



European Institute of
Innovation & Technology

HEI Initiative Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education

Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027 | Launch | 14 June 2021



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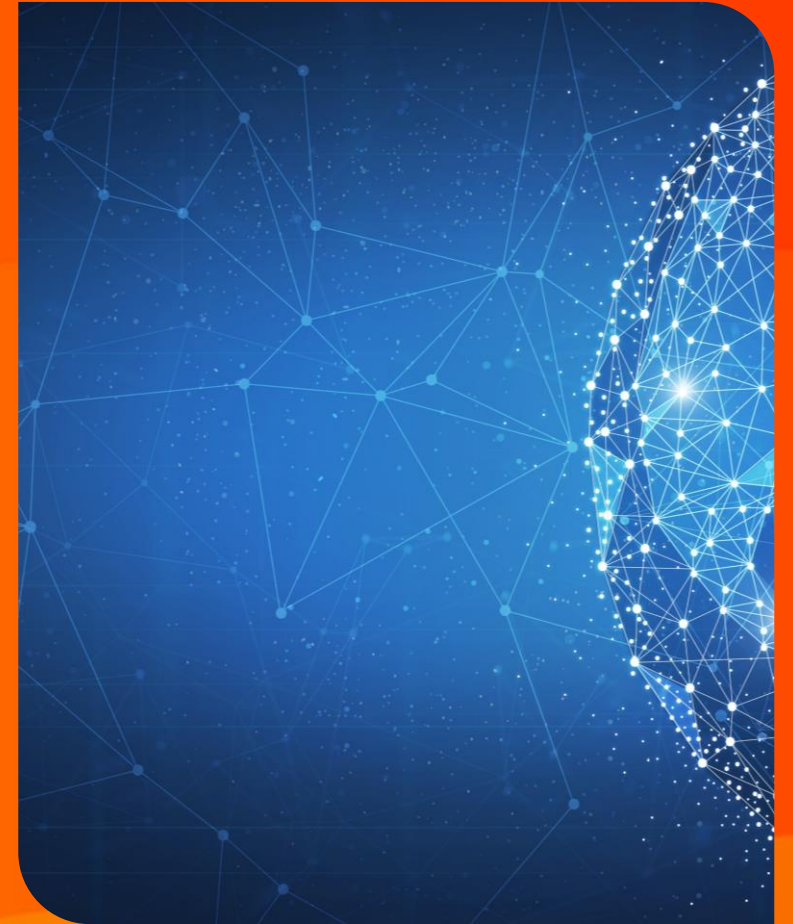
HEI INITIATIVE – THE POLICY CONTEXT

- As part of Horizon Europe and under the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027, EIT and the KICs are expected to *raise the bar* in education
- Create systemic impact by engaging 500+ HEIs at *institutional* level
 - Strengthen the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of HEIs at institutional level
 - Strengthen integration into innovation ecosystems
- HEIs will be empowered to become **engines of innovation** for the realisation of a green, digital & inclusive society
- EIT and EIT KICs have established the **HEI Initiative: Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education**



HEI INITIATIVE – THE OBJECTIVES

- Contribute to the EIT mission of boosting **sustainable, inclusive economic growth** by reinforcing the innovation capacity of Member States.
- **Extend the impact** of EIT education beyond individual faculties and departments to all levels within the education value chain
- Leverage the innovation and entrepreneurial **knowledge-base built** in the EIT KICs thus far
- Enable EIT KIC partners and non-partners to collaborate, co-create and mutually learn
- Encourage HEIs to look at their **own practices** and the opportunities for increasing their impact in their ecosystem
- Empower HEIs to create a **entrepreneurial culture and mindset** that inspires people to transform their expertise into tangible, societal value



HEI INITIATIVE – BY THE NUMBERS

DURATION

HEI Initiative is a 3-year pilot (2021-2023), steered by the EIT Governing Board

EIT Governing Board will decide if the HEI Initiative will continue or stop, 2024 – 2027

Selected projects have a maximum duration of 2 years

BUDGET

Maximum budget of the HEI Initiative 3-year pilot is 3% of total EIT budget (EUR 90m)

Total maximum budget awarded to a selected project is EUR 1,2m per project

HOW

The HEI Initiative is a cross-KIC programme, co-designed & co-implemented by all 8 EIT KICs

Projects consisting of consortia of HEIs are selected through Open Calls for Proposals

Pilot Call for Proposals launched in March 2021

HEI INITIATIVE – THE CALL

- The Pilot Call for Proposals was launched by Commissioner Gabriel on 24 March 2021 and closed on **25 May 2021**
 - Max EUR 9,2m available in Phase 1, funding 24 projects
 - Project max duration is 24 months, kicking off July 2021
- Four Info Session Webinars organised in April 2021 – 1.800 registrations
- A project consortium must consist of a minimum of four organisations
 - A minimum of three HEIs from three different countries
 - A minimum of one actor from another side of the Knowledge Triangle



