

Galway chosen to host Europe's most promising healthcare entrepreneurs competing for €4 million in funding

- Thirty entrepreneurs will travel to Galway for the final stage of the EIT Health Wild Card initiative from 16-20 April hosted in partnership with Galway-based BioInnovate and BioExel
- EIT Health is part of the European Institute for Innovation and Technology, the EU body established in 2008
- Wild Card: AT THE EDGE is the tournament stage of the initiative—teams of healthcare entrepreneurs will complete challenges to win €4 million in funding, business supports and mentorship
- EIT Health CEO: “Wild Card is looking for the biggest and brightest minds to help solve some of Europe's most pressing healthcare challenges.”

Thirty of Europe's most promising healthcare entrepreneurs will travel to the Wild Card: AT THE EDGE tournament in [Galway, Ireland]. The city was chosen ahead of other European neighbours, to host the inaugural event as part of a new EU-funded initiative and will be hosted in partnership with Galway-based BioInnovate and BioExel.

EIT Health is supported by the European Institute for Innovation and Technology, a body of the European Union established in 2008 to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe.

Wild Card: AT THE EDGE will take place from 16 to 20 April at several key locations in Galway, including the Portershed co-working space, NUI Galway Campus and the Salthill Hotel. Hosted by EIT Health in association with a number of business incubators and accelerators from around Europe, including Biocat, Medical Valley, RISE and two Galway-based programmes, BioExel and BioInnovate.

Galway was chosen among a number of competing European cities given its position as a leading hub for innovation and healthcare research, driven by local world-class academia, expertise and talent, according to Jan-Philip Beck, CEO of EIT Health:

“EIT Health is very excited to bring Wild Card to Galway for the AT THE EDGE tournament stage.

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“AT THE EDGE is about pushing our shortlisted finalists to the limits of their abilities, to the edge of science, innovation and technology. Wild Card is looking for the biggest and brightest minds to help solve some of Europe's most pressing healthcare challenges. By the end of the week, we are confident that we'll have found some game-changing ideas that will really transform the face of European health.”

Dr Paul Anglim, Strategic Development Lead at BioInnovate, said: “It's a wonderful achievement for Galway to be picked as the host of Wild Card: AT THE EDGE. The city is internationally recognised as a centre for medtech and healthcare, and AT THE EDGE will allow the local business and science community to show off their expertise and talents to some of Europe's most promising healthcare innovators.

“In the future, this could lead to deeper collaboration between Galway and European healthcare leaders.”

The thirty entrepreneurs are the shortlisted finalists for the EIT Health Wild Card initiative, an EU-sponsored competition seeking technological solutions to two of Europe's most pressing healthcare challenges: data usage and antibiotic resistance.

The SMART HEALTH challenge sets entrepreneurs the task of building solutions that utilise artificial intelligence to quickly interpret large unstructured data sets, allowing healthcare professionals across the EU to improve patient care and provide more personalised healthcare solutions.

The FIGHT BACK challenge requires entrepreneurs to build innovative solutions that tackle the growing problem of antibiotic resistance, both in terms of raising awareness and enabling new processes and methodologies across EU healthcare.

The thirty entrepreneurs will be split into teams and set various tasks throughout the week. They will need to devise a concept for a game-changing product or solution, develop their idea and ultimately pitch their proposal to EIT Health's very own Dragons.

The ultimate winners of Wild Card Projects will form two successful teams and will each receive €2 million in funding, access to mentorship, business and research support, and facilities and premises across Europe, over two years. As a medtech hub, Galway could be chosen as the final location for at least one of these teams to develop their end product.

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Background

About EIT Health

EIT Health is one of the largest healthcare initiatives worldwide. Its goal is to sustainably advance the fundamentals of healthcare and thus promote suitable future conditions for healthy living, active ageing and improved wellbeing of people across Europe. EIT Health leverages the expertise of around 150 member organisations from the pharma, diagnostics and med tech fields, payers, insurers, research institutions and universities. As one of the EIT's Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), the initiative benefits from some of the world's best-in-class academic and research organisations and offers both higher education and business expertise. By investing in Europe's best entrepreneurial talents and ideas, EIT Health fosters the development and commercialization of smart product and service solutions in the health sector, addressing the challenges posed by demographic change and ageing societies.

Headquartered in Munich (Germany), EIT Health has six co-location centres in London (UK/Ireland), Stockholm (Scandinavia), Barcelona (Spain), Paris (France), Mannheim and Heidelberg (Germany/Switzerland) and Rotterdam (Belgium/Netherlands), as well as regional "EIT Health InnoStars" clusters consisting of industry partners, academia, and health providers linked to seven regions in six countries – Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Italy and Wales.

EIT Health – Making healthy lives a reality for all

For more information visit:

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