



# InnoStars Awards 2023 Call for Applications

EIT Health | 23 February 2023

Applications open 13th February 2023

Deadline: 16th April, 2023

Contact: [tamas.bekasi@eithealth.eu](mailto:tamas.bekasi@eithealth.eu);

Website: <https://eithealth.eu/programmes/innostars-awards/>

Apply under the following link: <https://eithealth.optimytool.com/en/>

*Do you have an entrepreneurial mind-set with a prototype or minimum viable product (MVP) in the healthcare field? Join us to validate your prototype or MVP in the market, enhance your knowledge and extend your professional network in the InnoStars Awards programme!*

**Take part and gain the following support:**

- 25.000 € smart money<sup>1</sup> or mentoring with 4.000 € value<sup>2</sup>
- mentoring (individual mentoring for four months)
- trainings (two physical bootcamps throughout Europe)
- invitation to the InnoStars Final pitch event
- opportunity in the later stage EIT Health programmes
- opportunity during the later stages to
  - o have access to EIT Health's Investor network
  - o have access EIT Health's Living Labs and Test Beds network

**Additional benefits of the programme:**

- receive support in realizing next steps towards the market and shorten time-to-market for products and services
- verify the need/benefit of the product/service for users/customers/payers/partners
- increase the possibility to attract private investment
- Projects with a focus on active-aging have the opportunity to enter into the Healthy Longevity Global Grand Challenge, a global innovation competition founded by the United States National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

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<sup>1</sup> Top 15 InnoStars Awards applicants – evaluated by an international expert body – receive 25.000 € tied aid (sub-grant) to spend on travel and accommodation, individual mentoring and training.

<sup>2</sup> Applicants ranked between 16<sup>st</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> by external evaluators will receive MCN vouchers with 4.000 € value

<sup>3</sup> Top 15 InnoStars Awards applicants – evaluated by an international expert body – receive 25.000 € tied aid (sub-grant) to spend on travel and accommodation, individual mentoring and training.

## Is it for me? Eligible applicants and projects

InnoStars Awards programme is suitable for micro and small enterprises (according to EU SME definition), spin-offs and start-ups that already have a prototype or a MVP, but product/service is not on the market yet (no income). The company must be incorporated/registered before the sub-granting agreement initiation.

### Additional eligibility criteria are:

- All documents must be delivered and oral pitch should be presented in advanced level English
- Applicants must be available to spend at least 15 days for educational and mentoring purposes.
- Participation in bootcamps and mentoring sessions are obligatory for a stable team (same team members should be involved on the bootcamps and mentoring sessions).
- Start-ups should be willing and capable to travel to other European locations during the training and mentoring.
- Submitted through EIT Health InnoStars registration platform, Optimy. Incomplete submissions, late submissions, or submissions via any other routes (e.g., email) will not be accepted.
- Applicants can apply only with legal entities from the following countries: Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Spain, Cyprus, Malta, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bulgaria. Ukraine, Turkey
- Companies who received grant for the same project/service/product in 2019, 2020 or 2021 from InnoStars Awards, European Health Catapult, or Startups Meet Pharma funding are not eligible to apply for InnoStars Awards in 2023.
- Applicants cannot apply parallel for RIS Innovation Call or European Health Catapult funding in 2023.

In order to be eligible, proposals must contain all the required information, be completed via the online form and be received by the deadline 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, 23:59 (CET). Late or incomplete submissions, or submissions via any other routes (e.g., email) will not be accepted.

### Program elements and selection process

InnoStars Awards offers a 2-stage program structure where both stages offer challenges, opportunities and valuable prizes for the best performing applicants.

#### Stage 1 – NAM selection (only for startups with active aging focus)

Startups will be selected that fit the overall EIT Health and NAM Health Longevity Grand Challenge objectives, with no further financial support. Selected companies will be eligible to compete for the second tier (Accelerator Awards) of the NAM Grand Challenge, and receive educational and networking support.

#### Stage 2 – Mentoring and Training

After the completion of “Mentoring and Training” part, submit your business plan by 30<sup>th</sup> September and potentially qualify for the final pitch of InnoStars Awards.<sup>3</sup>

#### Stage 3 – InnoStars pitch

Pitch your business plan to an international jury consisting of healthcare professionals, representatives of EIT Health core industrial partners and market experts. Win up to 25 000 €<sup>4</sup> to launch your product or service, to find first customers and to get in connection with EIT Health Partners from all over Europe. Present your success story in the local and European media.

### Timeline

16th April	Submission deadline for applications
17 <sup>th</sup> April – 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Evaluation of applications
15 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> May	10-15 minutes telephone interview with the selected 15 applicants
30 <sup>th</sup> May	Stage 1 - Announcement of top 15 applications / top 20 runner-ups and NAM selected startups

<sup>4</sup> Business plans of the 15 selected companies will be evaluated by a panel of international experts. Top 10 companies will be invited for the pitch event to pitch.

<sup>5</sup> Best 3 companies will be awarded at the pitch event (1<sup>st</sup>: 25.000 €; 2<sup>nd</sup>: 15.000 €; 3<sup>rd</sup>: 10.000 €)

1 <sup>st</sup> June	Submission deadline for work plan / MCN voucher distribution for top 15 applicants and 20 runner-ups
1 <sup>st</sup> July – 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Stage 2 – mentoring and trainings for top 20 applicants
July	I. Two days long bootcamp
September	II. Two days long bootcamp
30 <sup>th</sup> September	Submission deadline for business plans (incl. product development progress)
30 <sup>th</sup> September – 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Stage 2 – evaluation
25 <sup>th</sup> October	Stage 3 – announcement of 10 finalists
November	Stage 3 – InnoStars Awards final pitch

### Practical issues

The following rules will be applied for all applicants and winners of InnoStars Awards:

- The language of the competition is English.
- Selection criteria:
  - Well-defined prototype or MVP
  - Fit with EIT Health strategic objectives
  - Novelty and feasibility of the approach
  - Value proposition
  - Potential market impact of the product/service
  - Qualified team with the capacity to bring the innovation to market
  - Impact of the opportunity in the local InnoStars Region
- Winners will sign a grant agreement with EIT Health InnoStars. Only established legal entities can sign the grant agreement.
- The purpose of the programme is to accelerate market entry and create new economic activity therefore applications to support research will be rejected.
- Clear IP and IP protection strategy needs to be reported
- Exit or growth strategy needs to be presented

Submit your application by 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

*EIT Health is one of the largest healthcare initiatives worldwide. Among its members we can find the biggest players of the European Healthcare sector including, but not limited to, Siemens Healthcare, IBM, Philipps, GE Healthcare, SAP, Medtronic, Abbott, Abbvie, Roche, Sanofi, Thermo Fischer Scientific, Astra Zeneca, Bayer Pharma, Merck, Air Liquide and world class research organisations in healthcare.*

You may save your work at the bottom of the page and come back to your application anytime before the due date.

If you need support during the application phase, please contact this email address: [tamas.bekasi@eithealth.eu](mailto:tamas.bekasi@eithealth.eu)

You can find more information about InnoStars Awards at this link: <https://eithealth.eu/project/innostars-awards/>

Good luck with your application!