Proposal Development

Perform
HEInnovate
self-assessment

Establish
consortium

Create
Innovation
Vision Action
Plan (IVAP)

Project Implementation

Implement IVAP
Phase 1

Implement IVAP
Phase 2

Implement IVAP
Post-Project

PILOT CALL FOR PROPOSALS – RESULTS



64

Applications



748

Organisations



320

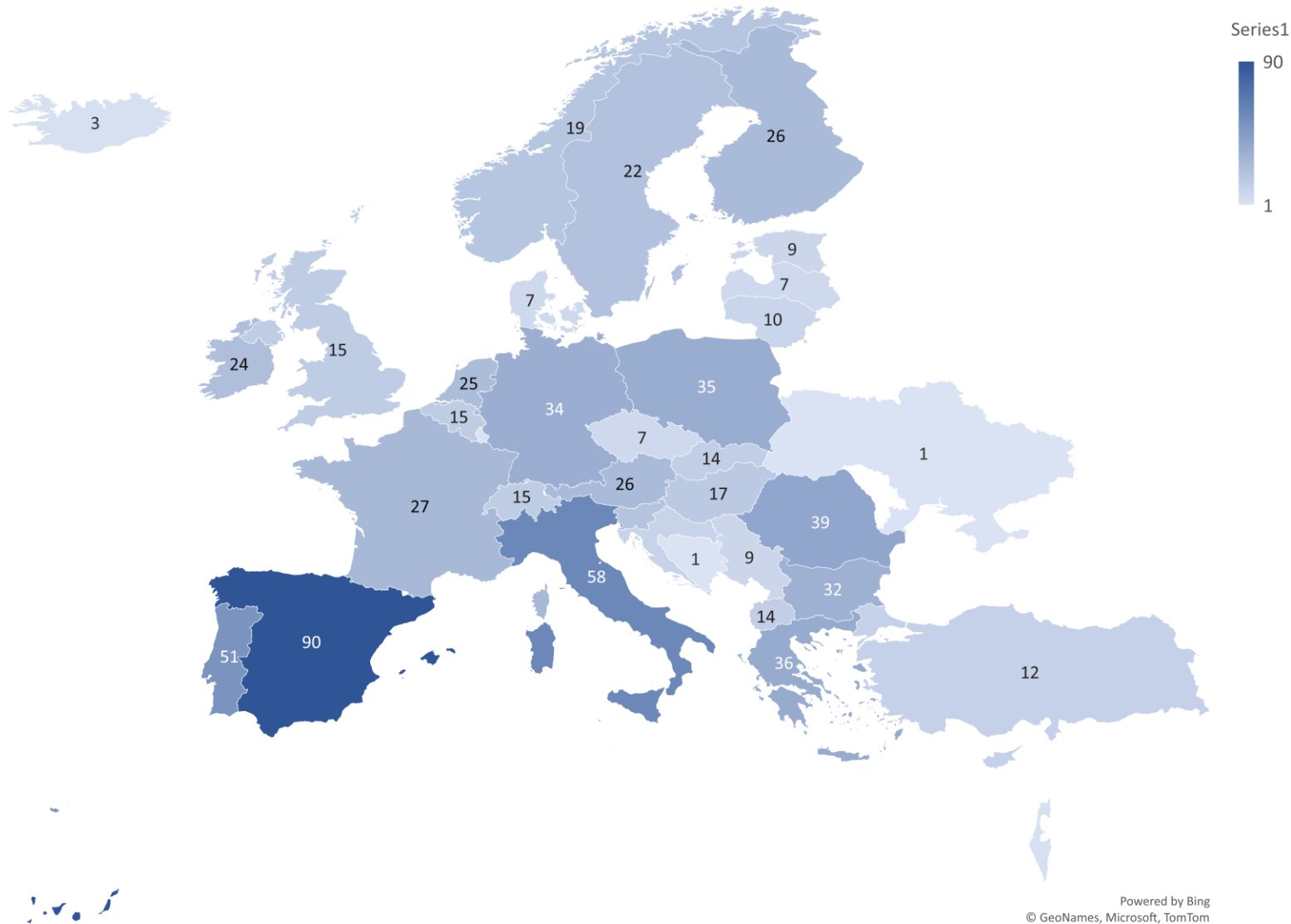
