

# The EIT

**Sustainable Growth and Competitiveness  
through Innovation:**

**KIC in Climate Change Mitigation and  
Adaptation**

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# EIT Mission

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*To be the catalyst for a step change in the European Community's innovation capacity and impact through the delivery of major new actions.*

*The first of these is the creation of the Knowledge and Innovation Communities: KICs.*

# KIC Topics and Timetable

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KICs with unique impact in the areas of:

- The Future Information and Communication Society
- Sustainable Energy
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

## Timetable

- April 2009: Call for Proposals
- August 2009: Submission of Proposals
- By January 2010: Selection of 2 to 3 KICs

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## KICs will:

- build innovative ‘webs of excellence’
  - integrating education, technology, research, business and entrepreneurship
  - driving effective “translation” between partners: ideas, technology, culture, business models...
- on a significant scale
  - overall budgets of 50 - 100M € per annum
- create new business
  - for existing industry
  - for new endeavours
- educate and develop entrepreneurial people
  - able to work across stakeholder boundaries
- have societal impact

# Stakeholders

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- Business
- Entrepreneurs, including SMEs
- Research and Technology Organizations
- Education
- Investment communities (private investors and venture capital)
- Funders of research, including charities and foundations
- Local, regional and national governments

## A KIC will...

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- be a high-profile, collaborative consortium
  - a “legally and financially structured and managed entity”
  - a close collaboration between geographically distributed but thematically convergent stakeholders, involving at least 3 EU states
  - open to international participation
- encompass the complete innovation chain: education to economic and societal impact
- deliver a measurable impacts on society
  - economic, scientific, educational and entrepreneurial
- be recognised as a world leader in its field
- be a long term development: a minimum life of 7 years

# Ingredients for a KIC with impact

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- Geographically distributed people
  - across the European Community and linking to centers of excellence in other parts of the world
- Working in collaborative networks
  - focussed around 4 – 6 major nodes (typically)
  - each nodes will be a “co-location center” - where staff from different stakeholders come to work together, face-to-face
- Each co-location center should
  - encompass a significant part of the innovation chain
  - reach out to other partners, such as local clusters of SMEs
- Co-location of people is critical
  - it is the key to achieving knowledge transfer and ‘translation’: between stakeholders and between science, research and business
  - effective translation is fundamental to delivery of KIC goals
- Mobility of people is therefore essential
  - proposals will need to show how co-location will be managed

# KICs and people

*Innovative European entrepreneurs are a major output of every KIC*

- Business people, entrepreneurs, researchers, technologists, educators, working together in **world class** KIC programmes
- Talented and committed academics from Europe and beyond, flexible, mobile and eager to innovate
- An environment which catalyzes movement of people between industry/business and academia
- Top quality leadership, engendering a highly developed team culture/spirit across the KIC

## *People management*

- Incentive schemes to attract excellent partners from across the innovation chain
- Environments which stimulate working/studying together in diverse teams in co-location centers
- Recognition of people and pride in the EIT brand: eg. “EIT” label for students



# KIC Selection Criteria 1

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## **An internationally distributed collaborative consortium which :**

- is composed of elite centers from business, entrepreneurship, technology, research and education
  - each with a track record in excellence, international cooperation, knowledge dissemination and translation to business
- enables collaborative people to work together in “co-location centers”
- is a legally and financially structured entity with a motivating intellectual property rights policy
- has top quality leadership, governance, structure and accountability
- attracts public and private funding, tripling the EIT funding over time
- can include excellent partners from non-EU countries

# KIC Selection Criteria 2

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## Compelling, innovative proposals with future potential

- Addressing important topics for Europe
- With (new) business and societal impact
- Making innovation an integral part of Higher Education
- A strong research and technology base, relevant and critical to the success of the KIC, and including non-technological research
- Going beyond research and technology: translation to new and existing businesses
- Key performance indicators (KPIs), targeted investment returns and drivers identified upfront
- Short, medium and long-term milestones
- Builds up continuous, self-sustaining activities
- Has broad public outreach
- Has a 7 year-plus horizon

# KIC Application Process

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- Simple
- Transparent
- Cost-effective
- Maximum of 40 pages
- Description of KIC and business plan (20 pages)
- Organization, management and governance (15 pages)

# Assessment

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- In the three topic areas
  
- **Step 1**
- Novelty and attractiveness 20%
- Impact 20%
- Coherence of strategy and activities 10%
- Co-location plan 20%
- IPR plan 10%
- Business plan 10%
- Outreach 10%
  
- **Step 2**
- Management and governance 50%
- Strength of partners 50%

# Call, Selection and Monitoring

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- **Call for proposals for KICs by April 2009, submission August 2009**
  - Based on KIC format and selection criteria, finalized by end March 2009
- **Selection of the first 2-3 KICs by January 2010**
  - Strong teams with the best chance of success
  - Proposals recognized as innovative, ambitious and coherent
  - Extensive publicity and support for the selected KICs
- **Evaluation and monitoring of KICs starting by August 2010**
  - Recognized as fair, simple and effective
  - Consistent and clearly derived from the original selection criteria
  - Rewarding good performance and achievement
  - Recognizing and communicating the EIT brand