

# THE EIT

## Are you a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME)?

Small and medium-sized enterprises will find that the EIT creates a direct avenue of contact with innovation players across Europe. By integrating a European network, you will be working with Universities, researchers and big companies.

These interactions will greatly contribute to the development of your SME. By sharing your experience with other KIC partners, you will be in a privileged position to learn from other European markets, access them and expand your operations!

## Are you a University?

Many of the most innovative products and ideas originate in Universities. Why not share this knowledge with the rest of the innovation players? As part of the KICs, you can raise your profile, increase the attractiveness of your institution, integrate European networks and actively promote the transfer of knowledge.

You will be working hand by hand with researchers and professionals from the business sector to develop new and better curricula, advance the technological frontier and find new ways to overcome economic and societal challenges. Become an agent of change!

## Are you a national or local public authority?

The EIT gives you the opportunity to directly plug your innovation policy into the European level and align resources to boost efficiency. Your participation in an innovative organisation such as the KICs will be crucial in order to capitalise on your strengths and adapt to a rapid changing economy.

By being part of the EIT, you will have access to a EU wide innovation network bringing together Universities, research centres and businesses. Make the EIT your platform to compete on the global stage!

Innovation is the key to growth, competitiveness and social well-being in the 21st century. The capacity of a society to innovate is crucial in an ever more knowledge-intensive economy.

The EIT aims to enhance Europe's ability to innovate, which translates into adapting quickly to the fast pace of development, being one step ahead in providing solutions to rapidly emerging societal problems and developing products that meet the demands and desires of consumers.

Europe is facing a significant innovation challenge, where despite an excellence research base, dynamic companies and creative talent, good ideas are too rarely turned into new products or services. Europe needs a real change of mindset towards the promotion of a more innovative and entrepreneurial culture.

## How does the EIT work?

The EIT achieves its mission by fully integrating all three sides of the 'Knowledge Triangle', i.e. higher education, research and innovation, in Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). By bringing together major players from all these dimensions to cooperate in the KICs, the EIT is able to promote innovation in Europe.

Three KICs were launched in 2010:

- **Climate-KIC:** Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- **EIT ICT Labs:** Information and Communication Technologies
- **KIC InnoEnergy:** Sustainable energy.

While the EIT's headquarters are situated in Budapest, Hungary, the EIT is not concentrated in one campus as a traditional institute, instead operating through the KICs. Each of the KICs operates across five or six innovation hubs called 'co-location centres'. There are currently 17 co-location centres spread across the EU. Climate-KIC additionally operates through six regions, each led by a regional or local government in Regional Implementation and Innovation Communities (RICs).

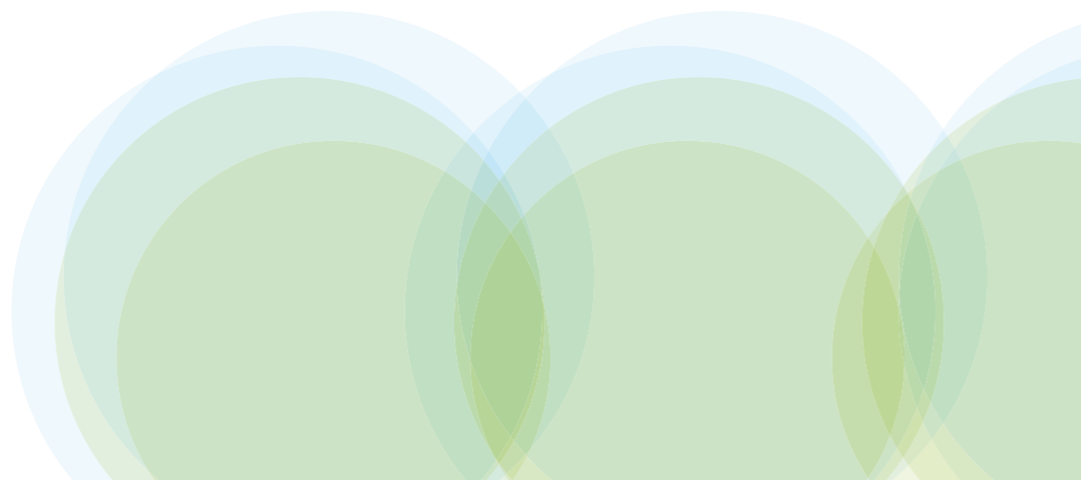
## How do the EIT's KICs work?

KICs carry out a whole range of activities, covering the entire innovation chain – including training and education programmes, reinforcing the journey from research to the market, innovation projects and business incubators. KICs have been conceived so that they are able to react in an effective and flexible way to new challenges and changing environments.

