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The InnoNext Starter Kit

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Deliverable abstract	The document encompasses all the necessary materials and resources required to facilitate the execution of the open call for both Visiting Talents and companies, incorporating comprehensive templates and the extensive Talents database developed as part of tasks T1.2 and T1.3.
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Version History

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¹ Dissemination level: **PU** = Public, **PP** = Restricted to other programme participants (including the JU), **RE** = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium, **CO** = Confidential, only for members of the consortium

² Nature of the deliverable: **R** = Report, **P** = Prototype, **D** = Demonstrator, **O** = Other

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Acronym List

DoH	Declaration of Honour
EIC	European Innovation Council
EIT	European Institute of Innovation & Technology
ERC	European Research Council
EU PP	European Partner Programme
FAQ	Frequently Asked Question
HC	Hosting Company
HE	Horizon Europe
IN	InnoNext
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
LoC	Letter of Commitment
MSCA	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
PI	Principal investigator
PO	Project Officer
VT	Visiting Talent





Executive summary

The InnoNext Starter Kit is a comprehensive resource package designed to equip beneficiaries with essential information and tools to participate and benefit from the initiative. Developed using a user-centred, iterative design approach, the kit facilitates seamless engagement for diverse stakeholders, including Visiting Talents, Hosting Companies, and EU Programmes.

At its core, the Starter Kit includes essential materials such as single page calls for applications dedicated to Companies and Talents. The call pages are strategically placed on the Project's main website to provide clear and concise details on internship opportunities, eligibility criteria, application steps, and links to supporting resources. The comprehensive FAQ section complements the calls, tailored to address the questions and requirements of beneficiaries. Organised by beneficiary type and EU Programme affiliation, this section anticipates potential concerns, offering clarity and aiding decision-making. The kit includes two guides for applicants, providing additional details on each process step. The version one of the two guides is entirely attached to the present document.

The InnoNext starter kit also features detailed guides for applicants, available in separate versions for Visiting Talents and Hosting Companies. These guides outline every stage of the process, providing a thorough understanding of application procedures, funding mechanisms, and mentorship opportunities. Additionally, the Agreement Kit is outlined to provide all necessary legal documents, ensuring compliance and facilitating smooth collaboration between stakeholders.

Combining these resources with feedback mechanisms and regular updates makes the InnoNext Starter Kit a dynamic, adaptable tool.



1. Introduction

1.1. InnoNext overview

InnoNext is a European Commission initiative funded under the call HORIZON-EIC-2023-TALENTS-01-01 "Next Generation Innovation Talents", aiming to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset by creating collaboration opportunities for talented researchers and innovators to work with startups operating in their areas of expertise, across the EU with the support of the extensive network of EIC and various European Partner Programmes.

InnoNext scheme includes 2 open calls dedicated to aspiring Visiting Talents and Hosting Companies to collaborate through an Innovation internship. The calls for interests, which will remain open for the whole duration of the project until 2026, facilitate a tailored matching process. Moreover, InnoNext offers different resources to connect beneficiaries and support them during the internship, including a comprehensive mentoring and acceleration plan. InnoNext aims to activate 600 internships involving multiple beneficiaries (Table 1).

Table 1 - InnoNext beneficiaries

Visiting Talents	Hosting Companies
<p>Including PhD candidates, and postdoctoral researchers participating in projects funded by the following EU Partner Programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIC Pathfinder • ERC • MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships • MSCA Doctoral Networks, • MSCA COFUND • Research Infrastructures • EIT Label Masters and Doctoral programmes, Alumni, Jumpstarter, EIT KIC Postdoctoral training programmes 	<p>Including startups and startups and SMEs supported by the following EU Partner Programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIC Accelerator • EIC awarded Seal of Excellence • EIC Transition • EIT KIC Innovation and business creation services • Scaleups with at least one EIT Alumni member co-founder.

The InnoNext scheme is structured in six sequential phases (Figure 1 – The InnoNext schem) and the following distinctive pillars:

- The **collaboration with the EU Partner Programmes**, which has been involved since the beginning in the call design and during the process through the integrated communication and dissemination of the calls to the potential beneficiaries, as well as the eligibility and monitoring criteria.
- Two **Application calls** dedicated to Visiting Researchers and Hosting Companies. The calls, largely disseminated thanks to Research and Innovation European Programmes support, will remain open for 18 months. During this period, the continuous monitoring of the process and feedback of beneficiaries and stakeholders might result in the call updates, handled in 5 releases.
- A **dedicated platform** that facilitates the Hosting Companies in creating internship vacancies and allows Visiting Researchers to apply for them throughout a well-driven and easy process,



supported by dedicated guides and indications. The service includes mechanisms to keep the registered users informed about all the opportunities and suggestions resulting from the matchmaking, the internship activation steps and the mentoring activities, making the whole process understandable and transparent.

- A **hybrid matchmaking process** based on an AI-based algorithm processing the needs and ambitions of the applicants will propose ranked shortlists of opportunities. Shaped and supervised by experts, the whole process will guarantee equal access⁴ to opportunities for the applicants.
- A **comprehensive mentorship plan** to offer and share knowledge and tailored support to nurture the entrepreneurship potential of participants. Background and skills such as innovation management, teamwork, and internal communication will be deepened in experiential workshops for Talent and Companies. These activities will be planned based on direct feedback collected from the beneficiaries, allowing to improve and refine the InnoNext initiative schema continuously.

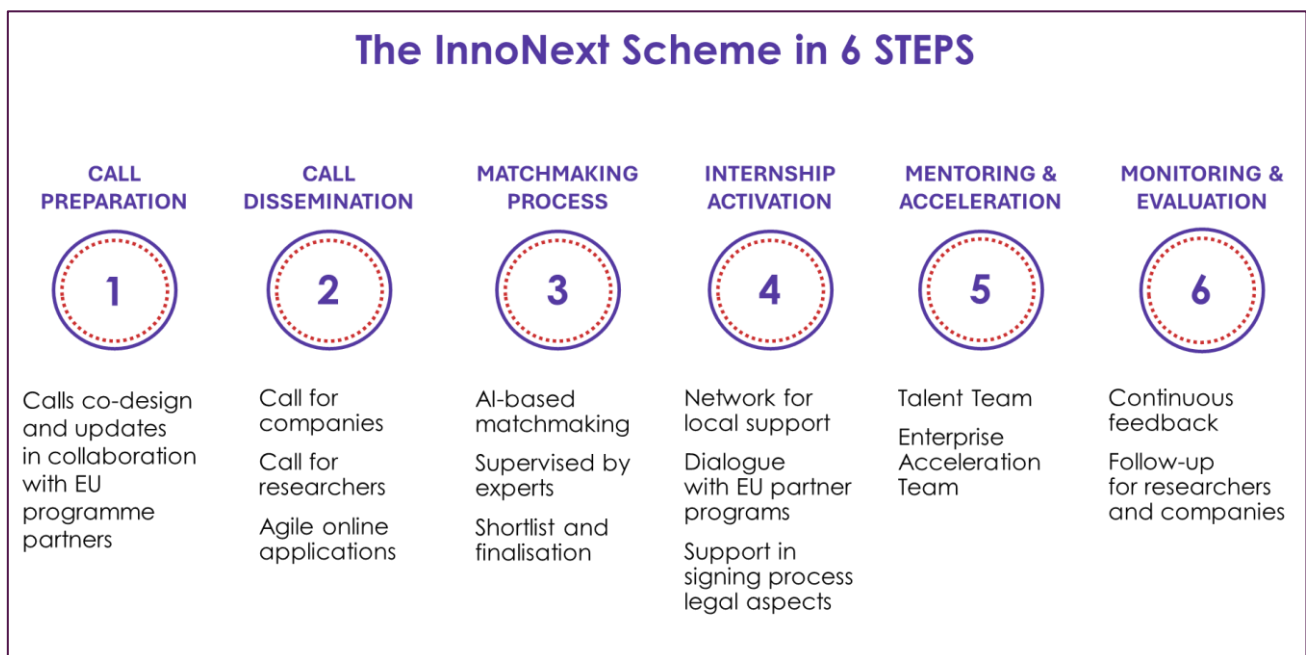


Figure 1 – The InnoNext scheme.

1.2. Purpose of the document

This document outlines the components and development process of the InnoNext Starter Kit, a comprehensive set of resources aimed at supporting project beneficiaries and enhancing their engagement. The document reflects the collaborative efforts of the project partners, incorporating strategic and operational input to ensure alignment with the needs of both direct and indirect beneficiaries. Its purpose is to provide a detailed account of the Starter Kit's design, structure, and implementation, ensuring that it serves as a robust foundation for the integration of InnoNext

⁴ Criteria of fairness and impartiality will be consistently and transparently applied uniformly to the whole process. Every application will have the same opportunities, resources, and consideration without favouritism, discrimination, or any barriers that could disadvantage individuals or groups,



into the broader framework of EU opportunities while fostering collaboration with EU Programmes.

1.3. Structure of the document

The present document describes the path InnoNext starter kit, a set of online content and documents designed to support the applicants in the journey from the application to the matchmaking and the internship activation.

- Section 2 describes the target, the overall journey, and the diverse resources that compose the starter kit. The updating and maintenance activities are also explained.
- Section 3 outlines the high-level characteristics of the Talents database, which is one of the outputs of the project.
- Section 4 concludes the deliverable and outlines the next steps.
- Section 5 – Annexes – collects the first version of the online calls for Application for Talents and Companies, The FAQs and both Guides for the applicants.



2. The InnoNext Starter Kit

The **InnoNext Starter Kit** comprises a comprehensive set of resources designed to equip project beneficiaries with the necessary information to engage effectively in the project. The starter kit was developed through a rigorous user-centred design-driven methodology, implementing a progressive and iterative approach⁵. The process began with the high-level conceptualisation of the structure of the kit and its components, followed by a wireframing phase to map out core content and layout to ensure a coherent and meaningful user experience. An initial Minimum Viable Product (MVP) was then created of the components, which served as a critical tool for gathering comprehensive feedback from the EU Partner Programmes, enabling refined insights and informed design iterations. The suggestions and recommendations of the EU Partner Programmes, as described in D1.1, have allowed to refine the starter kit as a coordinated informative pack, providing online and offline resources. Recognising beneficiaries' diverse needs and pathways, the materials have been developed in multiple versions to ensure tailored support for each participant. Most of these resources are publicly accessible to maximise transparency and engagement.

2.1. The beneficiaries

The development of the Starter Kit considers three main categories of beneficiaries, encompassing both direct and indirect stakeholders to ensure inclusivity.

1. Direct beneficiaries:

- **Visiting Talents:** PhD, postdoctoral candidates, and graduates from the InnoNext Partner Programmes are invited to apply to participate in the innovation internships promoted by the project.
- **Hosting Companies:** Startups and SMEs willing to offer internship opportunities to visiting talent.

2. Indirect beneficiaries:

- **EU Programmes:** EU Programmes supporting the Visiting Talents and Hosting Companies eligible for InnoNext, including EIC Pathfinder, EIC Accelerator, EIC Transition, EIC Seal of Excellence, ERC, Research Infrastructure, EIT, EIT KICs, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, HE Research Infrastructure. Although not directly involved in the internships, these programmes maintain a vested interest in the project's operations and outcomes, as internships will occur during the grant period of these programmes.

By addressing both direct and indirect beneficiaries, the Starter Kit facilitates a comprehensive understanding of the InnoNext project, fostering effective participation and collaboration.

2.2. The InnoNext Journey

The InnoNext schema design phase underwent iterative updates and refinements, incorporating feedback and new insights from the consortium and intense information exchange with the EU PPs. The identified requirements and solutions have been visually mapped and updated.