HEIs



36

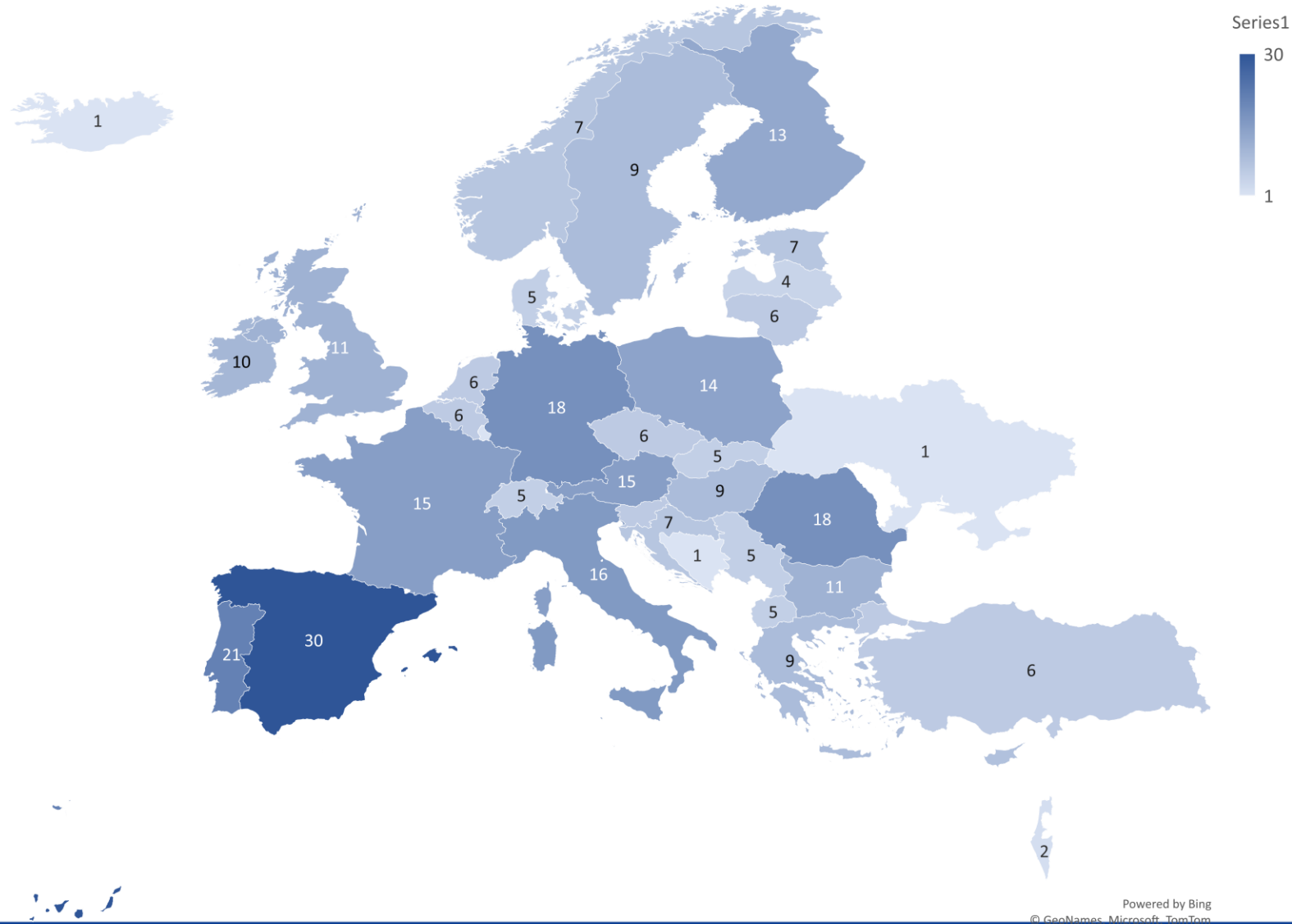
Countries

Geographical Distribution of All Organisations in 64 Applications



- 748 organisations involved in 64 applications
- All RIS countries included except two involved in an application
 - 65% of all organisations come from RIS
- Broad, extensive reach for the Pilot Call

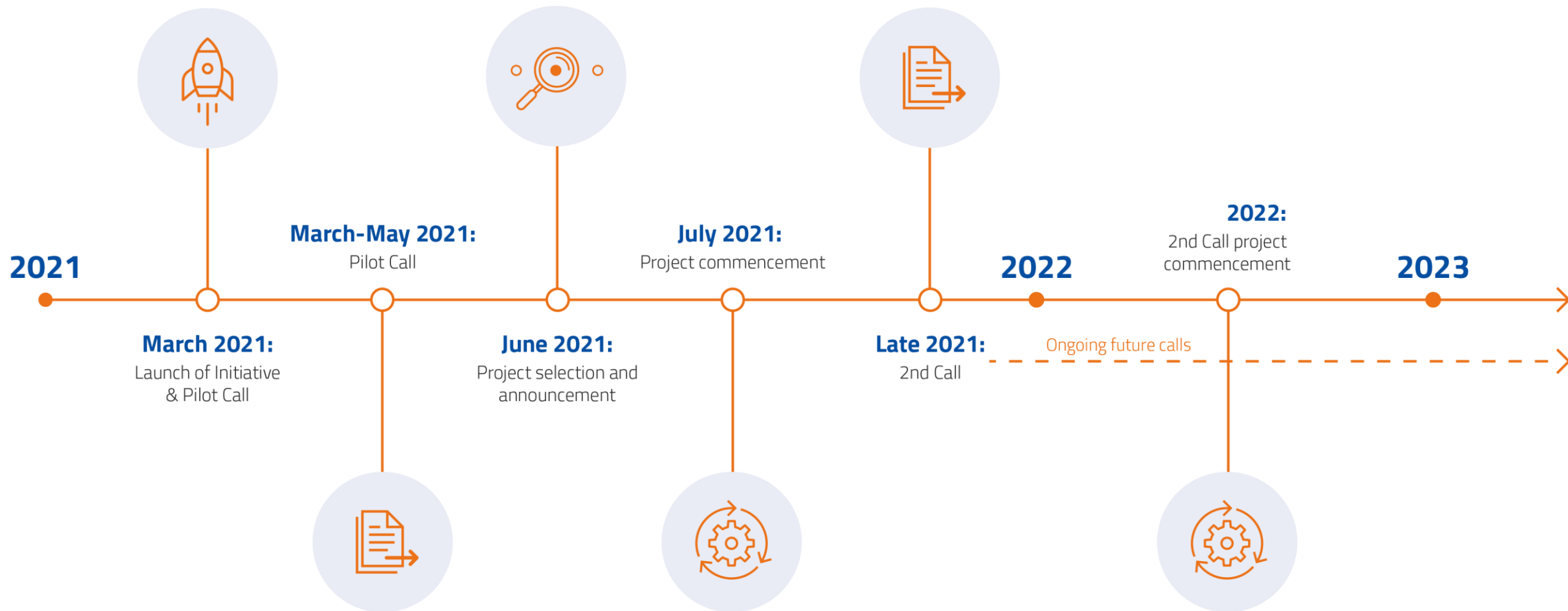
Geographical Distribution of HEIs in 64 Applications



- 320 HEIs involved in 64 applications
- 61% of all HEIs originate from RIS countries

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WHAT'S NEXT



The HEI Initiative is supported by EIT's Knowledge and Innovation Communities under Horizon Europe

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INCREASING THE EIT'S REGIONAL IMPACT

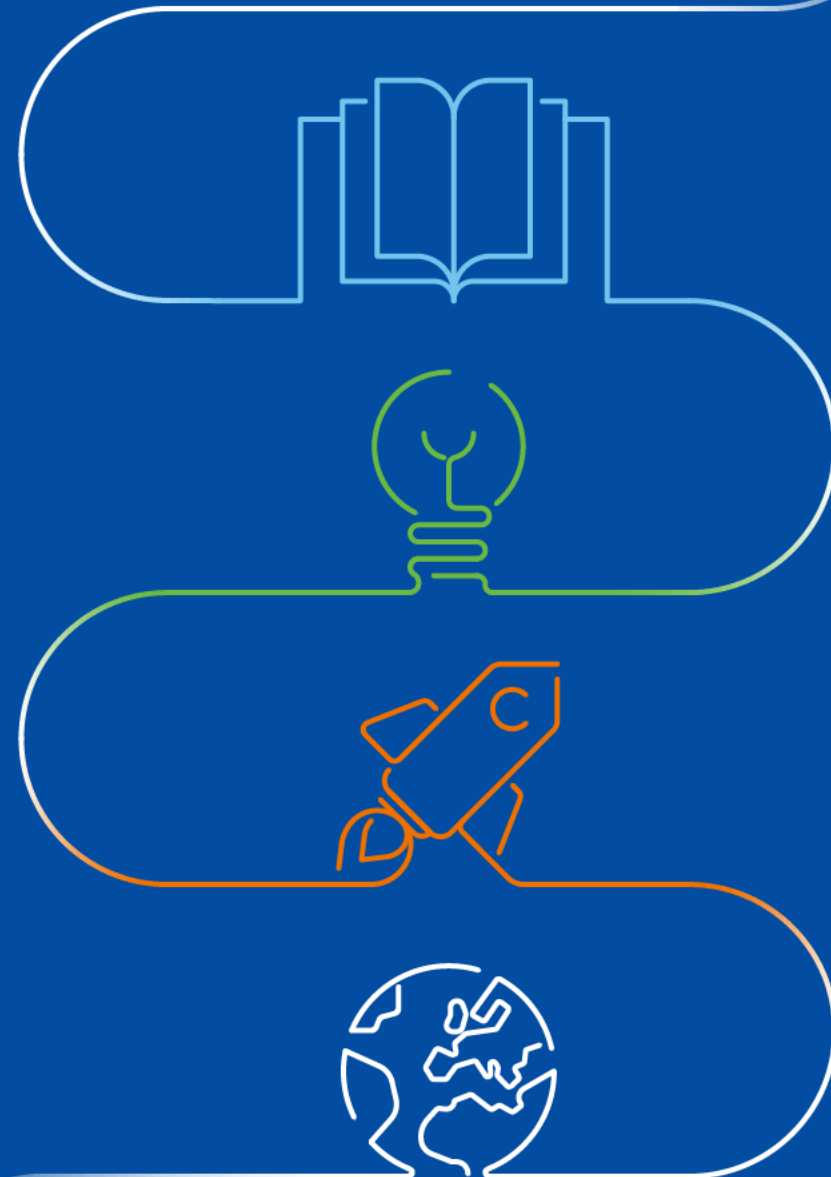
An enhanced EIT Regional Innovation
Scheme (2021-2027)

