



## **Discussion Paper - Thematic session 1:** **Education for entrepreneurship, leadership and creativity**

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### Panel:

**Moderator:** *Dr. Stephan Vincent-Lancrin*, Senior Analyst, Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI), OECD

### **Participants:**

*Dr. Daria Tataj* - EIT Governing Board and Executive Committee

*Dr. Javier Garcia Martinez* - Co-Founder, Director, Chief Technology Officer of Rive Technology Inc

*Dr. Damini Kumar* - Award winning designer & Director of Design & Creativity at National University of Ireland Maynooth

*Vinit Nijhawan* - Managing Director, Technology Development Office, Lecturer School of Management & Director Enterprise Programs, ITEC, Boston University

*Richard Hebly* - Student, Climate-KIC summer school

**Rapporteur:** *Nadja Dokter* - KICs Project Officer, EIT

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### **The objective:**

The objective of this session is to discuss how to provide students and teaching staff with the necessary creative, leadership and entrepreneurial skills in the context of EIT education activities, specifically EIT labelled degrees. The discussions should lead to 3-5 recommendations from the panel and audience to the EIT.

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### **The context:**

The world is moving to a new rhythm. The economic crisis, globalisation, technological changes, ageing populations and the shift to a low-carbon economy are challenging us to find new ways of thinking and acting.

In order to progress and create a more competitive, innovative and sustainable environment, Europe needs to increase its investment in knowledge and people, as well as foster the diversification and exploitation of knowledge. Europe's need for highly skilled graduates, in particular Masters and PhDs, will continue to grow in the years to come. It is essential to prepare these future graduates for a learning society and provide them with the relevant skills, especially entrepreneurial, creative and leadership skills to foster the creation of new ideas and turn them into innovative products, services and jobs.

For this, Europe not only needs employees but also future employers and entrepreneurs.

This requires changes along several lines, such as curricula design, learning, teaching and assessment methods, as well as in the composition of teaching staff within Europe's universities. Problem-solving, learning by doing and the entrepreneurial can-do approach need to be especially encouraged and businesses should be more involved in curricula development and doctoral training so that graduates' skills better match labour market needs.

Creativity, as a fundamental dimension of human activity, is at the heart of culture, design and innovation. It thrives in a free, open and diverse environment where there is dialogue between cultures. We need to ensure the creation



of such environments for students and teaching staff is supported, through the creation for interdisciplinary teams, for example.

To steer in times of rapid change, we need “change agents”. Today’s students are tomorrow’s decision makers and we need to equip them with the skills necessary to lead the way.

The EIT’s goal is to promote excellent and relevant education, responsive to both business and societal demands, including entrepreneurship education with highly integrated, innovative and multidisciplinary curricula and approaches to learning combined with mobility and outreach. The universities participating in the KICs are developing master and PH.D programmes and other KIC education activities, to equip students, researchers and teachers with skills for creativity, risk taking and entrepreneurial capacity. Through its KICs, the EIT has the opportunity to act as a test-bed for future developments in this area.

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### **Discussion Questions:**

- What essential elements should be taken into account by the KICs in order to foster the development of entrepreneurial, leadership and creative capacities and mindsets throughout the learning itinerary?
- What are the challenges in building interdisciplinary teams? What should the KICs do to overcome obstacles?
- To what extent should practitioners and students in the KICs be involved in the teaching and learning process and in the development of new curricula?
- How can KICs ensure that educators are equipped with the necessary skills to stimulate entrepreneurship, leadership and creativity? How can learning methods be designed to foster a more rapid and sustainable uptake of these skills (for educators and students)?
- What are the respective advantages and disadvantages of entrusting the teaching of entrepreneurship to business schools? By which other means can the acquisition of entrepreneurial skills throughout the curriculum be guaranteed?
- What additional activities, beyond Master and PhD programmes, could the EIT promote in order to foster the acquisition of entrepreneurial, creative and leadership skills?