⁵ Meroni, A., & Sangiorgi, D. (2011). "Design for Services." Gower Publishing, Ltd.



This map represents the InnoNext process, the main steps – **the journey** - of the actors involved, the **underlying systems, touchpoints, content/document, means of verification, and interaction channels**. It clarifies the data flow, documentation, and collaboration among all parties involved, including the InnoNext Consortium, EU Programmes, Visiting Talents, and Hosting Companies. This schema was conceived to address the need for a clear, visual representation of each stakeholder's pathways within the project. A visual schema was considered essential to provide a **structured overview of stakeholders' roles**, enabling the consortium to coordinate the definition and preparation of all necessary materials before launching the calls. The InnoNext journey also consents to better design the interactions between the InnoNext website and the dedicated matchmaking platform, helping formulate UI specifications to harmonise communication and interaction across touchpoints and over the steps. The InnoNext visual schema, once refined, was shared with the EU Programmes to provide them with an outlook of the stakeholders' journey within InnoNext. Moreover, it was decided to include the InnoNext Journey in the Starter Kit as a visual tool to explain the InnoNext workflow and interactions better. Tailored versions for Visiting Talents and Hosting Companies are incorporated into the respective Guides for applicants.

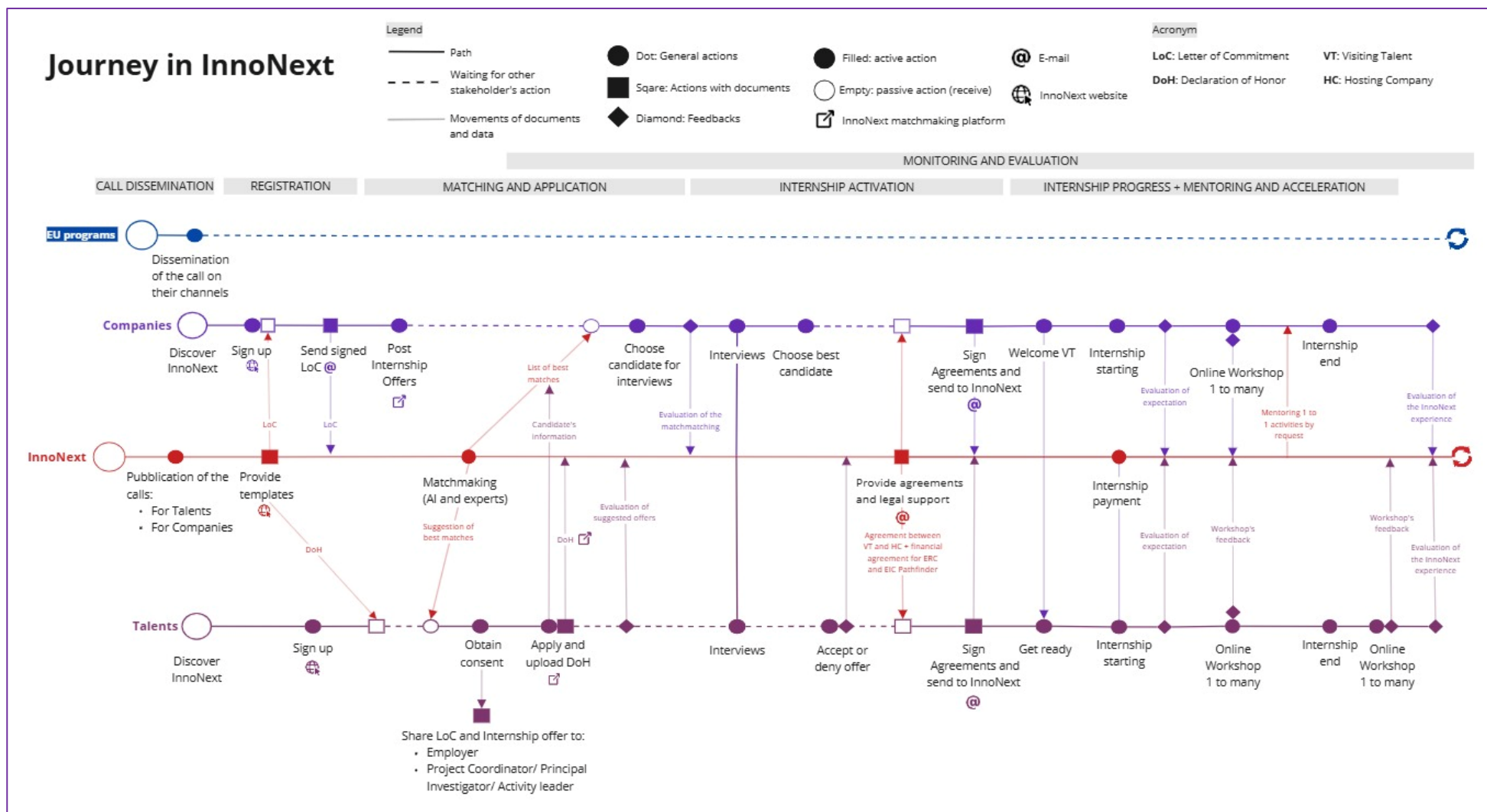


Figure 2 – The InnoNext journey, including the path of all actors involved.



2.3. The InnoNext Starter kit resources

The Starter Kit is a comprehensive set of resources, tools, and guidance designed to support the applicants to effectively navigate and complete the InnoNext application process.

It includes different types of content, all made available on the InnoNext website (<https://www.innonext-project.eu/en/>), that is itself part of the kit, with some sections dedicated to the supporting purpose.

The kit includes:

- **Two Single-Page Calls:** two different calls for application are dedicated to Visiting Talents and Hosting Companies. Every call is a project website page and includes the essential information on the initiative, the application form and links to additional resources. Applying from these pages, Companies and Talents register to InnoNext and will be enabled to enter the matchmaking platform.
- **The Innovation internship vacancies list:** the webpage collecting all the vacancies created by the Companies. From the list, the visitors can access to the description of each vacancy and if registered, apply on the matchmaking platform.
- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):** A dedicated website section with detailed information organised in step-by-step and programme-specific answers, divided per beneficiary type.
- **Two InnoNext Guides:** Two tailored guides for applicants, one for Visiting Talents and one for Hosting Companies, describing in detail the InnoNext process, step by step, from the specific beneficiary perspective.
- **The Agreement Kit:** the collection of essential legal documents and agreements for internships and the quick guide to the administrative steps.

In the following, each resource of the InnoNext starter kit is described in detail.

2.3.1. Single-Page Calls

The single-page calls, separately **targeting Visiting Talents and Hosting Companies**, concisely summarise opportunities, requirements, and benefits offered by the InnoNext initiative. These calls for application are prominently displayed on the website to attract and inform potential participants effectively by specifying the eligibility criteria and driving them to the registration to facilitate the onboarding.

As an EU initiative targeting participants from EU Programmes, examples from similar initiatives published on Partner Programmes websites were analysed (as described in D1.1) to design the InnoNext calls for application. Learning from the analysed websites, particular attention has been given to the FAQs, mostly used to enrich the calls in combination with additional information presented on specific web pages or attached documents. Based on the visual analysis findings and the recommendations received by the EU Partner Programmes, the InnoNext calls for application were designed. Initially, a low-fidelity sketch was shared within the consortium, and then online prototypes were shared to get their feedback.



Anticipated by the eligibility criteria for Companies and Talents listed on the home page, the InnoNext calls for application are accessible on the second level of the website as **a single page addressing each** specific beneficiary type, Hosting Companies and Visiting Talents.

The two calls are structured similarly and share several common elements (Figure 3). Both provide:

- A brief description of the **two types of innovation internships** offered by InnoNext, namely, the Deep tech talents and Aspiring innovators internships, that differ on the main purpose, duration and EU Programmes involved in each stream.
- A dedicated section to outline **the main steps to get an innovation internship**, guiding Visiting Talents through the steps required to apply and be enrolled in an internship and Hosting Companies on how to post internship positions and find suitable candidates.
- At the bottom of the page, the **application form**, specific for the beneficiary type and collecting the required information concerning eligibility. Applying, both Companies and Talents register to InnoNext and will be enabled to enter the matchmaking platform, where they can post and/or explore internship opportunities.
- Additionally, every single-page call offers in a side menu the **supporting materials** available and completing the Starter Kit, such as the link to the FAQ section, the InnoNext Guide for applicants, and other Resources.

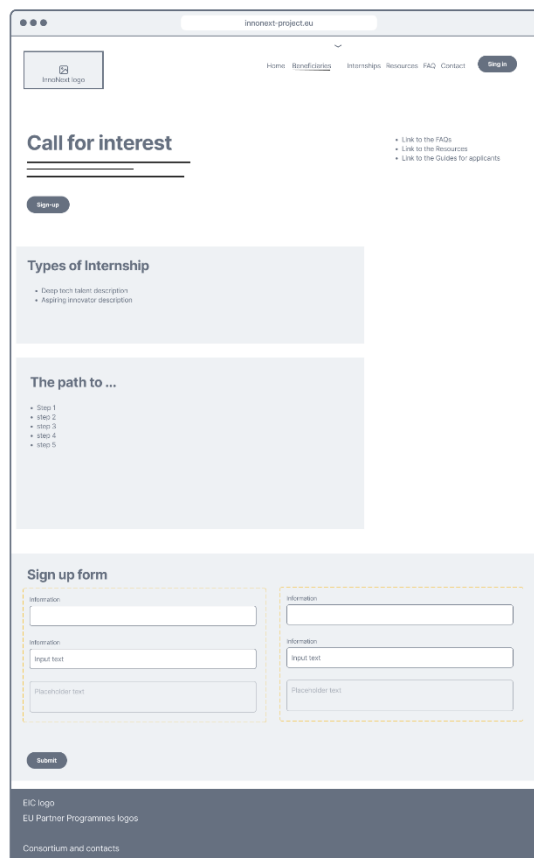


Figure 3 – InnoNext call for application online page wireframe.



This structure was defined to ensure readability, clarity and flexibility, aligning with modern communication trends while addressing the target audience's needs. Furthermore, this approach was considered the most suitable for publishing an open call that will **last 18 months** from the launch, allowing to apply at any time. Furthermore, considering that during this period, the call will be relaunched five times in total, with the collaboration of the EU Partner Programmes, the single-page format will facilitate keeping it updated, possibly introducing adjustments between relaunches, and ensuring that applicants always have access to the correct information.

Special attention has been paid to the **eligibility criteria, published on the InnoNext home page** (Figure 4), to facilitate the website visitors to quickly determine their eligibility for the initiative upon their first visit, simplifying their decision to engage with the program. The layout and content have been progressively refined and set up parallel to the structure refinement. The calls are written to balance conciseness and accessibility while maintaining a formal tone. In the final step, the **compliance with the EIC communication and branding guidelines**⁶ and the amendments and integrations suggested by the EU PPs were consolidated at any level of design.

