What the EIT offers you?

“I really like about the EIT is its openness and its combination of education and entrepreneurship. I don’t think any other programme in the world provides that. That’s pretty cool. The EIT network is also really important. They are always able to come up with the name of someone who can help you. If you don’t have this network, you cannot grow.”

Govinda Upadhyay, KIC InnoEnergy graduate and EIT Change Award Winner 2015

“I would encourage other researchers to work with the EIT for ambitious and innovative projects that can make a difference to society and business.”

Professor Ralf Toumi, Researcher, Imperial College, UK

“I would recommend cooperating with the EIT to other large companies... as the EIT was founded to establish a pan-European ecosystem for innovation and to have a strong European lever for bridging between excellent results of basic research activities and the necessary innovations in the market.”

Dr. Walter Weigel, Siemens Corporate Technology, Germany

Being a partner in EIT Digital fits well with Aalto University’s mission and positively contributes to its strategy for internationalisation and competitiveness. The EIT ICT Labs innovation activities have proved beneficial in increasing the business impact of both research-based and student-driven entrepreneurship.”

Professor Tuula Teeri, President of Aalto University, Finland

The transition to low carbon economy is one of Lower Silesia’s objectives and the EIT Climate-KIC is the best partner in this challenge... We believe in the key role of regions and cities to maximise the potential of EIT projects and chart a path for successful low-carbon transition. We would recommend cooperating with the EIT to other local and regional authorities.”

Przemysław Malczewski, Acting Director of the Institute for Territorial Development, Lower Silesia, Poland

The EIT is a great way to expand my network across Europe and meet people involved in innovative research and businesses. We received great publicity after I won an EIT Change award in 2013 – and it is great to have the reputation of association with the EIT. I'd certainly recommend collaboration with the EIT to other entrepreneurs; the network and events are a great way to meet people with shared interests and complementary skills.”

Kate Hofman, CEO and Co-Founder, GrowUp Urban Farms Ltd and EIT Change Award Winner 2013

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The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is an independent EU body. We enhance Europe’s ability to innovate by nurturing entrepreneurial talent and supporting new ideas.

Our mission is to:

- Contribute to the competitiveness of Europe, its sustainable economic growth and job creation by promoting and strengthening synergies and cooperation among businesses, education institutions and research organisations.
- Create favourable environments for creative thoughts, to enable world-class innovation and entrepreneurship to thrive in Europe.

The EIT is an integral part of Horizon 2020, the EU’s Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Horizon 2020 is a key pillar of the Innovation Union – a Europe 2020 flagship initiative that aims to enhance Europe’s global competitiveness.

Innovation through integration

To boost Europe’s innovation capacity, action is needed to overcome the fragmented European innovation landscape; and this is where the EIT comes in. We have a pioneering role in increasing European sustainable growth and competitiveness by reinforcing Europe’s innovation capacity in a dynamic global context.

The EIT brings together the ‘knowledge triangle’ of business, education and research to form dynamic cross-border partnerships; Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). The KICs:

- Develop innovative products and services;
- Start new companies; and
- Train a new generation of entrepreneurs.

Working closely together in the KICs, leading companies, universities and research centres, create more effective and innovative solutions for Europe.

The EIT’s first three KICs were launched in 2010:

- Climate-KIC: addressing climate change challenges;
- EIT Digital: generating world-class ICT;
- KIC InnoEnergy: tackling sustainable energy.

Two new KICs were designated in December 2014 and have set up their activities across Europe in 2015:

- EIT Health: improving quality of life for European citizens and sustainability of health and social care systems.
- EIT Raw Materials: ensuring the accessibility, availability and sustainable use of raw materials for the economy and citizens.

Each of the KICs operates in innovations hubs called ‘Co-location Centres’. The EIT’s KICs have Co-location Centres spread across the EU and work with regional centres to increase the impact of their activities.

The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS) is a structured outreach programme to help more organisations from across Europe benefit from the EIT’s work and participate in its activities. The aim of EIT RIS is to increase the innovation capacity in areas and regions in Europe not working with the EIT and its KICs. The EIT RIS draws companies, universities, research labs and stakeholder organisations from outside the KIC partnership, into the world of innovation.

In November 2015, the EIT Community brought together more than 800 partners, including:

- 473 companies inc. SMEs
- 184 higher education institutions
- 123 research centres
- 60 cities, regions and NGOs