



INNOVEIT 2017

EIT INNOVATION FORUM

Parallel workshop 2

Education for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

17 October 09:30 – 11:00

Background document

The **objective of the parallel workshop** is to allow for a debate and consult with stakeholders, within an interactive setting, on how the EIT can step up its offerings in education for entrepreneurship and innovation in the future. The feedback and input received will feed into the preparation of the EIT's Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027.

In small groups, workshop participants will discuss the following questions:

1. How should the EIT further encourage cooperation between business partners and education institutions for a more structural transformation and embedding entrepreneurship support even beyond the education activities, in order to bridge the gap between graduates skills and competences and labour market needs?
2. How can the EIT further enhance an entrepreneurship culture, refine and widen its educational offerings beyond Higher Education?
3. How can the EIT Community - with its experience providing entrepreneurship education, business support and innovation - further develop its pilot initiatives (focused on support the integration of migrants and women entrepreneurship)?

EIT's future ambition: The EIT as Global Innovation Leader

The EIT's vision is to become a global innovation leader delivering world-class solutions to global societal challenges that create jobs and improve the quality of life of citizens.

In order to address the global challenges and goals, to embrace the opportunities that new technologies bring and contribute to sustainable European economic growth, jobs, competitiveness and the future well-being of citizens, the EIT will significantly step up efforts in strengthening the innovation capacity of Europe by connecting and empowering people and organisations to create, educate and innovate. The EIT has developed an effective innovation model which will be further reinforced and expanded to scale-up its impact to boost Europe's innovation capacity by:

1. fostering and strengthening sustainable innovation ecosystems by connecting people, disciplines, sectors, organisations and resources. This will be done via 2 distinct pathways:
 - a) By reinforcing the effectiveness and expanding EIT Innovation Communities and
 - b) By supporting regions to excellence in Member States that are modest and/or moderate innovators through the EIT Regional Innovation scheme (EIT RIS).
2. bringing solutions to global societal challenges to the market by integrating business, education and research
3. **enhancing and promoting skills and competences for a strong inclusive entrepreneurship and innovation culture and**
4. sharing innovative practices and learnings widely and contributing to innovation policy design in Europe.

Strategic directions for the EIT's future education agenda

The EIT will enhance and promote skills and competences for a strong inclusive entrepreneurship and innovation culture

The development of "human capital" with the competences and skills needed to become a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy is central to Europe and is at the heart of the EIT's renewed strategy. The EIT educational model focusses on **providing excellent education for innovation and entrepreneurship** that combines high-level disciplinary capabilities with profound competences in entrepreneurship and innovation and strong business involvement.

The EIT integrates the education dimension into the innovation ecosystem, as it has often been absent from the more traditional research-business partnerships. Learners are "T-shaped"¹ professionals with an understanding of the thematic value chains and with a mind-set for innovation and entrepreneurship including hands-on experience utilising real infrastructure provided by the eco-system of various partners.

The high degree of collaboration in the EIT's education activities between business, research and academia and an emphasis on international mobility have a positive effect on graduates' skills and competences and make them more international, more interdisciplinary and more entrepreneurial than regular graduates. To be prepared for future challenges people need not only problem solving, team working and communication skills but also digital literacy, creativity and entrepreneurship skills. In this sense the EIT intends to:

- **Educate the next generation of entrepreneurs and change makers** and foster an entrepreneurial mind-set and creativity through its education agenda following a holistic human capital approach;

¹ The vertical bar on the T represents the depth of related skills and expertise in a single field, whereas the horizontal bar is the ability to collaborate across disciplines with experts in other areas and to apply knowledge in areas of expertise other than one's own.

- Strengthen and further **develop the flagship initiative – the EIT Label²** – into an acknowledged European quality seal for excellent entrepreneurship education, improve its quality assurance and step up its promotion and design mechanisms to make the EIT Label available to partners outside the Innovation Communities;
- Develop an **enhanced culture of entrepreneurship and life-long learning** and support a ‘bottom-up’ systemic approach for the development of STE(A)M – and innovation-related skills and competences including entrepreneurial and digital skills for young people;
- Refine and **widen the educational offerings beyond higher education** to schools, in line with the EU’s ‘**New Skills Agenda for Europe³**’, as competences for entrepreneurship, innovation and digital skills need to be developed on a much larger scale as well as to support the systematic inclusion in education across Europe to effectively strengthen the EU innovation capacity;
- Encourage the development of new forms of learning experiences by **enhancing the links between business and education partners**;
- **Reduce skills mismatch and boost skills uptake** throughout the education chain, focused on a higher participation of women, minorities and other under-represented groups in entrepreneurship, digital issues as well as scientific and technical specializations and in geographies where they are currently underrepresented;
- **Strategically guide the EIT Alumni Community** to maximise its entrepreneurial and societal impact;
- **Take a more active and institutional role**, providing strategic guidance and conceptual support to stakeholders and partners in the field of education. Increased institutional capacity shall help the EIT to develop a unifying umbrella to steer education activities.

² The EIT Label: <https://eit.europa.eu/activities/education/eit-label>

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1223>