

# Call for Expressions of Interest

## for the appointment of up to four new members to the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is launching a Call for expressions of interest ('Call') with the aim of the European Commission ('the Commission') to appoint up to four new members to the Governing Board of the EIT ('the Board').

### Preamble

1. Pursuant to 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 (EIT)<sup>1</sup>, as amended by Regulation (EU) No 1292/2013<sup>2</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 ('the EIT Regulation'), the EIT is launching a selection procedure for the Commission to appoint up to four new members to its Board in the field of knowledge triangle integration. The EIT is calling for expressions of interest from potential candidates.

### 1. The role of the EIT

2. The EIT is an EU body established by Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 to boost innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe. The EIT contributes to the competitiveness of Europe, its sustainable economic growth and job creation by promoting and strengthening synergies and cooperation among businesses (including SMEs), education institutions and research organisations. The EIT creates favourable ecosystems for creative thought, to enable world-class innovation and entrepreneurship to thrive in Europe.
3. A key objective of the EIT is to act as a role model for promoting new systemic approaches to innovation. The direct involvement of stakeholders in strategic, operational and financial aspects of the EIT is a cornerstone of this initiative.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 97, 9.4.2008, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 174.

4. The EIT currently provides grants to eight Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). The EIT's KICs are highly integrated networks bringing together partners from business (including SMEs), universities and research organisations, bridging the public and private sectors.
5. The EIT budget for 2014-2020 is approximately EUR 2.4 billion. According to the Commission's proposal for a Regulation establishing Horizon Europe<sup>3</sup>, the EIT budget for 2021-2027 should amount to EUR 3 billion. The KICs can also leverage additional funding from the EU, as well as national and private sources. The EIT is the first European initiative to foster European innovation by fully integrating the three sides of the knowledge triangle (business, education and research) through the KICs. The aim of the EIT is to excel as a world-class institute of innovation, that inspires and drives change in European universities, research organisations and businesses, both new and established, ranging from start-ups to large multinational companies. Conceived with a clear market-driven focus, the EIT acts as a catalyst for sustainable economic growth and job creation throughout the EU by generating new skills, products, services and business, responding to public demand and the needs of the knowledge economy.

## 2. The Governing Board of the EIT

6. The EIT's strategic management is ensured by the Board, which consists of recognised European leaders of innovation from the knowledge triangle. The Board is the EIT's principal decision-making body entrusted with providing the strategic leadership of the Institute. It is autonomous in its decision-making and is, in particular, responsible for the selection, designation and evaluation of the KICs, as well as for monitoring and fostering their performance.
7. The Board consists of members appointed by the Commission. In its appointments, the Commission shall have regard to the balance between higher education, research, innovation and business experience as well as to gender and geographical balance and an appreciation of the higher education, research and innovation environment across the EU.
8. The Board is assisted by an Executive Committee composed of three appointed Board members – elected by the Board from the Board's appointed members – and the Chairperson of the Board. The Board members have a four-year non-renewable term of office and must act in the interests of the EIT, safeguarding its goals and mission, identity, autonomy and coherence, in an independent and transparent way.

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<sup>3</sup> Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, COM/2018/435 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1540387631519&uri=CELEX%3A52018PC0435>

9. On average, the Board meets four times a year at the EIT Headquarters in Budapest or, in exceptional circumstances, via videoconferencing. Extraordinary meetings may be convened at the request of its Chairperson or members. Normally, the ordinary meetings last one full day. Board members receive honoraria<sup>4</sup> for their attendance at meetings and are reimbursed for their travel costs. The meetings of the Board are prepared by the Executive Committee with support of the EIT.

### 3. Description of tasks

10. According to Section 2 of the Statutes annexed to the EIT Regulation, the responsibilities of the Board include the following:
  - a. adopt the EIT's draft Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA), single programming document, budget, annual accounts and balance sheet, and annual activity report, on the basis of a proposal from the Director of the EIT;
  - b. adopt criteria and procedures for financing, monitoring and evaluating the activities of the KICs, on the basis of a proposal from the Director of the EIT;
  - c. adopt the selection procedure of the KICs;
  - d. select and designate a partnership as a KIC or withdraw the designation where appropriate;
  - e. ensure the continuous evaluation of the activities of the KICs;
  - f. adopt its rules of procedure, including those for the Executive Committee, as well as the specific financial rules of the EIT;
  - g. define, with the Commission's agreement, appropriate fees for the Board members and the Executive Committee, which are benchmarked against similar remuneration in the Member States;
  - h. adopt a procedure for selecting the Executive Committee and the Director of the EIT;
  - i. appoint and if necessary dismiss the Director of the EIT, and exercise disciplinary authority over this person;
  - j. appoint the Accounting Officer and the members of the Executive Committee;
  - k. adopt a code of good conduct regarding conflicts of interest;
  - l. establish, where appropriate, advisory groups which may have a defined duration;

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<sup>4</sup>Decision 07/2015 of the EIT Governing Board of 5 March 2015 (ref.no. 00081.EIT.2015.I.GB34).

