



DECISION 38/2022
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

**ON THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR EIT COMMUNITY GLOBAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES
AND REPEALING DECISION 17/2019 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EIT**

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 2021/819 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast) (hereafter referred to as the “EIT Regulation”)¹, in particular Recital (17) and Article 6(e) thereof; and point (m) of Section 2(1) of the Statutes and Section 3(5) of the Statutes, as annexed to the EIT Regulation;

Having regard to Decision 2021/820 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) 2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe (hereafter referred to as the “EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027” or “EIT SIA 2021-2027”)², in particular to Section 3.5.3 thereof;

Having regard to Regulation 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013³ (hereafter referred to as “Horizon Europe Framework Programme”);

Having regard to the Communication from the European Commission of 18 May 2021 to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation – Europe’s Strategy for international cooperation in a changing world⁴;

Having regard to the Conclusions of the Council of the European Union of 28 September 2021 on the Global approach to Research and Innovation - Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world⁵;

Having regard to the Joint Communication from the European Commission and the European External Action Service of 17 February 2021 to the European Parliament and the Council, on strengthening the EU’s contribution to rules-based multilateralism⁶;

¹ OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 61

² OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 91-118.

³ OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1-68.

⁴ COM(2021) 252 final,

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/research_and_innovation/strategy_on_research_and_innovation/documents/ec_rtd_com2021-252.pdf

⁵ 12073/21, <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12301-2021-INIT/en/pdf>

⁶ [1 EN ACT part1 v8.docx \(europa.eu\)](#)



Having regard to the Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank of 1 December 2021 on The Global Gateway⁷;

Having regard to the Marseille Ministerial Declaration on international cooperation on research and innovation of 8 March 2022⁸;

Having regard to the Council Conclusions on Principles and values for international cooperation in research and innovation of 10 June 2022⁹ and the statement on the consequences of Russian military aggression against Ukraine in the field of research and innovation¹⁰;

Having regard to the Commission Staff Working Document on Tackling R&I foreign interference of 18 January 2022¹¹;

Having regard to Decision 17/2019 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 5 June 2019 on the Strategic Framework for EIT Community global outreach activities¹²;

Having regard to Decision 25/2022 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 24 June 2022 on the adoption of the revised final Single Programming Document (2022-2024) of the EIT¹³;

WHEREAS

- (1) In November 2019, the EIT Governing Board adopted its first Strategic Framework for EIT Community Global Outreach activities.
- (2) Since then, the Strategic Framework proved to be useful to drive the EIT Community's efforts in promoting international cooperation in research and innovation by creating a strong European brand and forging relations with key partners from around the globe. The Strategic Framework will continue to guide such Global Outreach activities to make sure they are consistent with, and add value to, the EU's policy priorities.
- (3) In May 2021, the European Commission adopted a Communication on Global Approach to Research and Innovation (R&I) reaffirming the EU's commitment to international openness and fundamental values in R&I. Yet, the openness in cooperation that characterises EU action is taking place in a transformed global environment; the EU should therefore rebalance its approach to better safeguard its interests and more assertively promote a level playing field and reciprocity. In this context, the EIT is called to launch, in targeted non-EU countries, coordinated actions of its Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs).

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/joint_communication_global_gateway.pdf

⁸ <https://presidence-francaise.consilium.europa.eu/media/xi1khxza/marseille-declaration.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/56956/st10125-en22.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/56959/st10125-ad01-en22.pdf>

¹¹ <https://op.europa.eu/o/opportal-service/download-handler?identifier=3faf52e8-79a2-11ec-9136-01aa75ed71a1&format=pdf&language=en&productionSystem=cellar&part=>

¹² Ref. Ares(2019)4638787,

https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/20190605-gb57-17-strategic_framework_for_eit_community_global_outreach_activities.pdf