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14 June 2021



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EIT REGIONAL INNOVATION SCHEME (EIT RIS)

OBJECTIVE

- Set-up to contribute to enhancing of the innovation capacity in **moderate and modest innovators*** Member States and Horizon 2020 Associated Countries

APPROACH

- Share and transfer good practices of **knowledge triangle integration**
- **Widen participation** in EIT Innovation Communities and create pan-European networks
- Allow collaboration in regions and countries that have been designing **Smart Specialisation Strategies**

** European Innovation Scoreboard*

EIT RIS RESULTS 2014-2019

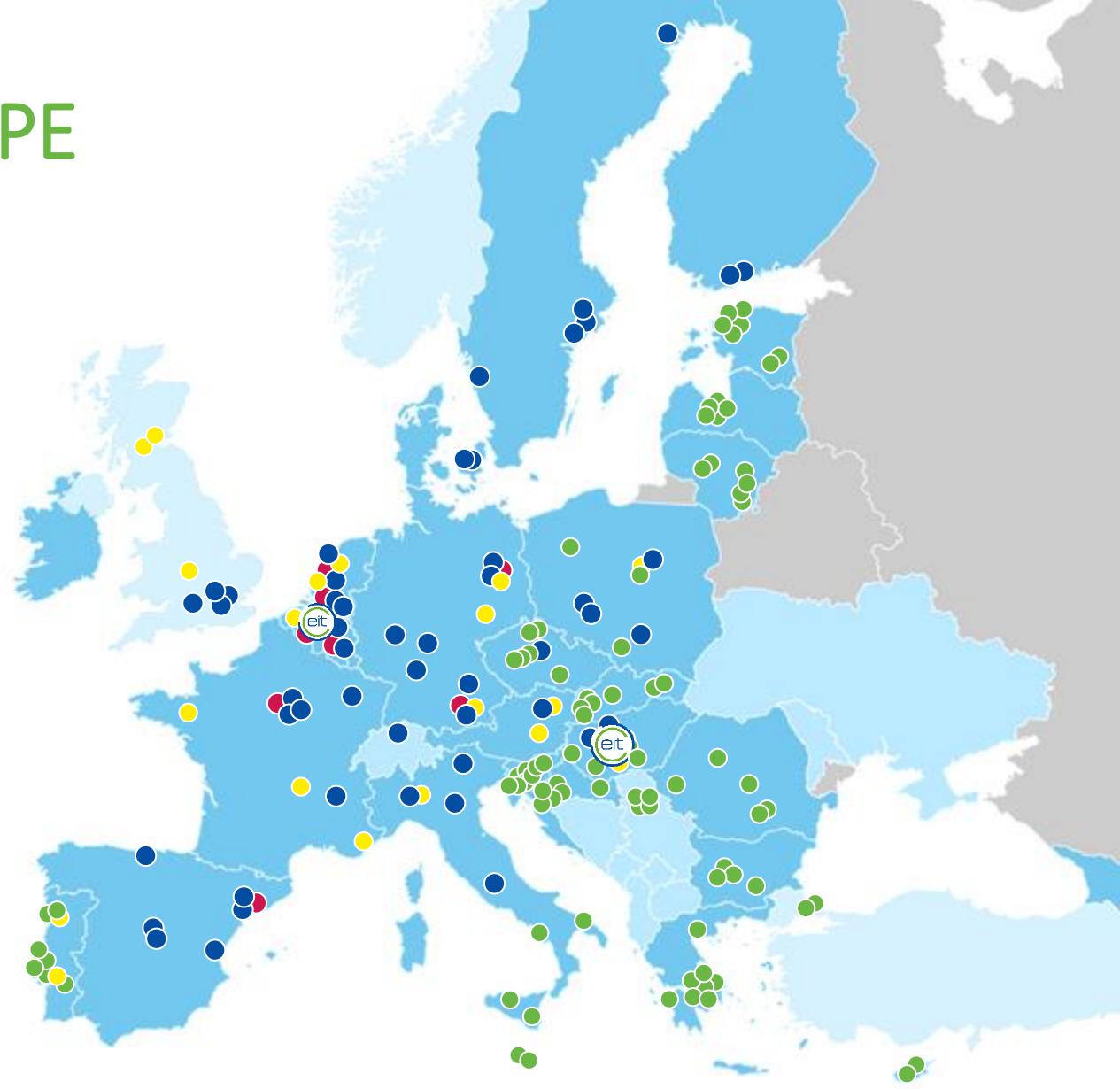
- With an average 4% of the total EIT funding in years 2016-2019, the EIT RIS helped **change the geographical spread** of the EIT KICs' networks
- KICs established more **than 60 EIT Hubs in 18 EIT RIS countries** - 5 EIT RIS countries feature **12 Co-location Centres (CLCs)**, incl. Italy and Spain

