



DECISION 28/2024
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

ON THE EXTENSION OF THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH EIT FOOD

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 Article 11 thereof, point (h) of Section 2, point (6) of Section 3 and point (5) of Section 5 of the Statutes as annexed to the EIT Regulation;

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 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 1291/2013 (hereafter referred to as the “Horizon Europe Regulation”)² in particular Article 10 and Annex III thereof;

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 and repealing Decision No 1312/2013/EU (hereafter referred to as the “EIT SIA 2021-2027”)³, in particular Section 3.6.2 thereof;

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”)⁴;

Having regard to Decision 21/2019 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 25 September 2019 on the Financial Regulation of the EIT⁵, in particular Article 1 thereof;

¹ OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 61

² OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1

³ OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 91

⁴ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1-222

⁵ Ref. Ares(2019)6810859



Having regard to Decision 42/2021 of the Governing Board of the EIT on the Supervision framework of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)⁶;

Having regard to Decision 06/2022 of the Governing Board of the EIT on amendment the principles on the financial sustainability of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) and repealing Decision 13/2021⁷;

Having regard to Decision 14/2021 of the Governing Board of the EIT on the principles for financing, monitoring and evaluating Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) activities⁸;

Having regard to Decision 08/2022 of the of the Governing Board of the EIT on Amendment of the EIT Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and repealing GB Decision 17/2021⁹;

Having regard to Decision 18/2021 of the Governing Board of the EIT on the Rules of procedure of the EIT Governing Board and of the Executive Committee¹⁰;

Having regard to Decision 10/2022 of the Governing Board of the EIT on the cooperation with the Member State Representatives Group¹¹;

Having regard to the Decision 29/2016 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 17 November 2016 on the designation of the Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) in the theme 'Food4Future – Sustainable Supply Chain from Resources to Consumers'¹²;

Having regard to the Framework Partnership Agreement signed with EIT Food on 1 March 2018;

Having regard to the Partnership Agreement signed with EIT Food on 19 May 2021;

Having regard to Decision 26/2022 of the Governing Board of the EIT on the Methodology for the seven-year comprehensive assessment of Knowledge and Innovation Communities¹³;

Having regard to the final report of the comprehensive seven-year assessment of EIT Food;

Having regard to Opinion 2/2024 of the Member State Representatives Group on the extension of the EIT's Partnership Agreements with EIT Food¹⁴;

Having regard to the opinion of the Commission, as expressed by its representative in the Governing Board;

⁶ Ref. Ares(2021)7384565

⁷ Ref. Ares(2022)2098580

⁸ Ref. Ares(2021)3111256

⁹ Ref. Ares(2022)2197972

¹⁰ Ref. Ares(2021)3139636

¹¹ Ref. Ares(2022)2127544

¹² 05940.EIT.2016/GB42

¹³ Ref. Ares(2022)4807548

¹⁴ Ref. Ares(2024)5433735



WHEREAS:

- (1) In accordance with Article 11 (1) of the EIT Regulation, the EIT may establish a partnership agreement with a KIC for an initial period of seven years.
- (2) As provided in Article 11 (3) of the EIT Regulation, before expiry of the seven-year period, the EIT shall, under the supervision of the Governing Board, conduct a comprehensive assessment of the performance and activities of each KIC, with the support of independent external experts.
- (3) Pursuant to Article 11 (4) of the EIT Regulation, after consulting the Member State Representatives Group, the Governing Board may extend the partnership agreement for a further period of up to seven years or discontinue the EIT's financial contribution and not extend the partnership agreement with a KIC on the basis of the outcome of the interim review and of the comprehensive assessment.
- (4) According to Article 11 (5) of the EIT Regulation, for the purpose of deciding on whether to extend the partnership agreement with a KIC in line with Article 11 (4) of the EIT Regulation, the EIT Governing Board shall take into account the criteria for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the European Partnerships set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/695 and, with regard to the KICs, the following matters:
 - a) their relevance to the Union's global challenges;
 - b) their Union added value and relevance with regard to the objectives of the EIT;
 - c) the achievement of their objectives;
 - d) their efforts to coordinate their activities with other relevant research and innovation initiatives;
 - e) their capacity to ensure openness to new members;
 - f) their achievements in attracting new members from across the Union;
 - g) their compliance with good governance principles;
 - h) their efforts and results in designing and implementing gender-sensitive measures and activities; and
 - i) their capacity to develop sustainable innovation ecosystems and the achieved level of financial sustainability.
- (5) In accordance with point 5 of Section 3 of the Statutes of the EIT, in Annex to the EIT Regulation, the decision of the Governing Board on the extension of the partnership agreement shall require the agreement of the Commission, expressed by its representative in the Governing Board.
- (6) The EIT signed a framework partnership agreement with EIT Food on 1 March 2018,¹⁵ with retroactive effect as of 1 January 2018. Following the entry into force of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme, a partnership agreement was signed with EIT Food on 19 May 2021¹⁶ entering into force with retroactive effect on 1 January 2021. The initial seven-years duration of the partnership agreement expires at the end of 2024.

¹⁵ Ref. 00419.EIT.EIT.2018.I.MM

¹⁶ Ref. Ares(2021)2494705



- (7) The comprehensive seven-year assessment of EIT Food was conducted in 2023-2024 in line with the methodology based on the criteria provided in Article 11 (5) of the EIT Regulation. The KIC has been assessed positively on all the criteria, i.e. no criterion falls below the threshold, therefore the overall outcome of the comprehensive assessment is considered positive.
- (8) The comprehensive assessments also identified areas, in particular as regards, financial sustainability, revenue diversification and impact where the KIC shall make further progress and formulated related recommendations to the KIC.
- (9) Based on the outcome of the comprehensive assessment, the EIT initiated the consultation with the MSRG as foreseen in the EIT Regulation and the GB Rules of procedure. In its opinion, the MSRG took the view that the Director of the EIT shall be authorised to extend the partnership agreement with EIT Food for a further period of seven years.
- (10) At the same time, the MSRG strongly recommended to the EIT Governing Board that the EIT closely monitors the progress made by EIT Food in the areas of improvement identified in the comprehensive assessment and in its opinion, in particular stressing the need to further accelerate progress towards financial sustainability.
- (11) The EIT will follow up on the recommendations of the comprehensive assessment and of the MSRG, in line with the strategic recommendations of the Governing Board and under its supervision in application of the Supervision Framework of KICs.
- (12) Following prior consultation by the EIT, at the meeting of the EIT Governing Board, the Commission representative expressed his agreement with the present decision. At the same time, he emphasised the need for the KIC to improve its financial sustainability and revenue diversification and impact delivery, areas of improvement identified in the comprehensive assessment. He invited the Governing Board to request the EIT to closely monitor the KIC's development in these areas.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Extension of the partnership agreement with EIT Food

Taking into account the criteria provided for in Article 11 (5) of the EIT Regulation and having regard to the positive outcome of the comprehensive assessment of EIT Food, the EIT shall extend the partnership agreement with EIT Food for a further period of seven years.

Article 2

Authorisation of the EIT Director

The EIT Director is hereby authorised to extend the partnership agreement with EIT Food for a further period of seven years, in line with Article 1 of this decision.



Article 3
Follow-up on areas of improvement

The Governing Board requests the EIT to closely monitor the KIC's progress in the areas of improvement identified in the comprehensive assessment, particularly financial sustainability, revenue diversification and impact delivery.

Article 4
Entry into force

This decision shall enter into force on the day of its signature

Done in Budapest on 26 September 2024

[E-signed]
Stefan Dobrev
Chairperson of the EIT Governing Board