

DECISION 35/2024
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

ON THE ALLOCATION OF THE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR 2025
TO THE 2ND, 3RD, 4TH AND 5TH WAVE OF
KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION COMMUNITIES' (KICS') BUSINESS PLANS,
AND TO CROSS-KIC ACTIVITIES AND SHARED SERVICES

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

HAVING REGARD to Regulation (EU) 2021/819 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast)¹ (hereafter referred to as the 'EIT Regulation (recast)'), and in particular Article 18(7), and Section 2(1)(c) of the Statutes 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) 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013²;

HAVING REGARD to the Decision (EU) 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 Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027")³, in particular Chapter 3.6 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 European Institute of Innovation and Technology (hereinafter referred to as the "EIT Financial Regulation")⁵, in particular Article 1 thereof;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 14/2021 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 7 May 2021 on the principles for financing, monitoring and evaluating Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) activities⁶;

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

⁶ Ref. Ares(2021)3111256

HAVING REGARD to Decision 21/2021 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 9 June 2021 on the authorisation of the EIT Director to prepare, negotiate and conclude partnership agreements and grant agreements⁷;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 42/2021 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 23 November 2021 on the supervision framework of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (hereafter referred to as the 'Supervision Framework')⁸;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 06/2022 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 16 March 2022 on the amendment of the principles on the financial sustainability on the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) and repealing Decision 13/2021 of the Governing Board of the EIT⁹;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 11/2022 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 16 March 2022 on the principles for the determination of the EIT financial allocation to the Knowledge and Innovation Communities' (KICs') Business Plans for 2023-2025 (Business Plans 2023-2024 for the first wave KICs), to Cross-KIC activities and shared services for 2023-2025, and to the Higher Education Institutions (HEI) Initiative for 2023¹⁰;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 35/2022 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 24 November 2022 on the initial allocation of the financial contribution to the Knowledge and Innovation Communities' (KICs') Business Plans for 2023-2025 (Business Plans 2023-2024 for the first wave KICs), to Cross-KIC activities and shared services (including the Thematic Innovations) for 2023-2025, and to the pilot Higher Education Institutions (HEI) Initiative for 2023¹¹;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 04/2023 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 14 March 2023 on the principles for the determination of the additional EIT financial allocation for 2024 to the Knowledge and Innovation Communities' (KICs') Business Plans, to Cross-KIC activities and shared services, and to the Higher Education Initiative (HEI)¹²;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 39/2023 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 23 November 2023 on the allocation of the additional financial contribution for 2024 to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th wave of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) Business Plans, to Cross-KIC activities and shared services, and to the finalisation of the Higher Education Initiative (HEI) pilot¹³;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 11/2024 of the Governing Board of 26 March 2024 on the initial allocation of the financial contribution to Business Plan 2024-2025 of EIT Culture & Creativity Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC)¹⁴;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 16/2024 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 24 April 2024 on the principles for the determination of the additional EIT financial allocation for 2025 to the Business Plans of the second, third fourth and fifth wave Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), and to Cross-KIC activities and shared services¹⁵;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 24/2024 on the Governing Board of the EIT of 28 June 2024 on the conclusion of the Memorandum of Cooperation with EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Digital and EIT InnoEnergy¹⁶;

⁷ Ref. Ares(2021)3798804

⁸ Ref. Ares(2021)7384565

⁹ Ref. Ares(2022)2098580

¹⁰ Ref. Ares(2022)2218730

¹¹ Ref. Ares(2022)8603359

¹² Ref. Ares(2023)1853153

¹³ Ref. Ares(2023)8076871

¹⁴ Ref. Ares(2024)2400407

¹⁵ Ref. Ares(2024)3048852

¹⁶ Ref. Ares(2024)4696453

HAVING REGARD to Decision 26/2024 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 28 June 2024 on the amendment of the Final Single Programming Document (2024-2026) of the EIT¹⁷;

HAVING REGARD to the Invitation to submit proposals for KIC Business Plans 2023-2025 (2023-2024 in case of first wave KICs), for the Cross-KIC activities 2023-2025 (2023-2024 in case of first wave KICs), and for the Higher Education Institutions (HEI) Initiative 2023 (hereafter referred to as 'Invitation 2023-2025')¹⁸;

HAVING REGARD to the Invitation to request the amendment of KIC Business Plans 2023-2025 (2023-2024 in case of first wave KICs), of the Cross-KIC activities 2023-2025, and of the Higher Education Institutions (HEI) initiative 2023-2025 (hereafter referred to as 'Invitation 2024')¹⁹;

HAVING REGARD to Invitation No. 2 to request the amendment of KIC Business Plans 2023-2025/2024-2025 and of the Cross-KIC activities 2023-2025 (hereafter referred to as the 'Invitation 2025')²⁰;

