

Best of



EIT Innovation Forum



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Joining forces for innovation!

INNOVEIT, the EIT’s annual innovation forum, showcases success stories emerging from EIT Community activities, presents the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs, and invites stakeholders to share their thoughts on the future of innovation and entrepreneurship in Europe.

The second edition of INNOVEIT was held on 25 and 26 April 2016 in Budapest, Hungary, and welcomed more than 350 participants from across Europe and beyond. Business leaders, research and higher education experts, policy and decision-makers, the media and

EIT alumni came together to discuss opportunities for collaboration during the EIT Stakeholder Forum, and celebrated the achievements of innovators and entrepreneurs supported by the EIT’s Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) during the EIT Awards.

It’s a great honour to welcome you today to the second edition of our innovation forum: INNOVEIT 2016. Over the next two days, we will jointly explore the collaboration opportunities for working closer together and for boosting the innovation ecosystem in Europe.

Peter Olesen, Chairman of the EIT Governing Board

The two-day INNOVEIT 2016 conference featured sessions such as the EIT Innovation Tour, which showcased projects being supported by the EIT Community, the Young Social Entrepreneurs Roundtable, which featured three of the EIT’s most successful young talents – all of whom were recently named on the Forbes ‘30 Under 30 Europe’ social entrepreneurs list – and parallel sessions that led to a high-level panel on joining forces for innovation.

INNOVEIT 2016 was preceded by the EIT Alumni CONNECT event on 24 and 25 April 2016. This unique annual forum gives students and graduates from

EIT-labelled programmes the chance to network, collaborate and have their say on their community’s future. This year saw the introduction of the new EIT Alumni Community Board – a key milestone in the life of the EIT Alumni Community.

If you weren’t able to attend INNOVEIT 2016, then you don’t need to miss out! In the following pages we look more closely at some of the highlights from INNOVEIT 2016 and EIT Alumni CONNECT, and recap the actions planned, decisions made and conclusions drawn by the end of the three days.



EIT Alumni CONNECT & INNOVEIT 2016 highlights



EIT Alumni CONNECT 24 April 2016

14:30



EIT Alumni CONNECT 2016 begins!

Martin Kern, EIT Interim Director, kicked things off by welcoming the students and alumni to what promised to be a game-changing EIT Alumni Community event.

Anastasia N
@AnastNiko

"#EITCONNECT is a great opportunity for collaborations"
Martin Kern
@EITeu Interim Director
@ClimateKIC @EITalumni

14:45



Govinda makes a global impact

EIT CHANGE Award Winner 2015, Govinda Upadhyay encouraged his fellow alumni to help change the world.

EIT
@EITeu

"@EITeu is great community of #innovators who can tackle societal challenges."
@goviupadhyay #EITconnect #InnovEIT

15:00



Getting to work

The new EIT Alumni Community Board was introduced and then the real teamwork began: defining the Board's vision, mission and values.

EIT Alumni
@EITalumni

Alumni Board ready to join forces with EIT Community & others to keep developing EU entrepreneurial education #InnovEIT

18:30



Making new friends

After an intriguing speech by Mario Romero, Associate Professor in Human-Computer Interactions at KTH, it was time to mingle and get to know each other!

Prageeth Jayathissa
@PJayathissa

#InnovEIT, where startups meet project partners
@EITeu @cKIC_Alumni
@ClimateKIC #innovation
@AnaRodriguezM

EIT Alumni CONNECT 25 April 2016

09:00



A plan of action!

Monday morning brought presentations on the previous day's topics, as the alumni developed a plan for the year ahead.

Miguel Amador
@themiguelamador

First sprint of #eitconnect. Great to discuss the vision, mission and values for @EITalumni pic.twitter.com/53H4FzmJLV http://fb.me/11oEQzLzT

14:00



Welcome to INNOVEIT 2016!

Peter Olesen, Chairman of the EIT Governing Board, set the scene for INNOVEIT 2016.

Emi Hubavenska
@EmiHubavenska

First time in #Budapest :) The reason: #INNOVEIT 2016! Looking forward to a great event! #curious @OISPG @DSMeu

14:15



Commissioner Navracsics explores the EIT's past, present and future

Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, was full of praise for the EIT's achievements and laid out his wishes for the Institute's future.

Tibor Navracsics
@TnavracsicsEU

Pleased to address today the opening of #INNOVEIT 2016 in Budapest @EITeu @Moedas

14:30



Ken Gabriel champions disciplined innovation

Ken Gabriel, President and CEO of the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Inc., explained why 'disciplined innovation' is less a contradiction and more a recipe for success.

Hans Lõugas
@hanskan

Really insightful talk on innovation from DARPA ex-boss at #InnovEIT. Brute force & Moore's law won't help us

15:00



Meet the CHANGE and Venture Award nominees!

The CHANGE and Venture Award nominees pitched their game-changing ideas – but who would take home the prizes?

Michelle Ni
@Michelle_Ni_

The pitches for the @EITeu #InnovEIT Awards have started! I wonder who will win, who is your favourite candidate?

16:30



Taking a tour through innovation

The EIT Innovation Tour gave some exciting EIT Community supported projects the chance to shine – including the Innovator Award nominees.

Katherine Foster
@foster_change_

#INNOVEIT tour showcased cutting edge European innovations and nominees for today's #EITawards. Stay tuned!

20:00



And the winner is...

The waiting was over and it was finally time to announce the EIT Award winners for 2016!

Rosemary Peters
@RosemaryBPeters

Just talked to the winners of the @EITeu Awards at #InnovEIT. Watch out CVD, cloud computing & heat waste, European innovations are coming!

09:00



Joining forces for innovation in Europe!

Tuesday welcomed EIT Interim Director Martin Kern back to the stage for the opening of the EIT Stakeholder Forum.

José Pietri
@mindshare2000

Bravo to #EITCONNECT & #INNOVEIT 2016 for their focus on #innovation

09:10



Commissioner Moedas calls for open innovation in Europe

Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, raised the concept of 'open innovation' and set out how we can support that in Europe – with the help of initiatives like the EIT.

kees van deelen
@keesvandeelen

Great speech by commissioner @CMoedasEU on the need for a more disruptive #innovation climate in Europe #InnovEIT

09:20



Social entrepreneurship success stories

Arno Zimmerman, Govinda Upadhyay and Tanmoy Bari, three of the EIT's up-and-coming innovators, shared their experiences.

Coolar
@CoolarTech

#ForbesUnder30 listed @CoolarTech, @LEDsafari and #Greenely discussing Social Entrepreneurship at #InnovEIT #SocEnt

10:00



Joining forces and working together

Split into groups, the participants were given important innovation-related themes to explore.

Cristina Monsone
@CristinaMonsone

Great experience today during the panel session "Business creation" #InnovEIT 2016!! Thank to Manuel Molina #EASME

12:00



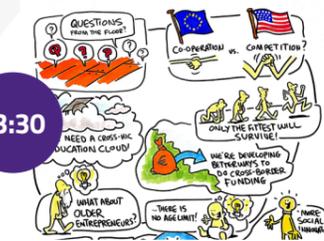
High-level conclusions

Conclusions were drawn and actions planned as the groups pooled their ideas with a high-level panel.

Noah Pierau
@NoahPierau

Questions at the High-Level Panel of #InnovEIT: EU-wide MOOCs, age diversity, and societal innovation. Let's make #innovation happen!

13:30



One chapter closes, another opens

The participants said goodbye to INNOVEIT for another year... and started looking forward to INNOVEIT 2017!

Christoforos
@ChristoforosAct

#INNOVEIT For the last two days, Budapest has become the capital of the European innovation @EITeu <http://atelier.rfi.fr/profiles/blogs/innovation-in-budapest...>



Welcome to EIT Alumni CONNECT 2016!

- 100** alumni
- 5** Alumni Board members
- 4** action areas
- 2** keynote speakers
- 1** Community!

The members of the EIT Alumni Community hail not just from Europe, but from all around the world. While today's digital society makes it easier than ever to stay in touch, nothing can replace meeting, networking, sharing and collaborating face-to-face – and that's exactly what EIT Alumni CONNECT offers.

Coming up:

- The EIT Alumni Community Board introduce themselves
- Govinda Upadhyay shares his experience
- The EIT Alumni Community's vision, mission and values are laid out

Govinda Upadhyay on making a global impact

The rise of Govinda Upadhyay and his company, LEDsafari, over the last couple of years has been nothing short of meteoric.

"Exactly one year ago I was honoured with the EIT CHANGE Award, which was an amazing moment for me and my team," he explained during his keynote speech at EIT Alumni CONNECT 2016. "It built our confidence. It gave us visibility and people started talking about us. Then we were selected in Forbes's 'World Impact Forum' and won \$100,000, which put us on a global stage."

The competition he casually mentioned was the Forbes \$1 million global social impact competition, 'Under 30 Change the World', which brought global recognition to his work in sustainable solar energy. When Govinda took to the stage, he was quick to credit the EIT for helping him to succeed. "The EIT has supported me throughout the whole process," he explained. "I can proudly say that EIT programmes are some of the best in the world, giving us world-class education."

Making an impact on a global scale is something all young entrepreneurs aspire to. Govinda proved a strong advocate for the ability of his fellow alumni to achieve this. "We are the generation who wants experience," he said.



"We want to travel. We are citizens of the Earth rather than a single country. We are highly educated, smart, well-equipped and a truly globalised people at this early stage of our lives – and that's incredible. I believe that if we combine our forces, no one can stop us."

I can proudly say that EIT programmes are some of the best in the world, giving us world-class education.

He drew things to a close by issuing a call to action to the gathered students and alumni. "Being one of the first generation of EIT alumni, we can show and share our experience with fellow students," he concluded. "We can help our fellow students to find jobs, internships and, of course, the right mentoring. I believe that EIT alumni offer great insight and direction, so I urge all of you: let's work together and show the world what we're capable of!"





Welcome to INNOVEIT 2016!

- 350 stakeholders**
- 11 Award nominees**
- 16 inspiring panellists and speakers**
- 2 keynote speakers**
- 2 European Commissioners**
- 2 Members of the European Parliament**

INNOVEIT 2016 offered participants a wealth of experience, expertise and collaboration opportunities – and resulted in a range of actions to help boost innovation and entrepreneurship in Europe.

Coming up:

- Commissioner Navracsics explores the EIT’s achievements and future plans
- Ken Gabriel champions disciplined innovation
- The EIT Award Winners 2016 are revealed!
- Commissioner Moedas calls for open innovation in Europe
- Young social entrepreneurs share their stories
- High-level conclusions are drawn

Commissioner Navracsics on the EIT’s achievements and plans

One of INNOVEIT 2016’s opening speeches was delivered by Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport and responsible for the EIT, who began by praising the EIT’s achievements over the last few years.

“All five KICs have funded over 300 start-ups, two of which have recently raised over €50 million in private investments,” he said. “EIT graduates find jobs more quickly, earn more and create start-ups more often than their peers from equivalent education programmes. And EIT alumni are joining the ranks of the world’s leading young entrepreneurs.”

He moved to the question of why this might be happening and concluded that it “stemmed from the way the EIT has identified, championed and developed individual talent. It is, above all, about creating an environment which will foster creative and innovative people, as much as about processing the pipeline of projects. Other programmes also bring talents together, but not in this sustained, long-term way. Not with the same degree of autonomy to shape their work. And not with the same focus on education as the EIT and its KICs.”

I’m happy to see the great talent that the EIT nourishes.

Commissioner Navracsics then touched upon the recent challenges the EIT has faced and how the Institute has responded. “The EIT has already identified much of what needs to be improved and simplified,” he said. “For example, the EIT and its KICs started to simplify procedures in summer 2015 and are exploring issues such as multi-annual grants that could provide more stable support for innovators.” Acknowledging that such plans might not sound very exciting, he added that cutting red tape and bringing support to innovators more quickly is a priority for the European Commission and that the EIT had his full support in this endeavour.



Looking to the future, he highlighted the need for the EIT to continue engaging with others not directly involved in the KICs and noted that the EIT alumni were essential to this outreach mission. “I invite you to promote the EIT and its approaches in your work,” he told them, “and to use the Alumni Community to stay in touch as you advance in your careers.”

He also called on the EIT to help tackle a growing issue: the lack of women in entrepreneurship. “Looking at the nominees for the awards, I’m happy to see the great talent that the EIT nourishes. Yet I also see that in terms of gender balance, we can do much better. So I would like to challenge the EIT and the KICs to step up and work for real change.”

For the KICs, the Commissioner wished for their innovative approaches to also flow into other businesses, universities and institutions participating in the KICs – and beyond – via the EIT’s Regional Innovation Scheme and European business, higher education and research systems. “This is important,” he stressed, “particularly in those parts of Europe which are not yet sufficiently involved, where we are not yet tapping into all talents.”

“We must remember that innovation has many dimensions,” he concluded. “To thrive and succeed, Europe needs both new competitive successes and new societal solutions to its challenges. The EIT and its Community have shown outstanding potential to progress on both of these fronts. I look forward to hearing about the exciting prospects that lie ahead and I offer you my full support as we embark on the next part of the EIT’s innovation journey.”

Dr Ken Gabriel on disciplined innovation

Ken Gabriel, keynote speaker on the first day of INNOVEIT 2016, has been championing 'disciplined innovation' in his work for decades. He's also the first to acknowledge that it's an unusual concept.

"You don't usually hear those two words in the same sentence, much less side-by-side," he began. "There's a belief that breakthrough innovations come from the opposite of discipline. I'm here to tell you that nothing could be further from the truth. Not only is it possible, disciplined innovation is the way to consistently achieve breakthrough results."

But what exactly is disciplined innovation? As Ken explained, "it's about going after bold goals, which attract best-in-class leaders and teams of, mostly, outside performers. You structure fixed duration projects that work at the intersection of the science and technology of the product and its application. And, just as importantly, you organise for speed and agility."

Go from dreaming to doing.

Ken went on to introduce the idea of what he calls 'analytical frameworks', which are designed to identify that intersection and gauge progress. "Not only do you know where the technology needs to go, but what applications are enabled when you get there. And you have an objective, an experience-based way to assess how much it's going to cost and what we're going to get from that capacity. And we don't have to depend on opinions – we use facts."

Throughout his career at companies like DARPA, Google and Draper, Ken has used analytical frameworks for everything from cyber security to mobile computing and platforms. He's also employed a



novel approach to team management. "I take on what I call three distinct personalities when I interact with teams and drive them to achieve results."

The first is 'being unreasonably unreasonable'. "Too often, when you ask people to do something they make assumptions about what they've been asked to do. By engaging in a discussion, you can find out what those assumptions are [...] and once you get rid of those assumptions, you can do things."

The second is 'choosing with thoughtful ruthlessness'. "Decide what to try and what not to try. Get rid of things that are not heading where they need to and give the resources to things that are. These decisions should be thoughtful and balanced – but you have to be ruthless about it."

The last is 'questioning and informing ignorance'. "The more accomplished you become, the more experience you gain, the more people think you're a sage [...] When you're in that role, you become reluctant to reveal that you don't understand something. You have to be willing to ask. Not only will you learn, but those that you ask will be better for it."

"Disciplined innovation," Ken summarised, "takes focus and commitment. Analytical frameworks are not easy to do – they take a lot of time and effort. And it takes a lot of time and effort to work with people, to overcome their assumptions, to test their capabilities and knowledge. But if you put it to practice, you go from dreaming to doing."

Meet the CHANGE and Venture Award nominees!

One of the most anticipated sessions of INNOVEIT 2016 was the CHANGE and Venture Award nominee pitches. Each nominee had two minutes to deliver an 'elevator' pitch that encapsulated their idea or venture, as well as its potential. With props including a musical instrument, a pair of shoes and a power cable, their pitches were diverse, engaging and inspirational!

CHANGE Award nominees

Allen Mohammadi

CEO and Co-founder of Hippogriff AB
(main product: Complex Disease Detector)

Aim: To create a movement to transform public health by helping individuals become aware of, and involved in, their own health

Carlos González de Miguel

Field Application Engineer for the Intelligent, Directional Fault Passage Indicator

Aim: To help grid operators reduce grid outages in a cost-effective way

Chris Emmott

Developer of the 'Bringing New Photovoltaic Technologies to Africa' project

Aim: To determine how emerging solar technology can remove barriers to affordable, clean electricity for off-grid communities in rural Sub-Saharan Africa

Karens Grigorjancs

Co-founder and CTO of Plugify

Aim: To connect organisers and live music artists in order to bring more live music into the world

Nurul Momen

Co-founder of A-WARE

Aim: To protect user privacy on mobile devices

Venture Award nominees

André Croft de Moura

Founder and CEO of Pro-Drone

Aim: To develop a solution for cost-effective and safe inspections of industrial infrastructure

Andreas Kunze

CEO of KONUX (main product: Smart Sensor Solution for Machine Insights)

Aim: To deliver the insights into machine breakdowns that our customers need

Florian Schneider

Co-founder and COO of Nerdalize

Aim: To create a world where heating is free and sustainable computing power is affordable

Genevieve Bergeret

Sales Manager of ProctorExam

Aim: To facilitate safe online exams anywhere and to fill the missing link in online education

Koen Koevoets

Co-owner of Eco-Dryer Systems
(main product: Eco-Dryer)

Aim: To reduce the domestic energy consumption of laundry dryers

Rolf Kersten

Technical Advisor at Mobile Solarkraftwerke Afrika
(main product: Solar Container)

Aim: To provide clean and affordable electricity to off-grid consumers and businesses in Africa



EIT Innovation Tour

The EIT Innovation Tour featured nine projects currently supported by the KICs, including the six Innovator Award nominees. The audience was split into groups and rotated around the innovations, with each project given 10 minutes to present the uniqueness and market potential of their idea, allowing the audience the chance to interact directly with the innovators.

