DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy


Rapporteur for opinion: Christian Ehler

(*) Associated committee – Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure
PA_Legam
Established in 2008, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) aims to boost sustainable European economic growth and competitiveness by reinforcing the innovation capacity of the Member States and the Union. In particular, it reinforces the Union's innovation capacity and addresses societal challenges through the integration of the knowledge triangle of higher education, research and innovation.

The EIT operates through its Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs): large-scale European partnerships which address specific societal challenges by bringing together education, research and business organisations, and provides them with grants, whilst monitoring their activities, supporting cross-KIC collaboration and disseminating results and good practices.

The 2008 Regulation set out the EIT's mission and tasks and the framework for its functioning. It was amended in 2013 in order, *inter alia*, to be aligned with Horizon 2020.

On 11 July 2019, the Commission published its new EIT proposals, consisting of a recast proposal on an updated EIT Regulation and a proposal for a decision on new Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) for the EIT the period 2021-2027.

Recasting the EIT Regulation consists of adopting of a new Regulation which incorporates in a single text both the substantive amendments which it makes to the existing Regulation and the unchanged provisions of that Regulation. The Commission considered the update to the Regulation necessary as provisions in the existing EIT Regulation made direct reference to Horizon 2020 which ends at the end of the year. The recast proposal aims therefore to ensure the alignment of the EIT Regulation with Horizon Europe, by notably removing references to Horizon 2020 and implementing decisions which will be taken as part of Horizon Europe.

The proposed EIT Regulation focuses on the key principles of the functioning of the EIT and its KICs. It aims to ensure greater legal clarity vis-à-vis Horizon Europe as well as to enshrine the financial sustainability principle for the KICs. For the period 2021-2027, the EIT is integral part of Horizon Europe. The European Commission sets out the draft HEU budget of €3bn for the next MFF as well as its rationale, added value, areas of intervention and broad lines of activity.

The Rapporteur considers that this legislative package reinforces the EIT's mission whilst aligning its objectives with Horizon Europe by:

- Increasing the regional impact of KICs through improved openness to potential partners and stakeholders, and better articulated KIC regional strategies; including links to the relevant Smart Specialisation Strategies,
- Boosting the innovation capacity of higher education to integrate a wider number of higher education institutions into innovation value chains and ecosystems,
- Launching new KICs in priority fields to be selected according to their relevance to the
policy priorities of Horizon Europe. The first new KIC is planned for launch in 2022, and would be in the field of Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI), in line with the Cluster ‘Inclusive and Creative Societies’ of Horizon Europe as adopted in the partial agreement reached in April 2019.

Overall, the Rapporteur welcomes the effort that the Commission has put into this proposal. Nevertheless, the Rapporteur considers it to be lacking in crucial detail and in legal clarity, and that a recast may not have been the best avenue to follow. In that regard, the Rapporteur suggests a series of amendments, focusing particularly on providing greater legal clarity and certainty to the Regulation.

The main points of the draft opinion are:

- Securing the funding of the EIT with a budget of 4% of the overall budget of Horizon Europe, as adopted by the European Parliament,
- Ensuring the establishment of a Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) KIC as a main priority of the EIT for the period 2021-2027 by ensuring in particular sufficient funding for its establishment without jeopardising the financial sustainability of the existing KIC. The Rapporteur would like to stress in particular that all the efforts and resources should be dedicated to the set up of the CCI KIC, before considering the launch of a second new KIC after 2025,
- Clarifying the overall proposal in particular as regards the general and specific objectives and synergies with other programmes.

**AMENDMENTS**

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

**Amendment 1**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Recital 5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(5) The strategic priority fields and financial needs for the EIT for a period of seven years, covering the respective Multiannual Financial Framework (‘MFF’), should be laid down in a Strategic Innovation Agenda (‘SIA’). The SIA should ensure alignment with <strong>the Union framework programme supporting research and innovation</strong> and foster</td>
<td>(5) The strategic priority fields and financial needs for the EIT for a period of seven years, covering the respective Multiannual Financial Framework (‘MFF’), should be laid down in a Strategic Innovation Agenda (‘SIA’). The SIA should ensure alignment with <strong>Horizon Europe</strong> and foster synergies with other relevant Union programmes of the MFF as</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EN**
synergies with other relevant Union programmes of the MFF as well as with other Union initiatives, policies and instruments, in particular with those supporting education and regional development. Given the importance of the SIA for the Union innovation policy and the resulting political significance of its socio-economic impact for the Union, the SIA should be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on the basis of a Commission proposal based on a contribution provided by the EIT.

(This amendment applies throughout the text. Adopting it will necessitate corresponding changes throughout.)

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(11 a) In order to contribute to addressing new and emerging global challenges, the EIT should launch new KICs in priority fields selected based on criteria assessing, among other aspects, their relevance to Horizon Europe policy priorities, and their added value and potential to be addressed through the EIT model. The launch of new KICs should take into account the Strategic Planning of Horizon Europe and the budget allocated to the EIT for the respective MFF.

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.
Amendment 3
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(11 b) Cultural and Creative Industries (‘CCI’) are a sector with a high growth potential, many grass-roots initiatives and strong citizen appeal. They are strongly embedded in their local and regional ecosystems. However, CCI are still a very fragmented sector and the innovators and business creators lack the needed entrepreneurial and innovation skills. A KIC - thanks to its approach of fostering the integration of the knowledge triangle, long-term perspective and place-based approach and with its holistic and integrated approach. CCI also have the strongest complementarity with the eight existing KICs, as well as with the potential priority areas for other European Partnerships to be launched in the framework of Horizon Europe. A first KIC on CCI should therefore be launched in 2022. By covering nearly all sectors of Union citizens’ lives, society and economy, such KIC will be highly relevant in terms of economic and societal impact, unlocking strategic opportunities for economic, and technological and social innovation.

Amendment

Or. en

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 4
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11 c (new)
(11 c) An EIT KIC on CCI should empower networking opportunities, collaboration, co-creation and know-how transfer between education, research and business, within the cultural and creative sectors and with other sectors of the society and the economy. It should catalyse bottom-up and top-down initiatives at regional, national and Union levels. It should also develop the necessary framework conditions for the creation and scale-up of new ventures in innovative ecosystems. It should provide researchers and students in many disciplines (including arts, humanities, business, social sciences and applied hard sciences) and entrepreneurs of the CCI and other sectors with the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver innovative solutions and to turn them into new business opportunities.

Or. en

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) ‘innovation’ means the process, including its outcome, by which new ideas respond to societal or economic needs and demand and generate new products, services or business and organisational models that are successfully introduced into an existing market or that are able to create new markets and that provide value to society;

Amendment

(1) ‘innovation’ means the process, including its outcome, by which new ideas respond to societal, economic or cultural needs and demand and generate new products, services or business and organisational models that are successfully introduced into an existing market or that are able to create new markets and that provide value to society;
Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 6
Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(2a) ‘co-location centre’ means a geographical area where the main knowledge triangle partners are based and can easily interact, providing the focal point for the KICs’ activity in that area;

Amendment

Or. en

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 7
Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) ‘Strategic Innovation Agenda’ (‘SIA’) means a policy document outlining the priority fields and the long-term strategy of the EIT for future initiatives, its capacity to generate the best innovation added-value, including an overview of planned higher education, research and innovation activities over a period of seven years, covering the respective MFF;

Amendment

(7) ‘Strategic Innovation Agenda’ (‘SIA’) means an act setting out the long-term strategy and priorities of the EIT and defining its objectives, key actions, its capacity to generate the best innovation added-value, expected results and resources needed over a period of seven years, covering the respective MFF;

Or. en
Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(8) ‘Regional Innovation Scheme’ (= ‘RIS’) means an outreach scheme targeted at partnerships between higher education institutions, research organisations, companies and other stakeholders, in order to foster innovation across the Union;</td>
<td>(8) Regional Innovation Scheme’ (= ‘RIS’) means a scheme fostering the integration of the knowledge triangle and the innovation capacity of countries, in particular by attracting and integrating new partners into the KICs;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or. en

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(10) ‘KIC business plan’ means a document describing the objectives and the planned KIC added-value activities;</td>
<td>(10) ‘KIC business plan’ means a document, annexed to the grant agreement, that describes the objectives, the ways to achieve them and the expected results of the KIC for the relevant period and the planned KIC added-value activities, and the related financial needs and resources ;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or. en
Amendment 10
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The EIT’s mission is to contribute to sustainable Union economic growth and competitiveness by reinforcing the innovation capacity of the Member States and the Union in order to address major challenges faced by the society. It shall do this by promoting synergies and cooperation among, and integrating, higher education, research and innovation of the highest standards, including by fostering entrepreneurship.

Amendment

The EIT’s mission is to boost sustainable Union economic growth and competitiveness by reinforcing the scientific, economic, technological and societal innovation capacity of all Member States and the Union in order to address major challenges faced by the society. It shall do this by promoting synergies and cooperation among, and integrating, higher education, research and innovation of the highest standards, including by fostering entrepreneurship.

Or. en

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 11
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

The EIT shall contribute to deliver on the general and specific objectives of the Union framework programme supporting research and innovation.

Amendment

For the period 2021-2027, the EIT shall in particular contribute to deliver on the general and specific objectives of Horizon Europe, taking fully into account its strategic planning.

Or. en

Amendment 12
Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 a (new)
The general objectives of the EIT shall be:

(a) to strengthen sustainable challenges-based innovation ecosystems throughout the Union that help to tackle global challenges;

(b) to foster the development of entrepreneurial and innovation skills in a lifelong learning perspective, including increasing capacities of Union higher education institutions across the Union, and to support their entrepreneurial transformation; and

(c) to bring new solutions to global and societal challenges to the market.

The EIT shall develop synergies with other Union programmes and shall bring added value within Horizon Europe. The implementation shall take place through support to KICs and EIT-coordinated activities.

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.
be:
(a) to increase the impact of KICs and knowledge triangle integration;
(b) to increase the innovation capacity of the higher education sector by promoting higher education institutions (HEIs);
(c) to increase the regional outreach of the EIT in order to address regional disparities in innovation capacity across the Union.

Justification
This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 14
Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The SIA shall define the priority fields and strategy for the EIT for the seven-year period concerned, taking into account the Union framework programme supporting research and innovation, and shall include an assessment of its socioeconomic impact and its capacity to generate the best innovation added-value. The SIA shall take into account the results of the monitoring and evaluation of the EIT as referred to in Article 19.

Amendment

1. The SIA shall define the strategy and the priorities for the EIT for the seven-year period concerned, in line with the objectives and the priorities of Horizon Europe. It shall include an assessment of its socioeconomic impact and its capacity to generate the best innovation added-value. The SIA shall be aligned with the objectives, the strategic multiannual planning, reporting, monitoring and evaluation and other requirements of Horizon Europe and shall take into account the results of the monitoring and evaluation of the EIT as referred to in Article 19.

Justification
This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.
Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The SIA shall be aligned with the objectives of the Union framework programme supporting research and innovation, the strategic multiannual planning, reporting, monitoring and evaluation and other requirements of that programme, and foster synergies with other relevant Union programmes of the respective MFF, in particular with those supporting education and regional development. It shall also establish appropriate synergies and complementarities between the EIT activities and other Union initiatives, policies and instruments.

Amendment

2. The SIA shall ensure coherence with the challenges of Horizon Europe, as well as complementarity with the European Innovation Council (‘EIC’) established under Horizon Europe. It shall foster and establish appropriate synergies and complementarities between the EIT activities and other Union initiatives, policies and instruments, as well as national and regional programmes supporting research and innovation, education and skills development, sustainable and competitive industry, entrepreneurship, and regional development.