WHEREAS

- (1) Decision 11/2022 of the EIT Governing Board laid down the funding allocation principles for KIC Business Plans for 2023-2025 (Business Plans 2023-2024 for the first wave KICs), to Cross-KIC activities and shared services for 2023-2025, and to the Higher Education institutions (HEI) Initiative for 2023.
- (2) By its Decision 35/2022, the EIT Governing Board decided on the initial maximum funding allocation to each Business Plan 2023-2025 (2023-2024 for the first wave KICs) and to the Cross-KIC activities in 2023-2025. The EIT budget available for the initial multiannual funding allocation decision was calculated as 100% of the 2023 and 75% of the 2024 and 2025 indicative annual EIT budgets available for grants.
- (3) By its Decision 39/2023, the EIT Governing Board decided on the additional maximum funding allocation to the KICs' Business Plan 2023-2025 (2023-2024 for the first wave KICs) and to the Cross-KIC activities in 2024.
- (4) On 24 April 2024, the EIT Governing Board adopted its Decision 16/2024 on the principles for the determination of the additional EIT financial allocation for 2025 to the KICs' Business Plans, to Cross-KIC activities and shared services. Then, on 6 June 2024 the EIT launched its Invitation 2025 and on 28 September 2024 the KICs and the Cross-KIC consortia have submitted their amendment requests via eGrants. These amendment requests include the proposals for additional activities for 2025, in line with Invitation 2025.
- (5) In accordance with Article 1(1) of Decision 16/2024 of the EIT Governing Board, the provisions of Decision 11/2022, including the funding allocation principles and the main criteria, shall apply to the second additional funding allocation for 2025. Amongst others, this means that the EIT Governing Board has already decided to apply more favourable funding conditions (i.e. funding rate up to 100%) in 2023-2025 for RIS activities and for Cross-KIC activities and shared services.
- (6) In accordance with Article 1(2) of Decision 16/2024 of the EIT Governing Board, the second additional funding allocation for 2025 shall take into account the available EIT budget, the ongoing multiannual legal commitments between the EIT and the KICs, the performance of the KICs and the estimated financial needs. The second additional funding allocation decision shall ensure that there is no double funding of KIC activities.

¹⁷ Ref. Ares(2024)4696519

¹⁸ Ref. Ares(2022)6548792

¹⁹ Ref. Ares(2023)3421537

²⁰ Ref. Ares(2024)4087147

- (7) The additional allocation for KIC Business Plans in 2025 shall be distributed between the KICs in accordance with the split indicated in Article 3 of Decision 16/2024 and further performance-based funding criteria shall apply. To this end, the independent external experts and the Governing Board have made a detailed assessment of each KICs' performance and their proposed amendments on the basis of criteria encompassing excellence, impact, and implementation in line with Invitation 2025. The outcome of this assessment and the hearing with the Governing Board serve as a basis for this additional funding allocation decision.
- (8) The additional allocation for Cross-KIC activities in 2025 shall cover additional activities proposed by the Cross-KIC consortia for 2025. The independent external experts have made a detailed assessment of the proposed amendments on the basis of criteria encompassing excellence, impact, and implementation in line with Invitation 2025. The outcome of this assessment serves as the main basis for this additional funding allocation decision.
- (9) No funding allocation is made for 2025 in the following cases at this Governing Board meeting, in particular:
- The grant for the HEI activities in 2025 is subject to a separate funding allocation decision adopted by Decision 14/2024 of the Governing Board on 24 April 2024.
 - As the Partnership Agreement of the 1st wave of KICs will expire on 31 December 2024, no further funding allocation can be made to the Business Plans of EIT Digital, EIT Climate-KIC, EIT InnoEnergy after this date. However, further to the signature of the Memoranda of Cooperation (MoC) between the EIT and each 1st wave KIC, these three KICs can continue to participate in Cross-KIC activities in 2025.
 - The grants for the MoC activities in 2025 will be subject to a separate funding allocation decision of the Governing Board.
 - No additional funding allocation is made at this Governing Board meeting to those KICs, which did not submit any request for an additional funding for 2025, or for which the hearing was postponed. The amount of the additional funding for 2025 should not exceed what was requested by each KIC in the amendment request prior to the Governing Board meeting.
- (10) In line with point 5 of Section 3 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 Articles 1 and 2 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, gave its agreement with the adoption of the aforementioned provisions of the present decision.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
Additional financial allocation for KIC Business Plans in 2025

The maximum EIT financial contribution for the additional activities in the KIC Business Plans in 2025 shall be allocated as follows:

EIT Food:	EUR 17,353,608 (including the RIS activities)
EIT Raw Materials:	EUR 20,000,000 (including the RIS activities)
EIT Urban Mobility:	EUR 20,000,000 (including the RIS activities)

Article 2

Additional financial allocation for Cross-KIC activities 2025

The maximum EIT financial contribution for the additional Cross-KIC activities (i.e. Cross-KIC strategic activities and shared services) in 2025 shall be **EUR 7,717,028.86**.

Article 3

Award and implementation

- (1) Based on the submitted amendments for the different topics indicated in Invitation 2025, the EIT Director shall award the additional grants for 2025, subject to fulfilment of strategic recommendations or any other specific conditions stipulated by the Governing Board.
- (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 amendment to be addressed, and including the signature of the amendments.

Article 4

Conditionality upon the final adoption of the EIT budget

The additional financial allocation provided for in the present decision is subject to the adoption of the Budget and Establishment Plan 2025 of the EIT, the Annual Work Programme 2025 which is part of the EIT Single Programming Document 2025-2027, as Financing Decision, and the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2025, which will determine the amount of EU contribution to the EIT in 2025. In case of a reduction in the financial contribution available for grants in the final EIT Budget, the maximum additional EIT financial contribution for KIC Business Plans and the EIT financial contribution for Cross-KIC activities shall be amended proportionally.

Article 5

Entry into force

This decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

Done in Budapest on 17 December 2024²¹

(e-signed)

Stefan Dobrev

Chairperson of the EIT Governing Board

²¹ Adopted by the EIT Governing Board in a written procedure