

**DECISION 09/2021**  
**OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF**  
**THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)**

**ON THE ALLOCATION OF THE 2021 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION COMMUNITIES (KICs)**

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

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology<sup>1</sup> as amended by Regulation (EU) No 1292/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013<sup>2</sup> (hereinafter referred to as the “EIT Regulation”), and in particular Articles 14 (7) and 20 (8), and Section 2 (a) and (b) of the Statutes annexed to the EIT Regulation;

Having regard to the proposal for Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination<sup>3</sup>;

Having regard to the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (hereafter referred to as “EIT Regulation (recast)”)<sup>4</sup>;

Having regard to the proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council 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 “EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027”)<sup>5</sup>;

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (hereinafter referred to as the “EU Financial Regulation”)<sup>6</sup>;

Having regard to Decision 21/2019 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 25 September 2019 on the Financial Regulation of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (hereinafter referred to as the “EIT Financial Regulation”)<sup>7</sup>, in particular Article 1 thereof;

Having regard to Decision 6/2021 of the Governing Board of the EIT on the adoption of the Final Single Programming Document (2021-2023) of the EIT,

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 97 of 9.4.2008, p. 1-12.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 347 of 20.12.2013, p. 174-184.

<sup>3</sup> Version of 18 December 2020, as endorsed by the Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER) at its meeting held on 18 December 2020 (14239/20)

<sup>4</sup> Version of 17 February 2021, as endorsed by the Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER) at its meeting held on 17 February 2021

<sup>5</sup> Version of 17 February 2021, as endorsed by the Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER) at its meeting held on 17 February 2021

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1–222

<sup>7</sup> Ares(2019)6810859

Having regard to Decision 1/2021 of the Governing Board of the EIT on the adoption of the EIT Budget and Establishment Plan for the financial year 2021<sup>8</sup>;

Having regard to Decision 7/2021 of the Governing Board of the EIT on the principles for the determination of the 2021 EIT financial allocation and repealing 4/2015 and 35/2015 of the EIT Governing Board;

## WHEREAS

- (1) The Governing Board of the EIT has designated three Knowledge and Innovation Communities (hereinafter referred to as “KICs”) in 2009 (hereinafter referred to as the “first wave of KICs”<sup>9</sup>), two KICs in 2014 (hereinafter referred to as the “second wave of KICs”<sup>10</sup>), one KIC in 2016 (hereinafter referred to as the “third wave of KIC”<sup>11</sup>), and two KICs in 2018 (hereinafter referred to as the “fourth wave of KICs”<sup>12</sup>).
- (2) The EIT has concluded the Framework Partnership Agreements with the first and second wave of KICs in 2016 and with the third wave of KIC in 2018. Following the start-up phase, the Framework Partnership Agreements with the fourth wave of KICs were signed in 2020.
- (3) As of 2021, the EIT is part of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and the new financial framework (i.e. EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027). Additionally, the new specific legal framework (i.e. EIT Regulation (recast), Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027) has reached a political agreement in the respective legislative procedures.
- (4) In early 2021, the EIT will sign the new Partnership Agreements with the eight KICs, which will repeal the Framework Partnership Agreements with retroactive effect of 1 January 2021.
- (5) In line with the 2021 EIT Budget and Establishment Plan, as well as the Annual Work Programme 2021, EUR 358,335,020 will be available for grants for the first, second, third and fourth waves of KICs in 2021.
- (6) In line with the principles for the determination of the 2021 EIT financial allocation, the exact figures of the maximum 2021 EIT financial contribution for the individual KICs need to be determined.
- (7) As indicated in the EIT Strategic Agenda 2021-2027, some KICs’ activities, due to their specific nature, might need extra incentives to be performed. To this aim, the EIT Governing Board might decide to apply more favourable funding conditions for Cross-KIC activities, RIS activities and new action supporting the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of the higher education sector.
- (8) At the date of the adoption of the present decision, there are no countries associated to Horizon Europe. Considering the Union’s interest to retain, in principle, relations with the countries associated to the Horizon 2020 framework programme, most third countries associated to Horizon 2020 are expected to be associated to Horizon Europe, with an intention to secure uninterrupted continuity between the programmes. In addition, other third countries, such as the United Kingdom, can also become associated to Horizon Europe within the duration of the programme. If the Horizon Europe association agreement(s)

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<sup>8</sup> Ares(2021)676519