- m. set up an Internal Auditing Function in accordance with the EU Framework Financial Regulation;
- n. decide on the working languages of the EIT, taking into account existing principles on multilingualism and the practical requirements of its operations; and
- o. promote the EIT globally to raise its attractiveness and make it a world-class body for excellence in higher education, research, and innovation.

#### 4. Selection procedure

- 11. This Call is for the selection of up to four new Board members. The non-renewable mandate of the new Board members should be four years from the moment of their appointment.
- 12. Upon receipt of the applications, the EIT will perform an eligibility check and preliminary assessment and draw up a preliminary list of candidates.
- 13. The preliminary list of candidates will be forwarded to a Steering Committee set up by the Board, composed of three Board members<sup>5</sup> and one Observer from the Commission. The Steering Committee may decide to extend the duration of the Call, before the deadline for applications has passed, if an insufficient number of applications has been received.
- 14. After receiving the preliminary list of candidates from the EIT and in consultation with the Commission's Observer, the Steering Committee will assess the received applications in accordance with the criteria laid down in this Call and conduct interviews with the candidates who scored highest based on the evaluation of their applications. Having assessed the list of candidates and conducted the interviews, the Steering Committee, in consultation with the Commission's Observer, will draw up a shortlist of proposed candidates for the approval of the Board. The Steering Committee will ensure that the balance on the EIT Board composition required by the EIT regulation<sup>6</sup> is reflected in the shortlist proposed, in order to allow the Commission to take a decision in compliance with the above-mentioned requirements. For the purposes of this selection procedure, the shortlist prepared by the Steering Committee will not contain a ranking of the candidates and will be presented in alphabetic order<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Decision 19/2020 of the Board of 31 July 2020 (ref.no. Ares(2020)4055125).

<sup>6</sup> The Commission shall have regard to the balance between higher education, research, innovation and business experience as well as to gender and geographical balance and an appreciation of the higher education, research and innovation environment across the Union.

<sup>7</sup> A list not containing the ranking of the candidates should be understood as not indicating or being accompanied by documents indicating preferred candidates.

15. The Board will discuss, approve and forward the shortlist of proposed candidates to the Commission for the appointment of new Board members. For the purposes of this selection procedure, the shortlist prepared by the Board will not contain a ranking of the candidates and will be presented in alphabetic order<sup>8</sup>.
16. The EIT will inform candidates proposed by the Board for appointment by the Commission as well as those who have not been proposed for appointment by the Board about the outcome of the selection procedure.
17. The new members of the Board will be appointed by the Commission on the basis of a proposal submitted by the Board and after having a regard to the balance between higher education, research, innovation and business experience as well as to gender and geographical balance and an appreciation of the higher education, research and innovation environment across the Union.
18. If the Commission appoints fewer Board members than the open positions the Board will launch a new procedure for the remaining open positions.
19. The Commission may establish a reserve list from candidates proposed by the Board but not appointed under this selection procedure, which can be used if there is a need to replace members appointed under the current procedure who are unable to complete their mandate<sup>9</sup>.
20. The Commission will notify to the EIT the Decision of appointment of new EIT Board members together with the reserve list, if it is constituted.
21. The EIT will inform the shortlisted candidates about the outcome of the appointment procedure.
22. The Commission will inform the European Parliament and the Council of the EU ('the Council') of the selection procedure and of the final appointment of the new members.
23. The non-renewable mandate of the new Board members will be four years from the date of their appointment.

## 5. Application procedure and closing date

24. Interested applicants are invited to submit applications in line with the terms of this call.

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<sup>8</sup> A list not containing the ranking of the candidates should be understood as not indicating or being accompanied by documents indicating preferred candidates.

<sup>9</sup> The reserve list will remain valid for the whole duration of the mandate of the appointed members of the Board under this decision.

