



EIT Innovation Forum

16-17 October 2017 · Budapest, Hungary

INNOVEIT 2017

EIT INNOVATION FORUM

Parallel workshop 3

Delivering innovations to the citizen – the EIT way

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 to step up efforts in delivering innovation to the citizens via the EIT innovation model**. 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 can the EIT better anchor its Innovation Hubs into the regions to become key drivers for innovation?
2. How can the EIT involve citizens in co-creating innovations which would lead to new products and services?
3. How can the EIT best share innovative practises and learnings for the benefit of society?

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

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology's (EIT) 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 and 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 Delivering innovations to the citizen – the EIT way

The EIT was established in 2008 in order to tackle Europe's structural weaknesses in innovation capacity and to integrate education, research and business with a view to deliver new services, products and processes and consequently also boosting growth and jobs. The EIT has since been addressing these issues by creating, guiding and enhancing innovation networks based on excellent partnerships of businesses (including SMEs), education institutes, research institutes, NGOs, citizens and public bodies – who work together in its **thematic EIT Innovation Communities to educate and innovate**. The partners contribute to the innovation process by performing and integrating three functions: business, research, and education (the Knowledge Triangle) with a view to bring new products, services, business models and educational offerings to the market. Each Community addresses a global societal challenge and operates with their own management, legal structure and business plan, autonomously designed with our support, and have clear, measurable objectives to deliver value to their partners and EU citizens.

Each **EIT Innovation Community** is structured in a network of **highly dynamic Innovation Hubs**, which are innovation ecosystems that enable regional and cross-border EU collaboration. The Hubs accelerate the innovation process by bringing together actors that would otherwise not interact, providing a testbed for ideas, new innovative activities complementing existing efforts and also facilitating access to the pan-European innovation ecosystems and the wider EIT Community network. The Innovation Hubs have a physical space where partners meet and collaborate. They have a defined focus and knowledge base within the theme of the EIT Innovation Community so that communication and knowledge transfer can effectively take place. Innovation Hubs create a social environment that builds trust and fosters good relationships among its members and beyond for the benefit of innovative performance.

The EIT Innovation Community builds and maintains an enabling environment that provides optimal and stable conditions for innovation while paying particular attention to strengthening exiting partnerships and extending to new ones that bring added value. In this context, the Innovation Hubs act as a gateway and also build strong relationships with national and regional

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authorities and pursue active concertation with other (regional or national) initiatives with a view to joining forces and to enhance the effectiveness and long term sustainability.

Future ambitions

Building on its key achievements to date and strong European added value, the EIT has initiated preparations for its strategic work post-2020. Achieving its vision lies at the very heart of the EIT's future planning and is motivated by a determination to significantly step up efforts in strengthening the innovation capacity of Europe by connecting and empowering citizens and organisations into networks to create, educate and innovate. The EIT believes that the highest level of Knowledge Triangle Integration and innovation capacity is reached when an orchestrated network of innovation partners has been built and a collaborative mind-set has been instilled in its members at every level. This would allow for a rich pool of resources and practices to be available for ideation and purposeful collaboration.

In this context, the EIT is aiming to reinforce and expand its successful innovation model so as to scale-up its impact and boost Europe's innovation capacity, by means of:

- better connecting citizens, disciplines, sectors, organisations and resources so as to foster and strengthen its large, well-established pan-European innovation ecosystems focussed on major societal challenges;
- boosting the integration of business, education and research in order to bring new products, services, novel processes and business models to the market that address the needs of citizens and increase their quality of life;
- strengthen the key role of its current and future Innovation Hubs in nurturing breakthrough innovation and ensure that they develop into acknowledged drivers of innovation at EU, Member State and regional-level;
- mobilising and involving citizens throughout the entire innovation process as co-designers and co-creators of effective and marketable solutions; and;
- widely sharing its innovative practices and learnings and making them systematically accessible to the wider Union innovation community so as allow everyone to benefit from the results of its innovation activities.