

## **Innovate! Join the EIT and spur innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe**

### **Launch of the EIT's 2014 Call for KICs**

Today, the EIT is launching the [2014 Call for Knowledge and Innovation Communities \(KICs\)](#) proposals. Two new KICs will be selected focusing on *innovation for healthy living and active ageing*, and on *raw materials – sustainable exploration, extraction processing, recycling and substitution*.

*"This is an exciting day in the EIT's history that we have been working towards since the set-up of the first three KICs. The call offers a unique opportunity for leading universities, businesses and research centres to work with us and make innovation and entrepreneurship happen across Europe,"* said Alexander von Gabain, Chairman of the EIT Governing Board.

*"We look forward to co-operating with two more excellent and innovative partnerships that bring together entrepreneurially-minded people within European innovation ecosystems to tackle challenges facing our society and to create new opportunities for sustainable growth and jobs,"* added José Manuel Leceta, EIT Director.

An [Information Day](#) will be held in Budapest on 14 March 2014. The application process is open until 10 September 2014. One KIC per theme will be designated on 9 December 2014, following an independent evaluation guided by specific [selection criteria](#).

#### **About the EIT**

The EIT is an independent EU body set up in 2008 to spur innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe to overcome some of its greatest challenges. It brings together leading higher education institutions, research labs and companies to form dynamic cross-border partnerships – Knowledge and Innovation Communities, KICs - that develop innovative products and services, start new companies, and train a new generation of entrepreneurs.

The first three KICs on climate change, ICT and sustainable energy were selected in 2009 ([Climate-KIC](#), [EIT ICT Labs](#) and [KIC InnoEnergy](#)). To date, they have provided entrepreneurship training for more than 1000 students and contributed to the creation of more than 100 start-ups. Over 90 new products and services have been launched and more than 400 business ideas are currently being incubated within the KICs.

The EU has decided to expand the EIT's activities over the 2014 to 2020 period within the Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation and to increase its budget to € 2.7 billion. In addition to this call, the EIT will also launch a call for KIC proposals in 2016 focusing on *food4future* and *added-value manufacturing* with a further call planned for 2018 addressing *urban mobility*.

The EIT makes innovation happen.

#### **For more information**

On the EIT: [www.eit.europa.eu](http://www.eit.europa.eu) and follow the EIT on Twitter [@EITeu](https://twitter.com/EITeu)

On the 2014 Call for KIC Proposals: [www.eit.europa.eu/](http://www.eit.europa.eu/)

On Horizon 2020: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

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