Where the KICs had limited or no presence in 2014, the EIT RIS triggered the following change:

- Number of partners from the EIT RIS countries increased by 613%, - Number of involved countries increased by 850%
- The EIT funding to EIT RIS countries with limited participation has three-folded
- More than 1500 early stage start-up teams have been coached
- 23% of all the KICs' supported start-ups come from the EIT RIS countries
- 14% of the total of KIC partners were from the EIT RIS countries

EIT COMMUNITY ACROSS EUROPE

- Headquarters
- Innovation Hubs (Co-location Centers)
- Offices
- EIT Hubs under EIT Regional Innovation Scheme



INCREASING OUR REGIONAL IMPACT (1)

- Become **mandatory and an integral part** of the EIT KICs' multi-annual strategy.
- Continue to support **modest and moderate innovation countries and regions**, as well as, the **Outermost Regions**.
- Improve **the innovation capacities of local ecosystems**, via capacity building activities and closer interactions between the local knowledge triangle innovation actors and their activities.



INCREASING OUR REGIONAL IMPACT (2)

- Support the objective of **attracting new partners in KICs**, including through the establishment of **RIS Hubs**.
- Leverage **additional private and public funding**, with particular attention to **ESI Funds**, including through strengthen links with **Smart Specialisation Strategies**.
- The EIT RIS will have a **budget of up to 15% of the total EIT grant** to support existing and new EIT KICs and EIT RIS activities could be supported at a **co-funding rate of up to 100%**.



Download the *EIT RIS Implementation Framework (2022-2027)* from the EIT website [here](#).



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THE POWER OF CREATIVITY

EIT Culture & Creativity Webinar
14 June 2021



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CCSI: CATALYSING INNOVATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE EUROPE

- **High innovation potential:** space for innovation & technical skills
- **CCSIs promote:**
 - Cultural diversity and social cohesion
 - Creative crossovers, risk-taking, and entrepreneurial thinking
 - EU global leadership
- **Challenges due to COVID**



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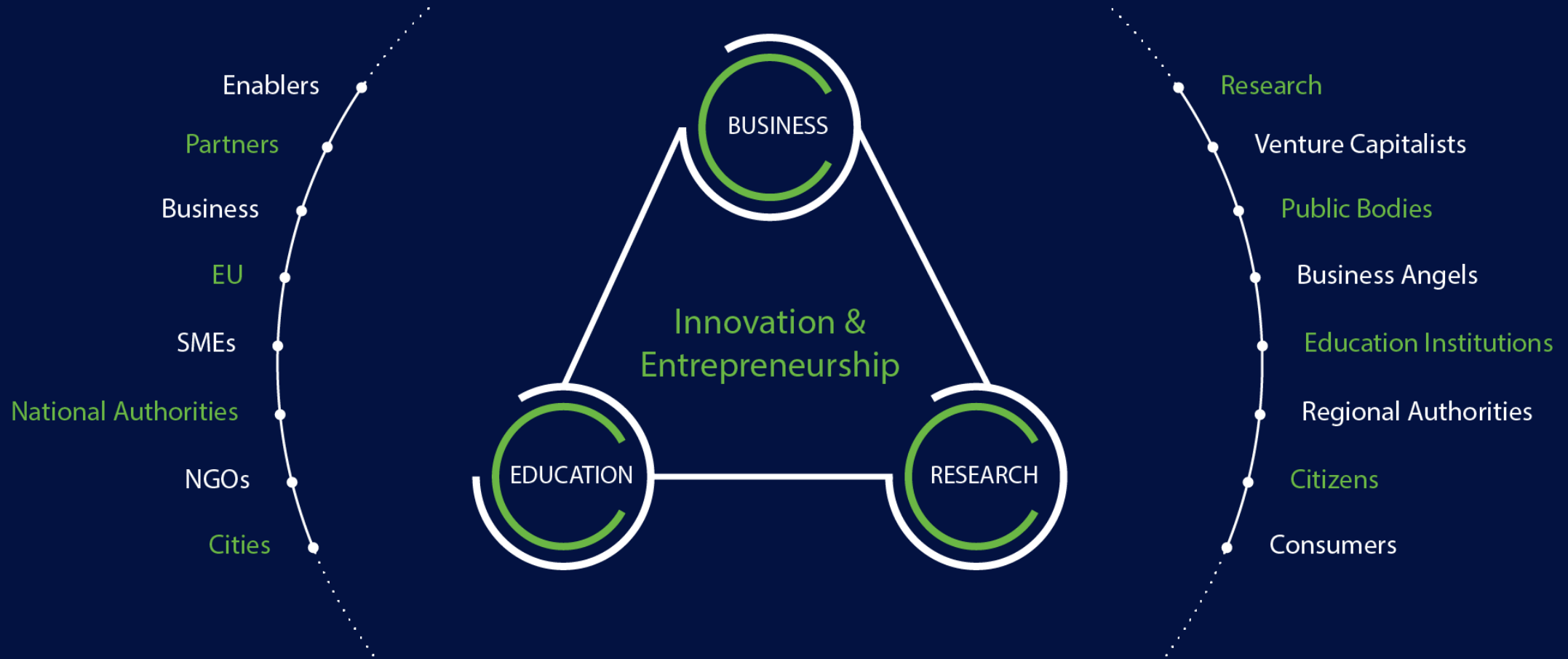
EIT CULTURE & CREATIVITY