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) select and designate KICs in the priority fields in accordance with Article 9 and define their rights and obligations by framework partnership agreements and grant agreements, provide them with appropriate support, apply appropriate quality control measures and continuously monitor and periodically evaluate their activities;

Amendment

(c) launch new KICs, taking into account the Strategic Planning of Horizon Europe and the budget allocated to the EIT for each financial period, in the priority fields selected based on criteria assessing, inter alia, their relevance to Horizon Europe policy priorities, and their added value and potential, in order to tackle future and emerging global and societal challenges, in accordance with...
Article 9 and define their rights and obligations by framework partnership agreements and grant agreements, provide them with appropriate support, apply appropriate quality control measures, and continuously monitor and periodically evaluate their activities;

Or. en

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 17
Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission
(e) strengthen the recognition outside the EIT Community of degrees and diplomas which are awarded by participating higher education institutions and which may be labelled EIT degrees and diplomas and extend them to lifelong learning programmes;

Amendment
(e) strengthen the recognition and the promotion outside the EIT Community of EIT-labelled degrees and diplomas which are awarded by participating higher education institutions and extend them to lifelong learning programmes;

Or. en

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 18
Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point f

Text proposed by the Commission
(f) promote the dissemination of best practices for the integration of the knowledge triangle, including among KICs,

Amendment
(f) promote the dissemination of best practices for the integration of the knowledge triangle, including among KICs and across the Union inter alia through
innovation and knowledge transfer culture, and encourage participation in outreach activities, **including in the RIS**;

the EIT RIS, in order to develop a common innovation and knowledge transfer culture, and encourage participation in outreach activities;

**Justification**

*This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.*

### Amendment 19

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point i**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) ensure complementarity and synergy between EIT activities and other Union programmes, <em>where appropriate</em>;</td>
<td>(i) ensure complementarity and synergy between EIT activities and other Union programmes;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Justification**

*This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.*

### Amendment 20

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 7 – paragraph 1 – introductory part**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. KICs shall <strong>in particular undertake</strong>:</td>
<td>1. The EIT shall consolidate existing KICs, foster their growth and impact, and accompany their transition to financial sustainability at the end of framework partnership agreements. The EIT shall provide support to KICs that are running portfolios of knowledge triangle activities through:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or. en
Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation
Article 7 – paragraph 1 – point a

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) innovation activities and investments with European added value, including the support to the creation and development of innovative businesses, fully integrating the higher education and research dimensions to attain a critical mass and stimulating the dissemination and exploitation of results;</td>
<td>(a) innovation activities and investments with European added value, including facilitating the creation of innovative start-ups and development of innovative businesses in complementarity with the EIC and the InvestEU programme (‘InvestEU’), fully integrating the higher education and research dimensions to attain a critical mass and stimulating the dissemination and exploitation of results;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or. en

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation
Article 7 – paragraph 1 – point b

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(b) innovation-driven experimentation, prototyping and demonstration in areas of key economic and societal interest and drawing on the results of Union and national research, with the potential to strengthen Union’s competitiveness at international level and find solutions for the major challenges faced by European society;</td>
<td>(b) innovation-driven experimentation, prototyping and demonstration in areas of key economic, societal and cultural interest and drawing on the results of Union and national research, with the potential to strengthen Union’s competitiveness at international level and find solutions for the major challenges faced by European society;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation
Article 7 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission
(c) education and training activities in particular at masters and doctoral level, as well as professional training courses, in disciplines with the potential to meet future European socio-economic needs and which expand the Union’s talent base, promote the development of innovation-related skills, the improvement of managerial and entrepreneurial skills and the mobility of researchers and students, and foster knowledge-sharing, mentoring and networking among the recipients of EIT-labelled degrees and training;

