



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.

March 2026

European universities are joining forces to boost entrepreneurial skills and foster innovation in deep tech through the De-TECH Entrepreneurship Training and Mentoring Programme 2026, now open for applications. Funded by the EIT Higher Education Initiative, the programme will provide students, researchers, and university staff with the tools, mentorship, and networks to turn their ideas into impactful ventures.

The call is open to bachelor's, master's, and PhD students, as well as academic staff (faculty and researchers) and non-academic staff (administrative and professional services) from higher education institutions across Europe. Over a 10-week online training period (April–June 2026), participants will develop essential entrepreneurial and innovation skills while connecting with mentors and peers in the European innovation ecosystem.

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 complete 60 hours of training combining in-class sessions, Innotech Pills videos, self-study, and pitching preparation. Sessions will run on Friday's at 14:00 CET.

- 2–3 hours per week.
- 23 of in-class hours
- 3 hours of Innotech Pills Videos
- 20 hours of self-study and pitching presentation preparation

Weekly modules will cover

1. Idea & Technology Valorization — 24 April 2026 (Friday)
2. Customer Journey & Need Analysis — 8 May 2026 (Friday)
3. Product-Market Fit & QFD Analysis — 15 May 2026 (Friday)
4. Market Validation & Testing — 22 May 2026 (Friday)
5. Financial Modeling & Funding — 5 June 2026 (Friday)
6. Company Scaling & Governance — 12 June 2026 (Friday)
7. Intellectual Property Rights & Strategy — 19 June 2026 (Friday)
8. Pitching and Entrepreneurial Communication Training — 26 June 2026 (Friday)

For Certification and Successful Completion of the Training: Business Model and Plan Pitching Presentation Submission — 3 July 2026 (Friday)

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. Mentoring to the teams/individuals whose ideas were selected for the mentoring round:

- First round: July- August 2026
- Second Round: September – October 2026

At the end of the programme, the most promising projects will receive further support through three stages of mentoring: Tech-to-Market Validation, Business Validation, and Growth & Communication.

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 **20 April 2026**.
- Trainings starts in **April 24, 2026** and ends in **June 26, 2026**.

 [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