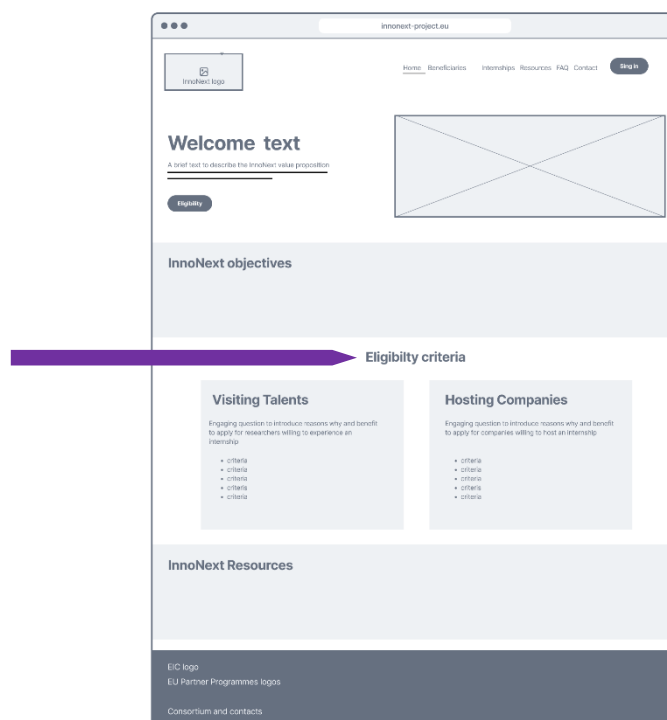


Figure 4 – InnoNext website homepage wireframe.

Annexes 5.1 and 5.2 show the open calls at the InnoNext launch.

2.3.2. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The InnoNext website includes a FAQ section, serving as an efficient solution to anticipate possible beneficiaries' questions that may arise during the InnoNext journey or before deciding to join the

⁶ https://eic.ec.europa.eu/communication-toolkit_en



initiative. This section was developed to provide well-organised, detailed information, enabling participants to quickly **find the specific answers** to their needs without navigating through extensive materials. Doing so may support undecided participants in determining whether to sign up, offering clarity and confidence in their decision-making process.

The initial set of questions and answers published on the website were collected during the co-design stage of the InnoNext schema (described in D1.1), taking notes of the possible informative gaps that the consortium was outlining. To cover the broadest range of potential questions, the FAQs have been carefully crafted by analysing various EU funding programme websites and integrating the suggestions received by the EU PPs. It is worth noting that this section will be updated over time, adding questions and answers that beneficiaries can directly pose to the InnoNext team and raise with process management to make it as clear as possible.

The FAQ section is thoughtfully organised per beneficiary type into **two distinct tabs: one for Visiting Talents and another for Hosting Companies**. In every section, the questions are organised in a sequential order, from the application to the end of the process. This structure ensures that users can easily navigate to the information most relevant to their role within the project. The Visiting Talents tab provides a comprehensive list of general inquiries aimed at researchers interested in participating in InnoNext. To address the unique requirements of different EU Programmes, this tab also includes subsections addressed to researchers affiliated with specific programmes, offering detailed answers that account for **programme-specific variations**. Similarly, the Hosting Companies tab is designed to cater to the needs of organisations interested in hosting interns. It provides targeted insights and practical information to guide companies through their role in the project and the steps necessary to participate effectively. While most other resources in the Starter Kit present information applicable to all participants, certain topics, such as financial terms or programme-specific agreements, require more nuanced explanations. The structure in step aims to provide a clear overview of the main topic, directing beneficiaries to the FAQ section for detailed, programme-specific guidance. For example, financial conditions can differ significantly depending on a Talent's Programme, and some Programmes may require unique agreements or additional terms. The FAQs section ensures that each beneficiary can easily access this critical information without getting lost in lengthy documents attempting to address all possible cases. This **targeted approach** efficiently delivers accurate, relevant details through FAQs. Its structured organisation ensures that beneficiaries can rapidly and easily locate the answers they need in relation to their affiliation EU programme requirements. At the first launch of the call, the 2 FAQ sections offer **54 questions and answers**. The agile process, based on the touchpoints monitoring and feedback channels, will allow us to refine, improve and increase the initial list of FAQs (shown in Annexe 5.3 and 5.4).

2.3.3. The InnoNext Guides for Applicants

The InnoNext Journey provided a strategic framework for structuring the InnoNext Guides for applicants, a schematic document that effectively maps out the detailed pathways for both Visiting Talents and Hosting Companies.



Presented in two separate PDF documents, the guides address two audiences: Companies and Talents. Both guides have similar content and provide a comprehensive overview of the InnoNext initiative process, each with more detail on what actions and information each beneficiary needs. Their main objective is clearly outlining every process step and providing links to relevant documents and materials. This ensures that each beneficiary has the necessary resources to make an informed decision on the application and to navigate the process smoothly. To ensure participants are fully informed, the guides include the InnoNext **goals and benefits**, the eligibility criteria, and the application process. The guides explain the criteria and mechanisms to match applications with vacancies so that both Talents and Companies obtain the most suitable possibilities through the selection process mediated by the matchmaking platform and experts. The InnoNext Guides delineate the **selection process** from both perspectives, providing transparency about candidate identification and application management and anticipating the essential information needed at each journey step.

More in detail:

- The **Visiting Talents guide** outlines every step that a researcher will perform (Figure 5): the Visiting Talents shall begin their journey by checking the eligibility criteria, then exploring the **Innovation internship vacancies list** webpage and getting more information on the call for application. The guide describes how to complete an application by filling out the online form, the email confirming the registration and the instructions to apply for specific vacancies. Once registered, Talents can access the **matchmaking platform**, where they apply for interesting vacancies. They can search and receive platform suggestions on suitable new offers that align with their profiles. Talent can apply to many vacancies. Per each of them, one signed **Declaration of Honour** must be uploaded. This document is required to ensure that the PI/Project coordinator/employer is informed and authorises the application and the internship. This mandatory process step complies with the EU PP requirements and is needed to facilitate future internship activation and the relationship among all directly and indirectly interested actors. Once matched, Talents will be invited to **interviews** where both the candidate and the company can assess the compatibility of their interests and goals. Following a successful match, the InnoNext team will provide **guidance to complete the administrative process**, including signing the agreements and sharing essential information. In addition, InnoNext offers a **mentorship plan** featuring workshops designed to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset. Throughout the journey, Talents will be invited to complete surveys and provide feedback on various aspects, including the matching system, internship experience, workshops, and overall journey. This feedback will be continuously used to improve the experience for future participants. The Guide for Visiting Talents also includes an overview of funding measures, introducing the differences depending on the types of internships and/or EU Programme they are affiliated with.
- The overview and the single-step description of the Guide for Applicants are complemented by additional details on funding provided in the FAQ section of the InnoNext platform website. The version 1 of the Guide for Visiting Talents is included in Annexe 5.5.

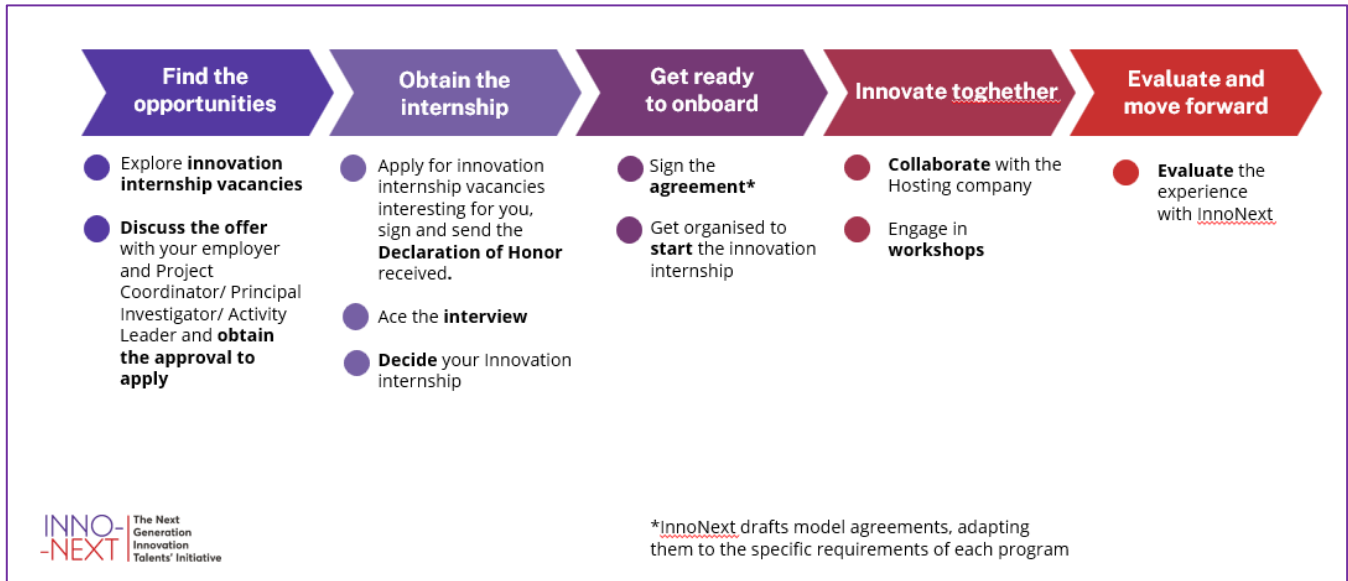


Figure 5 – Visiting Talents' journey explained in the guide for applicants.

- The **Hosting Company guide** describes a company's journey (Figure 6), starting from the **application** on the InnoNext website and waiting for **registration confirmation**. Once validated, the Company receives the link to access the matchmaking platform to complete its Company profile and create Innovative internship vacancies describing the scientific excellence they aim at. The guide highlights the importance of creating informative, detailed, **attractive internship vacancies** for Talents. The company's field of expertise, the skills and tasks expected of the intern, and the unique benefits Talents will gain by working within this specific organisation shall be clearly described. The Companies can publish many vacancies, compatibly with their operational capabilities to coordinate them. The InnoNext matchmaking mechanism will suggest profiles of Visiting Talent applying to the platform. The Company will contact and interview the candidates and choose the person to host as an intern. Once the parties have agreed on the terms of the collaboration, the InnoNext team will provide **support to formalise the agreement and facilitate a smooth onboarding** through clear welcome information. The InnoNext guide describes the Hosting Company role during the internship and the structured mentoring opportunities offered to enhance the experience and provide additional support. The relevance and frequency of the feedback on some critical steps of the process (such as the matchmaking process, the support, and the overall experience) is described and motivated. This evaluation loop is crucial for refining the process, ensuring continuous improvement, and fostering long-term benefits for future participants. The version 1 of the Guide for Hosting Companies is included in Annexe 5.6.

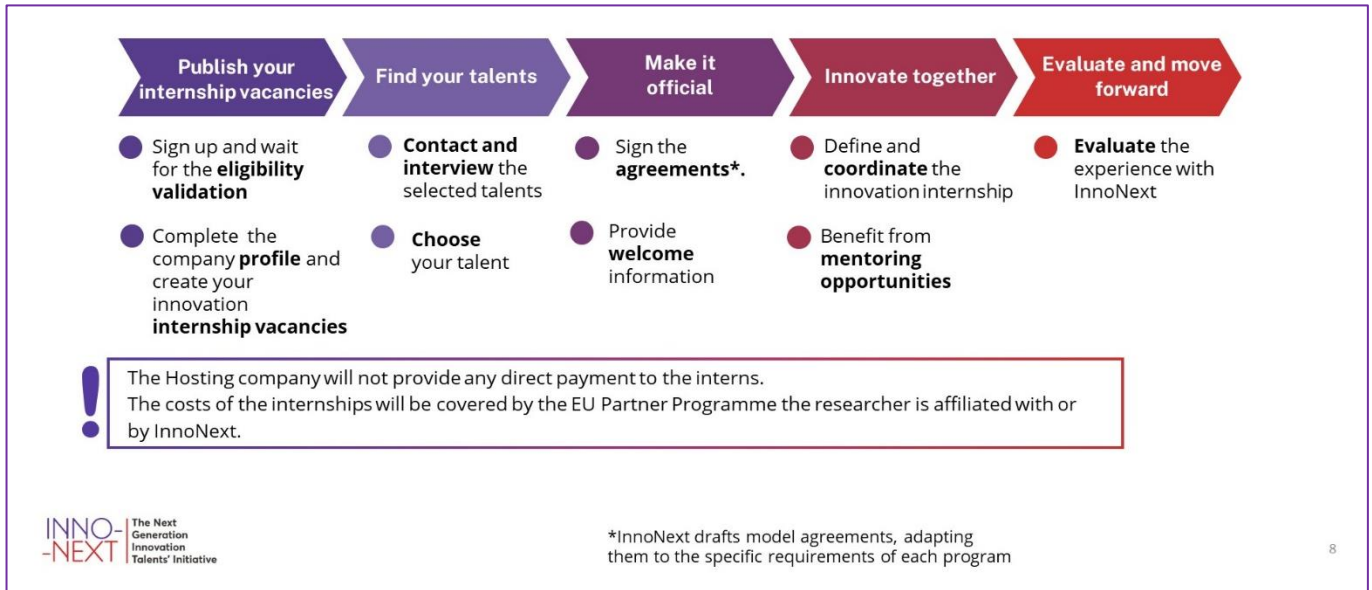


Figure 6 – Hosting Companies' journey explained in the guide for applicants.