- The Cultural & Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI) are drivers of innovation but fragmented and hit hard by COVID-19
- The new KIC will:
 - Reduce fragmentation and catalyse regional development
 - Power new ventures, technologies, and digitalisation
 - Train the next generation of innovators in the CCSI
- Next steps:
 - New KIC to be launched in 2022

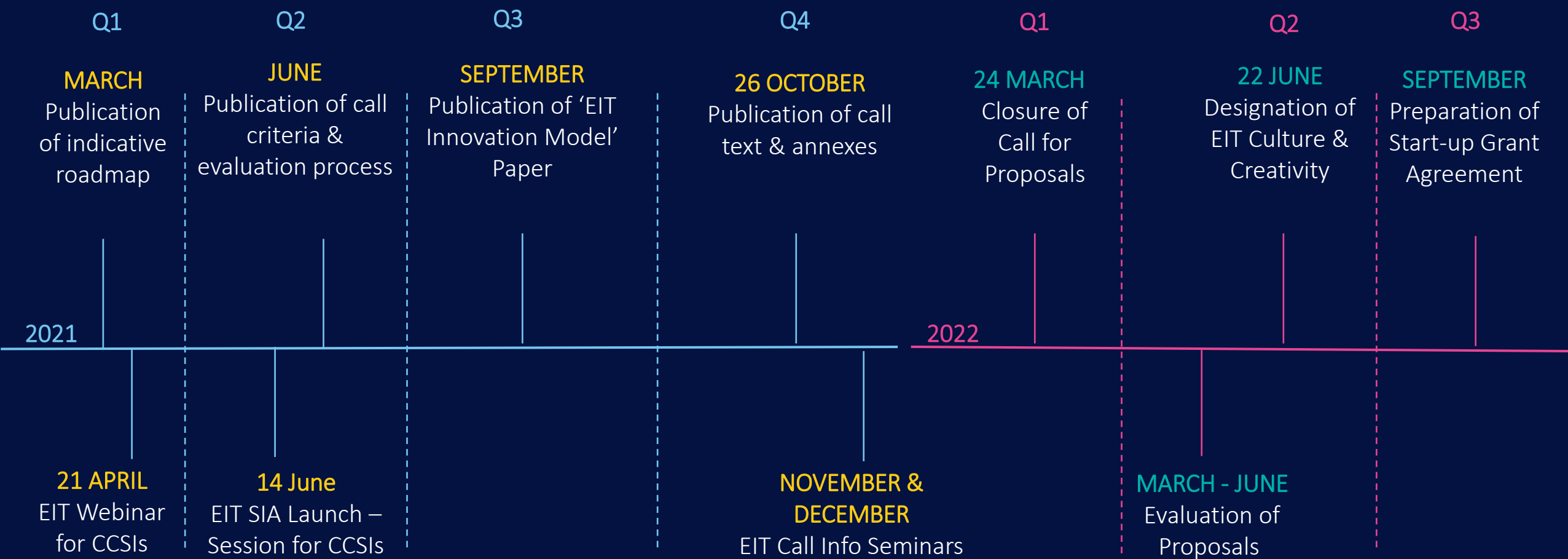
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EIT INNOVATION MODEL



INDICATIVE ROADMAP 2021-22





THE SET OF THE CALL CRITERIA

1. Admissibility criteria
2. Eligibility criteria
3. Exclusion criteria
4. Financial capacity criteria
5. Operational capacity criteria
6. Technical evaluation criteria
7. Evaluation criteria for Hearing with the EIT Governing Board

ADMISSIBILITY AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

ADMISSIBILITY

- Electronic submission via dedicated system of European Commission
- All mandatory parts must be complete
- Respect of call deadline
- Proposal in English or EIT may ask for a translation of specific documents

ELIGIBILITY

- Consortium composed of minimum 3, maximum 50 independent partner organisations
- Partner organisations established in minimum three different Member States
- At least two third of partner organisations from different Member States
- At least one higher education institution, one research institution and one private company

