

## FAQs on the EIT's SIA

### **1) What is the EIT's Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA)?**

According to its founding Regulation ([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](#)) Article 17, the EIT is to prepare and submit a draft SIA to the European Commission by 30 June 2011 and every seven year thereafter. In its draft SIA, the EIT should define its long term priority fields, assess its added value to the EU innovation landscape as well as address its budgetary and financial needs for its future operations and activities.

### **2) What happens to the EIT's SIA now that it has been submitted to the European Commission?**

Following the submission of the draft SIA by the EIT, the European Commission will prepare its Strategic Innovation Agenda, which will take into account the EIT's SIA as well as the [open consultation](#) on the EIT and the [evaluation of the EIT](#). As stated in the EIT Regulation (Article 18), the European Commission will submit the proposal for the SIA to the European Parliament and the Council before the end of 2011.

### **3) What happens after the European Commission submits its proposal for the SIA to the European Parliament and Council of Ministers?**

Acting on a Commission proposal, the SIA will be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in ordinary legislative procedure (Art. 294 TFEU). Following adoption of the SIA, the EIT Governing Board may select and designate additional KICs.

### **4) How is the EIT positioned within the EU innovation landscape?**

The EIT was created with one single vision: to be a key driver of sustainable European growth and competitiveness through the stimulation of world-leading innovations and business. However, it was not only to have a significant and beneficial impact on the European economy. It was also tasked to expand on the models that enable this impact to materialise and to enable their replication. The EIT should serve as a role model for the integration of the knowledge triangle. Simplification and flexibility in both operations and the disbursement of funds have been a defining characteristic of the initial success of the EIT, paths the EIT will continue to explore further.

### **5) How can the EIT contribute to creating synergies between various EU initiatives focusing on innovation and regional development?**

The EIT is an institute striving for excellence; however, through its KICs and in combination with their dynamic and growing regional networks, different geographical areas of Europe will be able to put themselves on the map in new ways which were not feasible using traditional methods of organising research, higher education, and business. The EIT's organisational flexibility allows for an outreach strategy aiming at both full European impact and excellence. This anticipates synergy and cross-fertilisation between EU innovation and regional development initiatives. The EIT will help achieve the Convergence and Regional Competitiveness objectives of bridging gaps of regional disparities. The EIT will contribute to regional competitiveness by fostering entrepreneurship and innovation locally through the proven concepts of Co-Location Centres and Regional Innovation Centres as well as by wide dissemination of KIC results.

**6) How did the EIT come up with the proposed new KIC themes? Why these themes and no other themes?**

Any new theme must be KIC-able. The KICs should impact on society by generating innovations that contribute to economic growth in their thematic area and to solutions of the Grand Challenges. A successful KIC theme must reflect an additional and compelling contribution to innovation as envisaged by the EIT, and must be able to attract significant EU and private funding. The guiding principle for selecting KICs is their ability to create lead markets beyond normal programmatic funding by integrating stakeholders from the knowledge triangle of both global and regional significance. The EIT considers all proposed themes most KIC-able.

**7) Are the new KIC themes as proposed by the EIT final? Can new KICs start preparing on the basis of the proposed new themes?**

The set of themes proposed is considered indicative and it is by no means comprehensive. The themes will only be finalised once both the European Parliament and the Council have made a final decision on the EIT's future and have adopted the SIA and once a positive decision about future EIT funding is taken.

**8) What if I want to start a KIC but it is not within the list of six new proposed themes?**

The specific new KIC themes as proposed by the EIT are first and foremost to be seen as initial ideas and as a springboard for discussion. New KIC ideas can still be brought up in the upcoming legislative process. The final decision will be taken by the European Parliament and Council based on a Commission proposal to be submitted by the end of 2011.

**9) How did the EIT come up with the suggested budget figures?**

The EIT sees a need to step up the innovation efforts of the existing KICs as well as of new KICs. Thus, the EIT must increase the level of KIC funding per year to make the KICs more attractive to future powerful KIC partners. Currently, the investment funding is considered to be marginal. The existing KICs believe that they will have shown such convincing results and have drawn up such strong partnerships by 2014, that a significant increase of funding is necessary and warranted in order to scale up to world-class innovation.

**10) What are EIT labelled degrees? Will the EIT award master and PhD degrees?**

The EIT's educational mission is to deliver a brand of excellent and relevant education, responsive to both business and societal demands based on the integration of the Knowledge Triangle. The EIT implements its educational mission through the KICs, by encouraging the participating higher education institutions to develop innovative curricula that focus on entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation. The EIT does not interfere with the design and implementation of curricula but supports and challenges the KICs in this area.

The EIT works with these institutions to implement a set of agreed quality criteria for these specific programmes, including EIT specific learning outcomes, in addition to the learning outcomes expressed in the Qualification Framework for the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA). The implementation of these criteria is a prerequisite for the labelling of EIT Master and PhD programmes which will be awarded by the higher education institutions participating in the KIC. In this way, the EIT will foster a new generation of young Europeans with an integrated view of research, education, innovation and business, combined with a spirit to transform ideas into business and to make a societal difference. In autumn 2011, the first 230 students will be studying in EIT labelled master and PhD programmes with a view to increase the number to about 950 students in 2012 and 1,300 in 2013 respectively.