Both the Guides for Applicants aim to describe the hybrid InnoNext schema transparently, illustrating the platform's role in the matchmaking process and highlighting the beneficiaries' freedom of action in the selection process and collaboration. The **roles and responsibilities of all participants** during the internship are described. Furthermore, the availability and presence of the InnoNext experts to facilitate the journey aspects, including legal documents, logistics, collaboration and professional growth, is underlined. The **InnoNext mentor** is introduced and identified as a key figure in nurturing entrepreneurial skills and guaranteeing the overall quality of the innovation internship experience.

The InnoNext Guides for Applicants were iteratively refined to apply the feedback of the EU PP and accommodate changes in the project's platform and process.

As for the open calls, further improvements to the Guides are planned and will include:

- Precise instructions and **examples of Talent and Company profiles**.
- Recommendations and **examples of high-quality internship vacancies** to improve the quality of the created opportunities as much as possible.
- Possible improvements in the administrative document exchange flow.

The final aim is to make the Guides comprehensive and user-friendly, equipping participants with all the information needed to succeed and fostering collaboration within the InnoNext ecosystem.

2.3.4. The Agreement Kit

The InnoNext Agreement Kit is a document collection that includes templates of administrative and legal documents required to **verify the applicant's eligibility and activate internships**. Their definition considers the requirements expressed by the EU PPs (and described in D1.2). The Agreement kit is published online, among the InnoNext resources, to enable the beneficiaries to consult the documents in advance and clarify doubts about the regulation of the internship terms, including the funding, working and collaboration conditions, ensuring everything is carried



out according to the laws. Furthermore, it enables the beneficiaries to ask for further information, set up the internship, and avoid conflicts between the parties.

The Agreement kit includes:

- The template of the **Letter of Commitment (LoC)**:

The LoC is the document that summarises the Company information and includes the general conditions of the internship.

After the application, the Company receives an email confirming the registration to InnoNext and the LoC template. The first part of the document must be completed and sent back to InnoNext. The following Annexes will be completed **only before the internship activation**, with the specific details agreed by the parties.

In particular, the LoC includes:

- Annexe 1 – **Internship program**, reporting the description of tasks and goals, as published online by the company.
- Annexe 2 - **Internship Contract** including confidentiality, IP rights, and terms. Annexe 2 specifies that any background knowledge shared during the internship remains the original owner's property. The property of new outputs created during the internship will belong to the Hosting company.

The template of the Letter of Commitment is also available in the [Resources](#) section of the InnoNext website. The [FAQ](#) for both Hosting Companies and Visiting Talent further describe the content and exchange flow of the document, also summarised in the Agreement guide (Figure 7 **Errore. L'origine riferimento non è stata trovata.**).

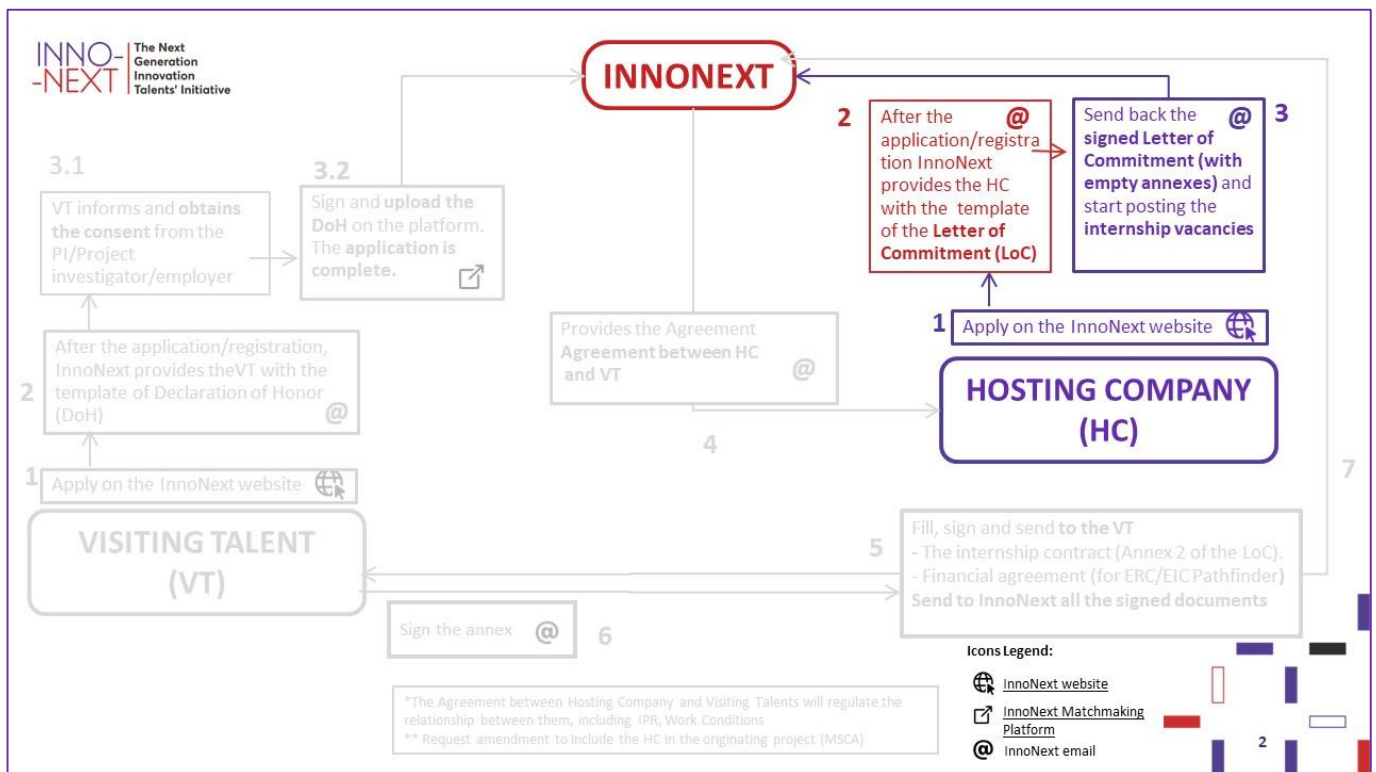


Figure 7– Document exchange between InnoNext and Company, needed to apply.



- The template of the **Declaration of Honour (DoH)**
The DoH is the document required to the Talents when **applying to any interesting internship vacancy**. It confirms that the application is authorised by the PI/Project coordinator/employers. This document contains the internship details and is intended as an informative sheet facilitating communication between the researcher and the employer. This document is needed to **regulate and facilitate the future internship activation** and the relationship among all directly and indirectly interested actors. The talents must upload on the matchmaking platform **one DoH for each vacancy they want to apply for**. The DoH is the document that completes an application. At this point, the matchmaking platform can process the information to find the most suitable match for the internship vacancies.

The templates of the **Declaration of Honour** (including specific versions required by EU PP, such as MSCA) are available in the [Resources](#) section of the InnoNext website. The [FAQs](#) for both Visiting Talents and Hosting Companies further describe the content and exchange flow of the document, also summarised in the Agreement guide (Figure 8).

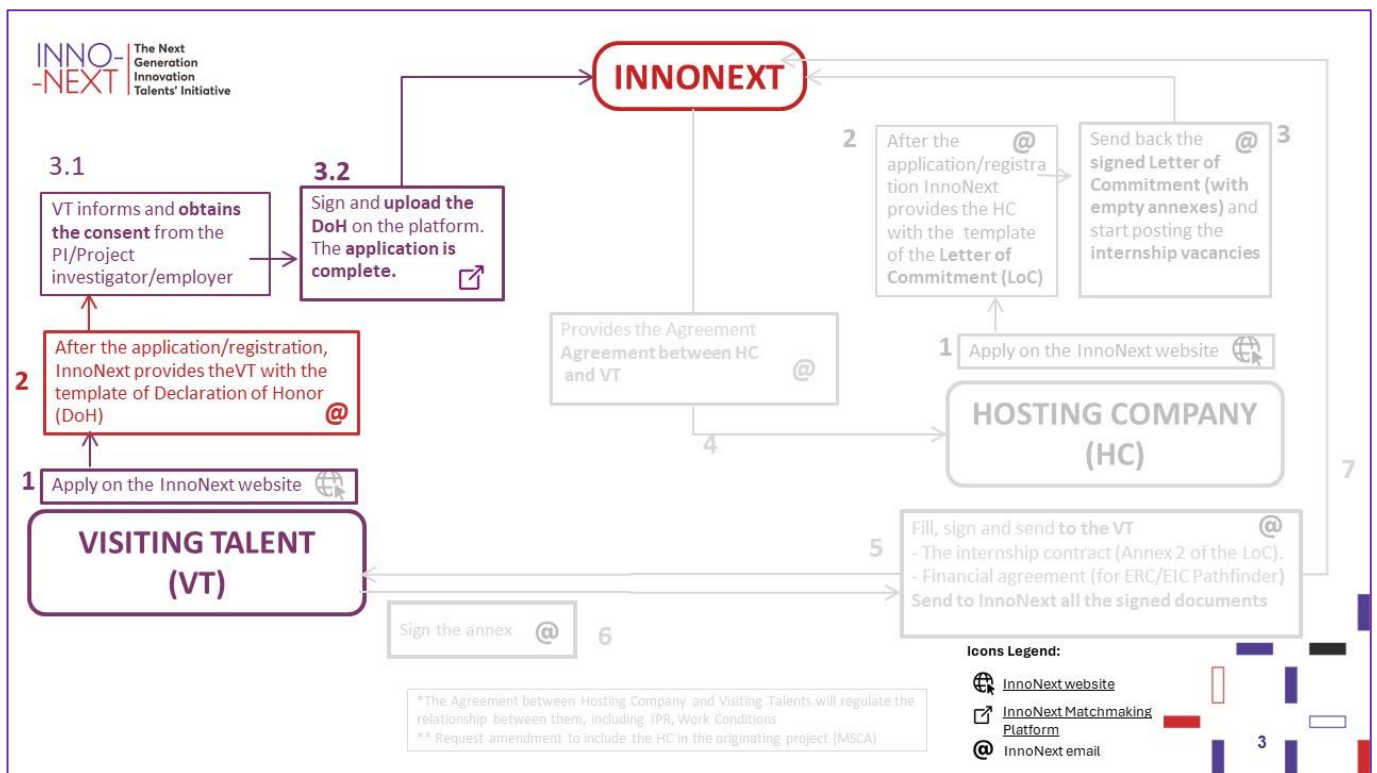


Figure 8 –Document exchange between InnoNext and Talent, needed to apply.

