

Budapest 14 April 2011

## **New themes for KICs discussed at the EIT's "Vision for the Future" Stakeholder Conference**

**Budapest 14 April 2011 - The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) brings together stakeholder representatives from Member States and the field of business, higher education and research to present and discuss its vision for the future. The EIT unveils for the first time its potential future Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) themes and discusses their potential added value, in particular with respect to entrepreneurial education and new business creation, both at the cornerstone of the EIT's mission.**

**Today's conference is held in Budapest, home to the EIT headquarters, in close collaboration with the Hungarian Presidency of the European Council and Minister of State Zoltán Cséfelvay, Chairman of the Competitiveness Council.**

The EIT's vision for the future will be outlined in its Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA), which will be presented to the European Commission on 31 May 2011 and will cover a period of seven years from 2014 onwards. In order to present a SIA that responds to the needs of its wide stakeholder community, the EIT is actively seeking input from its stakeholders.

*"The SIA in which the EIT will present its vision for becoming an entrepreneurially driven innovation impact investment institute, will have to be based upon the needs of the European innovation landscape" says Dr. Martin Schuurmans, Chairman of the EIT Governing Board. "This is of particular importance for the potential themes for future Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)".*

The themes which the EIT is considering as societal challenges to be addressed by means of a future KIC are: added-value manufacturing; ageing population; biotechnology; food for the future; healthy childhood; human learning and learning enhancements; security and safety as well as territory and smart cities. These initial ideas are to be thoroughly discussed in the upcoming months.

In addition to the conference, the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) under the leadership of Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou, today launches its [open public consultation](#) on the future of the EIT and the potential future KIC themes. It is the European Commission which will present the SIA to the European Parliament and Council of Ministers at the end of 2011. Dr. Schuurmans urges *"our stakeholder community to actively participate in this consultation so that the EIT can cement its future role within the future Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation\*"*.

### **About the EIT:**

The EIT is a European Union Institute that encourages, seeds and enables existing European education, research and business hotspots to form entrepreneurial and excellence driven innovation clusters - its Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). As such, the EIT brings together for the first time at EU level the three sides of the knowledge triangle, consisting of higher education, research and business including SMEs. KICs are driven by entrepreneurship to provide higher innovation impact in the form of new products and services for existing industry, new businesses and SMEs and more entrepreneurially minded people.

The first three KICs were designated in December 2009: **Climate-KIC** (climate change), **EIT ICT Labs** (future information and communication society) and **KIC InnoEnergy** (sustainable energy). The KICs have set-up a legal entity representing the core of the KIC partners and are run by a CEO. Under the leadership of their respective CEOs, each KIC has signed a seven year partnership agreement with the EIT.

The EIT and the KICs are designed to continuously learn from each other. They establish and facilitate a culture that helps unlock Europe's underused potential to leverage people, technology and business innovation for greater EU innovation impact. Entrepreneurship is the central driving force of innovation in the EIT and its KICs.

The three existing KICs are the only ones foreseen under the current Financial Framework which remains valid until 2013. The next call for KICs will be launched after adoption of the EIT's Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) and once a positive decision about future EIT funding is taken by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

### **Links:**

[EIT website](#)

[THE EIT'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE - Information leaflet on the Strategic Innovation Agenda \(SIA\)](#)

[European Commission Open Public Consultation on the EIT's Strategic Innovation Agenda](#)

\* [European Commission Green Paper - "From Challenges to Opportunities: Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding"](#)

[European Commission Open Public Consultation on the Common Strategic Framework](#)

[European Parliament Report: Innovation Union: transforming Europe for a post-crisis world](#)

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