Each KIC has been set up as a legal entity and has appointed a CEO to run its operations – a first for an EU initiative. The EIT has provided the KICs with a great degree of autonomy to define their legal status, internal organisation and working methods.

The KICs are driven by a pursuit of excellence in all of their activities and are established with the aim of reaching the necessary critical mass to achieve systemic impact, including the creation of new businesses and new jobs, and the promotion of new skills and entrepreneurial talent in the economy.

# HTTP://EIT.EUROPA.EU



# SPOTLIGHT ON EIT EDUCATION

One of the main added values of the EIT is to integrate the education dimension into the innovation web, as it has often been absent from the more traditional research-business partnerships.

The EIT supports the creation of tomorrow's entrepreneurs and promotes a real change of mindset towards an entrepreneurial culture and attitude. **By investing in the EIT, Europe invests in the talent of tomorrow** who will not only create new start-ups but also contribute to innovation in existing companies, thus becoming a source for growth.

With this perspective, the KICs have developed their own education programmes that have a very strong focus on the delivery of entrepreneurship and innovation skills, and that are more tailored to the needs of the European innovation system.

KICs' higher education partners focus on developing innovative curricula that provide students, entrepreneurs and business innovators with the knowledge and skills necessary for a knowledge and entrepreneurial society. These innovative programmes are based on partnerships between different universities, companies and research centres that collaborate closely and offer double degrees, international and cross-sectorial mobility experiences, as well as applied innovation and entrepreneurship education.

In 2011 (the first year of fully-fledged education activities by the KICs) the EIT attracted more than 600 students. By the end of 2012, the EIT expects the KICs to have attracted more than 1 300 students with a specific focus put on the Master's programme (for more on this, check the Education Spotlight):

## **EIT Education – Education for Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship**

The hallmark of EIT educational programmes is to not only to educate students to know, but also to know what to do and how to solve real life problems, all framed within an entrepreneurial mindset.

EIT-labelled educational programmes at Master and PhD levels foster students to become more creative, innovative and entrepreneurs. This is why EIT-specific quality criteria and EIT overarching learning outcomes are applied.

### *EIT-specific quality criteria for EIT-labelled degree programmes:*

- Robust entrepreneurship education
- Highly integrated, innovative learning-by-doing curricula
- International and cross-organisational mobility, the European Dimension and openness to the world
- Access policy and joint outreach strategy.

### *EIT-labelled programmes ensure that students demonstrate skills and competences in all the following areas:*

- Creativity
- Innovation
- Entrepreneurship
- Research
- Leadership.

# WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

## **Are you a student?**

As a student you will find that the EIT and KICs are built around a new way of approaching innovation and business creation. Thanks to their broad partner base, you will be able to meet professionals from companies, SMEs but also entrepreneurs, increasing your chances of landing a job or creating your own company!

Your training will reflect the multifaceted reality of innovation. You will be able to spend time in companies, doing on the job learning and benefiting from the learning by doing philosophy of the EIT. You will be graduating from high quality EIT labelled degrees. You will have the opportunity to experience mobility from one country to another and from universities to companies. Get ready to learn and work all over Europe!

## **Are you an entrepreneur?**

KICs gather top innovation players. As an entrepreneur, you will be able to learn from the best and, who knows, you might find new business partners to develop your ideas! KICs offer you direct access to the European marketplace. Be prepared to expand to new markets!

KICs have many activities directed to entrepreneurs: mentoring schemes, enhancing access to finance, and providing access to resources: from administration to the know-how of the KIC partners. The KICs accompany you during the entire journey of creating a business.

## **Are you a researcher?**

Researchers will discover that the KICs provide them with direct access to companies' research capacity. KICs have access to state of the art labs spread across Europe. Be part of a European innovation network!

The KICs offer a unique environment to interact with applied research, with a strong focus on the invention's journey from research to market. Have a say in how your research can be used to find solutions to global challenges!

## **Are you a large company?**

The EIT is forming the next generation of entrepreneurs by integrating traditional scientific programmes and entrepreneurial education. By being part of the KICs, your company will have direct access to talent as well as an opportunity to develop new curricula together with Universities. Do not waste the opportunity to find talent at the source!

By working in a long-term partnership such as the KIC, your company's innovation capacity will be boosted. Bringing together professionals with different backgrounds will trigger the type of innovative thinking that will greatly benefit your company. Decisions in the KICs are taken by their partners, by participating in a KIC, you can make a difference!