should address the financial needs throughout the different life-cycle stages, from research and proof-of-concept through to startup and scale up. The **European Innovation Council (EIC)** has a crucial role in funding breakthrough deep-tech innovation from idea to market deployment and scale up. The EIC and EIT are part of a wider ecosystem that the EU is putting in place to give Europe's many entrepreneurs every opportunity to become world leading companies. The **European Innovation Ecosystems** pillar under Horizon Europe will support policies, initiatives and actions that will facilitate national, regional and local innovation ecosystems to flourish.



60 %
OF EUROPEAN
STARTUP FOUNDERS HAS
A MASTER'S DEGREE
OR PHD.



**MORE THAN
€4 BILLION**
IS THE CAPITAL INVESTED INTO
SPINOFFS FROM EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITIES IN 2019.



**AROUND
€10 BILLION**
IS THE PROPOSED BUDGET
FOR THE EUROPEAN INNOVATION
COUNCIL (EIC) UNDER
HORIZON EUROPE.

SUCCESS STORIES

NORTHVOLT



From research to the world's greenest battery

Northvolt was founded in 2016 with the mission of building the world's greenest battery. In 2016, EIT InnoEnergy supported Northvolt by opening up its network and by investing €3.5 million in the startup. Thanks to this support, Northvolt became the EIT Community's first Unicorn, having also obtained a €350 million loan from the European Investment Bank in 2020.

<https://northvolt.com/>

HAELIXA



Contributing to SDGs through DNA-based solutions

Haelixa is a multi-award winning spinoff of ETH Zurich. The company uses intelligent DNA-based tracing solutions to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to sustainable production and consumption, environment, fair, and equal working conditions. It ensures ethical and transparent business practices, with special focus on sustainable products such as organic cotton.

<https://www.haelixa.com/>

ORCHID –

Organ-on-Chip in development



New technology for personalised and affordable healthcare

Organ-on-Chip (OoC) technology offers solutions for personalised and affordable healthcare. The FET Open programme (currently known as EIC Pathfinder) supported the creation of the ORCHID (Organ-on-Chip In Development) project. This project aims to transform the OoC technology into real solutions for society, with potential impact on food, cosmetics, chemical and veterinary industry.

<https://h2020-orchid.eu/>



© European Union, 2020

Reuse of this document is allowed, provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license). For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders. All images © European Union, unless otherwise stated. Images #283212190, ©Tartila; #355867498, #355531540, #355001012, #355195158, 355249535, ©Viktoria Kurpas; 2020. Source: adobestock.com. Icons © Flaticon, all rights reserved.

KI-04-20-610-EN-N | ISBN: 978-92-76-23660-3 | doi:10.2777/876528

LEARN MORE

EU valorisation policy: <https://europa.eu/!bV76vw>



@EUScienceInnov

#ResearchImpactEU #valorisation