



NEW EIT STRATEGY LAUNCHED FOR 2021-2027

Budapest, Hungary, 14 June 2021 - The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is officially launching its [Strategic Innovation Agenda \(SIA\) for 2021-2027](#). With an enhanced mandate for the coming years and a budget of almost EUR 3 billion under Horizon Europe, the EIT will help power Europe's recovery and green and digital transition.

The EIT's new strategy is kicking off with a hybrid launch event online and live from the International Iberian Institute of Nanotechnology (INL) in Braga, Portugal and organised under the auspices of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. High-profile speakers include, **David Sassoli**, President of the European Parliament; **Mariya Gabriel**, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth; **Manuel Heitor**, Portuguese Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education; **Maria da Graça Carvalho**, Member of the European Parliament; **Gioia Ghezzi**, Chair of the EIT Governing Board and **Peter Carlsson**, CEO of Northvolt (supported by EIT InnoEnergy and EIT RawMaterials).

David Sassoli, President of the European Parliament, said: *'Thanks to the EIT's new strategy, entrepreneurs, innovators, and students across the EU will benefit from more support and more mentorship. The EIT, as Europe's largest innovation ecosystem, will play an important role in Europe's recovery by powering cutting-edge innovations to tackle societal challenges and create meaningful opportunities for its citizens.'*

Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth said: *'The EIT is much more than an EU funding instrument to support innovation. It is a Community of like-minded talented individuals, who have decided to put their creative power to collectively find solutions to the challenges of our time. The expectations are high, but I know that the EIT is well equipped to deliver on those in the coming years.'*

Following the introductory policy session, four thematic sessions were held each focusing on the key areas of the EIT's new strategy: strengthening the EIT Community's impact, increasing the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of higher education institutions, strengthening the EIT's regional development efforts, through the Regional Innovation Scheme, and setting up two innovation communities dedicated to the cultural and creative sectors and industries (2022) and to water, marine and maritime sectors and ecosystems (2026).

Gioia Ghezzi, Chair of the EIT Governing Board, said: *'Today's event is filled with excitement as we see the unveiling of the EIT's ambitious priorities for the next seven years. I am pleased that some of the new flagship activities have already kicked off with lightning speed, showcasing the flexibility and support that the EIT offers to innovators and entrepreneurs across Europe, support that we hope to increase to reach even more regions and audiences.'*

Peter Carlsson, CEO of Northvolt, said: *'Joining forces to power a greener and more sustainable future is key. This is why partnering with the EIT Community, including the European Battery Alliance, has been important to Northvolt. The EIT Community helps entrepreneurs and innovators connect, access funds, resources, and mentorships while opening doors across Europe.'*



EIT - MAKING INNOVATION HAPPEN!

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)?

The EIT strengthens Europe's ability to innovate by powering solutions to pressing global challenges and by nurturing entrepreneurial talent to create sustainable growth and skilled jobs in Europe. The EIT is an EU body and an integral part of Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

The Institute supports dynamic pan-European partnerships, EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities, among leading companies, research labs and universities. Together with their leading partners, the EIT Community offers a wide range of innovation and entrepreneurship activities across Europe: entrepreneurial education courses, business creation and acceleration services and innovation driven research projects.

EIT POWERS INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES

The EIT's eight Knowledge and Innovation Communities work to accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy ([EIT Climate-KIC](#)), drive Europe's digital transformation ([EIT Digital](#)), lead the global revolution in food innovation and production ([EIT Food](#)), give EU citizens greater opportunities to lead a healthy life ([EIT Health](#)), achieve a sustainable energy future for Europe ([EIT InnoEnergy](#)), strengthen the competitiveness of Europe's manufacturing industry ([EIT Manufacturing](#)), develop raw materials into a major strength for Europe ([EIT RawMaterials](#)), and solve the mobility challenges of our cities ([EIT Urban Mobility](#)).

In line with the EIT's new strategy for 2021 to 2027, a Call for a new [EIT Culture and Creativity](#) Knowledge and Innovation Community will be launched in November 2021. In addition, the EIT has launched the [HEI Initiative: Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education](#) – a new initiative to unlock the full innovation potential of higher education institutions and finally, a strengthened focus is being renewed to [the EIT's Regional Innovation Scheme](#) with the aim to increase innovation and EIT impact in more regions across Europe.

EIT FACTS & FIGURES

- **Europe's largest innovation network:** 2 000+ partners from top business, research and education organisations across Europe in 60+ innovation hubs across Europe
- **Making innovation happen:** powered more than 3 100 start-ups and scale-ups, created more than 1 170 new products and services that have gone to raise more than EUR 3.3 billion in external capital. More than 3 100 students have graduated from EIT labelled master and doctoral programmes and over 10 000 have participated in EIT Community entrepreneurial trainings.



*figures August 2020