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 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 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.

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

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.

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!

A plan of action!
Monday morning brought presentations on the previous day’s topics, as the alumni developed a plan for the year ahead.
Welcome to INNOVEIT 2016!
Peter Olesen, Chairman of the EIT Governing Board, set the scene for INNOVEIT 2016.

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.

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.

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?

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.

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

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.

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.

Social entrepreneurship success stories
Arno Zimmerman, Govinda Upadhyay and Tanmoy Bari, three of the EIT’s up-and-coming innovators, shared their experiences.

Joining forces and working together
Split into groups, the participants were given important innovation-related themes to explore.

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

One chapter closes, another opens
The participants said goodbye to INNOVEIT for another year… and started looking forward to INNOVEIT 2017!

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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.

“What exactly one year ago I was honored 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.”

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 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
Meet the EIT Alumni Community Board

One of the key elements of EIT Alumni CONNECT 2016 was the introduction of the new EIT Alumni Community Board. Formed in early 2016, the Board’s role is to drive the community’s direction and to develop it, to encourage an active exchange between EIT alumni, amplify activities and facilitate the exchange of ideas, knowledge and skills.

**Estefania Tapias, President**

*Responsible for:* the strategic development of the EIT Alumni Community, the coordination of the work and efficient conduct of the Board, and the representation of the EIT Alumni Community to stakeholders.

*Pilot action for first year:* generating social impact through the ‘Refugees’ pilot project.

**Borce Stojkovski, Vice-President and Interim Communications Officer**

*Responsible for:* supporting the President of the EIT Alumni Board, drafting and overseeing the implementation of the Board’s work programme, and the communication and promotion of the EIT Alumni Community.

*Pilot actions for first year:* providing tools and mechanisms to develop the career opportunities of current and former students.

**Claudio Geyken, Community Officer**

*Responsible for:* maintaining and growing the EIT Alumni Community.

*Pilot actions for first year:* looking at hubs where common events can be held and looking at other activities that can create engagement.

**Antonio Martinez Millana, Treasurer**

*Responsible for:* developing the EIT Alumni Community’s financial plan and a plan for the mid-to long-term financial sustainability of the EIT Alumni Community.

*Pilot actions for first year:* looking at how EIT Community projects are presented to a global audience and how to engage with people outside of the Community.

**Nadja Dokter, EIT Representative**

*Responsible for:* relations with the EIT and other EU and global initiatives in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship.

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**EIT Alumni Community Board: Vision, mission and values**

Collaboration is at the heart of the EIT, and so it was fitting that members of the EIT Alumni Community helped to define the vision, mission and values of the community. Split into groups, the students and alumni were asked for their opinion on three key questions and their responses were used by the Board to generate the essential foundations.

**Vision: What do we want the EIT Alumni Community to look like in five years?**

- **Key words:** Community, education, recognised, global
- **Vision:** To be a renowned community of interdisciplinary entrepreneurs and innovators who actively collaborate to create a positive impact in response to global challenges

**Mission: What is our role and contribution as the EIT Alumni Community?**

- **Key words:** Platform, different, people, communication, knowledge
- **Mission:** To inspire and facilitate interdisciplinary and multicultural collaboration and knowledge transfer to boost entrepreneurial action and amplify the impact of the Community’s innovation activities

**Values: What is important to us? Which values do we need to practice?**

- **Key words:** Collaboration, transparency, sustainable, sharing, social
- **Values:** Transparency, collaboration, sustainability, social responsibility, sharing and diversity
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.”

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.”

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.”

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.”

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.”

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allen Mohammadi</td>
<td>CEO and Co-founder of Hippogriff AB</td>
<td>Aim: To create a movement to transform public health by helping individuals become aware of, and involved in, their own health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlos González de Miguel</td>
<td>Field Application Engineer for the Intelligent, Directional Fault Passage Indicator</td>
<td>Aim: To help grid operators reduce grid outages in a cost-effective way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Emmott</td>
<td>Developer of the ‘Bringing New Photovoltaic Technologies to Africa’ project</td>
<td>Aim: To determine how emerging solar technology can remove barriers to affordable, clean electricity for off-grid communities in rural Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karens Grigorjancs</td>
<td>Co-founder and CTO of Plugify</td>
<td>Aim: To connect organisations and live music artists in order to bring more live music into the world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurul Momen</td>
<td>Co-founder of A-WARE</td>
<td>Aim: To protect user privacy on mobile devices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Venture Award nominees

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>André Croft de Moura</td>
<td>Founder and CEO of Pro-Drone Aim: To develop a solution for cost-effective and safe inspections of industrial infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andreas Kunze</td>
<td>CEO of KDNIX (main product: Smart Sensor Solution for Machine Insights) Aim: To deliver the insights into machine breakdowns that our customers need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florian Schneider</td>
<td>Co-founder and COO of Nerdalize Aim: To create a world where heating is free and sustainable computing power is affordable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genevieve Bergeret</td>
<td>Sales Manager of ProctorExam Aim: To facilitate safe online exams anywhere and to fill the missing link in online education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koen Koevoets</td>
<td>Co-owner of Eco-Dryer Systems (main product: Eco-Dryer) Aim: To reduce the domestic energy consumption of laundry dryers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolf Kersten</td>
<td>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</td>
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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

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.

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.

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.
Commissioner Moedas on open innovation

The second day of INNOVIEIT 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. 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.”

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 INNOVIEIT 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.
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

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)

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

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.
Innovate with us!

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