EXCLUSION AND FINANCIAL CAPACITY CRITERIA

EXCLUSION

- Situations referred to in EU Financial Regulation, such as bankruptcy, insolvency, breach of tax / social security obligations, grave professional misconduct, fraud, corruption, money laundering, irregularity, etc.
- Proposal stage: declaration of honour on exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest
- Winning consortium: recent evidence, e.g. registration and tax certificates, judicial records

=> Only admissible and eligible proposals will pass to next stage of evaluation

FINANCIAL CAPACITY

- Purpose: demonstrate sufficient liquidity to cover short-term commitments, solvency to cover medium and long-term commitments, profitability to ensure at least self-financing capacity
- Proposal stage: financial self-check via tool or recent financial viability check for another EU project
- In case of 'weak' or 'insufficient' financial capacity, mitigation measures such as replacing coordinator, additional monitoring & reporting or cancellation of designated consortium
- Public bodies are exempted from financial capacity check

OPERATIONAL CAPACITY CRITERIA

1. The Coordinator's familiarity proven

- participated in at least one project with a total budget exceeding EUR 3 million;
- coordinated at least one project with at least two other partners from at least three different European countries and from at least two sides of the Knowledge Triangle;
- participated in at least two EU financed projects.

2. The capability and necessary experience of the key members of the Interim Management Team CEO (Chief Executive Officer), COO (Chief Operational Officer), Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

- Predefined work experience relevant to the position;
- work experience in the Call's thematic field;
- work experience in an international environment (including implementation of international projects).



EVALUATION CRITERIA 1. EXCELLENCE

1.1 STRATEGIC APPROACH

Relevance, specificity and added value of the strategic approach aiming at excellence and proposed focus within the theme; applicability of the EIT KIC model to tackle the CCSI societal challenge via a multidisciplinary approach by integrating the knowledge triangle and fostering entrepreneurship and innovation throughout Europe. Relevance and specificity of the Consortium's strategy to become a sustainable institutionalised European Partnership.

1.2 INNOVATION POTENTIAL

Consortium's innovation potential to implement the future KIC's strategy, demonstrated by the combined quality and commitment of the partners (including SMEs), forming a diverse, balanced, collaborative and world-class/excellent partnership to improve the innovation capacity of local ecosystems including through the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme in accordance with EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda (2021-2027) and demonstrated openness to integrate new partners.

1.3 SYNERGIES

Demonstrated added value and readiness to establish concrete synergies and complementarities, positioning of the future KIC towards other relevant public, private and third sector initiatives at EU, Member State and other levels.

EVALUATION CRITERIA 2.

QUALITY & EFFICIENCY OF IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 OPERATIONS

Relevance and quality of the management and governance plans; effectiveness of the operational structure including selection and connectivity of co-location centres and demonstration how the knowledge triangle integration approach will be implemented on the operational level in an efficient and flexible manner.

2.2 KIC BUSINESS MODEL AND FINANCIAL PLAN

Feasibility of the future KIC's business model and financial plan (including the generation of funding from non-EIT sources as set out in the EIT SIA/ attraction of co-funding from partners) aiming at financial sustainability in the long-term. Quality and relevance of the future KIC's plan for the management and exploitation of intellectual property supporting the KIC's business model as well as plans to generate other type of revenues.

EVALUATION CRITERIA 3. IMPACT

3.1 IMPACT

Planned pan-European impact in line with the EIT Impact Framework for each of the following impact pathways, demonstrated by relevant KPIs:

- Societal impact relevant to the CCSI societal challenge
- Technological/ economic/innovation impact by influencing the creation and growth of companies, creating of new innovative solutions, direct and indirect jobs and mobilising additional public and private investments)
- Educational impact by strengthening human capital in research and innovation, enhancing innovative and entrepreneurial skills both at individual and organisational levels.

3.2. COMMUNICATIONS

Quality and relevance of the future KIC's plans for communications including the contribution to the EIT Community brand identity.

3.3. DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

Quality and relevance of dissemination plans for KIC results, including sharing good practices within, between and beyond the KICs, across EU Member States, regions and institutions to ensure maximum impact.

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR HEARING WITH THE EIT GOVERNING BOARD

EXCELLENCE	QUALITY & EFFICIENCY OF IMPLEMENTATION	IMPACT
Adaptability and suitability of the EIT KIC model for the proposed strategic approach aiming at excellence by the applicant and potential contribution to the EIT's strategic objectives.	Feasibility and quality of the proposed KIC operational model and its plan towards financial sustainability, taking into account lessons learnt from current KICs. Feasibility and quality of the plan for the management of the interim period.	Consistency of the applicant's KIC model, its potential and feasibility to achieve a significant and sustainable systemic impact in line with the EIT's overall objectives and EIT Impact Framework.

LEARN MORE ABOUT EIT CULTURE & CREATIVITY

[On our website](#) – more info on the KIC's rationale & timeline + brochures and explanatory videos

[On our FAQ page](#) – answers to a wide range of frequently asked questions about the new KIC

[On our networking platform](#) – a space for linking up with partners ahead of the Call for Proposals



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