



INNOVEIT 2017

EIT INNOVATION FORUM

Parallel workshop 4

Boosting regional excellence

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 Regional Innovation Scheme can best support local, regional and national innovation ecosystems to boost regional excellence. EIT is also seeing to enquire how the EIT RIS can complement and build upon existing/planned/future initiatives and policies at national and EU level. 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. EIT RIS has an ambition to maximise the potential of innovation ecosystems in the EIT RIS countries and regions and thereby bring them to excellence. **What are the main measures EIT RIS should incorporate to strengthen innovation ecosystems and support them towards excellence?**
2. EIT Hubs will be instrumental in boosting regional innovation output in post-2020 EIT RIS vision. They will act as platform for interaction and brokerage between the EIT Innovation Communities and local actors, as well as a channel for sharing know-how of the EIT innovation model, thereby strengthening regional innovation ecosystems. **In which ways EIT Hubs can best serve their role in linking local innovation actors, and connecting them to the pan-European networks of EIT Innovation Communities?**
3. **How could EIT RIS be better aligned with existing/ future EU, national and regional policies and initiatives targeting the enhancement of countries and regions lagging behind in innovation performance (e.g. Smart Specialisation Strategies and ESIF, DG RTD actions on spreading excellence and widening participation)?**

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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 towards 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 supporting regions towards excellence in countries that are modest and moderate innovators through the EIT Regional Innovation scheme (EIT RIS)

The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS) was introduced by the European Parliament and the Council as part of the EIT's Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) 2014-2020. In line with the SIA, the EIT RIS is designed to share good practices and experience emerging from the EIT Community's activities, as well as to widen participation in EIT Innovation Communities' activities. The objective of the Scheme is to contribute to enhancing the innovation capacity of the countries and regions that are modest and moderate innovators¹ by transferring EIT good practise of the Knowledge Triangle Integration, the cornerstone of EIT's intervention logic.

The EIT RIS has been designed as a long-term initiative to strengthen the national and regional innovation eco-systems of the targeted countries, by strengthening the capacity of their innovation enablers and actors and linkages among them. In addition, it is a two-way interaction scheme. While local actors benefit from the good practices related to Knowledge Triangle Integration, the EIT Innovation Communities gain access to talent, cooperation opportunities in education, markets and business, currently untapped entrepreneurial potential, customers for innovative ventures, innovation, knowledge, know-how and technology transfer possibilities and additional testbeds for applications of innovative solutions.

Current Status

After the first three years of implementation since the introduction of the EIT RIS in 2014, five EIT Innovation Communities (i.e. EIT Climate-KIC, EIT InnoEnergy, EIT Digital, EIT Raw Materials, and EIT Health) explore opportunities in 18 out of 28 EIT RIS eligible countries², while the newly established EIT Food will integrate EIT RIS in its approach from the very beginning.

¹European Innovation Scoreboard 2017: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/innovation/facts-figures/scoreboards_en

² EU Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Romania and H2020 Associated Countries in Europe: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine

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Based on lessons learnt from these first years of EIT RIS activities the EIT published a new Guidance Note covering the implementation of EIT RIS activities for the period 2018-2020. The new guidance note has a stronger focus on the expected impact/ results, with an emphasis on KTI approach and transfer of good practices (i.e. working with innovation ecosystems at local level in addition to working with selected entities and individuals).

While the EIT works towards increasing the impact of the EIT RIS activities for the next three years, the planning for the future has already begun in order to strengthen the EIT RIS as a mechanism to engage in the EIT Community's activities regions and countries that wish to participate and benefit from successful innovation models and ecosystems developed by the EIT Community. The next lines briefly present EIT's vision and proposed strategic directions for EIT RIS in preparation of EIT's future Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) beyond 2020.

The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme – Future Outlook

In line with its mission to strengthen the innovation capacity of Europe as a whole, the EIT aims at bridging the existing gaps in innovation performance across Europe. Through its Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS), the EIT will contribute to boosting the innovation capacity of countries and regions that are lagging behind in innovation performance, whilst having a high potential for excellence. To achieve this, EIT will step up the efforts and engage national, regional and local innovation ecosystems as a whole in a systematic, synergetic and sustainable manner.

EIT will work with innovation ecosystems that exhibit high innovation potential based on strategy, thematic alignment and impact. This includes, inter alia, the presence of high performing innovation actors; their thematic alignment with EIT Community's thematic priorities and with existing national and/or regional innovation strategies (e.g. Smart Specialisation Strategies), as well as their commitment to leverage national, regional and/or EU funding for Knowledge Triangle Integration. The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS) will be implemented through regional hubs which serve as an entry point for interacting with local players, mobilising and internationalising the regional networks.

EIT Hubs

To create impact on local ecosystems, in the period of 2018-2020 KICs are setting up formalised cooperation with local entities, capable of functioning as platform for interaction and brokerage between the KICs and local actors, as well as a channel for the sharing of KTI knowledge and good practices. These entities are designated as EIT Hubs and serve as an entry point for interacting with local players, mobilizing and internationalizing the local networks and facilitating KIC efforts in fostering KTI. Through the EIT Hubs the KICs will ensure the active involvement of local knowledge triangle actors, as well as liaise with and provide expertise to the relevant national, regional and local authorities.

In the post-2020 period EIT Hubs should evolve to serve as regional innovation hubs that channel the EIT Community's expertise to the country / region, as well as facilitate and broker collaboration between business, research and education. The EIT Hub in cooperation with the EIT Community should become instrumental in shaping the innovation ecosystems based on the knowledge triangle integration principle. EIT Hubs will promote and facilitate co-creation and access to business developers, investor networks and public funding sources.

The EIT Community will:

- Facilitate the strengthening of innovation ecosystems based on the Knowledge Triangle Integration approach, creating strong links between business, research and education and engaging national and regional authorities
- Enhance institutional capacity of innovation actors and enablers by engaging in activities with and transferring good practices, learnings and know-how of EIT Innovation Communities in the areas of entrepreneurial education, business creation and scaling up, and innovation;

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- Link the local innovation ecosystems into the pan-European innovation system through cooperation with EIT Innovation Communities and their local and regional hubs;
- Coordinate the EIT RIS with national and regional policy makers and managing authorities in order to align efforts; and to promote and facilitate synergies and complementarities with other EU initiatives and programmes, such as regional Smart Specialisation Strategies, European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation as well as national programmes supporting innovation and entrepreneurship.

For more information on the EIT RIS: <https://eit.europa.eu/activities/outreac/eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris>