



Innovation Study Tours – Call for Proposals FAQs

1. What are Innovation Study Tours?

Innovation Study Tours (IST) are programs designed to immerse learners in some of the world's most dynamic innovation ecosystems, offering a unique opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world experiences. Participants engage in intensive 5–10 day study visits in key regions including but not limited to Europe, the United States, and Asia. Participants are expected to acquire hands-on exposure to leading innovation environments, strengthen their capacity to analyze and compare ecosystem dynamics, and generate actionable insights with regard to collaboration opportunities, knowledge transfer, and potential market entry pathways.

2. What are the two programme tracks?

Each program is structured around one of the two complementary tracks:

- (i) Global Exposure, under which European participants engage with high-growth innovation ecosystems outside Europe in order to analyse scaling dynamics, emerging business models, and ecosystem enablers. The focus is on exploration: learning from global ecosystems.
- (ii) European Immersion, which facilitates the participation of international cohorts within European innovation ecosystems, with a focus on understanding Europe's regulatory frameworks, policy-driven approaches, and public–private innovation structures. The focus is on decoding: understanding Europe as an innovation system.

3. What type of activities should IST include?

IST should include: visits to top-tier innovation actors (e.g. startups, corporates, accelerators, public innovation agencies, universities); interactive workshops and seminars; cultural immersion and contextual learning; a project-based learning component.

4. When does the call open and close?

The Call opens on 1st June 2026 and will close 31st July 2026. Applicants are expected to receive communication of results on 9 September 2026.

5. Who can apply?

Any legal entity may apply, including: universities and higher education institutions, Innovation organizations, Startups and SMEs, corporates, NGOs and training providers, research organizations. Applicants may submit proposals as single entities or, where relevant, in partnership with other organizations. Due to the specific objectives of the Innovation Study Tours, participation of entities from Horizon Europe non-associated third countries is permitted if their participation is considered essential for



implementing the action by the EIT. Applicants are required to demonstrate in their proposal how their specific know-how, ecosystem access, or contextual expertise is indispensable for the nature of the action. Selected applicants are also expected to become 28DIGITAL partners if they are not already part of the partnership ecosystem.

6. **What is the funding model?**

Depending on the location where the program takes place, the EIT funding that can be requested per proposal can be of maximum € 25,000. Proposals should present a co-funding structure of 20% from the activity budget.

7. **What is the 40/60 revenue-sharing model?**

Selected organizations will enter into a revenue-sharing arrangement with 28DIGITAL as part of the organization's financial sustainability strategy.

8. **What is the proposal submission process?**

All proposals must be submitted via the 28DIGITAL Intranet Proposal Submission System before the deadline. Applicants are advised to get early access to the intranet ahead of the deadline.

9. **What makes a strong proposal?**

Strong proposals typically should demonstrate:

- Strategic alignment with 28DIGITAL priorities
- High-quality and innovative programme design
- Strong operational capacity
- Access to relevant innovation ecosystems
- Clear educational impact
- Financial sustainability potential
- Strong dissemination and outreach planning

10. **What happens if an application is incomplete?**

Incomplete applications or applications submitted after the deadline will be considered inadmissible.

11. **Can proposals be modified after submission?**

Only proposals selected conditionally may be requested to make adjustments after evaluation.

12. **How can I get support or clarifications?**

Applicants can contact the 28DIGITAL Team at proposal_support@28digital.eu