Amendment
(c) education and training activities with strong entrepreneurship components in particular at masters and doctoral level, as well as professional training courses, in disciplines with the potential to meet future European socio-economic needs and which expand the Union’s talent base, promote the development of innovation-related skills, the improvement of managerial and entrepreneurial skills and the mobility of researchers and students, and foster knowledge-sharing, mentoring and networking among the recipients of EIT education and training activities, including EIT-labelled activities;

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation
Article 7 – paragraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission
(d) outreach activities and the dissemination of best practices in the innovation sector with a focus on the development of cooperation between

Amendment
(d) outreach activities and the dissemination of best practices in the field of innovation with a focus on the development of cooperation between
higher education, research and business, including the service and financial sectors;

Or. en

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation
Article 7 – paragraph 1 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(da) support actions bringing together in projects higher education institutions (HEIs) and other key innovation players such as businesses to work on strategic capacity development areas, in order to support HEIs to integrate better in innovation value chains and ecosystems;

Amendment

Or. en

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation
Article 7 – paragraph 1 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) to seek synergies and complementarities between KIC activities and existing European, national and regional programmes, where appropriate.

Amendment

(e) synergies and complementarities between KIC activities and existing European, national and regional programmes.

Or. en
Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 9a

KIC in the field of Cultural and Creative Industries

1. For the period 2021-2027, a new KIC in the field of CCI shall be launched, to harness the potential of culture-based creativity and help strengthen the competitiveness and smart growth of the Union.

2. The KIC on CCI shall:

(a) reduce the fragmentation of the CCI’ innovation landscape by fostering the creation of innovation ecosystems connecting actors and networks across sectors and disciplines at local, regional, national and Union levels;

(b) train the next generation of innovators in the CCI sectors by equipping them with the necessary entrepreneurial and technical skills needed to thrive in a fast changing environment;

(c) contribute to the development of the right framework conditions to transform ideas into new technological developments and social innovation that improve the quality of life and benefit Union citizens;

(d) foster the creation and development of new ventures in the CCI by mobilising investment and long-term commitment from the business sector;
(e) establish synergies with the existing KICs, as well as with other European partnerships, programmes and initiatives to drive innovation beyond CCI in other sectors of the economy;

(f) strengthen the position of the Union as a global actor in CCI by harnessing Europeans’ creativity and cultural diversity.

Or. en

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation
Article 20 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

For the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027, the Union contribution shall be provided through a financial contribution of 4 % from the overall budget for Horizon Europe.

Or. en

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation
Article 20 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The Union contribution may be provided through a financial contribution from the Union framework programme supporting

The EIT may receive additional financial resources from other Union programmes.
research and innovation and other Union programmes, without prejudice to the amounts decided in the respective MFF.

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 30
Proposal for a regulation
Annex I – section 6 – point 1

Text proposed by the Commission
1. The staff of the EIT shall consist of personnel employed directly by the EIT. The Staff Regulations, the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants and the rules adopted by agreement between the institutions of the Union for giving effect to them shall apply to the staff of the EIT.

Amendment
1. The staff of the EIT shall consist of personnel employed directly by the EIT. The Staff Regulations, the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants and the rules adopted by agreement between the institutions of the Union for giving effect to them shall apply to the staff of the EIT. As a transitional measure, this provision shall apply to the staff of the EIT whose contracts expire in 2020.

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 31
Proposal for a regulation
Annex I a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

ANNEX IA
SYNERGIES WITH OTHER UNION PROGRAMMES
Building on its broad scope of action and distinctive role, the EIT shall create synergies and provide complementarities with other Union programmes or instruments, including by reinforcing its support to KICs in their planning and implementing activities.