EIT Innovator Award nominees

Alexandra Nouillas

FOREST (Fully Optimized and Reliable EmissionS Tool)

Aim: To provide forest owners and managers with information on the size and structure of forest areas, including an analysis of their evolution over time and carbon stock estimations

Franca Garzotto

P3S (Playful Supervised Smart Spaces)

Aim: To provide smart spaces and smart objects for children with intellectual disabilities

Jean H.A. Gelissen

Fit 2 Perform

Aim: To monitor professional drivers, making their working lives healthier and safer, while also bringing benefits to their companies in terms of reduced fuel consumption and vehicle wear and tear

Joakim Nydrén

MrCySeMoL (main product: securiCAD)

Aim: To enable companies to proactively manage their cyber security architectures in an efficient, quantitative manner

Philippe Alamy

BIPV-Insight

Aim: To connect professionals in building information modelling and boost the building-integrated photovoltaics industry

Norbert Kuipers

Water and Energy for Climate Change (WE4CC-II)

Aim: To turn low-grade waste heat or renewable solar PVT heat into high-quality water and indoor air

Innovation Tour participants

Kristina Johnell

miniQ

Aim: To optimise drug treatment among older people through a patient-centred, web-based decision support system

Christian Olsson

Sustainalube

Aim: To provide an environmentally friendly and oil-free lubricant that benefits users with regard to fire safety, cleanliness and environmental impact

Viktorija Katona

Rare Cancer Project

Aim: To establish business propositions to address the societal and market challenges of rare cancers



EIT Award Winners 2016



To conclude the opening day of INNOVEIT 2016, the participants were invited to witness the highly anticipated announcement of the winners of the EIT Awards 2016...

EIT CHANGE Award Winner 2016



Allen Mohammadi

Winning idea: Complex Disease Detector

In a nutshell: The Complex Disease Detector is an accurate, non-invasive and inexpensive tool for the screening and early diagnosis of heart diseases.

The winner presented a clearly defined global issue and a well-defined proposal for a solution that could have potential for millions of people.

EIT CHANGE Award 2016 jury

I've been trained for two years at my ENTECH Master's programme to be a change-maker. Tonight is not just a celebration of the EIT CHANGE Award; it's the celebration of hard work.

Allen Mohammadi, EIT CHANGE Award Winner 2016

EIT Innovators Award Winner 2016



Norbert Kuipers

Winning innovation: Water and Energy for Climate Change (WE4CC-II)

In a nutshell: WE4CC-II uses membrane distillation and desiccant recovery systems to turn low-grade waste heat or renewable solar PVT heat into high-quality water and indoor air.

The winner showed a unique and novel approach. The impact of its innovations were verified and tested in the market [...] and the jury saw potential for the product on a global scale.

EIT Innovators Award 2016 jury

It's a bit of a surprise, but I'm very grateful! I want to thank my colleagues and partners in this project because this is an integrated project.

Norbert Kuipers, EIT Innovators Award Winner 2016

EIT Venture Award Winner 2016



Florian Schneider

Winning venture: Nerdalize

In a nutshell: By placing powerful servers in the form of a radiator in people's homes, Nerdalize heats the homes with the heat the servers produce.

The winner brings together two market opportunities. It has tested the first generation of its devices, has its first clients and is already working on the next generation and further expansion.

EIT Venture Award 2016 jury

It's amazing recognition for the team – it's a shame they can't be here tonight. I'll put this [award] in a very nice place and I think we'll open a bottle of champagne back home!

Florian Schneider, EIT Venture Award Winner 2016

Commissioner Moedas on open innovation

The second day of INNOVEIT 2016 welcomed a keynote speech from Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation.

Commissioner Moedas began by looking at how innovation has evolved over the last two decades. "The economic value of products is not in the product anymore. It's in the interfacing between the user, the physical world and the digital world," he explained. "And so it's not about putting a bunch of engineers around a table and trying to get something out of it, because they will all think the same way and will never produce a product."

"The new world is not about a specialised area. It's about working in the borders of different disciplines," he continued, before sharing the stories of two engineers who had created game-changing innovations in fields that were vastly different to their own specialisations. These examples, he said, demonstrated "pure user innovation" and showed that "the whole idea of the producer creating an innovation and pushing it to the user is not there anymore."

'Open innovation' is the term that Commissioner Moedas used to describe this approach. "The people that we need to support in the 21st century, who are changing things from the user's side, aren't the same people we used to support in the 20th century," he said. "They don't put themselves in a box or a discipline. They don't say, 'I'm an engineer or a doctor and I know more than you.' Instead, they say, 'I'm just helping here. We're from different disciplines and we're just working together'"

He went on to describe the European Innovation Council (EIC), a new European initiative that will complement the existing work of the EIT. "In Europe we have created good foundations. We have the EIT and other programmes, but we don't have a rooftop. So the European Innovation Council idea is a rooftop under which all the pieces of the puzzle can come together."



He called for the EIT Community to help the EIC connect with the innovation community and, by extension, help Europe change its approach to innovation. "[In Europe] we're looking at people and telling them, 'In this particular topic, why don't you do something innovative?' And people get lost. Because you cannot innovate by decree. We cannot be so rigid. So the point of the EIC is to change our instruments to a more bottom-up approach. It's about finding the people and asking them what they want to do. It's time to really act and we need your help."