¹³ Ref. Ares(2022)4786916,

https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit_spd_2022-2024.pdf



- (4) In September 2021, the Council of the European Union adopted its Conclusions referring to the Commission Communication on an EU Global Approach in R&I. The Council Conclusions include two concrete references to the EIT, as follows:
 - Calls the European Commission to further utilise KICs potential (among other instruments) to enhancing the Union’s attractiveness to research talent and its role in international R&I cooperation;
 - Stresses the international potential of KICs (among other instruments) to advance synergies together with Member States and European Commission regarding the international R&I cooperation dimensions of European Research Area – European Education Area – European Higher Education Area.
- (5) In June 2022, the Council issued a statement on Russian military aggression against Ukraine and its impact on R&I, reminding that the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as promoting peaceful relations between nations forms the foundation of international cooperation in the field of R&I and that the violation of these principles and values poses a serious threat to individual researchers.
- (6) Therefore, as an EU body and integral part of Horizon Europe, the EIT and its KICs should ensure full alignment with the EU Global Approach to R&I, while contributing to policy priorities and objectives stemming from the bilateral cooperation agreements between EU and the respective outreach locations. To achieve this, EIT works in close coordination with the European Commission and the EU Delegations in third countries (particularly in the context of the Global Outreach Programme).
- (7) Moreover, according to recital (17) of the EIT Regulation (recast), to contribute to the competitiveness and reinforce the international attractiveness of the European economy and its innovation and entrepreneurial capacity, the EIT and the KICs should be able to attract partner organisations, researchers and students from across the Union, including from the Union’s outermost regions, and beyond, such as by encouraging their mobility.
- (8) Based on Article 6(e) of the EIT Regulation (recast), the KICs shall undertake outreach activities and the dissemination of best practices in the field of innovation with a focus on the development of cooperation between higher education, research and business, including the service and financial sectors, and, where relevant, public and third sector organisations.
- (9) Further to Section 2(1), point (m) of the Statutes annexed to the EIT Regulation (recast), the EIT Governing Board shall promote the EIT across the Union and globally, so as to raise its attractiveness, and for that purpose authorise the Director to sign memoranda of understanding with Member States, associated countries or other third countries.
- (10) According to the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027:
 - The EIT shall develop broad lines of international cooperation of the EIT and the KICs under the supervision of the Governing Board, in compliance with the Horizon Europe approach to international cooperation as referred to in the Horizon Europe Regulation and other relevant Union policies, and in consultation with the respective Commission services. The EIT shall seek to ensure that its activities have a greater impact through international cooperation and shall coordinate international EIT-funded activities by the KICs. Its focus shall be to align closely with relevant policy objectives of the Union as well as its research and innovation priorities, and to ensure Union added value.



- The EIT shall explore opportunities for synergies between the ‘Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area’ part of Horizon Europe, including the teaming and twinning activities and the outreach activities that it supports. In particular, target entities of the ‘Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area’ part of Horizon Europe, as well as EIT outreach activities, may leverage EIT expertise and support.
 - The EIT has a clear role to play in attracting talent from outside the Union. By creating a strong brand and forging strategic relations with key partners from around the globe, the EIT can add to the attractiveness of the partners within the KICs. In close cooperation with the KICs, the EIT should develop a strong international strategy, identifying and liaising relevant interlocutors and potential partners.
- (11) Finally, according to the EIT Single Programming Document (SPD) 2022-2024 and Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2022 of the EIT, where under the section *Enhancing the EIT’s Impact* EIT sets its priorities related to *Relations with Third Countries and International Organisations*:
- The EIT will seek greater impact of its activities through international cooperation and particularly by coordinating and monitoring closely the EIT Global Outreach Programme.
 - The EIT will fully align its international cooperation objectives to the recent Commission Communication on international cooperation in research and Innovation.
 - It will also, under the supervision of the EIT Governing Board, set out actions, targets and outputs for the international cooperation plans of the EIT and the KICs, demonstrating clearly their European added value.
 - Through its endeavours, the EIT will aim to foster international cooperation in research and innovation, contributing thereby to the Horizon Europe objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals. Opportunities to engage with and build strategic partnerships at the international level will be explored in a reactive approach, due to capacity restrictions.
- (12) As a result of the above explained background and reasons, it is necessary to revise the EIT’s first Strategic Framework for EIT Community Global Outreach activities, adopted by the Governing Board in 2019.
- (13) In line with Section 3(5) of the Statutes annexed to the EIT Regulation (recast), the agreement of the European Commission, expressed by its Representative in the Governing Board, is necessary for the adoption by the EIT Governing Board of the present decision. The Commission Representative’s observations and opinion were shared before the voting by the EIT Governing Board at its meeting. Following the voting, the Commission, by way of its Representative, is to give its agreement with the adoption of the present decision in written procedure.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS

Article 1 ***Adoption***

The new ‘Strategic Framework for EIT Community Global Outreach Activities’ (in Annex) is hereby adopted.



Article 2
Entry into force and repeal

(1) This decision shall enter into force on the day of its signature.

(2) Decision 17/2019 of 5 June 2019 of the Governing Board of the EIT on the Strategic Framework for EIT Community global outreach activities shall be repealed.

Done in Budapest on 14 December 2022¹⁴

For the EIT
[E-signed]

Nektarios Tavernarakis
Chairman of the EIT Governing Board

¹⁴ Adopted by the written procedure on 14 December 2022



ANNEX

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR EIT GLOBAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

I. DEFINITIONS RELATED TO EIT GLOBAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

1. The following categories of countries are covered by the **Global Outreach Strategy**:
 - i. third countries that are associated to the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation ('associated countries');
 - ii. third countries, that are not associated to the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.
2. The following activities are identified as **Global Outreach activities**:
 - i. Individual KIC's activities in Global Outreach countries, if included in the multi-annual Business Plan of the KIC (communicated at portfolio-level to the EIT by KICs), which may be funded (or in some cases not funded) by the EIT¹⁵;
 - ii. Cross-KIC activities in Global Outreach countries between different KICs, either in coordination with and participation of the EIT, which may be funded, or in some cases not funded (Non EIT Funded Activities) by the EIT¹⁶.
3. The Global Outreach activities of the EIT and the KICs should be complementary to the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) which is aimed at advancing the innovation performance of those countries and their regions across Europe, classified as moderate or modest / emerging innovators in the European Innovation Scoreboard¹⁷.
4. The KICs' Global Outreach activities that fall under the remit of this document should aim to a large extent to third countries, associated or not, that do not directly benefit from other KIC activities.
5. Global Outreach activities should prioritize countries and regions as listed in the Global Approach to Research and Innovation Communication¹⁸.

¹⁵ As Non-EIT Funded Activities (NEFA)

¹⁶ As Non-EIT Funded Activity (NEFA)

¹⁷ EIT RIS eligible Associated Countries in the 2021-2025 period are listed at <https://eit.europa.eu/our-activities/eit-regional-innovation-scheme>

¹⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/communication-global-approach-research-and-innovation_en