Once one Company and one Talent have agreed on an Internship program, the Company must notify this on the matchmaking platform. InnoNext will provide the Annexes to be filled out and signed by both parties and returned to InnoNext by the Company (Figure 9).

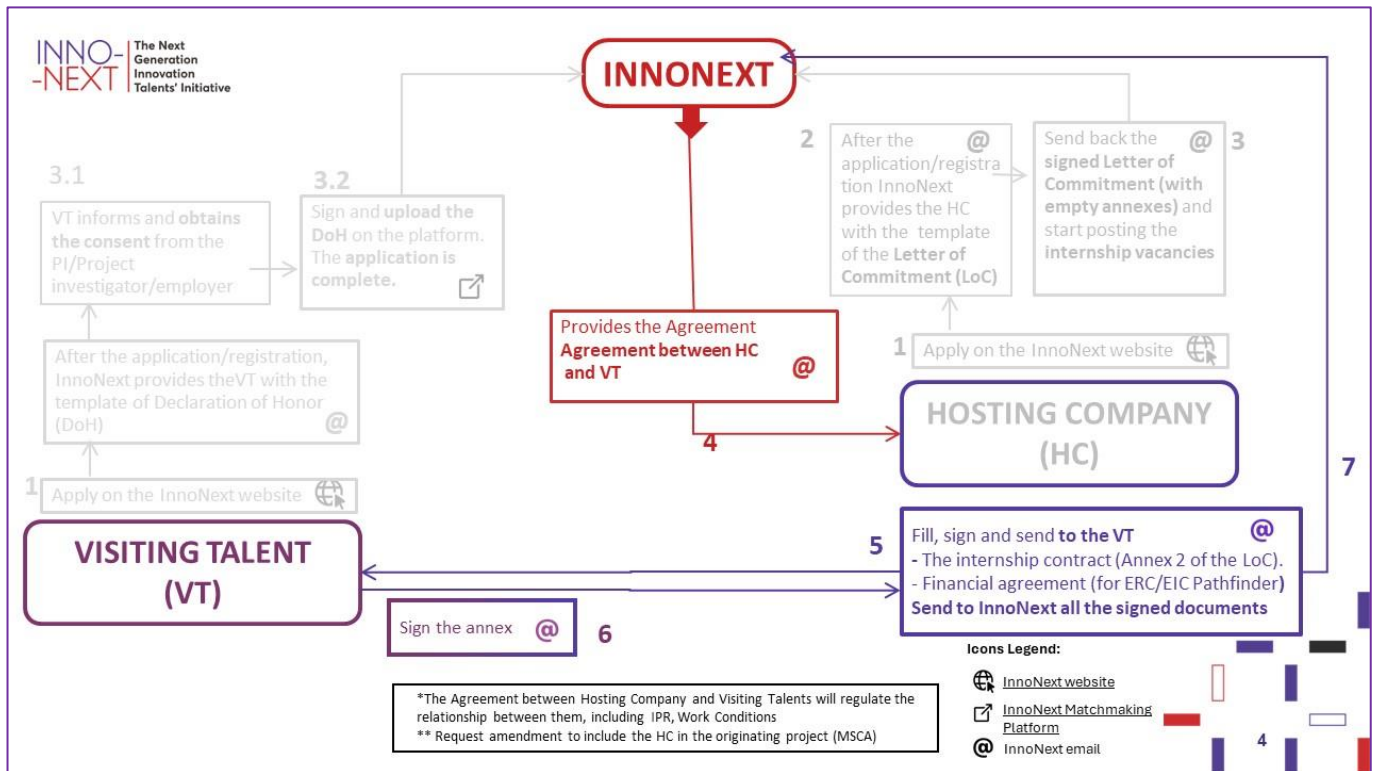


Figure 9 –Documents exchange needed to start the internship.

Moreover, the kit will include:

- The financial agreement for internships involving ERC and EIC Pathfinder beneficiaries.
- The amendment template required by MSCA to affiliate the Hosting company with the project consortium the researcher is working on.

Figure 9 and previous describe the administrative workflow, ensuring clarity and compliance for Visiting Talents and Hosting Companies and the EU Programmes and described in the **InnoNext Agreement Guide**, available in the [Resources](#) section of the InnoNext website.

2.4. Update and maintenance of the InnoNext Starter kit

The update of the comprehensive documents and resources collection in the Starter kit is necessary to support and improve the journey of researchers, companies, and institutions. The maintenance will be managed with a structured approach based on monitoring and feedback collected from the launch of the calls. Feedback loops with users, namely talents, company representatives, and institutional partners, play a critical role in identifying gaps or outdated information. On this basis, regular reviews will allow us to refine it to ensure relevance, accuracy, and compliance with the real cases.

The guides and FAQs will include additional content, such as examples of Internship vacancies, and special attention will be given to the administrative documents. The website will include news and/or articles describing the internship activated, providing examples and inspiration both to talents and companies.



User tests will be conducted to assess the usability and clarity of the online resources and the user flow.

3. Databases for Visiting Talents and Hosting Companies

The matchmaking platform for Visiting talents and Hosting companies relies on a MySQL relational database infrastructure hosted on Amazon AWS, which is designed to efficiently manage talent profiles, innovation internship opportunities, and interaction with the companies (Figure 10). The remainder of this section introduces the base technology concept of the databases, how the databases will be populated, and the actions put in place to grant integrity.

3.1. Base technology to store Visiting Talents

This database is the core component for managing individual talent profiles and their applications. Its key functionalities include:

- **Creation and Management of Talent Profiles:**

Each Talent can create a personalised profile that includes:

- a. **Personal Information:** Name, surname, contact details, demographics, and other personal data.
- b. **Professional Experiences:** Details of previous work experiences, such as country of employer or institution, affiliate programme, project ID, and ORCID.
- c. **Documents:** Uploading files such as CVs and DoH required for applications.
- d. **Skills and desiderata:** Skills can be automatically extracted from the CV or manually added after registration, whereas desiderata refer to the preferred internship locations.

- **Application Management and AI-Based Matching for Opportunities:**

Profiles will enable Visiting Talents to:

- a. conduct an independent search among available internship positions.
- b. benefit from suggestions made by an AI matching system, which considers skills, experiences, and scientific contributions to recommend relevant internship opportunities.

All applications are tracked and linked to the corresponding Talent profiles, including the application status and submitted CV.

- **Access and Updates:**

Talents can update their profiles, review ongoing applications, or delete their profiles if they choose to withdraw from the project.



3.2. Base Technology to store Hosting Companies

This database manages the profiles of the companies participating in the InnoNext project as providers of internship opportunities. Its main functionalities include:

- **Creation and Management of Company Profiles:**

Each company can register on the platform and create a profile that includes:

- a. **Basic Information:** Company name, representative name, affiliate programme, PIC Number, company size and geographical location.
- b. **Contact Details:** Full name and credentials of one or more contacts who will manage the company profile.
- c. **Documents:** The LoC required for internship postings is exchanged via e-mail and stored in an external resource maintained by the legal partner, separate from the main database.

- **Management of Internship Postings:**

Companies can publish internship postings specifying:

- a. **Description:** Title, Company description, role description, and requirements.
- b. **Internship Details:** Location, workplace, functional area and sector.
- c. **Attachments:** Cover image, documents, videos or any other additional material related to the internship.
- d. **Deadlines:** Publication and expiration dates of the posting.

- **Tracking Applications:**

Companies can monitor the status of received applications, manage communication with the Talents, access the submitted CV and update the application status in the hiring pipeline.

3.3. Database population

Both databases will be initially materialised at the launch of the scheme, incorporating Talents and Companies that register for the InnoNext program through the platform's website after providing consent for data storage. The collected personal and company data will be managed in compliance with privacy regulations, as outlined in the forthcoming D5.1 Data Management Plan.



Figure 10 – Simplified schema of the database's main tables

3.4. Data Security and Reliability

The database infrastructure is highly secure and reliable, incorporating the following features:

- **Multi-AZ Deployment:** The primary database server operates in one AWS availability zone, with a secondary server in another zone for failover support. This ensures minimal downtime and data loss in case of server failures.
- **Data Backup:** Backups are taken daily, with bin-log backups performed every five minutes. The backup retention period is 30 days, allowing for point-in-time recovery (excluding the most recent 5 minutes).
- **Data Encryption:** Storage and backups are encrypted at rest using AWS-managed encryption keys to protect sensitive information.



4. Conclusion

The InnoNext Starter Kit represents a crucial component in the project's ambition to foster innovation and entrepreneurial growth through tailored collaboration between Visiting Talents and Hosting Companies. By providing a comprehensive suite of resources – from streamlined application processes to AI-supported matchmaking and dynamic mentoring plans – InnoNext empowers stakeholders to effectively engage in the initiative while granting simple and guided processes.

This deliverable exemplifies a user-centric approach, incorporating iterative refinements based on feedback from the European Partner Programmes and end users. The resources, such as the detailed applicant guides, Agreement Kit, and FAQs, provide clarity and support, ensuring a simplified onboarding experience for all participants. Furthermore, the creation of an ad-hoc data platform to acquire Talents and Companies' data abides by privacy needs and ensures, by design, adherence to privacy regulations.

Forward-looking, this kit sets the basis for the iterative updates planned for the InnoNext Scheme, coupled with the continuous engagement of stakeholders, which will ensure the scheme's adaptability to emerging needs and its alignment with broader EU innovation objectives.



5. Annexes

5.1. The InnoNext single page call for Visiting Talents

INNO-NEXT The Next Generation Innovation Talents' Initiative

Home Beneficiaries Internships Resources FAQ Contact [Sign In](#)

CALL FOR APPLICATION

Visiting Talents

InnoNext identifies, facilitates and supports internships proposed by Hosting Companies committed to pushing boundaries and willing to collaborate to translate research advancements into innovations, accelerating your journey from research to real-world application.

[Sign up](#)

Innovation Internship organized by InnoNext will be across two specialized streams:

DEEP TECH TALENTS: Research-focused internships offering hands-on experience with advanced projects, where interns work closely with the hosting company to address complex technical challenges. Eligible applicants include PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers currently involved in ERC, EIC Pathfinder, EIT EU Research & Infrastructure actions, and MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships, Doctoral Networks and COFUND project. Duration: 3-6 months.

ASPIRING INNOVATORS: Entrepreneurship-focused internships where aspiring innovators develop business attitude and competences through expert mentoring, while gaining practical insights into innovative companies. Open to students in and graduates from EIT Label Masters and Doctoral programs, EIT Alumni, EIT Jumpstarter. Duration: up to 6 months.

Until July 2026, InnoNext implements an enduring open call, where companies and researchers can apply at any time to find their ideal match and begin an Innovation Internship. Visit the website to explore new vacancies, additional resources, and upcoming updates.

The costs of the Innovation Internships will be covered either by the EU partner programmes in which the researchers are involved or by InnoNext.

The path to get an Innovation Internship?

Step 1 - Create your profile
Complete the form on the InnoNext website to set up your profile. Ensure all required information is filled out, and upload your CV.

Step 2 - Explore the Innovation Internship Vacancies
Explore the Innovation Internship opportunities posted by Hosting Companies and take a closer look at those recommended for you through the matchmaking process.

Step 3 - Apply
Once you have identified internship opportunities that align with your interests, proceed to submit your application. As part of this process, you are required to complete and upload the Declaration of Honour (.pdf), confirming that you have informed and received the consent from your employer as well as your Project Coordinator, Principal Investigator, or Activity Leader. To ensure transparency and facilitate communication, you are encouraged to share the internship details along with the InnoNext Letter of Commitment (find the template on the Resource page).