The EIT understands that a key part of any success is really the part of you that is willing to fail.

As well as changing Europe's approach, Commissioner Moedas said it's also important to change the financial landscape. "When you are creating innovation, you have to have an ecosystem. And that ecosystem in Europe has a big gap, which is finance. We have a huge dependence on banks and bilateral loans. We don't raise a lot of venture capital and a lot of the venture capital that we do raise is public [...] We need to attract fund managers from other parts of the world that can raise private money."

Commissioner Moedas drew his speech to a close by praising the EIT Community and EIT Award nominees in particular, and highlighting how the EIT is helping to give its students the self-confidence to succeed and, just as importantly, fail. "When I studied in the US, the current Dean of Harvard used to teach a class at the time and he said that the biggest role of the school was about creating self-confidence. What I appreciate about the EIT is the EIT understands that a key part of any success is really the part of you that is willing to fail."

Young Social Entrepreneurs Roundtable

Arno Zimmerman. Govinda Upadhyay. Tanmoy Bari. All young, inspirational European entrepreneurs with successful start-ups. All named on the prestigious '30 Under 30 Europe' social entrepreneurs list. And all members of the EIT Community, who came to INNOVEIT 2016 to discuss their experiences during the Young Social Entrepreneurs Roundtable.



Social entrepreneurship experiences

- **Tanmoy Bari (Co-founder and CEO of Greenely):** It's all about the environment that you're in. KIC InnoEnergy has provided us with a close relationship with lots of universities and given us access to advisors and methodology. We started within Europe and then expanded, and we're engaging with students coming from KIC programmes.
- **Arno Zimmerman (Co-founder of Coolar and EIT CHANGE Award 2015 nominee):** Being a social entrepreneur is what motivates our team. We are a baby of Climate-KIC and the EIT has supported us with coaching, grants and outreach. While partnering is important for us, teaching is important too and now we want to reach out to students again.
- **Govinda Upadhyay (Co-founder of LEDSAFARI and EIT CHANGE Award 2015 winner):** We are entrepreneurs, but there's the word 'social' before that. We've changed LEDSAFARI into an educational company and we use a 'Robin Hood' model – taking from the rich and giving to the poor!

Challenges faced

- **Arno:** Last September, a grant we were waiting for got declined. Grants and security are like a roller-coaster!
- **Govinda:** After winning the EIT CHANGE Award 2015, we started losing competitions and started to lose faith. So I decided to focus on LEDSAFARI full time, which helped to give the team members more confidence.

Five years ahead

- **Tanmoy:** As a venture, you don't know what the future will hold. We want to go global.
- **Arno:** Our next aim is to go into agriculture and then into the home. We would like to see heat used more efficiently.

Reaching customers

- **Arno:** Our customers are hard to reach, so being able to reach them in a better way is definitely one of our headaches! We need some local networks to tap into and connections with large foundations.
- **Govinda:** We know there are customers that need our technology, but how do we reach them? For us, people will become part of the product by helping to develop the technology.

INNOVEIT 2016 conclusions and recommendations



During the final sessions of INNOVEIT 2016, the participants took part in three parallel sessions that each looked at a different aspect of innovation and entrepreneurship. Their recommendations were fed back for discussion to a high-level panel consisting of prominent European figures in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship, along with representatives from the EIT.

Parallel sessions



Parallel Session #1

Working together for more innovative products and services

Rapporteur: Marcelino Cabrera Giraldez, European Commission Joint Research Centre, Smart Specialisation

Action #1: Co-creation between knowledge triangle actors

- More emphasis on sharing information about the EIT's model and approach
- Match-making tools available to non-KIC partners
- Structural funds adopted and built upon KIC Regional Innovation Clusters (RICs)

Action #2: Shaping innovation-enabling ecosystems

- Financial and procurement rules simplified to increase the attractiveness of KIC ecosystems
- Development of synergies and collaboration with local ecosystems
- A knowledge-based system to share information across borders (interactive and economical)

Action #3: Fostering social innovation

- Cross-EIT initiatives (including KICs and alumni), with a clear understanding of social capital measurement
- A social impact investor network
- A new EIT Award on social innovation



Parallel Session #2

Collaboration in entrepreneurial education

Rapporteur: Denis Crowley, Head of Unit for Innovation in Education, EIT and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Action #1: The EIT/KIC model for entrepreneurial education

- Short intensive courses, summer schools – mixed groups, in a short intensive structure
- Support for the start-up phase and pay particular attention to the entrepreneurial aspect within the educational offer of the EIT
- Company partners in PhD research

Action #2: Online education: MOOCs and MOOPs (Massive Open Online Courses and Programmes)