II. OBJECTIVES OF EIT GLOBAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

1. Contribute to the overall EU external priorities

- i. The EIT and the KICs shall ensure that their Global Outreach activities contribute to achieving the objectives of the Horizon Europe¹⁹ framework programme.
- ii. The EIT and the KICs shall ensure that their Global Outreach activities are aligned with the Commission Communication on its Global Approach to Research and Innovation, Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world²⁰, adopted on 18 May 2021.
- iii. The EIT and the KICs shall ensure that their Global Outreach activities support and contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the New European Innovation Agenda, adopted by the European Commission on 05 July 2022²¹, that aims to position Europe at the forefront of the new wave of deep tech innovation and start-ups.
- iv. The EIT and the KICs shall ensure that their Global Outreach activities contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and are aligned with the UN 2030 Agenda.
- v. The EIT and the KICs shall ensure that cooperation is "as open as possible, as closed as necessary", preserving the EU's interests, and promoting EU values through their Outreach activities with likeminded international partners.
- vi. The EIT and the KICs shall ensure a 'Team Europe' approach²² in their Outreach activities to further improve the coherence and coordination of EU efforts.
- vii. The EIT and the KICs shall ensure that their activities in an Outreach country respect international and, if any, bilateral agreements and are aligned with the EU priorities and strategy, in particular those stemming from the Joint Research Committees under the Horizon Europe Association Agreements, and the Joint Steering Committees under the Science and Technology agreements between the EU and third countries;
- viii. The EIT and the KICs Global Outreach activities shall aim to contribute to the European Commission's priority to make Europe stronger in the world, including by strengthening Europe's strategic autonomy; in addition, cooperation with Outreach countries that share principles and values, including the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, with the EU should be the basis.
- ix. EIT and the KICs Global Outreach activities should facilitate collaboration of European companies and innovators with leading players aiming to provide access to global value chains. Internationalisation opportunities provided through the KICs' network could support European companies prospering in fast-growing international markets, a success that will deliver more and better jobs for the EU citizens.

¹⁹ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation_en

²⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2465

²¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0332&from=EN>

²² <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/wsssrp-2/wbt-team-europe>



2. **Contribute to the specific objectives of the EIT Global Outreach activities:**
 - i. Position the EIT's innovation model among other successful innovation initiatives at an international level, enabling European innovation to reach major markets worldwide.
 - ii. Showcase EIT supported innovation and activities and attract support for EIT innovators and entrepreneurs.
 - iii. Strengthen the EIT's innovation ecosystems by attracting partners, organisations and students from all over the world to contribute to the EU's competitiveness and reinforce its attractiveness.
 - iv. Contribute to the European Commission's priority of making Europe stronger in the world in addressing the world's major challenges by building bridges to and forging synergies with global innovation leaders and focus on global collaboration for global challenges (e.g., SDGs, Paris Agreement).
 - v. Provide a high brand profile leading to investment in European and EU-Outreach country collaborative innovation.
 - vi. Enhance and contribute to the European ecosystem both in the long and the short term, by connecting Europe to innovation valleys around the world that bring to the table unique value propositions and knowledge, creating mutual benefits and results such as technological implementations, investments, knowledge exchange, education and more.
3. The EIT Global Outreach activities shall contribute to the overall objectives of the EIT, as identified in the EIT SIA 2021-2027, and also to the targets of the related indicators of the EIT Impact framework²³.
4. The EIT Global Outreach activities should continue to act as a bridge linking the EIT's innovation ecosystem with those of Outreach countries, forging synergies with global innovation leaders.

III. EXPECTED RESULTS

1. The EIT and KICs' Global Outreach activities, either individually or coordinated, are expected to bring the following results:
 - i. Increase the number of European start-ups and scale-ups that attract investments for their operations in Europe.
 - ii. Facilitate market access for the products and growth of European start-ups at international level.
 - iii. Attract students and talents from EU and beyond to the KIC education programmes.

²³ https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit_impact_framework_2022-2027.pdf



- iv. Increase the number of EU innovative products and services as well as business creation resulting from EIT-Outreach country cooperation.
- v. Learn and exchange knowledge and know-how with the world's most advanced innovation ecosystems and create networks and synergies beneficial to the EIT Community.
- vi. Support Cross-KIC innovation in the Global Outreach countries, by creating a landing pad and launch pad for innovative ideas.
- vii. Find suitable international partners that can advance the implementation of strategies of KICs to address societal challenges.
- viii. Offer innovation support services for EU Member States and companies present in Global Outreach countries through the EIT Community.
- ix. Strengthen contacts with key European actors in the Global Outreach country, such as EU Delegations, EU Member State Embassies and Consulates, EU Chamber of Commerce and their national and regional entities, to maximize EU impact in a 'Team Europe' approach.
- x. Develop a collaborative innovation ecosystem in partnership with local organisations in the Global Outreach countries based on knowledge triangle integration for mutual value creation of the EIT Community and local stakeholders, including for the EU Member State representations in the countries.
- xi. Contribute to the financial sustainability of KIC activities.

