

Impact Hub Bucharest and EIT Food launch registrations for the Empowering Women in Agrifood 2025 accelerator program

Bucharest, April 2, 2025. [Impact Hub Bucharest](#), in partnership with [EIT Food](#), has opened applications for [Empowering Women in Agrifood \(EWA\)](#) – a program dedicated to women entrepreneurs and the agrifood projects they lead.

Empowering Women in Agrifood is an acceleration program developed by EIT Food, the world's largest food innovation community. EIT Food is supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union.

10 women entrepreneurs from the agrifood sector will benefit from an intensive business growth and mentoring period, training sessions and ongoing support, access to an international community of industry experts, as well as the chance to win two prizes – a €10,000 grant and a €5,000 grant.

Applications are open from April 2 to May 23, 2025, and are aimed at women who either have a business idea or are leading an existing startup that is no more than three years old.

EIT Food is the largest food innovation initiative in Europe, built as a consortium of key players in the food industry – startups, research centers, and universities from across the continent. It is one of nine Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), an independent EU body established in 2008 to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in Europe. EIT Food's mission is to "future-proof" the food system, by building an inclusive community that **supports innovation at every stage of a business's development.**

EWA 2025

The acceleration program includes several key components designed specifically for women entrepreneurs in the agrifood sector. Over the course of six months, participants will have **free access to interactive training sessions**, delivered in a **practical, hands-on format**. In addition, they will gain access to an international

platform dedicated to the program, offering valuable business resources and relevant insights into opportunities within the agrifood industry.

Participants will also receive **personalized support from business experts** through online one-on-one sessions, and will be guided by **experienced entrepreneurs** who help them grow their businesses both strategically and practically.

EWA offers participants the chance to take part in **entrepreneurial events and networking sessions**, alongside experts, mentors, and fellow women founders in agrifood. The active community, made up of over **100 mentors from across Europe**, creates a valuable international environment for development and collaboration.

The program timeline includes the **selection phase between May 26 and June 4**, followed by a **kickoff meeting and the official announcement of selected participants on June 4–5**. A **matchmaking event will take place on June 19**, and between **June and November 2025**, participants will benefit from mentorship, training, and dedicated events. The program will conclude with the **final event in November 2025**.

Empowering Women in Agrifood 2025 is open exclusively to **agrifood startups founded by women from across Romania**. These companies must be **no older than three years** and must not have received **more than €60,000 in public or private funding** to date.

Past editions – Impact and winners

In the three editions held so far, **EWA has supported 30 women entrepreneurs** in the agrifood sector and has awarded a **total of €45,000 in funding**.

The 2023 EWA winners were Tania Nicoară (Unison) and Mihaela Șipoș (Happy Treats). Tania Nicoară won the first prize of €10,000 for Unison, a local producer of granola, nut-based spreads, raw bars, vegan mayonnaise, and plant-based parmesan alternatives. Their products are available through a network of 50+ national partners and in 22 physical locations (stores, cafes, etc.), with 14 products currently on the market and more in development.

Mihaela Șipoș won second prize (€5,000) for Happy Treats, a startup focused on developing an insect farm with three directions: hypoallergenic dog treats made from

insect protein, live insects for feeding farm birds (improving their health and egg production), and natural fertilizer derived from insect farming by-products. More details about the program and how to apply can be found [here](#).

About the organizers

About EIT Food

EIT Food is the world's largest and most dynamic food innovation community. We drive innovation to build a future-fit food system that produces healthy and sustainable food for all.

Supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union, EIT Food invests in projects, organizations, and individuals who share our goals for a healthier and more sustainable food system. We unlock the potential of innovation in businesses and universities and create and scale agrifood startups to bring new technologies and products to market. We equip entrepreneurs and professionals with the skills needed to transform the food system and place consumers at the heart of our work—helping to rebuild trust by reconnecting them with the origins of their food.

We are one of nine innovation communities established by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), an independent EU body founded in 2008 to foster innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe.

Learn more at www.eitfood.eu or follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Instagram.

About Impact Hub Bucharest

[Impact Hub Bucharest](#) is a dynamic space where professionals and entrepreneurs develop impactful business projects and initiatives. Since 2012, it has been Romania's first coworking space, and globally, the Impact Hub network is present in over 110 locations across 60+ countries.

Its mission is to support the entrepreneurial ecosystem through startup acceleration programs, direct funding, and Startarium, the largest online platform for entrepreneurial education in Romania.

Since 2021, Impact Hub Bucharest has served as the official EIT Food Hub in Romania, acting as the main point of contact for local stakeholders in the agrifood sector, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship and contributing to the development of this strategic field.