- EIT innovation and entrepreneurship introductory course (MOOC) as a promotional exercise and a taster
- 'Train the Teachers' programme to increase entrepreneurship education
- EIT Global University – common taxonomy and match-making platform to deliver online education worldwide

Action #3: Professional education

- HR development risk-reduction coaching
- Training courses within organisations on innovative thinking
- 'Train the Trainers' within organisations



Parallel Session #3

Joint support for business creation

Rapporteur: Manuel Irun Molina, Project Advisor, Executive Agency for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (EASME)

Action #1: The EIT's approach to business acceleration and scaling up

- Collaboration incentives
- Help going beyond the EU in raising finance, business development and recruitment
- Help with regulatory restrictions

Action #2: Boosting female entrepreneurship

- Gender champion
- Education and role models
- Visibility and communication

Action #3: An EIT Impact Fund, financing early-stage start-ups

- Better utilisation of the network
- Reduce transaction costs for early-stage investors
- 'Silicon Valley' mindset

High-level panel

Members of the high-level panel were invited to give feedback on the conclusions of the parallel sessions. Here are some of their key thoughts:



Luuk Klomp

Dutch Presidency of the EU and Deputy Director, Innovation and Knowledge Department, Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands

When it comes to social innovation, it seems there is a difference between society and businesses. A phrase that I like comes from the Dutch community: 'the social challenges of today are the business models of tomorrow.' The two are really interconnected.



Eva Kaili

Member of the European Parliament, Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

We need to coordinate and join forces to predict and plan for the future. We should decide what we want, so that we have science and innovation driven by this and what is best for citizens, not the other way around.



Martine Reicherts

Director-General of DG Education and Culture, European Commission

I'm passionate about the role of women in entrepreneurship and we're failing right now. We need to get women into the market, because they're creative and we need to develop that mixture of creativity and entrepreneurship.



Sylvie Bove

CEO, EIT Health

Looking at social innovation and healthcare, one of the main problems is resistance to implementation; there innovation can really make a difference.



Diego Pavia

CEO, KIC InnoEnergy

The world is, by definition, in competition and only the fittest will survive. We should not copy what the US are doing, but take on board what businesses are enabling in their practices to allow our students, entrepreneurs and big companies to compete on a worldwide scale.



Estefania Tapias

President of the EIT Alumni Board

The EIT Alumni Community is a good example of cross-KIC projects and social innovation is one of our main focuses. We've already brainstormed topics among the Community such as the refugee crisis and have two interdisciplinary projects underway.



Martin Kern

EIT Interim Director

Innovation often happens at the intersections of disciplines, which means there's real value in looking across KICs and disciplines. We need to provide channels to make that happen.

Final conclusions



Martin Kern drew events to a close by summarising the main points the EIT will focus on:

1. Dissemination

Dissemination of results and information has to be done in a smart way. We will find and attract stakeholders by showing the benefits of activities.

2. Social innovation

We need to build upon and explore developments in this field and new KICs will play a role in that. We also have to be smart about inclusion.

3. Women in entrepreneurship

The EIT has a role to play in encouraging women to become entrepreneurs. We've already started a pilot initiative and want to take that further.

4. Simplification

A top priority, and one we're already working on, is making the EIT more attractive. A simplified concept and joint-forces exercises with the KICs, the European Commission and other stakeholders will help.

5. Education

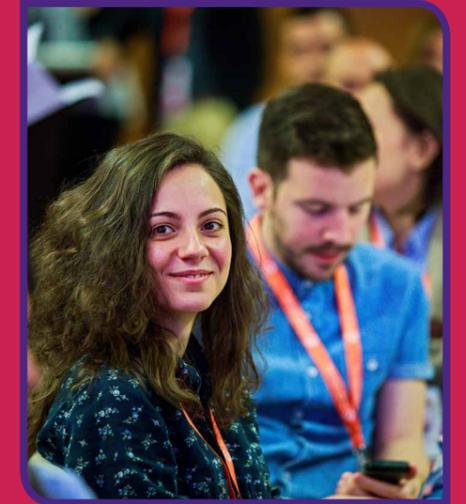
Education is the start of the innovation process and a number of excellent ideas were brought up during INNOVEIT 2016, such as courses being produced by the KICs and 'training the trainers'.

6. Rebalancing

There is a lot of value to be found in taking lessons from individual KICs and taking them forward as joint initiatives. This will require a rebalancing of the initial setup of the EIT, which is currently very decentralised. It should not be too difficult to find ways to achieve this.

7. Impact Fund

Along with our women in entrepreneurship pilot, the Impact Fund initiative has been launched and will be developed in the coming year.



About the EIT Community

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is an independent EU body. With our KICs, we enhance Europe's ability to innovate by nurturing entrepreneurial talent and supporting new ideas.

Our mission

- 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
- To create favourable environments for creative thought, 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

The EIT brings together the 'knowledge triangle' of business, education and research to form dynamic cross-border partnerships: KICs. Working closely together in the KICs, leading companies, universities and research centres create more effective and innovative solutions for Europe.

These unique partnerships:

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

We are growing!

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 they are setting up their activities across Europe:

- 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

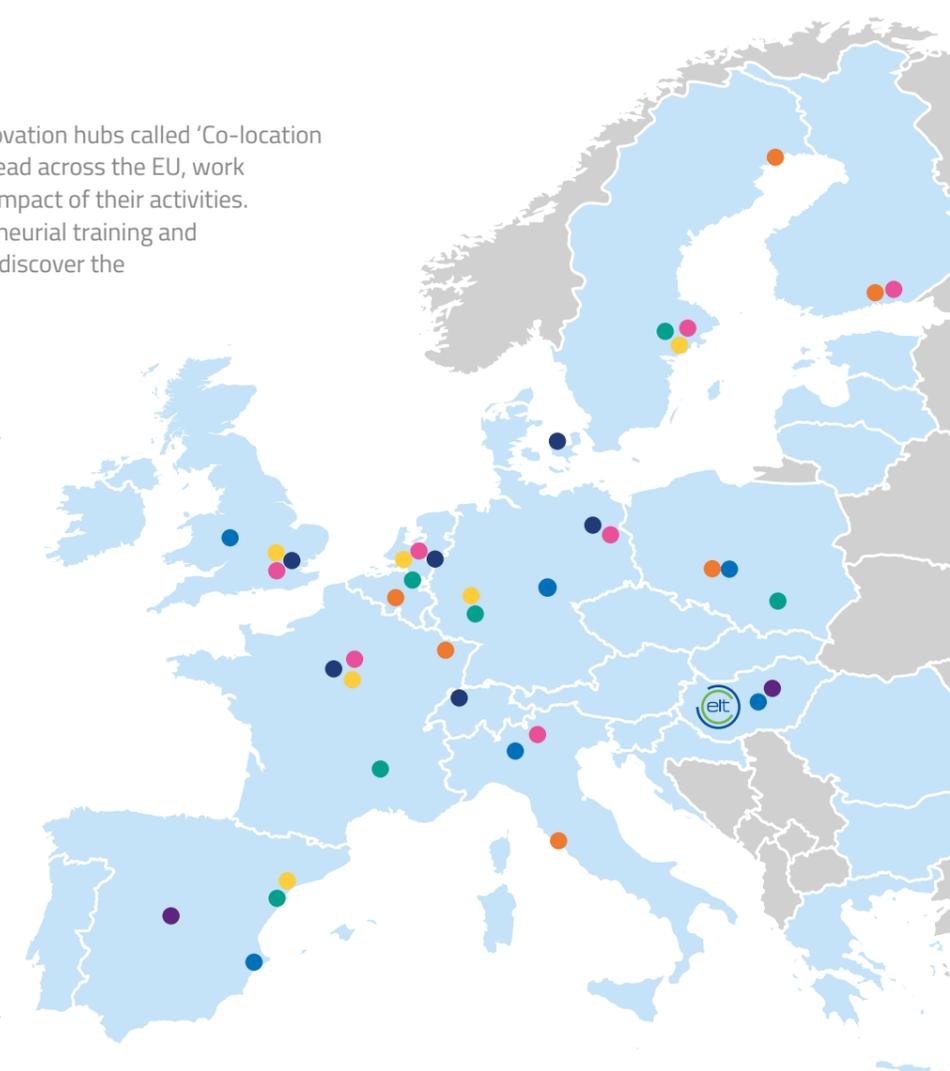
We will set up three more KICs by 2020:

- EIT Food: ensuring a climate-resilient and sustainable global food value chain (2016)
- EIT Manufacturing: strengthening and increasing the competitiveness of Europe's manufacturing industry (2016)
- EIT Urban Mobility: providing sustainable solutions for urban mobility (2018)

The EIT Alumni Community

The EIT Alumni Community brings together an interdisciplinary and multicultural community of change agents, who share a common vision for tackling world challenges and creating a positive impact through innovation and entrepreneurship.

Each of the EIT's KICs operates in innovation hubs called 'Co-location Centres'. The Co-location Centres, spread across the EU, work with regional centres to increase the impact of their activities. All Co-location Centres offer entrepreneurial training and support, so get in touch with them to discover the different opportunities they offer!



-  EIT HQ
-  Climate-KIC
-  EIT Digital
-  EIT Health
-  Climate-KIC Regional Centre (RIC)
-  EIT Digital Associate Partner
-  EIT Raw Materials
-  KIC InnoEnergy

Get in touch!



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