IV. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER EU PROGRAMMES

1. The EIT and KICs will ensure that their Global Outreach activities are in line with the overall strategy set by the European Commission for innovation support and cooperation in third countries and in synergy and complementarity with existing EU initiatives in the respective location; to ensure appropriate coordination of the EIT and the KICs Global Outreach efforts the following measures will be taken:
 - i. The EIT shall inform the European Commission via its Single Programming Document and Annual Work Programme of the Global Outreach priorities of the EIT.
 - ii. The EIT, in coordination with the KICs, shall invite the European Commission as observer to the Cross-KIC Global Outreach Working Group.
 - iii. The KICs shall inform via the EIT, the EU Delegations in Outreach countries of their activities.
 - iv. The EIT will provide continuous guidance to the KICs based on the political guidance received from the Commission concerning Outreach countries of their interest.



2. The EIT and KICs shall promote synergies with other EU initiatives and programmes in Global Outreach countries based on mutual interest, with a view to avoid duplication of efforts and enhance the efficiency and impact of their activities in the interest of the EU.

V. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

1. Each KIC shall develop and implement a Strategy on Global Outreach and a Roadmap on implementation, as part of its Strategic Agenda. These documents shall be submitted to the EIT for information.
2. All Global Outreach-related KIC activities will be reported to the EIT, both at KIC level and at Cross-KIC level, as part of the interim reporting and final reporting of the multiannual grant agreement cycles and as part of more frequent targeted monitoring activities of Global Outreach nature.
3. The Global Outreach-related KICs activities shall demonstrate that the EIT funding is used to the benefit, amongst others, of EU companies, entrepreneurs, innovators and students, with a view to promote EU interests in international cooperation on research and innovation. Compliance with the Horizon Europe funding rules must be ensured.
4. Wherever possible, KICs shall coordinate their Global Outreach activities and aim for synergies and efficiency gains.
5. KICs shall consult the EIT on their suggestions for opening new EIT Global Outreach hubs, beyond the already existing hubs of Tel Aviv, Israel and Silicon Valley, USA. The EIT shall refer these suggestions with their analysis and recommendation to the EIT Governing Board for decision, taking into account EU political priorities in external relations and requiring the Commission's agreement. These provisions concern future Global Outreach hubs to be opened at EIT community level in third countries. Hubs set up by one or several KICs under the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme do not require such a specific approval by the EIT Governing Board, as they are delivery tool of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme and follow an established framework under this scheme and are limited to countries eligible under the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme. Nevertheless, the EIT Governing Board and in particular its Global Outreach Advisory Group will be kept informed of EIT Regional Innovation Scheme hubs set up in third countries at individual KIC or EIT community level.
6. The possibility of regional hubs instead of country hubs should also be considered.
7. The EIT will provide continuous guidance and support to the KICs in the context of point (1.2.ii).
8. The EIT will revise this Strategic Framework for Global EIT Outreach activities by 2025 to align it with EU new political developments and priorities.

VI. PROMOTING THE EIT BRAND

1. The KICs will ensure that through their Global Outreach activities the EIT brand will be strongly promoted and clearly visible to stakeholders in the respective Global Outreach countries,



reflecting in such a way the concrete impact of EU investments through the Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Framework Programme.

2. The EIT and KICs shall disseminate and promote the results and impact of the EIT Global Outreach activities, including through the dedicated Global Outreach website²⁴ and EIT Global Outreach Newsletter, and also through EIT and European Commission social media channels.

²⁴ <https://go-eit.eu/>