



## Press release

### **The Global Entrepreneurship Centre has put out a call for sustainable, healthy and resilient food innovations**

**Meerbusch/Germany, 11 May 2022** – Feeding the expanding world population is one of the biggest global challenges we face. If the food industry were simply to ramp up production with traditional methods there would be significant negative ecological, health and social impacts as a result of greater land use requirements, higher greenhouse gas emissions, more water shortages and the loss of biodiversity. That is why the Global Entrepreneurship Centre (GEC) is supporting start-up and scale-up companies with innovative food tech solutions that can make the global food supply more sustainable, healthy and resilient. Companies that meet these criteria can apply for support services worth up to 200,000 euros until the deadline of June 9, 2022.

#### **Alternative proteins, fermentation and the regionalisation of supply chains**

The GEC will be accepting applications from companies with innovations in the following fields:

- Supporting technologies for alternative proteins, including ingredients and equipment to scale the technology;
- Fermentation-based solutions, precision, biomass and gas fermentation, or hybrid forms;
- Solutions that make food healthier, affordable and more nutritious;
- Food self-sufficiency solutions, as well as regional self-supporting solutions that allow suppliers to operate more independently of global supply chains.

#### **Support from the GEC Scaling Factory and the GEC Catalyst Programme**

GEC services are geared to help start-ups and scale-ups address all major obstacles to growth. The majority of these services are pooled in the GEC Scaling Factory and the GEC Catalyst Programme.

The GEC Scaling Factory provides the companies with a bespoke 360° support concept over a 15-month period. Depending on the needs of the company, the support programme can include advice on sustainability, access to lab space and pilot plants, technical partnerships, business development services, support in the development of a digital strategy and an IT backbone, intellectual property and legal counsel, accounting and tax services, as well as HR, payroll, recruitment and soft landing services. The primary objective is to help the company scale-up to the next level of investment.

The GEC Catalyst Programme is designed to benefit start-ups directly after the seed phase (Technology Readiness Level 4/5). It is a practice-oriented online programme for business plan

validation and optimisation. The GEC Catalyst Programme, which also includes support from experienced sector mentors, leverages best practices from Silicon Valley and the US National Science Foundation. The best performers are invited to participate in the GEC Scaling Factory.

Companies can respond to the GEC Food Innovation Call on the GEC website at <https://www.gec-scaleup.com/> until June 9, 2022.

The winners will be announced in October 2022.

## About the Global Entrepreneurship Centre

Based at Areal Böhler in Meerbusch, the Global Entrepreneurship Centre (GEC) is the first structure of its kind to address the scaling challenges of promising SusTechs – deep-tech start-ups with a clear sustainability and climate protection focus – from all over the world. Launched in 2021, the GEC will initially support up to 20 start-ups per year in the sectors of building & living, textiles, mobility and agriculture & nutrition with access to venture capital, business development and advisory services and lab capacity. The GEC is funded by the Rhenish region's 'SofortprogrammPlus' initiative and the Rhine County of Neuss. In the long term it will be funded by its own resources. Up to 3,000 new jobs will be created by 2030 through the relocation of innovative companies taking part in the GEC programs to the region.

Images and further information can be requested from the communications agency.

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