<sup>9</sup> EIT Digital, EIT Climate-KIC, EIT InnoEnergy

<sup>10</sup> EIT Health, EIT RawMaterials

<sup>11</sup> EIT Food

<sup>12</sup> EIT Manufacturing, EIT Urban Mobility

with the third country/ies concerned will be adopted before 31 December 2021 with retroactive application from 1 January 2021, and the third country/ries will pay its/their financial contribution to the EU budget, additional funding may be available for the KICs in 2021.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

**Article 1**  
**Financial allocation for the EIT KIC Fund in 2021**

(1) The maximum 2021 EIT financial contribution covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021 to each KIC shall be allocated as follows:

<b>EIT Climate-KIC:</b>	<b>EUR 25,066,884</b> (excluding the EIT financial contribution earmarked for the implementation of Cross-KIC activities)
<b>EIT Digital:</b>	<b>EUR 29,822,448</b> (excluding the EIT financial contribution earmarked for the implementation of Cross-KIC activities)
<b>EIT InnoEnergy:</b>	<b>EUR 43,011,174</b> (excluding the EIT financial contribution earmarked for the implementation of Cross-KIC activities)
<b>EIT Health:</b>	<b>EUR 49,493,697</b> (excluding the EIT financial contribution earmarked for the implementation of Cross-KIC activities)
<b>EIT RawMaterials:</b>	<b>EUR 58,276,455</b> (excluding the EIT financial contribution earmarked for the implementation of Cross-KIC activities)
<b>EIT Food:</b>	<b>EUR 55,397,357</b> (excluding the EIT financial contribution earmarked for the implementation of Cross-KIC activities)
<b>EIT Manufacturing:</b>	<b>EUR 33,642,785</b> (excluding the EIT financial contribution earmarked for the implementation of Cross-KIC activities)
<b>EIT Urban Mobility:</b>	<b>EUR 31,624,218</b> (excluding the EIT financial contribution earmarked for the implementation of Cross-KIC activities)

(2) In accordance with Article 1 of Decision 7/2021 of the EIT Governing Board, each KIC's Business Plan budget should dedicate at least 10% to the implementation of the EIT RIS scheme.

**Article 2**  
**Financial allocation for the Cross-KIC Fund in 2021**

In accordance with Article 1 of Decision 7/2021 of the EIT Governing Board, **EUR 32,000,000** shall be available to the KICs for Cross-KIC activities, including shared services as well as EUR 12,000,000 to be dedicated to a new pilot to help develop the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of higher education institutes ('Cross-KIC Fund').

**Article 3**  
**Award and implementation**

- (1) Following the submission of the final Business Plans 2021 by the KICs, the EIT Director shall award the 2021 grant to each KIC based on the conclusions on the assessment of the final Business Plans 2021.
- (2) The EIT Director shall be responsible for the implementation of this decision, including the communication of the strategic recommendations or any other specific conditions agreed by the Governing Board for each individual KIC to be addressed.

**Article 4**  
**Additional provision concerning the co-funding rate for Cross-KIC activities, RIS activities and the new action supporting the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of the higher education sector**

As indicated in the EIT Strategic Agenda 2021-2027, some KICs' activities, due to their specific nature, might need extra incentives to be performed. To this aim, the EIT Governing Board decides to apply the co-funding rate of up to 100% for Cross-KIC activities, RIS activities and new action supporting the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of the higher education sector.

**Article 5**  
**Possible additional funding following the accession of third countries to the Horizon Europe Framework Programme**

If the Horizon Europe association agreement(s) with the third country/ies concerned will be adopted before 31 December 2021 with retroactive application from 1 January 2021, and the third country/ies will pay its/their financial contribution to the EU budget, the Governing Board shall decide on the allocation of the additional funding for the KICs in 2021.

**Article 6**  
**Entry into force and final provisions**

- (1) This decision shall enter into force with retroactive effect on 1 January 2021, upon the condition that the EIT Regulation (recast) and the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027 are published in the Official Journal with no substantial difference regarding the currently known funding allocation conditions.
- (2) The awarded Business Plans shall be compliant with the funding allocation conditions laid down in the EIT Regulation (recast) and the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027 as published in the Official Journal.

*Done in Budapest on 2 March 2021<sup>13</sup>*

*Gioia Ghezzi*  
*Chairperson of the EIT Governing Board*

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<sup>13</sup> Approved by the EIT Governing Board via written procedure on 2 March 2021