Step 4 - Attend the Interview
Join the interview(s) to learn more about the Hosting Company and the specific activities involved in the Innovation Internship.

Step 5 - Get ready for the Innovation Internship
Once you and the company agree on the internship details, InnoNext will provide you with the legal support and logistical assistance, if applicable, to start the collaboration.

Step 6 - Start the Innovation Internship
Get settled, know the Hosting Company, and make the most of InnoNext's mentoring resources and workshops. Share your feedback to help improve the experience for future interns.

Guide for Visiting Talents (.pdf)
Declaration of Honour (.pdf)
-> Resources
-> FAQ
[Sign up](#)



Sign up to become a Visiting Talent

FIRST NAME *

SURNAME *

E-MAIL *

CONFIRM E-MAIL *

Demographics

GENDER *

DATE OF BIRTH *

RESIDENCE *

MOBILE PHONE NUMBER

Work Experience

COUNTRY OF EMPLOYER / RESEARCH INSTITUTION *

UNIVERSITY OR RESEARCH ORGANIZATION *

AFFILIATE PROGRAM *

PROJECT ACRONYM *

PROJECT ID *

ORCID ID *

Internship Desiderata

GEOGRAPHY

CV *

Click here (or drag and drop) to Upload a file

400,000,000 bytes (380,000,000 bytes)

PRIVACY POLICY OF THE WEBSITE Inno Next *

PRIVACY POLICY OF THE WEBSITE Inno Next

This page describes how the site is managed with regard to the processing of personal data of users who consult it, as well as how and for what purpose personal data is processed. This information is provided pursuant to Articles 13-14 of

I declare that I have read and understood the information

(If you do not accept, your request cannot be processed)

Have questions?


We're here for you! Read the FAQs to know more.

[Read the FAQ](#)

Figure 11 – Web page of the call for application for Visiting Talents, <https://innonext-project.eu/en/talents>.



5.2. The InnoNext single page call for Hosting Companies



[Home](#)
[Beneficiaries](#)
[Internships](#)
[Resources](#)
[FAQ](#)
[Contact](#)
[Sign In](#)

CALL FOR APPLICATION

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[Guide for Visiting Talents \(.pdf\)](#)

[Declaration of Honour \(.pdf\)](#)

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[-> FAQ](#)

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Step 6 - Start the Innovation internship
Get settled, know the Hosting Company, and make the most of InnoNext's mentoring resources and workshops. Share your feedback to help improve the experience for future interns.



Sign up to become a Visiting Talent

FIRST NAME *	SURNAME *
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E-MAIL *	CONFIRM E-MAIL *
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Demographics

GENDER *	DATE OF BIRTH *
<input type="text" value="Select"/>	<input type="text" value="Date of Birth* (dd-mm-yyyy)"/>
RESIDENCE *	MOBILE PHONE NUMBER
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value=" +39 - 312 345 6789"/>

Work Experience

COUNTRY OF EMPLOYER / RESEARCH INSTITUTION *	UNIVERSITY OR RESEARCH ORGANIZATION *
<input type="text" value="Select"/>	<input type="text"/>
AFFILIATE PROGRAM *	PROJECT ACRONYM *
<input type="text" value="Select"/>	<input type="text"/>
PROJECT ID *	ORCID ID *
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Internship Desiderata

GEOGRAPHY
<input type="text" value="Select"/>

CV *

[Click here \(or drag and drop\) to Upload a file](#)
doc, docx, txt, rtf, pdf, odt (Max: 2 MB)

PRIVACY POLICY OF THE WEBSITE Inno Next *

PRIVACY POLICY OF THE WEBSITE Inno Next

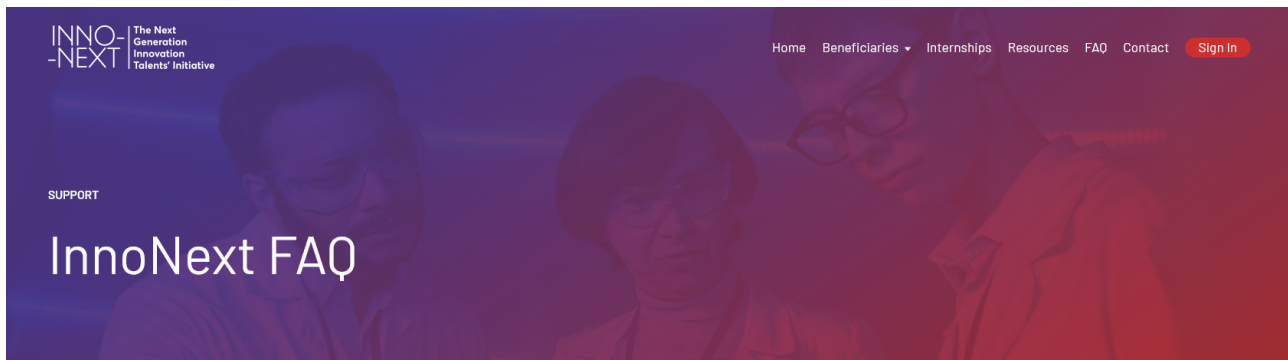
This page describes how the site is managed with regard to the processing of personal data of users who consult it, as well as how and for what purpose personal data is processed. This information is provided pursuant to Articles 13-14 of

I declare that I have read and understood the information
(If you do not accept, your request cannot be processed)

Figure 12 – Web page of the call for application for Hosting Companies, <https://innonext-project.eu/en/companies>. –



5.3. The FAQs dedicated to Visiting Talents



Visiting talents
Hosting companies

Visiting talents

1. Eligibility and application

- 1.1 Can I apply for InnoNext? +
- 1.2 Which types of internships are supported by InnoNext? +
- 1.3 How can I apply for InnoNext? +
- 1.4 How can I apply for a specific vacancy? +
- 1.5 How will my eligibility be verified? +
- 1.6 How can I inform my PI/Project coordinator/employer about InnoNext and the innovation internship? +
- 1.7 Can I apply to more than one internship vacancy? +
- 1.8 Can I apply to InnoNext if my funded project is nearly over? +
- 1.9 What should I do if I cannot find suitable internship vacancies for me? +

2. Administrative and legal issues

- 2.1 Which types of contracts must I sign? +
- 2.2 What is a Declaration of Honor, and is there a template? +
- 2.3 What is the Letter of Commitment? +
- 2.4 How will the Intellectual Property (IP) be managed? +

3. Personal profile and Innovation internship preferences

- 3.2 What are the working conditions? Can the internship be remote, hybrid, or on-site? +

4. Matchmaking and selection process

- 4.1 How does the matchmaking process work? +
- 4.2 How does the selection process work? +
- 4.3 How can I access the matchmaking platform? +



5. InnoNext support

5.1 How can I provide feedback about the InnoNext experience? +

5.2 Is there a mentorship program? +

5.3 Is the participation in workshops mandatory? +

6. If you are a researcher from EIC Pathfinder

6.1 Can I apply for InnoNext? +

6.2 Who will cover the internship expenses? +

7. If you are a MSCA researcher

7.1 Can I apply for InnoNext? +

7.2 Do I have any obligation towards my PI/project coordinator/employer? +

7.3 Is there a limit on the duration of the Innovation internship? +

7.4 Who will cover the internship expenses? +

8. If you are a researcher from ERC

8.1 Can I apply for InnoNext? +

8.2 Who will cover the internship expenses? +

9. If you are an EIT beneficiary

9.1 Can I apply for InnoNext? +

9.2 Who will cover the internship expenses? +

10. If you are a HE Research & Infrastructures researcher

10.1 Can I apply for InnoNext? +

10.2 Who will cover the internship expenses? +

Need more information?

Write us your questions.

Contact us

Figure 13 – FAQ for the Visiting Talents



5.4. The FAQs dedicated to Hosting Companies



[Home](#)
[Beneficiaries](#)
[Internships](#)
[Resources](#)
[FAQ](#)
[Contact](#)
[Sign In](#)

SUPPORT

InnoNext FAQ

Visiting talents

Hosting companies

Hosting companies

1. Application and eligibility
 - 1.1. Can my company apply for InnoNext? +
 - 1.2. Which information does the company application require? +
 - 1.3. Are there any conditions related to the EIC Seal of Excellence? +
 - 1.4. How will my company's eligibility be checked? +
2. Value for the Hosting companies
 - 2.1. What can my company obtain by applying to InnoNext? +
 - 2.2. Who will pay the talent during the internship? +
 - 2.3. Which types of internships are supported by InnoNext? +
3. Administrative and legal issues
 - 3.1. Which type of contract will the company sign? +
 - 3.2. As a Hosting Company, are there any obligations toward the project consortium/employer of the Visiting Researcher? +
 - 3.3. How will the Intellectual Property (IP) be managed? +
 - 3.4. What is the Letter of Commitment? +
 - 3.5. Which role does the Hosting Company play in the internship? +
4. Creation of an innovation internship vacancy
 - 4.3. How many Innovation internship vacancies can we publish? +
 - 4.4. Can we offer full remote internships? +
5. Matchmaking and selection process
 - 5.1. How does the matchmaking process work? +
 - 5.2. How does the selection process work? +
 - 5.3. How can we access the matchmaking platform? +



6. InnoNext support

- 6.1. How can the Hosting company provide feedback about the InnoNext experience? +
- 6.2. What does the InnoNext mentorship plan include? +
- 6.3. Is the participation in workshops mandatory? +

7. Hosting Talents from the MSCA Programme

- 7.1. What actions are required for the Hosting company to host a Visiting talent from MSCA? +
- 7.2. How will the intellectual property (IP) be managed if the Hosting company becomes an Associate partner of MSCA? +

Need more information?

Write us your questions.

Contact us

Figure 14 – FAQ for the Visiting Talents

5.5. The Guide for Visiting Talents

INNO-NEXT The Next Generation Innovation Talents' Initiative

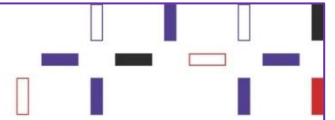
InnoNext Guide for Visiting Talents

Version n°1

European Innovation Council




Table of contents




 **1** INNONEXT,
WHY SHOULD YOU APPLY?

 **2** CAN YOU APPLY?

 **3** HOW DO YOU APPLY?

 **4** HOW DOES THE SELECTION
PROCESS WORK?

 **5** WHICH TYPES OF FUNDING
CAN YOU GET?

 **6** HOW DOES THE INNOVATION
INTERNSHIP WORK?

Why should
you apply?



What is InnoNext



InnoNext's mission is to **foster the development of an entrepreneurial mindset** by welcoming **researchers and innovators to work with startups** of member states operating in their areas of expertise by facilitating the matching, providing acceleration programs, and leveraging the EC network.

Boost the competitiveness of startups and SMEs

Mobilise individuals with **specific skills, knowledge, and competencies** developed in the excellence EU programmes.

Develop Entrepreneurial Mindset

Enable researchers and aspiring innovators to **gain practical experience** and understanding of the processes required to take research ideas beyond invention and foster an **entrepreneurial mindset** through specific **mentorship**.

Facilitate Knowledge Transfer

Provide innovative startups and SMEs with **access to cutting-edge research insights and ideas**, thus accelerating the development of their breakthrough products and services.

Enhance and promote Equal Access to Research Talent

Innovative startups and SMEs supported by EU-funded programmes will have improved **access to research talent**, potentially leading to more innovative products and services.