1. Synergies with Horizon Europe: The EIT shall create strong synergies with the entire Horizon Europe programme. In particular, synergies with the EIC will be key for the impact of the Open Innovation Pillar, as well as the support to ecosystems. In the [Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness] Pillar, through its KICs, the EIT can collaborate with European Partnerships, contribute to missions, support demand-side measures and provide exploitation services to boost technology transfer and accelerate the commercialisation of results achieved by the thematic clusters or other European partnerships. The EIT shall intensify its efforts to capitalise on synergies and complementarities between existing KICs and with different actors and initiatives at Union and global levels and extend its network of collaborating organisations at both strategic and operational levels, while avoiding duplications, through:

– close cooperation with the EIC and InvestEU in streamlining the support (i.e. funding and services) offered to innovative ventures in both start-up and scale-up stages, in particular through KICs;

– planning and implementation of EIT activities in order to maximise synergies and complementarities with other parts of Horizon Europe;

– engaging with Member States, at both national and regional level, establishing a structured dialogue and coordinating efforts to enable synergies with national and regional initiatives, including smart specialisation strategies, also considering
doing so through the implementation of the “European Innovation Ecosystems”, in order to identify, share and disseminate best practices and learnings;

– sharing and disseminating innovative practices and learnings throughout the Union and beyond, so as to contribute to innovation policy in the Union in coordination with other parts of Horizon Europe;

– provision of input to innovation policy discussions and contribution to the design and implementation of Union policy priorities by continuously working with all relevant European Commission services, other Union programmes and their stakeholders, and further exploring opportunities within policy implementing initiatives;

– exploitation of synergies with other Union programmes, including those supporting human capital development and innovation (e.g. COST, ESF+, ERDF, Erasmus+, Creative Europe and COSME Plus/Single Market, InvestEU);

– building strategic alliances with key innovation actors at Union and international level, and support to KICs to develop collaboration and links with key knowledge triangle partners from third countries, with the aim of opening new markets for KICs’-backed solutions and attracting financing and talents from abroad. The participation of third countries shall be promoted with regard to the principles of reciprocity and mutual benefits.

Moreover, the KIC on CCI shall establish strong synergies with relevant policy initiatives under Horizon Europe, and in particular under Pillar II with the cluster [Inclusive and Secure Society] and its areas of intervention on Cultural Heritage and Democracy. The KIC on CCCI shall also endeavour to efficiently complement other parts of Horizon Europe and the
intervention of the existing EIT Digital.

2. Synergies with Erasmus+: Erasmus+ and the EIT shall establish synergies between their respective communities. Cooperation shall be targeted towards ensuring access for Erasmus+ learners participating in KIC partner education and training institutions to KICs’ summer schools or other relevant training activities (for instance, on entrepreneurship and innovation management) and establishing contacts with the KICs’ alumni network. Synergies shall be ensured, where possible, with the European Universities initiative that help mainstream EIT’s educational and training activities to reach a systemic impact.

3. Synergies with Digital Europe Programme: KICs’ co-location centres shall collaborate with the European Digital Innovation Hubs to support the digital transformation of the industry and public sector organisations. The KIC on CCI could also provide valuable horizontal inputs across various activities to be carried out in the cluster [Digital and Industry], in particular as regards the manufacturing technologies in which the need to develop new products rely heavily on CCI.

4. Synergies with Cohesion Policy Funds (in particular ERDF and ESIF+): EIT KICs, through their co-location centres, shall promote regional and cross-regional cooperation between the knowledge triangle actors (education, research, business) and managing authorities, in synergy with the work of the European Commission on interregional cooperation and investments in related smart specialisation priorities.

5. Synergies with InvestEU: EIT KICs shall seek the collaboration of the InvestEU Advisory Hub to provide technical support and assistance to KICs-backed ventures for the preparation,
development, and implementation of projects.

6. Synergies with Creative Europe: The Creative Europe Programme is specifically relevant for the activities of the KIC on CCI, as it elects strands and special calls reflecting some of the challenges facing the sector (e.g. skills and employment in CCI, business models). Therefore, strong synergies and complementarities between the KIC on CCI and Creative Europe shall be developed. In the context of limited access to finance for the cultural and creative sectors, synergies shall be sought with the Cultural and Creative Sector Guarantee Facility, a financial mechanism to help scale up cultural and creative projects by providing insurance to financial intermediaries.

Or. en

Justification

This amendment is necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text.