Call for Expressions of Interest

for the appointment of up to eight 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 eight 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)\(^1\), as amended by Regulation (EU) No 1292/2013\(^2\) 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 eight 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.

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, 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.

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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.

9. On average, the Board meets four times a year at the EIT Headquarters in Budapest. 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\(^4\) 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;

\(^4\)Decision 07/2015 of the EIT Governing Board of 5 March 2015 (ref.no. 00081.EIT.2015.I.GB34).
k. adopt a code of good conduct regarding conflicts of interest;
l. establish, where appropriate, advisory groups which may have a defined duration;
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 eight 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 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 without ranking for the approval of the Board.

15. During the selection procedure, 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.

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16. The Board will approve and forward the shortlist of proposed candidates to the Commission for the appointment of new Board members.

17. 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 procedure.

18. If the number of candidates proposed by the Board is inferior to the available positions, the Board will take the necessary steps to launch a new selection procedure for the remaining open positions.

19. The new Board members will be appointed by the Commission, which will inform the European Parliament and the Council of the selection procedure and of the final appointment of the new Board members.

20. The non-renewable mandate of the new Board members will be four years from the moment of their appointment, but no earlier than 30 June 2020.

21. 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.  

5. Application procedure and closing date

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

23. Applications must be submitted in English (to facilitate the selection procedure) and contain:
   a. a curriculum vitae (CV) of maximum 3 pages; and
   b. the application form on identification, selection criteria (including eligibility, exclusion and specific criteria) and motivation, duly signed and completed by the candidate.

24. An application will be rejected if:
   a. the application form is not duly completed and accompanied by the candidate’s CV;
   b. it does not comply with the technical requirements set out in paragraph 23; and/or
   c. it is submitted after the deadline of 23:59 CET on 21 October 2019.  

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6 The reserve list will remain valid for the whole duration of the mandate of the appointed members of the Board under this decision.
7 Deadline extended from 24:00 CET on 7 October 2019 to 23:59 on 21 October 2019 by the Steering Committee for the Selection Procedure.
25. Applications must be submitted by email to the following email address: EIT-APPLICATIONS-GB@eit.europa.eu. They must arrive before 23:59 CET on 21 October 2019 (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 2019) and the candidate’s surname. Any questions regarding the application procedure should submitted to EIT-APPLICATIONS-GB@eit.europa.eu.

26. Applications will be assessed on the basis of the specific criteria and eligibility criteria set out in this call for expressions of interest.

27. In submitting an application, applicants accept the procedures and conditions of this call and in the documents to which it refers.

6. Specific criteria

28. 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

29. The EIT shall assess the eligibility of individual candidates against the following mandatory eligibility criteria:

a. Professional Experience — Candidates must have at least 5 years’ experience in at least one of the following areas: research and innovation, business, education; and

b. Languages — Candidates must have an excellent knowledge of English.

30. Applicants shall be considered for the selection phase as long as they comply with the following formal criteria by the closing date for applications.

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8 Deadline extended from 24:00 CET on 7 October 2019 to 23:59 on 21 October 2019 by the Steering Committee for the Selection Procedure.
8. **Exclusion criteria**

31. 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;\(^9\)
- 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**

32. 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.

33. 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.

34. 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.

35. 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.

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\(^9\) According to Decision 13/2015 of the Board of 3 June 2015 (ref. no. 00227.EIT.2015.I.6835), 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. 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**

37. 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. 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**

38. Applicants must inform the EIT of any change in their situation, or change of address, so that applications are kept up to date.

39. 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.

12. **Data Protection**

40. 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).

13. **Annexes**

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

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10 OJ L 295, 21.11.2018
11 OJ L 295, 21.11.2018
Privacy Statement

regarding the selection of new Governing Board members

1. General information

This privacy statement provides information relating to the processing of personal data by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) when managing the selection procedure of new members of the Governing Board of the EIT (‘the Board’).

The processing of personal data of data subjects follows the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data (hereinafter ‘Data Protection Regulation of EU Institutions’).¹²

2. What is personal data and what is a personal data processing operation?

Personal data means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (hereinafter ‘data subject’). An identifiable person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.

Processing means any operation or set of operations that is performed on personal data or on sets of personal data, whether or not by automatic means, such as collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction.

3. **Who is the data controller of the data processing operations?**

The EIT, as represented by the EIT Director.

4. **What is the purpose of the processing of personal data?**

The purpose of the processing of personal data is to manage the selection procedure for the appointment of new members of the Board.

5. **Who are the data subjects?**

The data subjects are candidates who apply to the call for expressions of interest.

Finally, contact persons who submit an application on behalf of an applicant may also be data subjects.

6. **What types of personal data are collected?**

The EIT will collect personal data included in the application forms and the CVs of the data subjects, including name, contact details, gender, place and date of birth, nationality, educational and professional background, relations to the KICs, and information regarding the exclusion criteria. The CV of the applicant may include a photo of the data subject.

Personal data may also include the name and contact details of the contact person who submits the application to the EIT.

Special categories of data (see Article 10 of the Data Protection Regulation of EU Institutions) are not requested from the data subjects. Nevertheless, submitted applications may accidentally include such data.
7. Who has access to the personal data and to whom is it disclosed (data recipients)?

**Within the EIT**

The information submitted will be:

- processed by a support team within the EIT (e.g. Head of Director’s Office, Legal Officer(s), assistants), led by the Director of the EIT;
- subsequently transferred to and accessed by the members of the Steering Committee, responsible for the selection procedure; and
- the Board, responsible for submitting to the Commission a proposal for appointment of the new members.

**Within the Commission and other EU institutions and bodies**

Applications will be processed by the responsible staff of the Commission. Additionally, in the case of an audit, complaint or appeal, the personal data may be processed by the Internal Audit Service of the Commission or any external audit service commissioned by the Commission for this purpose, the Court of Auditors, OLAF, the European Ombudsman, the European Data Protection Supervisor, the General Court and the European Court of Justice.

**By third parties subject to the GDPR**

As much as necessary to ensure IT support for the selection procedure, the personal data may be processed by the IT service provider of the EIT (processor). Additionally, information concerning the selection procedure may be disclosed to external lawyers (advocates) for specific and limited purposes only (e.g. litigation).

In both cases, a written contract (following the models of the Commission including a specific article on data protection) shall be signed between the EIT and the contractor in order to ensure that Article 29 of the Data Protection Regulation for EU Institutions is respected by the data processor.

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13 Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation)
Third parties not subject to the GDPR

Exceptionally, if the IT service provider or the external lawyers contracted by the EIT are established in a country where the GDPR is not applicable, the EIT will consider the transfer of the data strictly in accordance with Articles 46-51 of the Data Protection Regulation of EU Institutions.

8. How is personal data protected and safeguarded?

The applications are received electronically via the functional mailbox EIT-Applications-GB@eit.europa.eu. Information submitted will be collected and processed by applying the EIT’s IT standards and using its telecommunication infrastructure. It will be stored in a local database on a central server, with individualised access rights (password-protected mode). Entitlement to access the information is distributed on a ‘need-to-know’ basis and access rights are only updated if changes in the EIT support team so require it.

The information submitted will be stored in secure offices within the EIT premises until its destruction.

9. What are the rights of the data subjects? Who should be contacted in case of queries or complaints?

The data subjects have the right for information and the right to access their personal data, as ensured by Article 15 and 17 of the Data Protection Regulation of the EU Institutions. In addition, candidates have the right for rectification of their inaccurate personal data concerning them without undue delay; and the right to have incomplete personal data completed, in accordance with Article 18 of the Data Protection Regulation of the EU Institutions. The exercise of such rights may not result in unequal treatment of the candidates and may not be contrary or harmful to the aim of the selection procedure. This means that before the closure of the call, they have the right to rectify data that are inaccurate or incomplete at any time. After the closing date of the call, the data subjects can only send changes about contact information (postal address, phone number and/or email address) to ensure equal treatment of applicants.

As the lawfulness of this data processing is based on Article 5(1)(a) of the Regulation (see point 10 below), candidates who have obtained the right to object in accordance with Article 23 of the Data Protection Regulation of the EU Institutions, can also exert the right to obtain the erasure of their personal data in accordance with Article 19 of the Data Protection Regulation of the EU Institutions, in particular in the cases when the personal data are no longer necessary in relation to the purposes for which they were collected, if the data subject withdraws its consent, or in case of unlawful processing.
Data subjects have the right to restrict the processing of personal data in accordance with Article 20 of the Data Protection Regulation of the EU Institutions, and the right to object on grounds relating to their particular situation in accordance with Article 23 of the Data Protection Regulation of the EU Institutions.

The rights of data subjects can be exercised only based on a written request. In case of any queries concerning the processing of personal data, data subjects may send their written requests to EIT-Applications-GB@eit.europa.eu. As a general rule, the requests for information, access, rectification, erasure and restriction are handled without undue delay and in any event within one month of receipt of the request; this period may be extended by further two months where necessary, taking into account the complexity and number of requests. In case the data subject contests the accuracy of the data, upon request, the data is restricted immediately for the period of verification of the accuracy of the data, not exceeding one month.

The data subjects have the right of recourse at any time to the Data Protection Officer of the EIT (EIT-DPO@eit.europa.eu) and to the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS@edps.europa.eu) for matters relating to the processing of their personal data.

10. What is the legal basis of the processing operations?


Decision 13/2015 of 3 June 2015 of the EIT Governing Board on the Code of Good Conduct on Conflicts of Interest for Members of the EIT Governing Board15.

Grounds for lawfulness

The lawfulness of processing operations is ensured under Article 5(1)(a) of the Data Protection Regulation of the EU Institutions: the processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the Union institution or body.

In particular, processing is necessary to enable the functioning of the Governing Board of the EIT when performing activities that fall under the scope of action of the EIT; this task is carried out in line with the public interest on the basis of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU and the EIT Regulation.

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15 00227.EIT.2015.I.GB35
The record concerning the processing activities shall be maintained by the data controller in accordance with Article 31 of the Data Protection Regulation of the EU Institutions.

11. **For how long will the personal data be kept?**

Data will be kept in electronic or paper form, on the shared drive and in the local database for a maximum of **five years** following the date on which the appointed members of the EIT Governing Board take up their duties. The data may be kept for a longer period only as necessary for audit or litigation purposes.
## Application Form

*Ref: Decision 13/2019 of the EIT Governing Board of 2 August 2019*

### For the Attention of the EIT

Please find attached the application of (NAME OF THE APPLICANT) in response to the above call for expression of interest to become a member of the Governing Board of the EIT for a period of four years.

This application includes the following documents (*please underline the relevant answer)*:

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| 1. Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the person replying to the call for expressions of interest. The CV should specify the different diplomas obtained (copies of which may be requested by the EIT), the expertise and experience relevant to the call for expressions of interest. Maximum number of pages shall be 3.  
*We encourage applicants to use the EU’s Europass CV format. Please find the tool to create and download your Europass CV online here: https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/editors/en/cv/compose.* | ☐ YES ☐ NO |
| 2. Duly completed application form, signed by the candidate | ☐ YES ☐ NO |

At this stage of the procedure, the EIT will only accept the above listed documents. Please also note that supporting documents submitted after the deadline of applications either by email or post will not be considered.

☐ Hereby, I confirm that in case of being appointed as a member of the Governing Board of the EIT, I undertake to serve for a four-year period, as well as to strongly engage in the work of the EIT, including attendance and active participation at the meetings of the Governing Board of the EIT to be held at least four times per year.

Signature of the applicant

X

Name: **TITLE/FIRST NAME/SURNAME** *(please print)*
Date: *dd/mm/yyyy*
## SECTION 1: IDENTIFICATION

### I. PERSONAL DETAILS

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### II. CONTACT DETAILS

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### III. CURRENT PROFESSION

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## SECTION 2: SELECTION CRITERIA

### I. TYPE OF BACKGROUND

1. Compliance with specific criteria in the call for expressions of interest

   - YES
   - NO

1a. If you answered yes to question 1, please list your relevant work experience that fulfil the specific criterion on 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. *(Maximum number of characters with spaces 750)*
1b. If you answered **yes** to question 1, please list your relevant work experience that fulfil the specific criterion on a track record of knowledge triangle integration (i.e. cooperation between business, research and education) to foster innovation at the European or global level. *(Maximum number of characters with spaces 750)*

1c. If you answered **yes** to question 1, please list a maximum of three examples of where you successfully mobilised private, public or philanthropic resources. *(Maximum number of characters with spaces 750)*

2. Professional experience – a minimum of 5 years of work experience in at least one of the following areas: research, business and education.  
☐ YES  ☐ NO

2a. If you answered **yes** to question 2, please list your most recent relevant work experience. *(Maximum number of characters with spaces 750)*

3. Excellent knowledge of English  
☐ YES  ☐ NO

3a. If you answered **yes** to question 3, please list the basis for your claim (e.g. studies undertaken in English, certificate). *(Maximum number of characters with spaces 300)*

II. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

4. To your knowledge, do you have any link to the existing KICs, in particular, KIC Legal Entities or KIC partner organisations?  
☐ YES  ☐ NO

4a) If you answered **yes** to the above question, please elaborate the type of link? *(Maximum number of characters with spaces 300)*

5. Have you been or are you currently employed or contracted, including in an advisory capacity, in the last two years by one of the KIC Legal Entities or one of the KIC partner organisations that are part of the current eight KICs (EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Digital, EIT InnoEnergy, EIT Health, EIT Raw Materials, EIT Food, EIT Manufacturing, EIT Urban Mobility)?  
☐ YES  ☐ NO

6. Have you been involved in the preparation and/or submission of a KIC proposal?  
☐ YES  ☐ NO
6a) If you answered **yes** to the above question, please elaborate why? *(Maximum number of characters with spaces 300)*

7. Please declare whether:
   - you have been convicted of an offence concerning your professional conduct by a judgment which has the forces of res judicata;  
     - [ ] YES  [ ] NO
   - you have been guilty of grave professional misconduct; and/or  
     - [ ] YES  [ ] NO
   - you have been subject to a judgment which the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the European Union’s financial interest.  
     - [ ] YES  [ ] NO

7a) If you answered **yes** to any of the above questions, please provide a short background information?

SECTION 3: MOTIVATION

a) Please introduce yourself with special focus on your motivation for applying for this call. Based on your experience, what do you think you could personally add to the work of the Governing Board of the EIT to increase the EIT’s impact? *(Maximum number of characters with space 1500)*
b) Where do you see the EIT’s unique added value to foster innovation in Europe compared to other initiatives? How can European innovation policy and the EIT be made more effective? (Maximum number of characters with space 1500)

c) Please describe a project where you brought together education, business and/or education organisations or worked to bring an innovation to the market. How did you use your pan-European network to make this project a success? (Maximum number of characters with space 1500)
d) Please provide a short biography, which may be used communication purposes if appointed *(Maximum number of characters with space 1000)*