What can you obtain

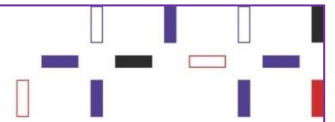


By being a Visiting Talent you will access to:





- A **dedicated platform** that facilitates the **search for collaboration opportunities** by allowing talent to exploit scientific interest by **joining** existing competitive startups and SMEs.
- A **hybrid matchmaking process** based on an AI-based algorithm that will find the **best opportunities** for the Visiting talent, processing needs, and ambitions of the applicants and the vacancy descriptions.
- **Networking opportunities** allowing to take part in a community of innovative entrepreneurs.
- A comprehensive **mentorship plan** to offer and share knowledge and tailored support to nurture the entrepreneurship potential of participants. Background and skills such as innovation management, teamwork, and internal communication will be deepened in workshops for Talent and Enterprises.
- **Real-world market dynamics** as opportunities to learn-by-doing competencies such as market analysis, risk management, business strategy, and go-to-market path.
- **An Agreement kit** including all the administrative information and legal documents needed in order to start the internship and regulate the intellectual property.







What type of innovation internships

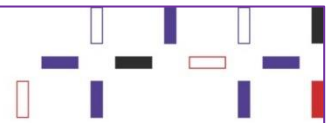


InnoNext supports 2 main streams:

 Deep Tech Talents	
 What	Research-focused internships entailing hands-on experience with cutting-edge projects where interns collaborate with the Hosting Company to solve complex technical challenges.
 For who	PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers currently working in ERC, EIC Pathfinder, MSCA, EIT and RI actions.
 How long	3-6 months.

 Aspiring Innovators	
 What	Entrepreneurship-focused internships where aspiring innovators develop business attitude and competences through expert mentoring, while gaining practical insights into innovative companies.
 For who	Students in (and graduates from) EIT label Master and Doctoral programmes, EIT Alumni, EIT Jumpstarter.
 How long	Up to 6 months.

Who are the Hosting companies

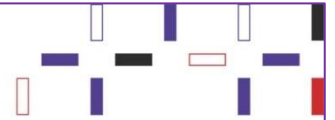


Innovative startups and SMEs that can host the innovation internship:

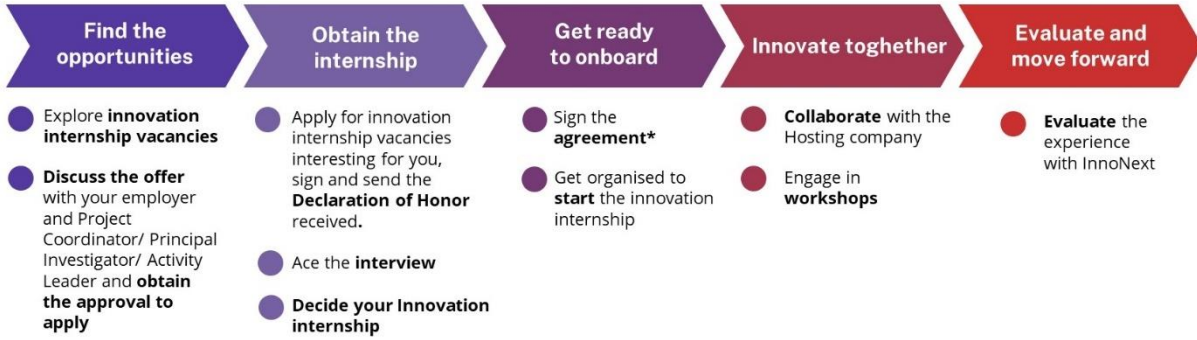
- Start-ups and SMEs supported by the **EIC Accelerator** (including H2020 SME instrument)
- **EIC** awarded **Seal of Excellence** companies
- Startups and SMEs supported by **EIC Transition**
- Startups and SMEs supported by **EIT KIC innovation and business creation services**
- Startups and SMEs created as a result of receiving support from **EIT KICs**
- Startups, scaleups, and SMEs that have been partners of **KICs for Innovation activities**.
- Startups and scaleups that have at least one co-founder who is an **EIT Alumni** member



The journey in InnoNext



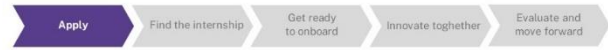
Your journey as a Visiting Talent in InnoNext, step by step:



Can you apply?

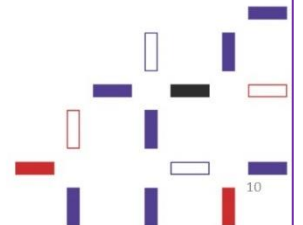


Can you apply?



You're eligible to become a Visiting Talents in InnoNext if you are:

- A PhD and/or postdoctoral researcher participating in project founded by **EIC Pathfinder**
- A PhD and/or postdoctoral researcher participating in projects funded by the **European Research Council (ERC)**
- A fellow participating in **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks**
- A fellow participating **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellow**
- A fellow participating **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) COFUND**
- A PhD and/or postdoctoral researcher participating as a consortium member in a project funded by the **Research Infrastructures part of Horizon Europe**
- A Student in (and graduate from) **EIT Label Masters and Doctoral** programmes
- An **EIT Alumni** member
- An **EIT Jumpstarter** beneficiary
- A participant from other postdoctoral training programmes supported by the **EIT KICs**



How to apply?



How to apply: steps



1 - Explore the website

Discover everything about InnoNext opportunities on the website.

www.innonext-project.eu



2 - Create your profile

Complete the form on the [InnoNext website](#) to **set up your profile**.

You will be registered and receive the link and instructions to access the [matchmaking platform](#)



3 - Apply to vacancies

Look at the vacancies ranked for you in the [matchmaking platform](#) and apply to those that are more suitable for you. Remember that for each application you will then also have to upload the required [Declaration of Honor](#).



4 - Update and monitor

Whenever you want, you can **update your profile** and monitor newly added **internship vacancies** for which you can **apply**.

How to apply: details



1 - Explore the website

Look at the overall InnoNext schema at www.innonext-project.eu



2 - Create your profile

Fill in the form on the InnoNext website and upload your CV to create your profile. Once you complete the form, you will **be registered on the [matchmaking platform](#)** . A confirmation email will provide you with the instructions to enter the platform and update your profile.



3 - Apply to vacancies

Explore the Innovation [Internship vacancies](#) posted by Hosting Companies. You can get suggestions from InnoNext's matchmaking process, and when you find something interesting for you, **apply**. To complete an application, you are required to upload the [Declaration of Honor](#). The document is required to gather the consent of your employer/Project coordinator/ Principal Investigator/ Activity Leader. To better inform them, you can share the **internship details and the [Letter of Commitment of the Hosting company](#)** .



4 - Update and monitor

On the [matchmaking platform](#) you can always **add information** to update your profile, **monitor the application process** and **receive suggested vacancies** the matchmaking process deems most suitable for you.



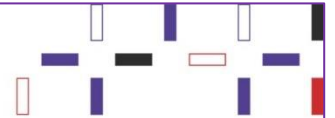
How does the selection process work?

The selection process





The selection process: details



- 

1- AI-enabled matchmaking and Expert check

The matchmaking platform streamlines the processing of data from internship vacancies and applications, utilising advanced algorithms to generate a curated shortlist of optimal matches, all under the supervision of InnoNext experts. The platform might suggest also internship vacancies that can match with your background expertise and preferences.
- 

Companies' invitation for an interview

Once you've applied for an internship vacancy, the company will review your application. If they find your profile a good match, they may contact you directly to arrange an interview.
- 

Interviews

The interview is a valuable opportunity for you as a candidate to learn more about the company and gain detailed insights into the internship proposal. It also allows you to showcase your research background, interests, and expertise. During this conversation, you can discuss and clarify the specifics of the internship, including roles, expectations, and working arrangements, ensuring a mutual understanding and alignment between you and the company.
- 

Talent and Company express their decisions

After the interviews, both you and the Company can make your decisions and finalise the administrative details of the Innovation Internship, ensuring a smooth transition into the next phase of the collaboration.

Which types
of funding
can you get?



Financial support



The Financial support of the Innovation internships depends on the **EU programme you are affiliated with;**

For researchers affiliated with:

- MSCA
- HE Research Infrastructure
- EIT/EIT KICs

The reimbursement of internship costs will be covered by the respective **home program**.

- ERC

InnoNext will reimburse researchers with a flat monthly rate, for a maximum of **3 months**.

- EIC PATHFINDER

The personnel costs are eligible under the **Pathfinder grant** and an additional **mobility allowance** will be reimbursed* as **financial support to third parties** by InnoNext.

*The mobility allowance will be reimbursed only if the internship's location is **more than 150km** from the current place of work of the researcher and for a maximum of **3 months**.

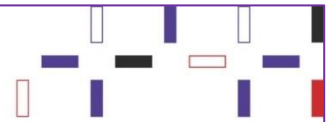
! Each programmes may have additional conditions according to their specific rules and requirements. Verify the FAQs section.

For more guidance, you can read the FAQs on the InnoNext website and refer to the terms of your home project.

How does
the innovation
internship work?



Roles



Within InnoNext, every actor plays a role:

HOSTING COMPANY

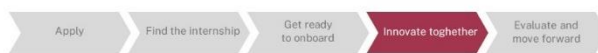
- **Coordinates** the work of the Visiting Talent
- **Provides** opportunities for learning-by-doing
- Participates in the **workshop**
- **Can ask for one-to one mentoring**
- Responds to **monitoring activities**

VISITING TALENT

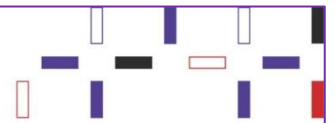
- **Collaborates** in research and innovation activity
- **Develops** specific entrepreneur internship skills
- Participates in **workshops**
- Responds to **monitoring activities**

InnoNext MENTOR

- Propose a **plan of mentorship activities**
- **Conduct** workshops
- Facilitate the **collaboration** between beneficiaries, if the case
- Get direct **feedback**



Resources



You can find more information consulting:



FAQ

Dedicated section of questions and answers, covering every phase of the InnoNext journey and EU Partner Programmes specific requirements.
<https://www.innonext-project.eu/en/faq>



Resources

Templates of the needed document, to get prepared in any phase.
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Contacts

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<https://www.innonext-project.eu/en/contact>



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INNO-
-NEXT | The Next
Generation
Innovation
Talents' Initiative

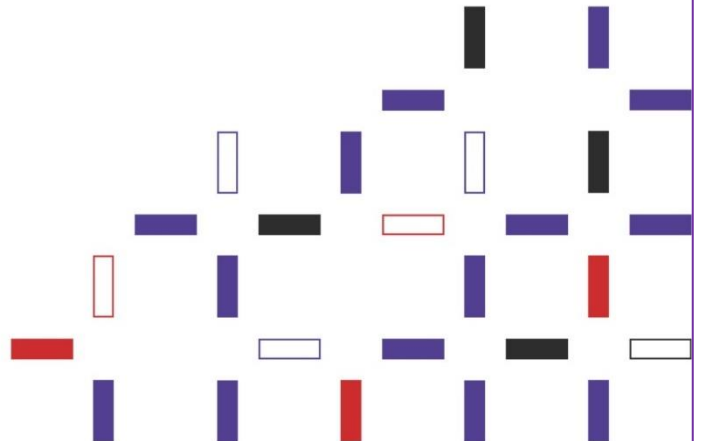
info@innonext-project.eu | www.innonext-project.eu