25. Applications must be submitted in English (*to facilitate the selection procedure*) and contain:
- a curriculum vitae (CV) of maximum 3 pages; and
  - the application form on identification, selection criteria (including eligibility, exclusion and specific criteria) and motivation, duly signed and completed by the candidate.
26. An application will be **rejected** if:
- the application form is not duly completed and accompanied by the candidate's CV;
  - it does not comply with the technical requirements set out in paragraph 25; and/or
  - it is submitted after the deadline of 23:59 on 16 November 2020.**
27. Applications must be submitted by email to the following email address: [EIT-APPLICATIONS-GB@eit.europa.eu](mailto:EIT-APPLICATIONS-GB@eit.europa.eu). They must arrive before **23:59 on 16 November 2020** (*the date and time of receipt is taken as proof*). The subject line of the email should include the reference of the vacancy (EIT GB Application 2020) and the candidate's surname. Any questions regarding the application procedure should be submitted to [EIT-APPLICATIONS-GB@eit.europa.eu](mailto:EIT-APPLICATIONS-GB@eit.europa.eu).
28. Applications will be assessed on the basis of the specific criteria and eligibility criteria set out in this call for expressions of interest.
29. In submitting an application, applicants accept the procedures and conditions of this call and in the documents to which it refers.

## 6. Specific criteria

30. The EIT is looking for a candidate who has a:
- strong track record and widespread reputation in at least one of the following lines of work: innovator, academic, scientist, entrepreneur, business leader, or investor;
  - strong track record of knowledge triangle integration (i.e. cooperation among business, research and education) to foster innovation at the European or global level; and
  - strong track record of experience with mobilising private, public or philanthropic resources.

## 7. Eligibility criteria

31. The EIT shall assess the eligibility of individual candidates against the following mandatory eligibility criteria:
- Professional Experience* — Candidates must have at least 5 years' experience in at least one of the following areas: research and innovation, business, education; and
  - Languages* — Candidates must have an excellent knowledge of English.
32. Applicants shall be considered for the selection phase as long as they comply with the following formal criteria by the closing date for applications.

## 8. Exclusion criteria

33. In addition to the above requirements, the following exclusion criteria shall be applied where:
- the candidate is in a situation of conflict of interest pursuant to the Code of Good Conduct on conflicts of interest for members of the Board;<sup>10</sup>
  - the candidate has been convicted of an offence concerning his or her professional conduct by a judgment that has the force of *res judicata*;
  - the candidate has been guilty of grave professional misconduct;
  - the candidate has been the subject of a judgment that has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the EU's financial interests.

## 9. Procedure for complaint and appeal

34. If a candidate considers that he or she has been adversely affected by any of the provisions of this Call, a request for a revision concerning such provisions shall be submitted within 20 days of the publication of this Call and addressed to the Director of the EIT.
35. Please be advised that the submission of a request for revision does not waive the obligation to submit the application by the set deadline if the requestor wishes to be considered for the position of Board member.

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<sup>10</sup> According to Decision 13/2015 of the Board of 3 June 2015 (ref.no. 00227.EIT.2015.I.GB35), EIT staff will conduct a preliminary assessment of any situation of conflict of interest raised by the applicant and inform the Steering Committee accordingly for its final decision.

36. If a candidate considers that he or she has been adversely affected by the application of the provisions of this Call, a request for a revision shall be submitted within 20 days of receipt of the EIT's notification to candidates about the outcome of the procedure and addressed to the Director of the EIT.
37. Furthermore, an action for annulment against the final decision of the Commission on the appointment of Board members may be lodged before the European Court of Justice. This must be done within two months of receipt of the notification about the results of the selection procedure. Any complaint for maladministration (see next point) will have neither the purpose nor the effect of suspending the time-limit for lodging an action for annulment.
38. Applicants who believe that there was a maladministration regarding the selection procedure may lodge a complaint to the European Ombudsman within two years of the date on which they became aware of the facts on which the complaint is based.

## 10. Independence and declaration of interests

39. Selected candidates will be bound by Decision 13/2015 of the Board on the Code of Good Conduct on conflicts of interest for members of the Board.<sup>11</sup> Upon appointment, the selected candidates must submit and sign the declaration of intention and the Annual Declaration on conflicts of interest annexed to the abovementioned code of conduct.

## 11. Other information

40. Applicants must inform the EIT of any change in their situation, or change of address, so that applications are kept up to date.
41. The EIT will publish the details of the new members (i.e. full names and nationality) on its website as well as short biographies of the members.

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<sup>11</sup> 00227.EIT.2015.I.GB35



## 12. Data Protection

42. The EIT, as a body of the EU, shall apply Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 concerning the processing of personal data of the applicants. For further information, please refer to the privacy statement (see Annex 1).<sup>12</sup>

## 13. Annexes

- **Annex I:** Privacy Statement
- **Annex II:** Application Form

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<sup>12</sup> OJ L 295, 21.11.2018