Réseau
Entreprendre
PIEMONTE



ZUCCHETTI





5.6. The Guide for Hosting Companies

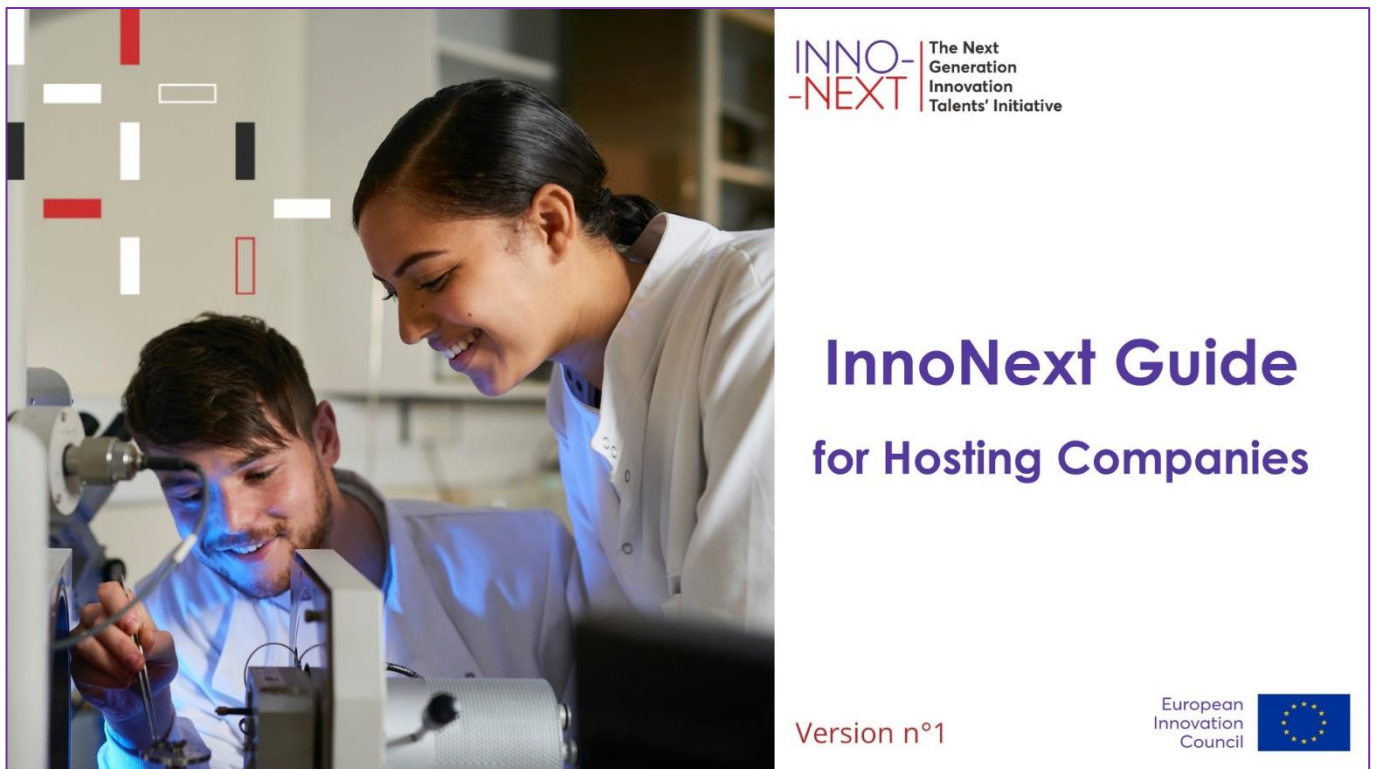


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2 CAN YOUR COMPANY APPLY?



3 HOW TO APPLY?



4 HOW DOES THE SELECTION
PROCESS WORK?

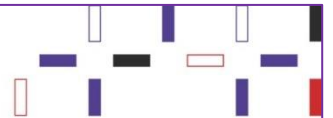


5 HOW DOES THE INNOVATION
INTERNSHIP WORK?



Why should you apply?

What is InnoNext



InnoNext's mission is to **foster the development of an entrepreneurial mindset** by welcoming **researchers and innovators to work with startups** of member states operating in their areas of expertise by facilitating the matching, providing acceleration programs, and leveraging the EC network.

Boost the competitiveness of startups and SMEs

Mobilise individuals with **specific skills, knowledge, and competencies** developed in the excellence EU Programmes.

Develop Entrepreneurial Mindset

Enable researchers and aspiring innovators to **gain practical experience** and understanding of the processes required to take research ideas beyond invention and fostering an **entrepreneurial mindset** through a specific **mentorship**.

Facilitate Knowledge Transfer

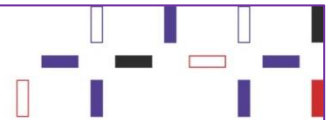
Provide innovative startups and SMEs with **access to cutting-edge research insights and ideas**, thus accelerating the development of their breakthrough products and services.

Enhance and promote Equal Access to Research Talent

Innovative startups and SMEs supported by EU-funded Programmes will have improved **access to research talent**, potentially leading to more innovative products and services.



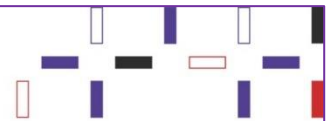
What can you obtain





By being a Hosting Company you will access to:





- A **dedicated platform** that facilitates the creation of **internship vacancies**, enabling the company to access **cutting-edge research** and highly skilled researchers.
- A **hybrid matchmaking process** based on an AI-based algorithm will find the best candidates for the company, processing the internship description (task, competencies, outcomes) and applicants' needs and ambitions.
- Internships **financially supported** by the affiliated **EU partner programme/InnoNext**.
- A comprehensive **mentorship plan** to offer and share knowledge and tailored support to nurture the entrepreneurship potential of participants. Innovation-oriented skills will be deepened in workshops for Talent and Enterprises.
- **Integrate high specialised skills to improve the competitiveness** on a wider scale.
- **An Agreement kit** including all the administrative information and legal documents needed in order to start the internship and regulate the intellectual property.

What type of internships



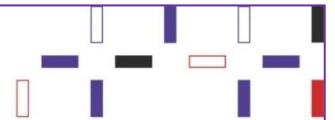
InnoNext supports 2 main streams:

 Deep Tech Talents	
 What	Research-focused internships entailing hands-on experience with cutting-edge projects where interns collaborate with the Hosting Company to solve complex technical challenges.
 For who	PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers currently working in ERC, EIC Pathfinder, MSCA, EIT and RI actions.
 How long	3-6 months.

 Aspiring Innovators	
 What	Entrepreneurship-focused internships where aspiring innovators develop business attitude and competences through expert mentoring, while gaining practical insights into innovative companies.
 For who	Students in (and graduates from) EIT label Master and Doctoral programmes, EIT Alumni, EIT Jumpstarter.
 How long	Up to 6 months.

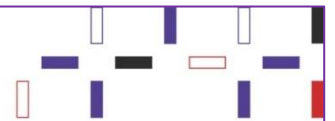


Who are the Visiting talents you can host



- PhD and/or postdoctoral researcher participating in a project founded by **EIC Pathfinder**
- PhDs and postdoctoral researchers participating in projects funded by the **European Research Council (ERC)**
- Fellows participating in **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks**
- Fellows participating **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellow**
- Fellows participating **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) COFUND**
- PhD and postdoctoral researchers participating as consortium members in a project funded by the **Research Infrastructures part of Horizon Europe**
- Students in (and graduates from) **EIT Label Masters and Doctoral** programmes
- **EIT Alumni** members
- **EIT Jumpstarter** beneficiaries
- Participants from other postdoctoral training programmes supported by the **EIT KICs**

The journey in InnoNext



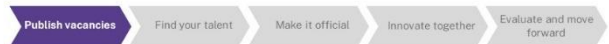
Your journey as a Hosting Company in InnoNext, step by step:



! The Hosting company will not provide any direct payment to the interns. The costs of the internships will be covered by the EU Partner Programme the researcher is affiliated with or by InnoNext.

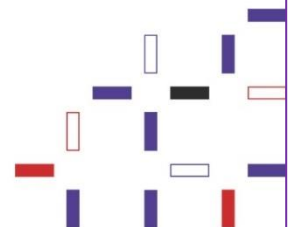


Can your company apply



Your company is eligible to become a InnoNext Hosting Company if it is:

- A Start-up/SME supported by the **EIC Accelerator** (including H2020 SME instrument)
- An **EIC** awarded **Seal of Excellence** company
- A Start-up/SME supported by **EIC Transition**
- A Start-up/SME supported by **EIT KIC innovation and business creation services**
- A Start-up/SME created as a result of receiving support from **EIT KICs**
- A Startup/scaleup/SME that has been a partner of **KICs for Innovation activities**.
- A Startup/scaleup that has at least one co-founder who is an **EIT Alumni member**





How to apply?

How to apply: steps



1 - Explore website

Discover everything about InnoNext opportunities on the website.

www.innonext-project.eu



2 - Sign up

Complete the form on the [InnoNext website](#) to register your company. You will receive the confirmation of your request and the instructions to provide the **Letter of Commitment** that declare your eligibility.



3 - Complete the company profile

After the validation of your request, you will receive via email the instruction to access the [matchmaking platform](#).

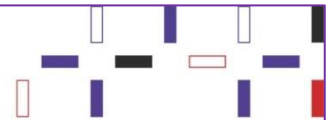











4 - Vacancies

Everything is ready now to start **posting the Innovation Internship vacancies**.



How to apply: details



- 
1 - Explore the website Look at the overall **InnoNext** schema at www.innonext-project.eu 
- 
2 - Sign up Fill in the form on the [InnoNext website](#) to register your company. You'll be required to enter the **PIC number**, **the EU programme you are affiliated with**, and (if applicable) the project ID funded by the selected programme. You will also be required to enter the **email of the reference person** coordinating the Innovation internship for your company. You will receive an email confirming your request and informing you how to provide the **Letter of Commitment**, with this document you will declare your eligibility for the InnoNext initiative.  
- 
3 - Profile Once verified the company eligibility, you will receive via email the confirmation and instructions on how to **access the matchmaking platform**. 
- 
4 - Vacancies Enter the [matchmaking platform](#) to create all **the Innovation internship vacancies** the company is willing to host. Writing the vacancy, it is recommended to carefully highlight and describe the **scientific goals and tasks** the Visiting talent will perform during the internship. This information is very relevant for informing the talents and their PI/project coordinator who has to authorise the internship. 

How does
the selection
process work?



The selection process



The selection process: details



1- AI-enabled matchmaking and Expert check

The matchmaking platform streamlines the **processing of data from internship vacancies and applications**, utilising advanced algorithms to generate a curated shortlist of optimal matches, all under the supervision of InnoNext experts. Companies can seamlessly review the suggested applications, as well as any direct submissions, through the platform.



2- Companies' invitation for the interviews

Once identified the interesting applications, **the Hosting company can directly contact the candidates** to arrange the interviews.



3- Interviews

The interview is a valuable opportunity to **introduce your company and provide detailed insights on the internship proposal**, while also getting to know the candidates, their research background, and their interests. It is during this conversation that the specifics of the internship, including **tasks, expectations, and working conditions**, can be discussed and mutually agreed upon, fostering a clear understanding between both parties.



4- Company and Talent express their decisions

After the interviews, both you and the Talent can **make your decisions and finalise the administrative details** of the Innovation Internship, ensuring a smooth transition into the next phase of the collaboration.



How does the innovation internship work?

Roles

Within InnoNext, every actor plays a role:

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- **Coordinates** the work of the Visiting Talent
- **Provides** opportunities for learning-by-doing
- Participates in the **workshop**
- **Can ask for one-to one mentoring**
- Responds to **monitoring activities**

VISITING TALENT

- **Collaborates** in research and innovation activity
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(call HORIZON-EIC-2023-TALENTS-01-01) under grant agreement no. 101160467.*

www.innonext-project.eu | info@innonext-project.eu

InnoNext Consortium:

