

21.4.2021

A9-0121/ 001-161

**AMENDMENTS 001-161**

by the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

**Report**

**Maria Da Graça Carvalho**

**A9-0121/2020**

Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Proposal for a decision (COM(2019)0330 – C9-0043/2019 – 2019/0152(COD))

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**Amendment 1**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Citation 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

Having regard to Regulation (*EC*) No 294/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology<sup>5</sup>, and in particular Article 17 thereof,

Having regard to .../2020 [EIT Regulation (2019/0151(COD))] of the European Parliament and of the Council of .... 2020 and in particular Article 4 thereof,

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<sup>5</sup> OJL 97, 9.4.2008, p. 1.

**Amendment 2**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Recital 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(1) Regulation (*EC*) No 294/2008 provides for the adoption of a Strategic Innovation Agenda ('SIA').

(1) Regulation (*EU*) .../2020 [EIT Regulation (2019/0151(COD))] provides for the adoption of a Strategic Innovation

### Amendment 3

#### Proposal for a decision

##### Recital 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(2) The SIA **should define the priority fields and the long-term** strategy for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology ('EIT') and include an assessment of its **socio-economic** impact and its capacity to generate best innovation added value. The SIA should take into account the results of the monitoring and evaluation of the EIT.

*Amendment*

(2) **Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) .../2020 [EIT Regulation (2019/0151(COD))]** provides that the SIA **is to set out a strategy, objectives and priorities** for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology ('EIT') **for the seven-year period concerned, to establish its key actions, the targeted results and the resources needed** and include an assessment of its **social, economic and ecological** impact and its capacity to generate best innovation added value. The SIA should take into account the results of the monitoring and evaluation of the EIT **and should aim to ensure consistency with Horizon Europe, while providing synergies with other relevant Union programmes, contributing to the implementation of Union strategic priorities and to the realisation of Union objectives and policies, including the European Green Deal, the European Recovery Plan, the European data, digital, SME and industrial strategies and achieving Europe's strategic autonomy.**

### Amendment 4

#### Proposal for a decision

##### Recital 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(3) The SIA **should** include an analysis of potential and appropriate synergies and complementarities between EIT activities and other Union initiatives, instruments and programmes.

*Amendment*

(3) **In accordance with Article 4(2) of Regulation (EU) .../2020 [EIT Regulation (2019/0151(COD))]**, the SIA **is to** include an analysis of potential and appropriate synergies and complementarities between

EIT activities and other Union initiatives, instruments and programmes.

## Amendment 5

### Proposal for a decision Article 1 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology for the period from 2021 to 2027 as set out in the Annex is hereby adopted.

*Amendment*

The Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology for the period from 2021 to 2027 **(the ‘SIA’)** as set out in the Annex is hereby adopted.

## Amendment 6

### Proposal for a decision Article 2 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The SIA shall be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU) ***No on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology***<sup>6</sup>.

*Amendment*

The SIA shall be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU) ***.../2020 [EIT Regulation (2019/0151(COD))]***.

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<sup>6</sup> ***Reference to the adopted recast EIT Regulation.***

## Amendment 7

### Proposal for a decision Article 3 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

This Decision shall enter into force ***on the day following that of*** its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

*Amendment*

This Decision shall enter into force ***twenty days after*** its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

## Amendment 8

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 1 – paragraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

This Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) sets out the strategy and priorities for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) for the period 2021-2027. It represents the main policy document of the EIT over the next programming period and defines its objectives, key actions, expected results and resources needed. The SIA ensures the necessary alignment of the EIT with the [Horizon Europe proposal], which is the Union framework programme **supporting** research and innovation for the period 2021-2027. It also ensures appropriate synergies and complementarities between the EIT activities and other Union **initiatives**, policies **and** instruments.

*Amendment*

This Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) sets out the strategy and priorities for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) for the period 2021-2027. It represents the main policy document of the EIT over the next programming period and defines its objectives, key actions, expected results **and *impact and*** resources needed. The SIA ensures the necessary alignment of the EIT with the [Horizon Europe proposal], which is the Union framework programme **for** research and innovation for the period 2021-2027. It also ensures appropriate synergies and complementarities between the EIT activities and other Union **programmes**, policies, instruments **and commitments**.

**Amendment 9**

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 1 – paragraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The SIA 2021-2027 is informed by the impact assessment carried out by the European Commission. It takes into account the draft SIA from the EIT Governing Board submitted to the European Commission on 20 December 2017, in accordance with the EIT Regulation<sup>1</sup>. It also reflects the new [Horizon Europe proposal] of the European Commission of June 2018 and, in particular, the key role of the EIT as part of the [Open Innovation] Pillar (Pillar III), and its contribution to addressing global challenges, including established targets for climate objectives, and European industrial competitiveness (Pillar II) and to excellent science (Pillar I). The SIA builds

*Amendment*

The SIA 2021-2027 is informed by the impact assessment carried out by the European Commission. It takes into account the draft SIA from the EIT Governing Board submitted to the European Commission on 20 December 2017, in accordance with the ... [EIT Regulation **(2019/0151/COD)**]<sup>1</sup>. It also reflects the new [Horizon Europe proposal] of the European Commission of June 2018 and, in particular, the key role of the EIT as part of the [Open Innovation] Pillar (Pillar III), and its contribution to addressing global **and societal** challenges, including established targets **and commitments** for climate objectives **and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**,

on the lessons learnt over the last years of operation of the EIT and the results of a wide consultation process with key stakeholders.

and European industrial competitiveness (Pillar II) and to excellent science (Pillar I). The SIA builds on the lessons learnt over the last years of operation of the EIT and the results of a wide consultation process with key stakeholders.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (OJ L 97, 9.4.2008, p. 1). Amended by Regulation (EU) No 1292/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 (OJ L 347, 11.12.2013, p. 174).

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (OJ L 97, 9.4.2008, p. 1). Amended by Regulation (EU) No 1292/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 (OJ L 347, 11.12.2013, p. 174).

## **Amendment 10**

### **Proposal for a decision Annex I – point 1 – paragraph 3**

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The SIA takes into account the Strategic Planning of Horizon Europe to ensure alignment with the Framework Programme activities, with other relevant Union programmes and consistency with EU priorities and commitments **and** increase complementarity and synergies with national and regional funding programmes and priorities.

#### *Amendment*

The SIA takes into account the Strategic Planning of Horizon Europe to ensure alignment with the Framework Programme activities, **as well as synergies and complementarity** with other relevant Union programmes and consistency with EU priorities and commitments. **It also aims to** increase complementarity and synergies with national and regional funding programmes and priorities.

## **Amendment 11**

### **Proposal for a decision Annex I – point 1 – point 1.1 – paragraph 1**

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT was established in 2008 in order to contribute to sustainable economic growth and competitiveness by reinforcing the innovation capacity of the Member

#### *Amendment*

The EIT was established in 2008 in order to contribute to sustainable economic growth and competitiveness by reinforcing the innovation capacity of the Member

States and the European Union. It pioneered the integration of education, **business and** research (knowledge triangle) together with a strong emphasis on entrepreneurial talent and innovation skills. The mid-term evaluation of the EIT in **2018** confirmed that the overarching rationale of the EIT remains valid and the model of innovation-driven knowledge triangle integration remains relevant.

States and the European Union. It pioneered the integration of **higher** education, research **and innovation** (knowledge triangle) together with a strong emphasis on entrepreneurial talent, **business creation** and innovation skills. The mid-term evaluation of the EIT in **2017** confirmed that the overarching rationale of the EIT remains valid and the model of innovation-driven knowledge triangle integration remains relevant.

## Amendment 12

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.1 – paragraph 2

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

A decade after EIT's establishment, the pace of innovation has accelerated dramatically. Innovation is reshaping economic sectors, disrupting existing businesses and creating unprecedented opportunities. With a shifting global economic order and international competition on the rise, the EU's dependence on talent and its capacity to innovate is growing. Co-design, collaboration and co-creation across disciplines and between education, business and research have never been as important as today to contribute to **address** global challenges related to climate change and unsustainable use **on** natural **recourses**, digital transformation, demographic shifts **or the future of healthcare and food**.

##### *Amendment*

A decade after **the** EIT's establishment, the pace of innovation has accelerated dramatically. Innovation is reshaping economic sectors **and society**, disrupting existing businesses and creating unprecedented opportunities. With a shifting global economic order, **increasing impact of climate change** and international competition on the rise, the EU's dependence on talent and its capacity to innovate is growing. Co-design, collaboration and co-creation across disciplines and between education, business and research have never been as important as today to contribute to **addressing** global challenges related to **for example healthcare, including the spread of pandemics, food**, climate change and unsustainable use **of** natural **resources**, digital transformation **and** demographic shifts.

##### *Justification*

*Linguistic adjustments.*

## Amendment 13

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – paragraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Since its set up, the EIT has established itself gradually as a **successful** instrument addressing societal challenges. The EIT operates mainly through Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), which are large-scale European partnerships between education and training, business and research organisations. There are currently eight KICs that operate in the following areas: climate change, digital transformation, energy, food, health, raw materials, urban mobility and added-value manufacturing (*see Figure 2*).

**Amendment 14**

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – paragraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Each KIC **is** organised **around five to ten of** co-location centres (CLCs<sup>2</sup>) which are intended to act as geographical hubs for the practical integration of the knowledge triangle. They are organised and structured according to their respective national and regional innovation context and build on a pan-European network of existing labs, offices or campuses of a KICs' core partners.

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<sup>2</sup> A 'Co-location centre' **is** a geographical area where **the** main KICs knowledge triangle partners **are based and** can easily interact, providing the focal point for the KICs' activity in that area.

*Amendment*

Since its set up, the EIT has established itself gradually as a **unique** instrument addressing societal challenges **through the integration of the knowledge triangle**. The EIT operates mainly through Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), which are large-scale European partnerships between **higher** education and training, business and research organisations **and institutions**. There are currently eight KICs that operate in the following areas: climate change, digital transformation, energy, food, health, raw materials, urban mobility and added-value manufacturing.

*Amendment*

Each KIC **has so far been** organised **into between five and ten** co-location centres (CLCs<sup>2</sup>) which are intended to act as geographical hubs **that also provide a physical space for local interaction within the innovation ecosystem and** for the practical integration of the knowledge triangle. They are organised and structured according to their respective national and regional innovation context and build on a pan-European network of existing labs, offices or campuses of a KICs' core partners.

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<sup>2</sup> A 'Co-location centre' **means a physical space, established in an open and transparent manner, covering a** geographical area where **a** main KICs knowledge triangle partners can easily

interact, providing the focal point for the KICs' activity in that area.

## Amendment 15

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – paragraph 3 – introductory part

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The KICs aim **at running** portfolios of knowledge triangle activities through:

*Amendment*

The KICs aim **to run** portfolios of knowledge triangle activities through:

## Amendment 16

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – paragraph 3 – indent 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

— Education and training activities with strong entrepreneurship components to train the next generation of talents, including the design and implementation of programmes awarded the EIT Label<sup>3</sup>, in particular at master and doctoral level;

*Amendment*

**(a) higher** education and training activities **within the knowledge triangle** with strong entrepreneurship components to train the next generation of talents, including **with a view to the development of entrepreneurship and digital skills, programmes and activities aiming to re-skill and up-skill human resources in a lifelong learning perspective**; design and implementation of programmes awarded the EIT Label<sup>3</sup>, in particular at master and doctoral level; **special attention shall be dedicated to gender balance and gender-sensitive approaches, especially in areas where women are still under represented such as ICT, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**;

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<sup>3</sup> The EIT Label is a quality seal awarded by the EIT to a KIC's educational programme which complies with specific quality criteria related inter alia to entrepreneurial education and innovative 'learning-by-doing' curricula.

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<sup>3</sup> The EIT Label is a quality seal awarded by the EIT to a KIC's educational programme which complies with specific quality criteria related inter alia to entrepreneurial education and innovative 'learning-by-doing' curricula.



## Amendment 17

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – paragraph 3 – indent 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

— Activities supporting innovation to develop innovative, products, processes **and** services that address a specific business opportunity;

*Amendment*

**(b)** activities supporting **research and** innovation to develop innovative **and sustainable** products, processes, **technologies** services **and non-technological solutions** that address a specific business opportunity **or social objective**;

## Amendment 18

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – paragraph 3 – indent 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

— Business creation and support activities, such as accelerator schemes to help entrepreneurs translate their ideas into successful ventures and speed up the growth process.

*Amendment*

**(c)** business creation and support activities, such as accelerator schemes to help entrepreneurs translate their ideas into successful ventures and speed up the growth **and development** process.

## Amendment 19

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – paragraph 3 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**Nevertheless, all current and future KICs shall use best efforts to dedicate more attention towards research embedded in the knowledge triangle contributing with education and innovation, to entrepreneurial development and an innovation ecosystem. Thereby all existing and future KICs shall ensure a balance between the three sides of the knowledge triangle, in order to preserve the unique feature of the KICs.**

## Amendment 20

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – paragraph 4

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*The KICs represent dynamic innovation ecosystems that produce a wide range of results (see Figure 1 below).*

*deleted*

## Amendment 21

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – figure 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*[...]*

*deleted*

## Amendment 22

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – paragraph 5

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

Education and training, talent and skills development are at the core of the EIT model. No other EU action on innovation includes higher education in the innovation value chain to the extent the EIT does. The EIT's education agenda is key for developing highly entrepreneurial and skilled innovators. ***By 2017, more than 1700 graduates have successfully completed an EIT-labelled master and/or doctoral programme, and thousands have participated in entrepreneurial and innovative education activities and formats.***

Education and training, talent and skills development are at the core of the EIT model. No other EU action on innovation includes higher education in the innovation value chain to the extent the EIT does. The EIT's education agenda is key for developing highly entrepreneurial and skilled innovators.

## Amendment 23

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – paragraph 6

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The focus on global challenges through the integration of the knowledge triangle distinguishes the EIT from other innovation instruments. By providing a grant for up to 15 years to KICs, the EIT is delivering ***on its long-term objective of tackling*** global challenges through innovative products ***and*** services and ***bringing*** concrete benefits to our society and citizens. The EIT also has set the objective to the KICs to become financially sustainable after 15 years, which is a unique feature that ***leads*** to a business and ***result*** oriented innovation instrument. In this context, KICs have to develop and implement revenue-creating strategies in order to maintain their innovation ecosystem beyond the period covered by the ***grant*** agreement.

*Amendment*

The focus on global ***and societal*** challenges through the integration of the knowledge triangle distinguishes the EIT from other innovation instruments. By providing a grant for up to 15 years to KICs, the EIT is delivering ***long-term stability which should allow the beneficiaries to address*** global ***and societal*** challenges through innovative ***and sustainable*** products, ***processes***, services ***and solutions*** and ***bring*** concrete benefits to our society and citizens. The EIT also has set the objective to the KICs to become financially sustainable after 15 years, which is a unique feature that ***should lead*** to a business and ***impact*** oriented innovation instrument. In this context, KICs have to develop and implement revenue-creating strategies in ***close cooperation with the EIT, in*** order to ***achieve financial independence and*** maintain their innovation ecosystem beyond the period covered by the ***framework partnership*** agreement ***with the EIT. The innovation and close-to-market activities of the KICs should be financially sustainable at the earliest possible date and in any event within 15 years of their establishment. However, pursuant to Article 11 of ... [the Regulation on EIT], higher education, training and horizontally-structured activities of KICs should have the possibility to continue to receive EIT funding, after a positive and thorough evaluation by independent experts.***

**Amendment 24**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – paragraph 7**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT approach contributes to both

*Amendment*

The EIT approach ***helps build resilience,***

incremental and disruptive innovations to happen, to effectively address market failures and help transform industries. It enables the creation of long-term business strategies for addressing global challenges and helps creating the framework conditions that are essential for a well-functioning innovation ecosystem to grow and innovation to thrive.

***increase sustainability and*** contributes to both incremental and disruptive innovations to happen, to effectively address market failures and help transform industries ***and support the creation of start-ups, spin-offs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)***. It enables the creation of long-term business strategies for addressing global ***and societal*** challenges and helps ***create*** the framework conditions that are essential ***in order*** for a well-functioning innovation ecosystem to grow and innovation to thrive.

## Amendment 25

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – paragraph 8

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT offers an efficient and effective platform for launching, scaling up and managing KICs with strong network effects and positive spill-overs (*see Figure 2 below*). The first wave of KICs (EIT Digital, EIT Climate-KIC and EIT InnoEnergy), launched in 2009, is established and mature and after 2024 their framework partnership agreements ***will*** be terminated, ***in line with the maximum grant duration***. A second and third generation of KICs (EIT Health and EIT Raw Materials (2014), EIT Food (2016)) is maturing. EIT Urban Mobility and EIT Manufacturing, the two KICs designated in December 2018, ***are starting*** their operations in 2019.

##### *Amendment*

The EIT offers an efficient and effective platform for launching, scaling up and managing KICs with strong network effects and positive spill-overs. ***A KIC usually has a lifespan of seven to fifteen years***. The first wave of KICs (EIT Digital, EIT Climate-KIC and EIT InnoEnergy), launched in 2009, is established and mature and after 2024 their framework partnership agreements ***should*** be terminated, ***in accordance with Article 11 of the Regulation on EIT. A possible extension of the framework partnership agreement may be decided by the EIT Governing Board, after a thorough evaluation by independent experts. That extension shall not exceed three years***. A second and third generation of KICs (EIT Health and EIT Raw Materials (2014), EIT Food (2016)) is maturing. EIT Urban Mobility and EIT Manufacturing, the two KICs designated in December 2018, ***started*** their operations in 2019.

## Amendment 26

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – figure 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

[...]

*deleted*

**Amendment 27**

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – paragraph 9**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

Through its eight KICs with more than 1000 partners from business, research and education, the EIT represents the largest EU-supported innovation ecosystem. The EIT has supported more than 1200 start-ups and innovative ventures, leading to over EUR 890 million in external funding attracted by those companies and more than 6000 jobs created by the supported start-ups. More than 50% of KIC partners are from the business sector (industry, SMEs and start-ups) demonstrating the proximity to the market. ***The increase in number of partners in each KIC shows the attractiveness and long-term potential of the EIT model. By 2019, there are more than 600 businesses, 250 HEIs, 200 research organisations, and more than 50 civil society organisations and authorities participating in EIT KICs.***

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**Amendment 28**

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – paragraph 10**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***In*** the backdrop of persisting regional disparities in innovation performance, the EIT launched a Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) in 2014 to widen its regional outreach to modest and moderate innovator

***Against*** the backdrop of persisting regional disparities in innovation performance, the EIT launched a Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) in 2014 to widen its regional outreach to modest and moderate innovator

countries. Through the RIS, the EIT has **expanded** its activities across Europe and **offers now** opportunities **for** regions with **low** innovation performance to engage in knowledge triangle activities as part of the **a KIC** community. **This is also reflected in the share of EIT funding allocated to EU-13 partners (8.3% as compared to 4.8% in Horizon 2020 as of 2018).**

countries **and regions**. Through the RIS, the EIT has **to further expand** its activities across Europe and **must be dedicated to offering new** opportunities **to countries and** regions **in those countries** with **lower** innovation performance, **as defined in point (15a) of Article 2 of Regulation [xxx] establishing Horizon Europe as well as, to the extent that they are not low R&I performing countries, in countries or regions of those countries that are classified as modest or moderate innovators in the European Innovation Scoreboard**, to engage in knowledge triangle activities as part of the **EIT** community. **The RIS will also be used to establish new EIT Innovation Hubs or CLCs in those countries or regions. In addition, the KICs shall work closely with managing authorities in all regions where RIS partners are established in order to encourage a broader use of the Union's ESI funds for R&I.**

## Amendment 29

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – figure 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

[...]

*Amendment*

*deleted*

## Amendment 30

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.2 – paragraph 11

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT has been able to stay agile and to develop the governance principles and rules for the successful management of its KICs under the overall umbrella of Horizon 2020, in accordance with **the EIT Regulation**. Its operational independence has allowed it to test and effectively

*Amendment*

The EIT has been able to stay agile and to develop the governance principles and rules for the successful management of its KICs under the overall umbrella of Horizon 2020, in accordance with ... **[EIT Regulation (2019/0151/COD)]**. Its operational independence has allowed it to

implement a number of novelties in the management of its beneficiaries such as a competitive funding mechanism, financial sustainability targets and specific key performance indicators.

test and effectively implement a number of novelties in the management of its beneficiaries such as a competitive funding mechanism, ***which should become the standard funding regime***, financial sustainability targets and specific key performance indicators. ***The EIT and its KICs shall, as much as possible, operate under the Horizon Europe model grant agreement and shall apply the derogations from the Horizon Europe rules laid down in Article 8 of Regulation ... [EIT Regulation] when required to meet their objectives and when duly justified.***

## Amendment 31

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.3 – paragraph 1

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT is part of the overall Horizon Europe framework that aims, inter alia, to deliver scientific, economic/technological and societal impact so as to strengthen the scientific and technological bases of the Union; ***deliver on the Union strategic policy priorities, foster its competitiveness in all Member States, including in its industry, and*** contribute to tackling global challenges, including the ***Sustainable Development Goals***. A core condition for being successful in this endeavor is to respond to the persisting need to ***increase*** innovation capacity across the Union. There are in particular ***three*** challenges the EU faces that will guide EIT's actions in 2021-2027 as reflected by its general objectives.

##### *Amendment*

The EIT is ***an integral*** part of the overall Horizon Europe framework that aims, inter alia, to deliver scientific, economic/technological and societal impact so as to strengthen the scientific and technological bases of the Union. ***The EIT and the KICs' objectives must contribute to the implementation of the Union strategic priorities and to the realisation of Union objectives and policies including the European Green Deal, the European Recovery Plan, the European data, digital, SME and industrial strategies and achieving Europe's strategic autonomy. Furthermore, it shall*** contribute to tackling global ***and societal*** challenges, including the ***SDGs by following the principles of the Paris Agreement, and achieving a net-zero GHG economy by 2050 at the latest.*** A core condition for being successful in this endeavor is to respond to the persisting needs to ***involve all talents in the Union, increase the participation of women, and to bring R&D to the market and society, thus increasing*** innovation capacity across the

Union. There are in particular *five* challenges the EU faces that will guide EIT's actions in 2021-2027 as reflected by its general objectives.

## Amendment 32

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.3 – paragraph 1 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*First, the economic shock linked with the spread of COVID-19 has had a major impact on universities, researchers, companies and other EIT stakeholders. It is important to identify and tackle related challenges, in particular access to finance, in order to safeguard the knowledge triangle and rebuild trust and confidence among all actors. In the medium term, all KICs must adapt to the impacts of the shock and re-orient their focus and activities, therefore they need to be agile and flexible in order to seek new opportunities. There might also be long-term effects on our society and economy, such as the need to increase the robustness and reduce the complexity of supply chains, to monitor the shifts in consumer demand, to strengthen the re-industrialisation and re-shoring of strategic production and to accompany the digital transformation.*

## Amendment 33

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.3 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*First*, today's economies are increasingly driven by the skills and abilities of people and organisations to turn ideas into products *and* services. Innovation *skills and an* entrepreneurial culture make all the

*Second*, today's *societies and* economies are increasingly driven by the skills and abilities of people and organisations to turn ideas into *novel* products, *processes*, services, *businesses and societal models*.



difference *today, in particular in the technological and scientific domains but increasingly also in other disciplines.*

There is a strong need to further boost the innovation capacity of higher education institutions in Europe. The EIT is in a unique position to deliver on this in the Horizon Europe framework.

Innovation, entrepreneurial culture, *market uptake of innovative solutions and increased investments in education and RDI will* make all the difference *if the Union wants to succeed in its transition towards a competitive, digital, decarbonised and inclusive society.* There is a strong need to further boost *collaboration between disciplines and interdisciplinary learning as well as* the innovation capacity of higher education institutions *and other research organisations* in Europe. The EIT is in a unique position to deliver on this in the Horizon Europe framework.

## Amendment 34

### Proposal for a decision Annex I – point 1 – point 1.3 – paragraph 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Second, physical* proximity is a key enabling factor for innovation. Initiatives aiming *at developing* innovation networks and providing services that support the creation, sharing and transfer of knowledge, play a key role in fostering the interactions between business, academia, research organisations, governments and individuals. Still, research and innovation performances across the EU, as reflected in the annual European Innovation Scoreboard, vary considerably. It is of crucial importance that innovation is inclusive and rooted in the local territories. EIT activities, thanks to their “place-based” approach, are well suited to contribute to strengthening local innovation ecosystems.

*Amendment*

*Third,* proximity is a key enabling factor for innovation. Initiatives aiming *to develop* innovation networks and providing services that support the creation, sharing and transfer of knowledge, play a key role in fostering the interactions between business, academia, research organisations, governments and individuals. Still, research and innovation performances across the EU, as reflected in the annual European Innovation Scoreboard, vary considerably *as recognised in Horizon Europe.* It is of crucial importance that innovation is inclusive and rooted in the local territories, *with a particular attention to the increased involvement of SMEs and third-sector organisations.* EIT activities, thanks to their “place-based” approach, are well suited to contribute to strengthening local *and regional* innovation ecosystems *and provide new models for a sustainable economy. The EIT and the KICs activities have yet to become increasingly linked to regional and Smart Specialisation Strategies.*

## Amendment 35

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.3 – paragraph 3 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***Fourth, talent circulation and R&I opportunities vary greatly between Member States. The EIT shall adopt measures to extend its geographical coverage in the Union, to decrease concentration of the KICs' financial distribution, to tackle the brain drain in particular from eastern and southern Member States, and to promote circulation of students, researchers and entrepreneurs.***

## Amendment 36

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 1 – point 1.3 – paragraph 4

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

Finally, vibrant innovation ecosystems require a mix of knowledge, infrastructure and talent. Framework conditions for cooperation between European research, education and innovation along with strong synergies need to be in place to ensure proper and efficient investment of scarce resources ***into research and innovation***. Deepening the knowledge triangle integration through existing and new KICs is a proven way to foster an environment conducive to innovation and is a guiding objective for the EIT.

Finally, vibrant innovation ecosystems require a mix of knowledge, ***investment***, infrastructure and talent. Framework conditions for cooperation between European research, education and innovation along with strong synergies need to be in place to ensure proper and efficient investment of scarce resources ***and to leverage other sources of funding aimed at financial sustainability***. Deepening the knowledge triangle integration through existing and new KICs ***reaching out and integrating new partners in other sectors and other regions*** is a proven way to foster an environment conducive to innovation and is a guiding objective for the EIT.

## Amendment 37

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 2 – paragraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT as an integral part of the Horizon Europe programme will contribute delivering on its overarching objectives and priorities. The KICs ***will be part of the Institutionalised*** European Partnerships, meaning they will follow ***a set of*** principles and life-cycle criteria ***to ensure a more coherent, open and impact-driven approach***. The EIT general objectives therefore reflect the overall role of the EIT in Horizon Europe and its place in the [Innovative Europe Pillar].

*Amendment*

The EIT as an integral part of the Horizon Europe programme will contribute delivering on its overarching objectives and priorities. ***Within Horizon Europe, the KICs are considered as*** European Partnerships, meaning they will follow ***the*** principles and life-cycle criteria ***as established in Article 8 of and Annex III to Regulation [xxx] [establishing Horizon Europe]***. The EIT general objectives therefore reflect the overall role of the EIT in Horizon Europe and its place in the [‘Innovative Europe’ Pillar]. ***Therefore the EIT shall work closely with other implementing bodies under the Innovative Europe Pillar of Horizon Europe and use best efforts to contribute to a “one-stop-shop for innovation”.***

**Amendment 38**

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 2 – paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***The EIT is driven by excellence. It shall encourage higher-quality integration of the knowledge triangle also in new innovation communities. Geographical spread is another key element, and to that end, KICs shall be open and transparent throughout the implementation of their activities.***

**Amendment 39**

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 2 – point 2.1 – paragraph 1 – introductory part**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The overarching areas of intervention for the EIT are defined in **the [Horizon Europe proposal]**. The EIT will continue to support its Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) in order to strengthen the innovation ecosystems that help to tackle global challenges. It will do so by fostering the integration of education, research and business, thereby creating environments conducive to innovation, and by promoting and supporting a new generation of entrepreneurs and stimulating the creation of innovative companies in close synergy and complementarity with the EIC. In doing so it **will** in particular:

*Amendment*

The overarching areas of intervention for the EIT are defined in **Annexes I and Ia to Regulation [xxx] establishing** Horizon Europe. The EIT will continue to support its Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) in order to strengthen the innovation ecosystems that help to tackle global **and societal** challenges, **in full alignment with Horizon Europe**. It will do so by fostering the integration of **higher** education, research and business, thereby creating environments conducive to innovation, and by promoting and supporting a new generation of entrepreneurs, **tackling also the gender dimension and the entrepreneurial gender gap**, and stimulating the creation of innovative companies, **with special attention to SMEs**, in close synergy and complementarity with the EIC. In doing so it **shall** in particular:

**Amendment 40**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 2 – point 2.1 – paragraph 1 – point 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(2) Foster innovation and entrepreneurship **through better** education;

*Amendment*

(2) Foster innovation and entrepreneurship **and skills development, supporting the entrepreneurial transformation of higher education institutions, a more inclusive, high-quality education and mentoring, in a lifelong learning perspective, and cross-border exchange programmes in the Union;**

**Amendment 41**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 2 – point 2.1 – paragraph 1 – point 3**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(3) **Bring** new solutions to global challenges **to market**.

(3) **Create** new solutions to global **and societal** challenges.

#### Amendment 42

##### Proposal for a decision

##### Annex I – point 2 – point 2.1 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

In line with the identified challenges that the EIT is facing (described in chapter 1.3.) and in order to contribute to the above overarching objectives defined for the EIT in **the [Horizon Europe proposal]**, the specific objectives of the EIT for the period of 2021-2027 are to:

In line with the identified challenges that the EIT is facing (described in chapter 1.3.) and in order to contribute to the above overarching objectives defined for the EIT in **Annexes I and Ia to Regulation [xxx] establishing** Horizon Europe, the specific objectives of the EIT for the period of 2021-2027 are to:

#### Amendment 43

##### Proposal for a decision

##### Annex I – point 2 – point 2.1 – paragraph 2 – point a

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(a) Increase the impact of KICs and knowledge triangle integration;

(a) Increase the impact of KICs **and their transparency**, and **boost** knowledge triangle integration;

#### Amendment 44

##### Proposal for a decision

##### Annex I – point 2 – point 2.1 – paragraph 2 – point a a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(aa) Increase the openness of the KICs by including a wider range of stakeholders across the Union;**

#### Amendment 45

##### Proposal for a decision

##### Annex I – point 2 – point 2.1 – paragraph 2 – point b

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(b) Increase the innovation capacity of the higher education sector **by** promoting institutional change in higher education institutions (HEIs);

*Amendment*

(b) Increase the **entrepreneurial and** innovation capacity of the higher education sector **across the Union by guiding and monitoring KICs in** promoting **better integration in the innovation ecosystems and an** institutional change in higher education institutions (HEIs);

#### **Amendment 46**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 2 – point 2.1 – paragraph 2 – point c**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(c) Increase the regional outreach of the EIT in order to address regional disparities in innovation capacity across the EU.

*Amendment*

(c) Increase the regional outreach of the EIT **and its KICs, as well as ensure better dissemination and exploitation of results,** in order to address regional disparities in innovation capacity across the EU **and within individual Member States to ensure a balanced geographical coverage;**

#### **Amendment 47**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 2 – point 2.1 – paragraph 2 – point c a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(ca) Implement a two-year crisis response programme with the necessary flexibility to be able to contribute to protecting the current innovation ecosystems and to help EIT stakeholders prepare for the economic recovery.**

#### **Amendment 48**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 2 – point 2.2 – paragraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

By delivering on these objectives, the EIT will contribute to the overall achievement of Horizon Europe scientific, economic/technological and societal impacts. ***It will continue to strengthen innovation ecosystems that help to tackle global challenges, by fostering the integration of the knowledge triangle in the areas of activity of the KICs.*** The Horizon Europe Strategic Planning process will ensure closer alignment between the EIT activities and the rest of Horizon Europe. ***Based on its proven track record, the EIT will play an important role in the Open Innovation Pillar.***

*Amendment*

By delivering on these objectives, the EIT will contribute to the overall achievement of Horizon Europe scientific, economic/technological and societal impacts. The Horizon Europe Strategic Planning process will ensure closer alignment between the EIT activities and the rest of Horizon Europe. ***The EIT will play an important role in the Innovative Europe Pillar and across the whole Horizon Europe.***

**Amendment 49**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 2 – point 2.2 – paragraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Strong synergies between the EIT and the European Innovation Council ***will be key for the impact of the [Innovative Europe] Pillar. The EIT and the EIC*** will run complementary activities aiming ***at streamlining*** the support provided to innovative ventures. ***Based on the expertise of its KICs, the EIT will provide business acceleration services and trainings to beneficiaries awarded EIC funding.***

*Amendment*

Strong synergies between ***all three implementing bodies of the [Innovative Europe] Pillar are required. The possibility of establishing a one-stop-shop for innovation shall be evaluated in the mid-term review of the EIT. That one-stop-shop could have at least three main strands: knowledge triangle integration; European innovation ecosystems; scaling up of R&I-intensive SMEs and start-ups.*** ***In particular,*** the EIT and the European Innovation Council will run complementary activities aiming ***to streamline*** the support provided to innovative ***companies, including*** business acceleration services and trainings.

**Amendment 50**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 2 – point 2.2 – paragraph 3**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT will *furthermore* facilitate the access of EIC beneficiaries to KICs' innovation ecosystems and relevant actors of the knowledge triangle. In this way EIC beneficiaries can become actively involved in KICs' activities and benefit from KICs' services. In parallel, EIT beneficiaries will be able to apply to the EIC instruments, ***when EIT KICs support may not be available***. The EIC may help start-ups supported by KICs with a high growth potential to rapidly scale-up. In particular, the most innovative ***KICs'-backed*** ventures may, ***if selected under the EIC***, benefit from the blended finance support offered by the EIC Accelerator and/or by the financial support offered by InvestEU instruments.

*Amendment*

***KICs should stimulate the creation of innovative companies in close synergy and complementarity with the EIC.*** The EIT will ***take an active part in the activities of the EIC Forum and will establish links between the EIT Community and relevant activities supporting innovation ecosystems in order to avoid duplication and ensure the coherence and complementarity of actions.*** ***The EIT will*** facilitate the access of EIC beneficiaries to KICs' innovation ecosystems and relevant actors of the knowledge triangle. In this way EIC beneficiaries can become actively involved in KICs' activities and benefit from KICs' services. In parallel, EIT beneficiaries will be able to apply to the EIC instruments ***for support additional to the services provided by the EIT KICs.*** The EIC may help start-ups supported by KICs with a high growth potential to rapidly scale-up. In particular, the most innovative ***KIC-backed*** ventures may benefit from ***a fast-track access to EIC actions, in particular to*** the blended finance support offered by the EIC Accelerator and/or by the financial support offered by InvestEU instruments. ***In addition, the KICs shall identify the SMEs and startups in their community that need support to access national and European funds and financial schemes in order to ensure their survival. To this end, the KICs shall work in close collaboration with the EIT, the EIC and the national authorities.***

**Amendment 51**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 2 – point 2.2 – paragraph 4**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT will ensure stronger synergies ***also*** with programmes and initiatives in the

*Amendment*

The EIT will ***also*** ensure stronger synergies ***with all the missions and the***



[Excellent Science] Pillar, to accelerate the transfer of knowledge resulting from blue sky research into concrete applications benefiting the society. In particular, with regard to the Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), the EIT will collaborate on the development of innovation and entrepreneurial skills of MSCA fellows.

***relevant partnerships, as for example PRIMA, IMI, EDCTP, FCH, ECSEL and*** with programmes and initiatives in the [Excellent ***and Open*** Science] Pillar, to accelerate the transfer of knowledge resulting from blue sky research into concrete applications benefiting the society. In particular, with regard to the Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) ***and the ERC***, the EIT will collaborate on the development of innovation and entrepreneurial skills of MSCA fellows ***and ERC grantees. That collaboration shall be made available on a voluntary basis and shall not increase the administrative burden for the beneficiaries.***

## Amendment 52

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 2 – point 2.2 – paragraph 5

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT will contribute to the [Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness] Pillar and complement relevant activities to tackle global challenges and increase the competitiveness of the EU on a global scale. In particular, through its KICs, the EIT will seek to contribute to relevant missions and thematic clusters and other European Partnerships by notably supporting demand-side measures and providing exploitation services to boost technology transfer and accelerate the commercialisation of results achieved.

##### *Amendment*

The EIT will contribute to the [Global Challenges and ***European*** Industrial Competitiveness] Pillar and complement relevant activities to tackle global ***and societal*** challenges and increase the ***sustainability and*** competitiveness of the EU on a global scale. In particular, through its KICs, the EIT will seek to contribute to relevant missions and thematic clusters and other European Partnerships by notably supporting demand-side measures and providing exploitation services to boost technology transfer and accelerate the commercialisation of results achieved.

## Amendment 53

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 2 – point 2.2 – paragraph 7

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

##### *Amendment*

Opportunities for synergies will be also explored between the **Sharing** Excellence part of Horizon Europe and the outreach activities supported by the EIT. In particular, target countries of the Horizon Europe **Sharing** Excellence part will be able to leverage on EIT expertise and support for the development of downstream activities (i.e. close to market), as the target group for **for** EIT outreach activities.

Opportunities for synergies will be also explored between the **Widening Participation and Spreading** Excellence part of Horizon Europe and the **RIS and other** outreach activities supported by the EIT. **The aim is to reach a more balanced representation of EIT activities across the Union. The EIT shall guide the KICs to help them make better use of the RIS.** In particular, target countries of the Horizon Europe **Spreading** Excellence part will be able to leverage on EIT expertise and support for the development of downstream activities (i.e. close to market), as the target group for EIT outreach activities. **The RIS budget shall also be used as leverage for ESI funds. Such synergies shall be used by the KICs to create funding schemes that are similar to the widening actions of the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Teaming and Twinning).**

## Amendment 54

### Proposal for a decision Annex I – point 3 – paragraph 1

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

A reinforced role of the EIT, through a focus on **actions where it will add value at the EU level and contribute** to achieving the objectives of Horizon Europe, will guide the EIT strategy for 2021-2027. First, the EIT **will** continue to support the innovation capacity and ecosystems through KICs, their further development and expansion, and through the launch of new KICs. Secondly, building on its experience with the knowledge triangle integration, the EIT **will directly support** the development of the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity **in the** higher education **sector**. Finally, through more effective cross-cutting measures, the EIT **will** ensure that its impact at the EU level increases. In addition, the EIT will also improve its

#### *Amendment*

A reinforced role of the EIT, through a focus on **innovation-driven knowledge triangle integration, Union added value and contribution** to achieving the objectives of Horizon Europe, will guide the EIT strategy for 2021-2027. First, the EIT **shall** continue to support the innovation capacity and ecosystems through KICs, their further development, **openness, enhanced transparency, good governance** and expansion, and through the launch of new KICs. Secondly, building on its experience with the knowledge triangle integration, the EIT **shall monitor** the development of the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity **of** higher education **activities embedded in the knowledge triangle and implemented**

operations in a number of areas in order to increase its effectiveness, efficiency and impact.

*by the KICs*. Finally, through more effective cross-cutting measures, the EIT **shall make all necessary efforts to** ensure that its **visibility and** impact at the EU level increases. In addition, the EIT will also improve its operations in a number of areas, **such as guiding the KICs towards financial sustainability, the openness, outreach, transparency, quality and sustainability of its own activities and of the activities of the KICs, higher involvement of SMEs and start-ups, gender balance and geographical coverage**, in order to increase its effectiveness, efficiency and impact.

## Amendment 55

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.1 – point 1 – paragraph 1

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The integration of the knowledge triangle by the EIT and KICs at EU, Member States, regional and local levels will remain a core task for strengthening innovation ecosystems and making them sustainable, as well as for developing new solutions to global challenges. The EIT will continue support a portfolio of KICs (*see Figure 2*) and will further strengthen its successful platform for launching, growing **and managing** them. KICs will continue to operate through **co-location centers (CLC)**. The KICs will continue to pursue financial sustainability in order to achieve financial independence from the EIT grant in the long-term (**at the latest**, after 15 years) through leveraging public and private investment.

##### *Amendment*

The integration of the knowledge triangle by the EIT and KICs at EU, Member States, regional and local levels will remain a core task for strengthening innovation ecosystems and making them sustainable, as well as for developing new solutions to global **and societal** challenges. The EIT will continue **to** support a portfolio of KICs and will further strengthen its successful platform for launching, growing, **monitoring, providing strategic supervision and guidance to** them. KICs will continue to operate through **CLCs selected after transparent open calls for proposals**. The KICs will continue to pursue financial sustainability in order to achieve financial independence from the EIT grant in the long-term, **aiming to reach such an objective**, after 15 years of **operation**, through leveraging public and private investment. **After the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> year of operation and based on an extension of the framework partnership agreement, KICs should be able to participate in certain EIT activities**

*related, in particular, to education. Such an extension of the framework partnership agreement is to be decided by the Governing Board on the basis of a positive outcome of an evaluation made by independent external experts of the KICs' effectiveness and provided that they have reached a sufficient level of impact and financial sustainability. This will ensure that KICs are maintained in the EIT Community and that they continue to deliver certain results which cannot otherwise be achieved in a commercially viable manner.*

## Amendment 56

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.1 – point 1 – paragraph 2

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT **will** dedicate a large share of its budget to support KICs. **It will** monitor and analyse **their** performance and **ensure they deliver towards the objectives of the EIT and of the Horizon Europe Programme**. Beyond financial support, based on lessons learned, the EIT **will** provide strategic supervision to KICs, as well as guidance on horizontal and specific issues, including on the establishment of synergies within Horizon Europe **and** with other EU initiatives. In particular, the EIT **will** support KICs in establishing interfaces and fostering joint activities with relevant European Partnerships and other relevant Union initiatives and programmes.

##### *Amendment*

The EIT **shall** dedicate a large share of its budget to support KICs. **Based on the indicators listed in Annex V to Regulation [xxx] establishing Horizon Europe, the EIT shall** monitor and analyse **the** performance, **the leverage investments and the different qualitative and quantitative impacts**. Beyond financial support, based on lessons learned, the EIT **shall** provide strategic supervision to KICs, as well as guidance on horizontal and specific issues, including on the establishment of synergies within Horizon Europe, with other EU **and international** initiatives. In particular, the EIT **shall** support KICs in establishing interfaces and fostering joint activities with relevant European Partnerships, **Horizon Europe missions, the EIC** and other relevant Union initiatives and programmes, **and shall supervise the establishment of CLCs outside the Union. The EIT should make best efforts to streamline the terminology related to the structure of each KIC, with the purpose of further simplifying, clarifying and enhancing recognisability of the EIT.**

## Amendment 57

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.1 – point 1 – paragraph 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

It **will** also monitor **the award of** the EIT Label to KICs' education **and** training programmes and explore a more effective quality assurance mechanism, including external recognition and **accreditation** for the EIT Label.

*Amendment*

It **shall** also monitor, **improve and strengthen** the EIT Label **that is awarded** to KICs' education, training, **mentoring and re-skilling** programmes, **including online**, and explore a more effective quality assurance mechanism, including external recognition and **visibility** for the EIT Label.

## Amendment 58

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.1 – point 1 – paragraph 4

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT **will** facilitate shared services **towards the KICs and** exchanges of experiences and good practices between KICs and foster collaboration between them (cross-KIC activities) on both thematic and horizontal topics. Cross-KIC activities **have** highest potential where several KICs **already address** common EU policy priorities where no dedicated KICs exist. **Bringing together the different KICs communities in dedicated joint actions of mutual benefit has high potential for synergies and** The EIT **will** boost such **activities and** take an active part in defining the content and structure of the cross-KIC activities. It **will** monitor the implementation of cross-KIC activities as well as the results achieved, with the aim of **making** those activities an integral part of the KICs' strategies.

*Amendment*

The EIT **is to** facilitate **the establishment of EIT community** shared services **and facilities, aiming to jointly handle specific operational tasks that are common to several KICs. The EIT shall also facilitate** exchanges of experiences and good practices between KICs and foster collaboration between them (cross-KIC activities) on both thematic and horizontal topics. **Cross-fertilisation between different subject areas is increasingly important for creativity, innovation and business.** Cross-KIC activities **and dedicated joint actions have the** highest potential **for synergies and interdisciplinary benefits, especially** where several KICs **already address** common EU policy priorities **and** where no dedicated KICs exist. The EIT **shall** boost such **activities and** take an active part in defining the content and structure of the cross-KIC activities. It **shall** monitor the implementation of cross-KIC activities as

well as the results achieved, with the aim of *ensuring the long-term sustainability of* those activities *as* an integral part of the *EIT and the KICs' multi-annual* strategies.

## Amendment 59

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.1 – point 2 – paragraph 1

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT *will* further increase its regional impact through an enhanced openness towards potential partners and stakeholders and a better articulated regional strategy of KICs, including *links to the* relevant Smart Specialisation Strategies.

##### *Amendment*

The EIT *shall* further increase its regional impact through an enhanced openness *of the KICs* towards *a wide range of* potential partners and stakeholders, *a balanced geographical coverage, a strengthened dissemination and exploitation of results* and a better articulated regional strategy of KICs. *Each KIC shall elaborate such regional strategy as an integral part of their multi-annual business plans aiming to strengthen the relationship with regional and local innovation actors, including SMEs. Where relevant, KICs should demonstrate links with Smart Specialisation Strategies and with the activities of thematic platforms and interregional initiatives, including with the Managing Authorities of ESI Funds. The EIT shall continuously monitor the implementation of those territorial strategies including the leverage effect on the ESI Funds.*

*The EIT shall also monitor how CLCs operate and how they integrate in the local innovation ecosystems. In addition, KICs shall enhance such integration also through the establishment of Innovation Hubs, which should serve as an entry point for interacting with regional and local knowledge triangle actors. The Innovation Hubs can help establish synergies, internationalise the local networks, identify funding and collaboration opportunities, provide advice to the public authorities and*

*support the beneficiaries. The Innovation Hubs can also grow into CLCs.*

*While excellence remains the main criterion, when selecting partners, projects or new co-location centres, particular attention shall be paid to building sustainable innovation structures and ecosystems in modest and moderate innovator countries and regions, especially if they are not yet part of the EIT Community. When it is strictly necessary to select between proposals of equal evaluation results, KICs are to give priority to those proposals that:*

*(a) include a higher number of low R&I performing countries and regions or that are modest or moderate innovators, as defined in point (8) of Article 2 of EIT Regulation [xxx];*

*(b) include a higher number of regions or countries that are not yet participating in the KIC community;*

*(c) involve regions and countries that commit to contribute with ESI funds.*

## Amendment 60

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.1 – point 2 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme, steered by the EIT and implemented by KICs, has been so far run on a voluntary basis. From 2021 on, the EIT RIS **will** become an integral part of the **KIC**' multi-annual **strategy**. The EIT **will** continue to provide guidance and support to KICs in the preparation of multi-annual EIT RIS strategies **and in their implementation**. **EIT** RIS activities will continue with improved support to the innovation capacity of countries and regions **that underperform in terms of innovation**. The EIT budget devoted to implementing EIT

##### *Amendment*

The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme, steered by the EIT and implemented by KICs, has been so far run on a voluntary basis. From 2021 on, the EIT RIS **shall** become **mandatory and** an integral part of the **KICs**' multi-annual **strategies**. The EIT **shall ensure that RIS activities are used as a bridge towards the following:**

RIS activities **will** be at least **10%** of the overall EIT support funding to KICs, thereby **increasing the** number of KIC partners from targeted regions. Activities supported through the RIS **will** aim to:

***(i) relevant Research and Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategies thereby catalysing other investments, especially ESI funds;***

***(ii) the integration of potential new partners thereby extending the KICs' geographical coverage.***

***The EIT shall*** continue to provide guidance and support to KICs in the preparation ***and implementation*** of multi-annual EIT RIS strategies. RIS activities will continue with improved support to the innovation capacity of countries and regions, ***including outermost regions, that have low R&I performances or that are modest or moderate innovators, as defined in point (8) of Article 2 of EIT Regulation [xxx], and that have limited participation in the KICs' activities.*** The EIT budget devoted to implementing EIT RIS activities ***shall*** be at least **15%** of the overall EIT support funding to KICs, thereby ***facilitating an increased*** number of KIC partners from targeted regions. Activities supported through the RIS ***shall*** aim to:

## Amendment 61

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.1 – point 2 – paragraph 2 – indent 1

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

— ***improve*** the innovation capacities of the local ecosystem, via capacity building activities and closer interactions between the local innovation actors (clusters, networks, regional authorities, HEIs, research organisations, VET institutions);

##### *Amendment*

— ***contribute to improving*** the innovation capacities of the ***regional and*** local ecosystem ***across the Union***, via capacity building activities and closer interactions between the ***regional and*** local innovation actors (clusters, networks, regional authorities, HEIs, research



organisations, VET institutions);

## Amendment 62

### Proposal for a decision

Annex I – point 3 – point 3.1 – point 2 – paragraph 2 – indent 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

— link local innovation ecosystems to pan-European innovation ecosystems through cooperation with EIT KICs and their co-locations centres.

*Amendment*

— ***attract new partners in EIT KICs, extend the geographical coverage of EIT KICs also through the EIT Innovation Hubs and*** link local innovation ecosystems to pan-European innovation ecosystems through ***the attraction of new partners, extending the geographical coverage and*** the cooperation with EIT KICs and their co-locations centres;

## Amendment 63

### Proposal for a decision

Annex I – point 3 – point 3.1 – point 2 – paragraph 2 – indent 2 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

- ***leverage additional private and public funding, with particular attention to ESI Funds.***

## Amendment 64

### Proposal for a decision

Annex I – point 3 – point 3.1 – point 2 – paragraph 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***In addition, in order to ensure KICs' deeper integration in local innovation ecosystems, each KIC will be required to develop and implement a strategy aiming at strengthening the relationship with regional and local innovation actors, and the EIT will actively monitor the implementation. A "place-based" innovation approach should be integrated***

***deleted***

*within the KIC's multi-annual strategy and business plan and build on KIC's CLCs (and RIS), thus leveraging on their role as gateway for accessing a KIC community and interacting with the co-located partners. KICs should demonstrate links with local Smart Specialisation Strategies and with the activities of relevant thematic platforms and interregional initiatives, including the Managing Authorities of ESI Funds. The EIT will also monitor how CLCs operate and how they integrate in the local innovation ecosystems.*

## Amendment 65

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.1 – point 3 – paragraph 1

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

In order to contribute to addressing new and emerging global challenges, the EIT *will* launch new KICs in priority fields selected based on criteria assessing, among other aspects, their relevance to **Horizon Europe** policy priorities, and their potential and added value to be addressed through the EIT model. The launch of new KICs *will* take into account the Strategic Planning of Horizon Europe and the budget allocated to the EIT in 2021-2027. The relevant selection criteria for European Partnerships defined in Annex III of the [Horizon Europe Regulation] *will* be included in the KIC Call for proposals and assessed during the evaluation.

##### *Amendment*

In order to contribute to addressing new and emerging global challenges, the EIT *shall* launch ***open and transparent calls to create*** new KICs in priority fields selected ***among thematic areas of strategic importance and*** based on criteria assessing, among other aspects, their relevance to ***the Union*** policy priorities ***with regard to addressing global and societal challenges***, and their potential and added value to be addressed through the EIT model. The launch of new KICs *shall* take into account the Strategic Planning of Horizon Europe and the budget allocated to the EIT in 2021-2027. The relevant selection criteria for European Partnerships defined in Annex III of the [Horizon Europe Regulation] *shall* be included in the KIC Call for proposals and ***shall be*** assessed during the evaluation.

## Amendment 66

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.1 – point 3 – paragraph 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Based on a proposal from the EIT Governing Board and an analysis thereof, a first KIC in the field of Cultural and Creative Industries (*CCI*) is proposed to be launched in 2022 with a call for proposals to be published in 2021. ***This priority field has the strongest complementarity with the eight KICs that have already been launched by the EIT, as well as with the potential priority areas for other European Partnerships to be launched in the framework of Horizon Europe. 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. These bottlenecks would be best tackled by a KIC thanks to its knowledge triangle integration approach, long-term perspective and place-based approach. A factsheet summarizing the challenges of the CCI field and the expected impact of the future KIC is included in Annex 1B to this SIA.***

*Amendment*

Based on a proposal from the EIT Governing Board and an analysis thereof, a first KIC in the field of Cultural and Creative ***Sectors and*** Industries (*CCSI*) is proposed to be launched in 2022 with a call for proposals to be published in 2021. However, ***if the EIT Governing Board considers that further consultation of stakeholders is appropriate before launching the call for proposals, it may postpone the launch until 2022 for the purpose of establishing the KIC for CCSI in 2023.***

***A second KIC in the field of Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems (WaterKIC) is proposed to be launched in 2025, with a call for proposals to be published in 2024. However, the Commission, with the assistance of independent experts, shall carry out an impact assessment to evaluate the relevance of the field of Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems by 2023. If the assessment has a negative result, the Commission shall propose an amendment to Annex 1A and Annex 1B, taking into account the contribution of the EIT Governing Board and the strategic planning process of Horizon Europe.***

## Amendment 67

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.1 – point 3 – paragraph 3 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*The Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems priority field covers a wide range of traditional and emerging economic sectors, which are intrinsically linked to an environmental natural capital that is under pressure. This field will play a crucial role in delivering a climate-neutral, sustainable and competitive Union by 2050, as new technologies and the need to decarbonise the economy are leading to an increasing use and exploitation of marine and aquatic resources. Seas, oceans and inland waters have a central role in climate processes, in human health and wellbeing, in the provision of food, the preservation of biodiversity, critical ecosystem services, renewable energy and other resources. Wastewater treatments will reduce the amount of energy used, the pathogenic bacteria during the sewage sludge dewatering and in general increase the plants' efficiency and quality. This priority field is complementary to the eight existing KICs. A factsheet summarising the challenges of this field and the expected impact of the future KIC is included in Annex 1Ba to this SIA.*

## Amendment 68

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.1 – point 3 – paragraph 3 b (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*The CCSI priority field has a strong complementarity with the eight KICs that have already been launched by the EIT, and also with the potential priority areas for other European Partnerships to be*

*launched in the framework of Horizon Europe. Cultural and creative sectors have a high growth potential, many grass-roots initiatives and strong citizen appeal. They are strongly embedded in their local and regional ecosystems. However, cultural and creative industries and sectors are still very fragmented and the innovators and business creators lack the necessary entrepreneurial and innovation skills. These bottlenecks would be best tackled by a KIC thanks to its knowledge triangle integration approach, long-term perspective and place-based approach. A factsheet summarising the challenges of this field and the expected impact of the future KIC is included in Annex 1B.*

## Amendment 69

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.1 – point 3 – paragraph 4

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Based on the proposed budget for the EIT, a second new KIC could be launched in 2025 with a call to be published in 2024, after an amendment to Annex 1A to add new priority field(s). The priority area(s) will be selected in light of the proposals of the EIT Governing Board. These proposals will take into account the priority areas to be identified in the Horizon Europe Strategic Research and Innovation Plan and the criteria set for the selection of European Partnerships, in particular openness, transparency, EU added value, coherence and synergies. The criteria for selecting new KICs will be aligned with those in the Horizon Europe. They will also support delivery on EU policy priorities such as missions and Sustainable Development Goals. Other new KIC/KICs could be selected in case additional budget to that of the EIT would become available.*

*Amendment*

*Other new KICs could be selected if additional budget to that of the EIT becomes available and will take into account the priority areas in the proposal of the EIT Governing Board and in the Horizon Europe Strategic Research and Innovation Plan and the criteria set for the selection of European Partnerships, in particular openness, transparency, EU added value, contribution to the SDGs, coherence and synergies. Other new KIC/KICs could be selected if additional budget to that of the EIT would become available.*

## Amendment 70

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.1 – point 3 – table

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*The EIT will:*

*deleted*

— *Strengthen innovation ecosystems by continuing to support existing KICs in addressing global challenges through the integration of the knowledge triangle.*

— *Define areas of and promote stronger cross-KIC collaboration on topics of strategic and policy relevance.*

— *Ensure that KICs develop and implement a strategy to create collaboration and synergies with relevant European Partnerships and other relevant Union initiatives and programmes.*

— *Ensure that KICs have an inclusive approach aiming at strengthening their relationship with national, regional and local innovation actors.*

— *Ensure that EIT RIS activities deliver on increased regional impact and are fully integrated in KICs' multi-annual strategies.*

— *Launch new KICs in selected thematic areas of strategic importance, starting with a KIC in the field of Cultural and Creative Industries in 2022.*

## Amendment 71

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.2 – title

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

3.2. Supporting the innovation capacity of higher education

3.2. Supporting the *entrepreneurial and* innovation capacity of higher education

## Amendment 72

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 3 – point 3.2 – paragraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Through the knowledge triangle integration model, the EIT has helped to bridge the persistent gap between higher education, research and innovation. In particular, the EIT **is a key tool** for the development of human capital through **its** distinctive focus on entrepreneurial education. However, the impact of the EIT **remains** limited to the KICs' partners.

*Amendment*

Through the knowledge triangle integration model, the EIT has helped to bridge the persistent gap between higher education, research and innovation. In particular, the EIT **and its KICs are key** for the development of human capital through **their** distinctive focus on **innovation and** entrepreneurial education. However the impact of the EIT **shall not be** limited to the KICs' partners, **it shall rather be extended**.

**Amendment 73**

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 3 – point 3.2 – paragraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

To support innovation more widely, higher education institutions in Europe need to be innovative and entrepreneurial in their approach to education, research, and engagement with businesses and the broader local innovation ecosystem, including civil society.

*Amendment*

To support innovation more widely, higher education institutions in Europe need to be innovative and entrepreneurial in their approach to education, research, and engagement with businesses and the broader local **and regional** innovation ecosystem, including civil society, **public institutions and third-sector organisations, in the most inclusive and gender balanced way. Therefore, the KICs shall enhance regular higher education activities and further develop the entrepreneurial and innovative capacities of HEIs within the KICs activities.**

**Amendment 74**

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 3 – point 3.2 – paragraph 3**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

**Developing HEIs into more innovative**

*Amendment*

**In cooperation with the Commission and**

*and entrepreneurial organisations requires a clear strategy, a methodological framework and commitment of resources. Based on its experience, the EIT is uniquely positioned to support the development of entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of HEIs under Horizon Europe.*

based on *input by the KICs*, the EIT *is to design and launch a higher education initiative* to support the development of *innovation and* entrepreneurial capacity *in the knowledge triangle, which will be implemented by and through the KICs. Based on the results of an evaluation by independent experts to be carried out at the end of the first three years after the launch of the higher education initiative, the EIT Governing Board shall decide whether the initiative should be continued, upscaled or discontinued.*

## Amendment 75

### Proposal for a decision Annex I – point 3 – point 3.2 – paragraph 4

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Activities *will* be implemented by the *EIT through the KICs* in an open and targeted way which will aim *at increasing* the innovation capacity in higher education in order to integrate *a wider number of* HEIs in innovation value chains and ecosystems. These activities will complement the intervention of the EIT on education *as core part of the Knowledge Triangle Integration activities of KICs*, in particular through making them more open and accessible to non-partners of the KICs. *The impact* of the *EIT would* reach beyond the KICs and contribute to the EIT's core mission of boosting sustainable economic growth and competitiveness by reinforcing the innovation capacity of Member States, in line with the Horizon Europe goals of fostering entrepreneurial and innovation skills in a lifelong learning perspective, *including increasing the capacities of HEIs across Europe.*

*Amendment*

Activities *shall* be implemented by the KICs in an open, *transparent* and targeted way which will aim *to increase* the innovation capacity in higher education in order to integrate HEIs *that are not yet KIC partners* in innovation value chains and ecosystems. These activities will complement the intervention of the EIT on education *in each KICs' Knowledge Triangle*, in particular through making them more open and accessible to non-partners of the KICs.

*The higher education initiative implemented by KICs should improve, inter alia, the exchange of best practices on organisational learning, coaching and mentoring, the development of courses*



*and training for upskilling and reskilling, the development of action plans to recognise needs in identified areas such as innovation management, start-up creation, sustainability and climate neutrality, technology transfer, intellectual property rights management, integration of gender approaches in innovation, engagement with local stakeholders, and other innovation capacity activities.*

*KICs shall integrate their activities aiming to strengthen the innovation capacities of the HEIs in the multi-annual strategy. The activities shall have a reach beyond the KICs and contribute to the EIT's core mission of boosting **European** sustainable economic growth and competitiveness by reinforcing the innovation capacity of Member States, in line with the Horizon Europe goals of fostering entrepreneurial and innovation skills in a lifelong learning perspective, **always taking into account the gender dimension.***

## Amendment 76

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.2 – paragraph 5

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT **support** will build on policy initiatives such as the HEInnovate<sup>4</sup> and RIIA<sup>5</sup> frameworks that have proven their value in a number of HEIs and Member States across the EU. The EIT **will design the** support activities in **close collaboration with the Commission ensuring** coherence and complementarity with relevant activities within Horizon Europe, **Erasmus and** other programmes. The specific details of the implementation and delivery mechanism process will be further developed and fine-tuned in the first three years and will be subject to monitoring **and evaluation during this pilot phase before**

*Amendment*

The EIT **and the KICs** will build on policy initiatives such as **European Universities**, the HEInnovate<sup>4</sup> and RIIA<sup>5</sup> frameworks that have proven their value in a number of HEIs and Member States across the EU. The EIT **shall support the KICs in designing** activities in coherence and complementarity with relevant activities within Horizon Europe, **Erasmus and** other programmes. The specific details of the implementation and delivery mechanism process will be further developed and fine-tuned in the first three years **of the higher education initiative** and will be subject to monitoring.

*further upscaling.*

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<sup>4</sup> HEInnovate is a policy framework developed by the European Commission and the OECD. HEInnovate offers HEIs a methodology to identify innovation capacity areas for further development and to shape relevant strategies and actions in order to achieve the desired impact. HEInnovate is based on sound methodological evidence with eight capacity development areas: Leadership and Governance; Digital Transformation; Organisational Capacity; Entrepreneurial Teaching and Learning; Preparing and Supporting Entrepreneurs; Knowledge Exchange; Internationalisation; and Measuring Impact. OECD has published a number of HEInnovate-based country reports, see OECD Skills Studies series at <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/>

<sup>5</sup> The Regional Innovation Impact Assessment framework (RIIA) was developed by the European Commission as a first step in guiding assessments of the innovation impact of universities through the elaboration of metrics based case studies. Assessing the innovation impact, e.g. through the RIIA framework, could potentially be tied to innovation performance based funding instruments at the regional, national or EU level.

## **Amendment 77**

### **Proposal for a decision Annex I – point 3 – point 3.2 – paragraph 6**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

***The EIT will play a steering and coordination role in the implementation and monitoring of the activities that will be run by the KICs. Particular attention will be paid to ensuring: an inclusive approach to attract HEIs beyond the KICs' partners; an inter-disciplinary and inter-***

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<sup>4</sup> HEInnovate is a policy framework developed by the European Commission and the OECD. HEInnovate offers HEIs a methodology to identify innovation capacity areas for further development and to shape relevant strategies and actions in order to achieve the desired impact. HEInnovate is based on sound methodological evidence with eight capacity development areas: Leadership and Governance; Digital Transformation; Organisational Capacity; Entrepreneurial Teaching and Learning; Preparing and Supporting Entrepreneurs; Knowledge Exchange; Internationalisation; and Measuring Impact. OECD has published a number of HEInnovate-based country reports, see OECD Skills Studies series at <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/>

<sup>5</sup> The Regional Innovation Impact Assessment framework (RIIA) was developed by the European Commission as a first step in guiding assessments of the innovation impact of universities through the elaboration of metrics based case studies. Assessing the innovation impact, e.g. through the RIIA framework, could potentially be tied to innovation performance based funding instruments at the regional, national or EU level.

*Amendment*

***Each KIC shall pay particular attention to ensuring: an *open and* inclusive approach to attract HEIs beyond the KICs' partners *aiming to ensure the widest geographical coverage possible*; an inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral approach; *a broader participation of women in sectors where****

sectoral approach; and a link with the European Commission Smart Specialization Strategy, relevant thematic platforms and the EIT RIS.

*they are underrepresented*; and a link with the European Commission Smart Specialization Strategy, relevant thematic platforms *such as the Policy Support Facility* and the EIT RIS.

## Amendment 78

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.2 – paragraph 7

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT will *link its support to developing innovation capacity in higher education* to the EIT Label, which is awarded *currently* to the KICs' education programmes. *In particular*, participating HEIs *may be involved in the use of* the EIT Label. The EIT *will also extend* the EIT Label *to* lifelong learning activities involving and reaching out to a wider target group of students, adult learners and institutions (including VET institutions) beyond the KICs. The application of the Label beyond the EIT *community will* have a more structuring effect at all levels (individual, programme and institution).

##### *Amendment*

The EIT will support *KICs in the implementation of* the EIT Label, which is awarded to the KICs' education programmes. Participating HEIs *will be incentivised to use* the EIT Label. The EIT *KICs shall make better use of* the EIT Label *also extending its scope* lifelong learning activities, *mentoring, vocational training, skilling and re-skilling programmes, MOOCs*, involving and reaching out to a wider target group of students, adult learners and institutions (including VET institutions) beyond the KICs' *partners*. The application of the Label beyond the EIT *KICs' communities is expected to* have a more structuring effect at all levels (individual, programme and institution). *The EIT shall monitor the effectiveness of expanding the scope of the EIT label of the KICs' educational and training programmes.*

## Amendment 79

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.2 – paragraph 8

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The *EIT will* in particular *target HEIs* from countries that are moderate and modest innovators and other low performing regions that wish to strengthen their innovation footprint and Smart

##### *Amendment*

The *KICs shall implement their higher education activities through open and transparent calls for proposals. KICs shall target HEIs across the Union, but* in particular *those* from countries *and regions*

Specialisation Strategies. The EIT *will* allocate *to this measure at least 25% of the overall* budget *allocated* to these activities.

that are moderate and modest innovators and other low performing regions that wish to strengthen their innovation footprint and Smart Specialisation Strategies. The EIT *KICs shall* allocate *an adequate* budget to these activities *and the eligibility criteria to be included in the calls shall ensure that a significant number of the HEIs involved in the projects come from outside of the KIC.*

## Amendment 80

### Proposal for a decision Annex I – point 3 – point 3.2 – table

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*The EIT will:*

*deleted*

— *In cooperation with the Commission, design and launch activities to support the development of innovation capacity in higher education, which will be implemented through the KICs, starting in 2021.*

— *Introduce an outreach scheme to incentivize HEIs from moderate and modest innovator countries to develop their innovation capacities.*

— *Provide specific guidance, expertise and coaching to participating HEIs.*

— *Strengthen and widen the scope of the EIT Label beyond the KICs to include the HEIs participating in the action.*

## Amendment 81

### Proposal for a decision Annex I – point 3 – point 3.3 – point 1 – title

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(1) Communication

(1) Communication *and dissemination*

## Amendment 82

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.3 – point 1 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT **will** reinforce **its** communication and visibility. With a growing number of KICs and **a new action** supporting the entrepreneurial **development** of HEIs, the EIT will boost its efforts to increase **its** recognition as a quality brand for innovation. This brand management and improved communication is crucial especially towards citizens as the innovations coming out of the EIT contribute to demonstrate the concrete impact of EU investments through the European Research and Innovation Framework Programme. **The EIT will apply an improved branding strategy towards its main stakeholders (HEIs, research organisation, businesses, etc.) in all Member States and beyond, in line with Horizon Europe communication approach.**

*Amendment*

The EIT **and the KICs shall** reinforce **and improve their** communication and visibility **and apply an improved branding strategy towards their main stakeholders (HEIs, research organisations, start-ups and SMEs, third-sector organisations, etc.) in all Member States and beyond, in line with the Horizon Europe communication approach.** With a growing number of KICs and **new initiatives** supporting the **innovation and** entrepreneurial **capacity** of HEIs, the EIT will boost its efforts to increase **the** recognition **of Union support** as a quality brand for innovation. This brand management and improved communication is crucial especially towards citizens, **regional and national authorities** as the innovations coming out of the EIT **and EIC together** contribute to demonstrate the concrete impact of EU investments through the European Research and Innovation Framework Programme.

## Amendment 83

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.3 – point 1 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

In order to ensure wider dissemination and better understanding of the opportunities offered by the EIT, the EIT **will explore the possibility to** reinforce guidance and assistance on aspects related to participation in EIT KICs across Europe **by building** on existing networks of information across Europe.

*Amendment*

In order to ensure wider dissemination and better understanding of the opportunities offered by the EIT, the EIT **shall** reinforce guidance and assistance on aspects related to participation in EIT KICs across Europe. **The dedicated network of EIT country liaison officers, as part of the National Contact Points of Horizon Europe, shall build** on existing networks of information across Europe **contributing to increase the**

*visibility and communication activities of the EIT and the KICs. In addition, they should support the national and regional authorities in identifying the necessary synergies with the multi-annual programmes of the KICs.*

#### **Amendment 84**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

##### **Annex I – point 3 – point 3.3 – point 1 – paragraph 4**

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

EIT will organise regular meetings *of* the Member States' Representatives Group as well as Commission related services, *at least twice a year*, to ensure an appropriate communication and flow of information with Member States and at EU level, and keep them informed of the performances and achievements of the EIT-funded activities. The Member States' Representatives Group shall also ensure appropriate support to liaise EIT-supported activities with national programmes and initiatives, including the potential national co-financing of those activities.

###### *Amendment*

EIT will organise regular meetings *with* the Member States' Representatives Group as well as Commission related services, *the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions*, to ensure an appropriate communication and flow of information with Member States and at EU level, and keep them informed of the performances and achievements of the EIT-funded activities. The Member States' Representatives Group shall also ensure appropriate support to liaise EIT-supported activities with national programmes and initiatives, including the potential national co-financing of those activities.

#### **Amendment 85**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

##### **Annex I – point 3 – point 3.3 – point 1 – paragraph 5**

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT *will* continue running the EIT Stakeholder Forum and the EIT awards in order to promote the interactions with European actors of the knowledge triangle and recognise the most promising entrepreneurs and innovators in Europe.

###### *Amendment*

The EIT *shall* continue running the EIT Stakeholder Forum and the EIT awards in order to promote the interactions with European actors of the knowledge triangle and recognise the most promising entrepreneurs and innovators in Europe.

#### **Amendment 86**

## Proposal for a decision

### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.3 – point 2 – paragraph 1

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT has a key role in disseminating good practices and lessons learned. The KICs and the projects supporting innovation and entrepreneurial capacity of HEI are a valuable source of evidence and experimental learning for policy-makers, providing examples of good practices and support in the development and implementation of EU policy in their thematic domains.

#### *Amendment*

The EIT has a key role in **identifying, spreading and** disseminating good practices and lessons learned. **The EIT and the KICs, also through the EIT country liaison officer, shall engage with Member States' national and regional authorities and the European Parliament, in particular with its Science and Technology Panel (STOA), to establish a structured dialogue, in order to identify, share and disseminate good practices, learnings and opportunities.** The KICs and the projects supporting innovation and entrepreneurial capacity of HEI are a valuable source of evidence and experimental learning for policy-makers **and RDI stakeholders**, providing examples of good practices and support in the development and implementation of EU policy in their thematic domains.

## Amendment 87

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.3 – point 2 – paragraph 2

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

So far, the good practices and learnings stemming from the KICs have not been sufficiently codified and disseminated effectively. In its support function as a knowledge partner for policy makers and the entire **innovation** community, the EIT **will** further develop its role as an innovation institute able to detect, analyse, codify, share and ensure the take-up of innovative practices, learnings and results from the EIT-funded activities (education & training, support to innovation, support to entrepreneurship) on a broader scale. This activity **will** build on the links and synergies with the other initiatives within

#### *Amendment*

So far, the good practices and learnings stemming from the KICs have not been sufficiently **pooled**, codified and disseminated effectively. In its support function as a knowledge partner for policy makers and the entire **RDI** community, the EIT **shall** further develop its role as an innovation institute able to detect, analyse, codify, share and ensure the take-up of innovative practices, learnings and results from the EIT-funded activities (education **and** training, support to **research and** innovation, support to entrepreneurship) on a broader scale. This activity **shall** build on the links and synergies with the other

the *[Innovative Europe Pillar]* of *the [Horizon Europe proposal]*.

initiatives within the Innovative Europe Pillar of Horizon Europe, *in particular the European Innovation Council, the Missions and the European Partnerships.*

#### Amendment 88

##### Proposal for a decision

##### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.3 – point 3 – title

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(3) International cooperation

(3) International cooperation *and global outreach activities*

#### Amendment 89

##### Proposal for a decision

##### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.3 – point 3 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

Within the scope of *the* EIT Regulation, the EIT will seek *greater impact of* its activities through international cooperation and *will coordinate* international EIT-funded activities by the KICs. *Its focus will align closely with relevant industrial policy objectives of the European Union as well as its research and innovation priorities and ensuring European added value.*

Within the scope of... *[EIT Regulation (2019/0151/COD)]*, the EIT will seek *to ensure that* its activities *have a greater impact* through international cooperation and international EIT-funded activities by the KICs.

#### Amendment 90

##### Proposal for a decision

##### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.3 – point 3 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*In its international cooperation the EIT, in consultation with the Commission, will focus on effective tackling of global societal challenges, contributing to relevant international initiatives and the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring*

The EIT and KICs will plan and perform their international activities in close collaboration with the Commission, in compliance with the Horizon Europe approach and other relevant EU policies, and under the supervision of the EIT



*access to talent and enhanced supply and demand of innovative solutions.* The EIT and KICs will plan and perform their international activities in close collaboration with the Commission, in compliance with the Horizon Europe approach and other relevant EU policies, and under the supervision of the EIT Governing Board.

Governing Board. *In its international cooperation and global outreach activities the KICs, in consultation with the EIT Governing Board and the Commission, shall focus on effective tackling of global and societal challenges, contributing to relevant international initiatives and the SDGs, ensuring access to talent and enhanced supply and demand of innovative solutions.*

## Amendment 91

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.3 – point 3 – table

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*The EIT will:*

*deleted*

— *Improve its visibility through a stronger branding strategy towards main stakeholders in Member States.*

— *Ensure visibility of the European Union’s support.*

— *Explore the feasibility to use existing EU information networks and provide coordination to their activities in order to ensure better advice and guidance to potential EIT KICs partners.*

— *Organise regular meetings of the Member States’ Representatives Group to ensure an effective communication and flow of information with MS.*

— *Increase the visibility of its action towards citizens and its community of stakeholders through the Stakeholder Forum, the EIT Awards and the EIT Alumni.*

— *Identify, codify, and effectively share learnings and good practices emerging from EIT-funded activities; engage with EU Member States authorities at both national and regional level, establishing a structured dialogue and coordinating efforts, in order to identify, share and*

*disseminate good practices and learnings.*

— *Develop broad lines of international cooperation of the EIT and the KICs under the supervision of the EIT Governing Board, in compliance with the Commission’s strategy for international cooperation on research and innovation and in consultation with the the respective Commission services.*

## Amendment 92

### Proposal for a decision Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

This section includes a number of measures that aim to adapt and improve the current functioning of the EIT and the KICs. An effective and strategic EIT Governing Board **will monitor** the implementation of those measures at the EIT level, and **will** provide the necessary incentives and control, including through the funding allocation process, to ensure that the KICs implement them.

*Amendment*

This section includes a number of measures that aim to adapt and improve the current functioning of the EIT and the KICs. An effective and strategic EIT Governing Board **shall monitor** the implementation of those measures at the EIT level, and **shall** provide the necessary incentives and control, including through the **performance-based** funding allocation process, to ensure that the KICs implement them.

## Amendment 93

### Proposal for a decision Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 4 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT will provide operational guidance to and monitor the KICs **on** compliance with sound management principles, the principles and criteria set out for European Partnerships in the Horizon Europe regulation and alignment with Horizon Europe priorities in order to **maximize** their performance and impact.

*Amendment*

The EIT will provide operational guidance to and **continuously** monitor the KICs **to ensure** compliance with sound management **and good governance** principles, the principles and criteria set out for European Partnerships in the Horizon Europe regulation and alignment with **the requirements stemming from** Horizon Europe **and with its** priorities in order to **maximise** their performance and

impact, *based on a long-term collaboration strategy between the EIT and the KICs. Appropriate measures may be taken where a KIC underperforms or fails to achieve the expected results and impact.*

*(In order to align the numbering of the points in the Annex, the points under Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 will be renumbered at a later stage in the procedure.)*

## Amendment 94

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 4 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Measures ensuring continuous openness of the KICs **and** transparency during implementation will be improved notably by **including common provisions** for new members that add value to the partnerships. They **will** also run their activities in a fully transparent way. **KICs will remain dynamic partnerships that new partners, including an increasing share of SMEs, can join on the basis of excellence and strategic fit. In order to limit the concentration of funding and ensure that KICs activities benefit from a wide network of partners, the procedure for the preparation of the Business Plan (including the identification of priorities, the selection of activities and the allocation of funds) will be made more transparent and inclusive. Finally, KICs will increase the share of calls, in particular for innovation projects that are open to third parties. All these measures will increase the number of participating entities involved in KICs' activities. Finally, KICs should report on the involvement of new partners in their regular reporting.**

*Amendment*

**The EIT shall make sure that the** measures ensuring continuous openness of the KICs **to new members as well as** transparency during implementation will be improved notably by **adopting and applying transparent, clear and consistent accession and exit criteria** for new members that add value to the partnerships, **by a continuous monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures.** They **shall** also run their activities in a fully transparent way, including **through a systematic use of open calls for projects, for partners and for the establishment of new CLCs.**

## Amendment 95

**Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 4 – paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***While excellence remains the main criterion for the selection of partners, projects or new co-location centres, when it is strictly necessary to select between proposals of equal evaluation results, KICs shall give priority to those proposals that:***

***(a) include a higher number of regions and countries of low R&I performing countries and regions, or that are modest or moderate innovators, as defined in point (8) of Article 2 of EIT Regulation [xxx];***

***(b) include a higher number of regions or countries that are not yet participating in the KIC community;***

***(c) involve regions and countries that commit to contribute to with ESI funds;***

***(d) involve a higher number of SMEs;***

***(e) ensure a better gender balance.***

**Amendment 96**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 4 – paragraph 2 b (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***KICs will remain as open and dynamic partnerships that new partners across the Union, including an increasing share of SMEs and start-ups, can join on the basis of excellence added value and their ability to contribute to innovation ecosystems and strategic fit. In order to limit the concentration of funding and ensure that KICs activities benefit from a wide geographical coverage and an extensive network of partners, the procedure for the preparation of the Business Plan***

*(including the identification of priorities, the selection of activities and the allocation of funds) and the selection of new co-location centres and funding decisions shall be made more transparent, open and inclusive. Finally, KICs should report on the involvement of new partners and beneficiaries in their regular reporting.*

## Amendment 97

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 4 – paragraph 3

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

As KICs operate across the entire value chain of innovation, they **will** ensure an appropriate balance of education, entrepreneurship and innovation activities in their Business Plan portfolio. KICs operations **will be** implemented through a lean, efficient and cost-effective structure that would keep administrative and overhead costs to a minimum. EIT will ensure that KICs will achieve their expected impacts through a broad range of activities, identified in the KICs' Business Plans, which effectively support the fulfilment of their objectives.

##### *Amendment*

As KICs operate across the entire value chain of innovation, they **shall** ensure an appropriate **and continuous** balance of education, **research**, entrepreneurship and innovation activities in their Business Plan portfolio. **The EIT shall monitor** KICs operations **to ensure that they are** implemented through a lean, efficient and cost-effective structure that would keep administrative, **management** and overhead costs to a **reasonable** minimum. EIT will ensure that KICs will achieve their expected impacts through a broad range of activities, identified in the KICs' Business Plans, which effectively support the fulfilment of their objectives. **In order to decrease the administrative burden, the KICs' Business Plans and the EIT grants for the KICs shall cover a period of at least three years, while KICs activities shall continue to be reported annually.**

## Amendment 98

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 4 – paragraph 4

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

Commitments from each KIC's partner

##### *Amendment*

Commitments from each KIC's partner

throughout the contractual duration of the initiative **will** be ensured by regularly monitoring the actual partner's contributions against the original commitments. EIT **will** ensure that KICs have a risk management system in place for cases where some partners are not able to meet their original commitments.

throughout the contractual duration of the initiative **shall** be ensured by regularly monitoring the actual partner's contributions against the original commitments. EIT **shall** ensure that KICs have a risk management system in place for cases where some partners are not able to meet their original commitments. ***In pursuing the financial sustainability of their activities, the KICs should look for a wide range of revenue and investment sources. Any effort made towards financial sustainability shall not lead to increases in tuition-fees or membership fees from partners, nor to a disadvantage for smaller entities, such as SMEs and start-ups, in terms of membership or tuition-fees nor reduced provision of grants.***

## Amendment 99

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 4 – table

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***The EIT will:***

***deleted***

***— Ensure that KICs apply strict principles of openness and transparency, in particular as regards the selection of new partners and the procedure for the preparation of the Business Plans.***

***— Ensure that the implementation of the KICs is in full compliance with the respective requirements stemming from the Horizon Europe regulation.***

***— Ensure an appropriate balance in the Business Plans between activities of the knowledge triangle.***

***— Ensure that KICs keep their administrative costs to a minimum.***

***— Ensure transition of existing eight KICs towards delivery of the new implementation criteria of Horizon Europe for European Partnerships.***

## Amendment 100

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 5 – paragraph 1

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

Through a lean and simplified funding model, the EIT will enhance the impact and contribution of KICs towards reaching the objectives of the Horizon Europe Programme. In order to increase the value added *of* its support, the EIT *will* adapt its funding model. There are four main areas where the EIT will implement improvements.

##### *Amendment*

Through a lean and simplified funding model, the EIT will enhance the impact and contribution of KICs towards reaching the objectives of the Horizon Europe Programme. In order to increase the value added *by* its support, the EIT *shall* adapt its funding model *in order to increase over time the commitments from KICs' partners or from other private and public sources. The EIT should ensure a balanced distribution of the budget for the duration of the period and a smooth transition from the current period to the next MFF period, in particular for the ongoing activities.* There are four main areas where the EIT will implement improvements.

## Amendment 101

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 5 – paragraph 2

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

Firstly, the EIT will *introduce a* co-funding *rate* in order to increase the levels of private and public investments. *The adaptation of the funding model will facilitate the KICs in the transition towards financial sustainability. It will incentivise them to decrease gradually during the duration of the framework partnership agreements the share of EIT funding in their Business Plan while increasing the level of co-investment from non-EIT sources. Fixed decreasing co-funding rates will be applicable across phases of the entire KICs' life cycle (start-*

##### *Amendment*

Firstly, the EIT will *apply the appropriate and gradually decreasing* co-funding *rates down to 50% as from the 12th year of operation of a KIC* in order to increase the levels of private and public investments, *other than revenues from their partners, thus facilitating the KICs to leverage increasing additional public and private revenue and investments, in order to achieve* financial sustainability. *The EIT shall adapt the share of the funding according to the KICs' Multiannual Business Plan while increasing the level of co-investment from non-EIT sources. EIT*

*up, ramp-up, maturity, exit from the EIT grant) as presented below.*

*funding shall be performance-based, shall incentivise impact and reward success, shall be directly tied to the progress made towards the achievement of the KICs' objectives, and may be discontinued in the case of a persistent lack of results.*

#### **Amendment 102**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 5 – figure 4**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*[...]*

*deleted*

#### **Amendment 103**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 5 – paragraph 4**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

Secondly, the grant allocation process **currently used will be geared more strongly towards** competitive performance **and results** and the use of multiannual grants. The EIT Governing Board will provide stronger incentives to KICs in particular based on their individual performance in order to ensure the highest level of impact. The EIT will therefore amend its competitive funding provisions in order to improve its impact as part of Horizon Europe.

Secondly, **the EIT will ensure that** the grant allocation process **is based on** competitive performance and the use of multiannual grants. **EIT funding shall be tied to progress in accordance with Article 11 of ... [EIT Regulation (2019/0151(COD))].** The EIT Governing Board will provide stronger incentives to KICs in particular based on their individual performance in order to ensure the highest level of impact. The EIT will therefore amend its competitive funding provisions in order to improve its impact as part of Horizon Europe.

#### **Amendment 104**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 5 – paragraph 4**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

Thirdly, the EIT will apply strict rules for

Thirdly, the EIT will apply strict rules for



reinforcing the review mechanism prior to the expiry of the first 7 years initial period of KIC's operations. **This** mid-term review **to** be undertaken **with the help of** external experts **should** be in line with the best international practice, in line with Horizon Europe criteria for the monitoring and evaluation of European Partnerships and take place before the expiry of the initial seven years period. As a result of the review, a decision will be made by the Governing Board to either continue the financial contribution to a KIC, or to discontinue it (thus not extending the framework partnership agreement with that KIC) **and reallocate the resources to better performing activities**.

reinforcing the review mechanism prior to the expiry of the first 7 years initial period of KIC's operations. **The** mid-term review **shall** be undertaken **by** external **and independent** experts **and shall** be in line with the best international practice, in line with Horizon Europe criteria for the monitoring and evaluation of European Partnerships and **criteria set out in Article 11 of ... [EIT Regulation (2019/0151(COD))]**. **The review shall** take place before the expiry of the initial seven years period. As a result of the review, **in accordance with Article 11 of ... [EIT Regulation (2019/0151(COD))]**, a decision will be made by the Governing Board to either **reduce, modify or** continue the financial contribution to a KIC, or to discontinue it (thus not extending the framework partnership agreement with that KIC).

## Amendment 105

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 5 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

#### **(5a) Reducing the administrative burden**

*(To be placed before: Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 5 – paragraph 5)*

## Amendment 106

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 5 – paragraph 5

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**Finally**, the EIT **will continue** its efforts towards simplification **in order to alleviate unnecessary** administrative burden<sup>7</sup> of the **KIC**, allowing the implementation of their **annual Business Plan and multi-annual strategy** in an agile and efficient way. This

The EIT **shall ramp up** its efforts towards simplification **and reduction of the** administrative burden<sup>7</sup> **for the KICs**, allowing the implementation of their multi-annual **Business Plans** in an agile and efficient way. This will include the use of

will include the use of lump sum or unit costs for relevant KIC activities. Moreover, in order to provide a better planning of the resources, in particular of innovation activities, as well as facilitate stronger commitment and long-term investment from participating partners in KICs activities, the EIT will sign multi-annual grant agreements with KICs, *when appropriate*, under the respective framework partnership agreements. These multi-annual grant agreements should *not exceed* 3 years.

lump sum or unit costs for relevant KIC activities. Moreover, in order to provide a better planning of the resources, in particular of innovation activities, as well as facilitate stronger commitment and long-term investment from participating partners in KICs activities, the EIT will sign multi-annual grant agreements with KICs under the respective framework partnership agreements. These multi-annual grant agreements should *cover a period of at least* 3 years. *The EIT shall reinforce trust relationships with the KICs and concentrate its evaluation on their results and impacts.*

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<sup>7</sup> In particular, the annual reporting on KIC complementary activities would be discontinued, as recommended by the Court of Auditors in its Special Report of 2016 ( Recommendation 1, p. 51).

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<sup>7</sup> In particular, the annual reporting on KIC complementary activities would be discontinued, as recommended by the Court of Auditors in its Special Report of 2016 ( Recommendation 1, p. 51).

## Amendment 107

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 5 – table 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***The EIT will:***

***deleted***

— ***Implement a new funding model designed to incentivise commitment from KICs' partners.***

— ***Continuously improve the funding model by simplifying KIC's reporting practices and, when deemed appropriate, sign multi-annual grant agreements with KICs under the respective framework partnership agreements.***

— ***Adapt the competitive grant allocation process to reward performance and results.***

— ***Reinforce the comprehensive review of the performance of each KIC prior to the expiry of their 7th year of activity to support a Governing Board decision on***

*the continuation or termination of their financial support, in line with Horizon Europe framework for European Partnerships.*

#### Amendment 108

##### Proposal for a decision Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 6

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Subject to an in-depth independent study in close cooperation with the Commission, by the end of 2023, the EIT *will define its relations with the KICs that will stop receiving support grants* in the course of the 2021-2027 programming period. *Subject to a positive outcome of a final review, the EIT may conclude a “Memorandum of Co-operation” with each KIC, aiming to maintain cooperation with KICs after the termination of the framework partnership agreement. This Memorandum should include, inter alia, rights and obligations linked to:*

- *the use of the EIT brand, participation in EIT Awards and in other initiatives organized by the EIT;*
- *the use of the EIT Label for education & training programmes;*
- *participation in EIT competitive calls for cross-KIC activities and shared services;*
- *relations with the EIT Alumni Community.*

#### Amendment 109

##### Proposal for a decision Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 6 – paragraph 1 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*The EIT shall develop the general principles for the relation with KICs after the termination of the framework partnership agreement in line with Horizon Europe framework for European Partnerships. Subject to an in-depth independent study in close cooperation with the Commission, by the end of 2023, the EIT shall assess the impact and results of the three KICs whose Framework Partnership Agreement will come to an end in the course of the 2021-2027 programming period and shall define their relations thereafter.*

*Subject to a positive outcome of in depth*

*review by external independent experts and a positive decision of its Governing Board, the EIT may, pursuant Article 11 of the EIT Regulation, decide to extend the framework partnership agreement until the end of the current programming period, if the evaluation shows that certain activities by the KIC cannot yet be financially sustainable, but remain crucial for the fulfilment of its tasks, activities and capabilities in responding to societal challenges and hence still need financial support from the EIT to allow the KICs to become financially sustainable. In accordance with Article 11 of the EIT Regulation, such extension shall be subject to certain conditions and be limited in scope, budget and time.*

#### **Amendment 110**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 3 – point 3.4 – point 6 – table**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**The EIT will:**

*deleted*

*— Develop the general principles for the relation with KICs after the termination of the framework partnership agreement, in line with Horizon Europe framework for European Partnerships;*

*— Conclude, subject to a positive final review and EIT Governing Board decision, Memoranda of Cooperation with the KICs in order to keep them as active members of the EIT Community.*

#### **Amendment 111**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 3 – point 3.5 – paragraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

Building on its broad scope of action and

Building on its broad scope of action and

distinctive role, the EIT is well placed to create synergies and provide complementarities with other EU programmes or instruments, including by reinforcing its support to KICs in their planning and implementing activities. The list below offers concrete examples where the EIT will contribute to synergies in the mid to long term beyond Horizon Europe.

distinctive role **as an integral part of Horizon Europe**, the EIT is well placed to create synergies and provide complementarities with other EU programmes or instruments, including by reinforcing its support to KICs in their planning and implementing activities. The list below offers concrete examples where the EIT will contribute to synergies in the mid to long term beyond Horizon Europe.

## Amendment 112

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.5 – paragraph 4 – indent 1 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

- ***Given the territorial dimension of the KICs and innovation ecosystems, synergies with ESI funds shall be sought. Best efforts shall be made towards the inclusion of KICs' activities in the operational programmes of the cohesion funds' managing authorities. This should contribute to the objectives of openness, geographical balance and financial sustainability of the KICs and increase the overall impact of the EIT.***

## Amendment 113

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 3 – point 3.5 – paragraph 4 – indent 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

— EIT KICs will promote the collaboration ***with*** the Smart Specialisation Platforms, ***particularly the projects having experience in working with the Managing Authorities of Cohesion Policy Funds***, in order to facilitate synergies between EIT resources, Cohesion Policy Funds and other European, national and/or regional programmes.

— EIT KICs will promote the collaboration ***between KICs and*** the Smart Specialisation Platforms, in order to facilitate synergies between EIT resources, Cohesion Policy Funds and other European, national and/or regional programmes.

## Amendment 114

### Proposal for a decision Annex I – point 3 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**3 a. The crisis resulting from the outbreak of COVID-19**

**(1) Cooperation between the EIT and the KICs**

***Major social, economic, environmental and technological changes deriving from the outbreak of COVID-19 will require the collaboration of all Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and the EIT should contribute to the innovation efforts that are needed in order to provide a coherent response to the crisis. The EIT should ensure that the KICs help deliver innovative solutions in different fields of action, in accordance with the priorities of the Union's recovery plan, European Green Deal, the Union Industrial Strategy and the SDGs, in order to contribute to the recovery of our societies and economy and strengthen their sustainability and resilience. Each KIC should develop a two-year strategic plan to contribute to mitigating the effects of the crisis on the economy, in particular the upheaval of society, and the contraction of investment. Specific attention should be paid to actions aiming to increase the resilience of their innovation ecosystems and in particular, of microenterprises, SMEs and start-ups, but also of students, researchers, entrepreneurs and employees who have been hit hardest by the crisis***

***The EIT should ensure that the KICs are able to operate with the necessary flexibility to adapt to the increasing demands arising from the COVID-19 crisis and in order to respond to the European recovery plan. The KICs, in synergy with other innovation strands and agencies, may propose initiatives aiming to support the current innovation***

*ecosystem based on the knowledge triangle. They may publish dedicated calls for proposals, promote initiatives using their partnerships, ecosystems and communities, elaborate individual and cross-KIC projects to support sustainable business restructuring, identify SMEs, start-ups and other stakeholders that need support. They should be flexible enough to create “fit-for-purpose” support measures for their partners and beneficiaries and even beyond their existing communities. They will need to adapt to a period of more decentralised and remote working methods, less travel, more uncertainty and continued physical distancing. They are to help partners, their beneficiaries and students with innovative collaborative tools, instruments, information and support services.*

*Towards the end of 2023, the EIT Governing Board, in coordination with the Commission, shall assess whether to extend the duration of each KIC’s crisis response programme.*

***(2) EIT Health***

*Without duplicating existing databases and initiatives, EIT Health should contribute to collate expertise and gather data and information for the development of vaccines, testing methods and medical treatments for COVID-19. EIT Health should contribute to putting in place horizontal platforms that can support research and development in vaccine-related initiatives by academia, industry, in particular SMEs, and by other organisations that have experience with preclinical expertise, vaccine trials and the production of clinical trial material.*

**Amendment 115**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 4 – point 4.1 – paragraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT's budget needs in the period 2021-2027 are **EUR [3000] million** and are based on three main components: 1) the expenditure for the existing eight KICs (reflecting that for three of them the framework partnership agreements will come to an end by 2024) and the launch of two new KICs (in 2022 and 2025); **2) the launch of a new EIT support and coordination action; and 3) administrative expenditure.**

**Amendment 116**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 4 – point 4.1 – paragraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Around **EUR [2500] million (83,3 % of the total EIT budget)** is envisaged to fund existing and new KICs and includes **EUR [200] million** for the Regional Innovation Scheme. **Through the introduction of a co-funding rate, the KICs are expected to mobilise a further EUR [1500] million of other public and private sources. The budget** for the launch of two new KICs (to be launched in 2022 and 2025, respectively) **will be around EUR [300] million**. Should additional budget to that of the EIT become available, the EIT could also launch additional KICs.

*Amendment*

The EIT's budget needs in the period 2021-2027 are **4% of Horizon Europe total budget** and are based on **two** main components: 1) the expenditure for the existing eight KICs (reflecting that for three of them the framework partnership agreements will come to an end by 2024) and the launch of two new KICs (in 2022 **or 2023** and 2025); **and 2) administrative expenditure.**

*Amendment*

Around **96,7 %** is envisaged to fund existing and new KICs **of which :**

**(a) at least 15%** for the Regional Innovation Scheme;

**(b) maximum 3% for the education initiative aimed to develop the innovation and entrepreneurial capacities in the knowledge triangle;**

**(c) around 10%** for the launch of two new KICs (to be launched in 2022 **or 2023** and 2025, respectively).

Should additional budget to that of the EIT become available, the EIT could also



launch additional KICs.

## Amendment 117

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 4 – point 4.1 – paragraph 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*The EIT will launch a new support action to help develop the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of HEIs. This action will require horizontal project management and monitoring services. Around EUR [400] million of the EIT budget (max. 14%) is needed to implement these activities, with EUR [120] million dedicated to the start-up phase (first 3 years) and the rest for the scale-up phase (final 4 years)*

*deleted*

## Amendment 118

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 4 – point 4.1 – paragraph 4 – introductory part

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

The EIT will continue to be a lean and dynamic organisation. The costs of administrative expenditure, covering necessary staff, administrative, infrastructure and operational expenses, will increase but on average **not exceed** 3% of the EIT budget. Part of the administrative expenditure is covered by Hungary through provision of free of charge **office space** until the end of 2029. **On this basis, administrative expenditure will therefore be approximately EUR 73 million for 2021-2027. The budget breakdown is presented below:**

The EIT will continue to be a lean and dynamic organisation. The costs of **EIT** administrative expenditure, covering necessary staff, administrative, infrastructure and operational expenses, will increase but on average **be around** 3% of the EIT budget. Part of the administrative expenditure is covered by Hungary through provision of **office space** free of charge until the end of 2029. **Besides, a major effort shall be made to decrease the KICs' administrative costs which, in any case, shall be kept to a reasonable minimum.**

## Amendment 119

### Proposal for a decision

## Annex I – point 4 – point 4.1 – paragraph 4 – figure

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

[...]

*deleted*

## Amendment 120

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 4 – point 4.2 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

The measurement of EIT's impact will be continuously improved over the next programming period taking into account the lessons learnt *and* the experiences gained so far. The EIT will apply *an* evaluation, reporting and monitoring framework *ensuring coherence with the overall approach taken for* Horizon Europe *while catering for flexibility. In particular, feedback loops between the Commission, EIT and KICs will be improved in order to address the objectives in a consistent, coherent and efficient manner.*

The measurement of EIT's impact will be continuously improved over the next programming period taking into account the lessons learnt, the experiences gained so far *and the need to streamline its practices with those of Horizon Europe.* The EIT will apply *the* evaluation, reporting and monitoring framework *established in* Horizon Europe, *using the indicators listed in Annex V to Regulation [xxx] establishing Horizon Europe.*

## Amendment 121

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 4 – point 4.2 – paragraph 1 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

#### *4.2.1. Mid-term review of the EIT*

*The EIT shall be subject to a thorough mid-term review by the Commission, on the basis of the periodic evaluations established in Article 19 of the Regulation [xxx] on the EIT. It shall be conducted with the assistance of independent experts and carried out no later than three years after the start of the next financial period. Among other elements, that mid-term review shall also assess:*

- (a) the results and impacts of the education initiative and its potential continuation;*
- (b) the effectiveness of the KICs' financial sustainability strategies;*
- (c) the implementation and impact of the RIS;*
- (d) the feasibility of further increasing the collaboration of the EIT and all implementing bodies of Pillar III of Horizon Europe in order to examine whether the EIT could play a more horizontal role across all pillars and/or establish a one-stop-shop for innovation with a set of different complementary activities.*

## **Amendment 122**

### **Proposal for a decision Annex I – point 4 – point 4.2 – paragraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Evaluation

*Amendment*

**4.2.2. KICs' evaluation *and* review**

## **Amendment 123**

### **Proposal for a decision Annex I – point 4 – point 4.2 – paragraph 3**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The periodic evaluations of the EIT activities, including those managed through KICs, will be carried out by the Commission in line with the ***provisions of the EIT Regulation and*** Horizon Europe Regulation. These evaluations will assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value of the EIT activities including the KICs. They will be based on independent external evaluations and will feed into the overall mid-term and ex-post evaluations of Horizon Europe. ***Furthermore***, each KIC will be subject to

*Amendment*

***The periodic evaluations of the EIT activities, including those managed through KICs, will be carried out by the Commission in line with the ... [EIT Regulation (2019/0151/COD)] and the*** Horizon Europe Regulation. These evaluations will assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value of the EIT activities including the KICs. They will be based on independent external evaluations and will feed into the overall mid-term and ex-post

a thorough review by the EIT before the end of the *7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>* year of operation under the Framework Partnership Agreements.

evaluations of Horizon Europe.

***Each KIC will be subject to a thorough review by the EIT before the end of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> year of operation under the Framework Partnership Agreements. Such review shall be carried out by independent external experts and the continuation of the KIC shall be subject to a positive decision of the Governing Board.***

#### **Amendment 124**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

##### **Annex I – point 4 – point 4.2 – paragraph 4**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Reporting and Monitoring

*Amendment*

**4.2.3.** Reporting and Monitoring

#### **Amendment 125**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

##### **Annex I – point 4 – point 4.2 – paragraph 5**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The ***reporting and monitoring*** of the ***KICs operational performance and their results will be a primary task*** of the EIT ***and will be implemented in cooperation with Horizon Europe common corporate services. The reporting and monitoring system for KICs will be built into the overall*** Horizon Europe ***monitoring system, in particular by implementing common data models including data collection***. The Commission will take part in the co-design of all relevant impact and monitoring indicators and tools developed or applied by the EIT in order to ensure compatibility and consistency with the overall Horizon Europe monitoring system, including the key impact pathways, the

*Amendment*

The ***Commission shall continuously monitor the management and implementation*** of the ***activities*** of the EIT ***in accordance with Article 45 of Regulation [xxx] establishing*** Horizon Europe. ***Data from projects funded under the EIT shall be included in the*** Horizon Europe ***database***. The Commission will take part in the co-design of all relevant impact and monitoring indicators and tools developed or applied by the EIT in order to ensure compatibility and consistency with the overall Horizon Europe monitoring system, including the key impact pathways, the criteria framework for European Partnerships and the Strategic Planning Process. Furthermore, EIT will take into

criteria framework for European Partnerships and the Strategic Planning Process. Furthermore, EIT will take into account the deployment of the Innovation Radar methodology in Horizon Europe, and will explore how Innovation Radar could be leveraged by the KICs for enhancement of its monitoring activities.

account the deployment of the Innovation Radar methodology in Horizon Europe, and will explore how Innovation Radar could be leveraged by the KICs for enhancement of its monitoring activities.

## Amendment 126

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 4 – point 4.2 – paragraph 6

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

Overall, it will be a responsibility of the EIT to regularly monitor the operational performance of the KICs and to adapt continuously its monitoring systems in line with Horizon Europe monitoring and reporting framework for European Partnerships and in cooperation with the Horizon Europe common corporate services. The results of such monitoring will feed into the KICs business planning processes and into the EIT decision-making on the allocation of the budget and preparation of the framework partnership agreements with the KICs as beneficiaries.

##### *Amendment*

Overall, it will be a responsibility of the EIT to regularly monitor the operational performance of the KICs, ***including their administrative expenditure***, and to adapt continuously its monitoring systems in line with Horizon Europe monitoring and reporting framework for European Partnerships and in cooperation with the Horizon Europe common corporate services. The results of such monitoring will feed into the KICs ***multi-annual*** business planning processes and into the EIT decision-making on the allocation of the budget and preparation of the framework partnership agreements with the KICs as beneficiaries.

## Amendment 127

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 4 – point 4.2 – paragraph 7 – point 1

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(1) economic/innovation impact by influencing the creation and growth of companies, as well as the creation of new innovative solutions to address global challenges, creating direct and indirect jobs and mobilising ***other*** public and private investments;

##### *Amendment*

(1) economic/innovation impact by influencing the creation and growth of companies, as well as the creation of new innovative solutions to address global challenges, creating direct and indirect jobs and ***mobilising additional*** public and private investments;

## Amendment 128

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 4 – point 4.2 – paragraph 7 – point 2

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(2) scientific and educational impact by strengthening human capital in research and innovation, enhancing innovative and entrepreneurial skills both at individual and organisational levels and fostering the diffusion of knowledge and innovation openly within society;

##### *Amendment*

(2) scientific and educational impact by ***creating new knowledge***, strengthening human capital in research and innovation, enhancing innovative and entrepreneurial skills both at individual and organisational levels and fostering the diffusion of knowledge and innovation openly within society;

## Amendment 129

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 4 – point 4.2 – paragraph 7 – point 3

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(3) societal impact by addressing EU policy priorities in the fields of climate change, energy, raw materials, health or food through innovative solutions, engagement with citizens and end-users and by strengthening the uptake of innovative solutions in these areas in society.

##### *Amendment*

(3) societal impact by addressing EU policy priorities in the fields of climate change (***mitigation, adaptation and resilience***), energy, raw materials, health, ***added value manufacturing, urban mobility*** or food through innovative solutions, engagement with citizens and end-users and by strengthening the uptake of innovative solutions in these areas in society;

## Amendment 130

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 4 – point 4.2 – paragraph 7 – point 3 a (new)

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

##### *Amendment*

***(3a) systemic impact, by addressing complex and interconnected problems, creating innovative comprehensive solutions, delivering transformative***

*applications with integrated added value in multiple sectors, contributing to shaping Union policies and address global and societal challenges, within the EIT community and especially in the cross-KIC relations.*

## **Amendment 131**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Annex I – point 4 – point 4.2 – paragraph 7 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*The impacts referred to in the third paragraph shall be measured according to the indicators set out in Annex V to Regulation [xxx] establishing Horizon Europe.*

## **Amendment 132**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Annex I – point 4 – point 4.2 – paragraph 8**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

The table below provides the non-exhaustive list of management indicators and their targets that would be monitored by the EIT in 2021-2027. These indicators provide the main input and output orientations for monitoring the achievement of EIT's key objectives for the period 2021-2027 such as fostering innovation and entrepreneurship through better education, increasing its regional impact and openness towards potential partners and stakeholders, and bringing new innovative solutions to global challenges to market.

*In addition*, the table below provides the non-exhaustive list of management indicators and their targets that would be monitored by the EIT in 2021-2027. These indicators provide the main input and output orientations for monitoring the achievement of EIT's key objectives for the period 2021-2027 such as fostering innovation and entrepreneurship through better education, increasing its regional impact and openness towards potential partners and stakeholders, and bringing new innovative solutions to global challenges to market.

## **Amendment 133**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Annex I – point 4 – point 4.2 – paragraph 9**

### *Text proposed by the Commission*

Additional indicators, including societal impact indicators in the KICs areas of activity, will be developed by the EIT together with the Commission in line with the development of the Horizon Europe programme indicator framework and will reflect the overall approach for European Partnerships to contribute to scientific, economic and societal impact. Overall the alignment of the impact indicators with Horizon Europe will aim **at monitoring** the progress towards the set objectives over time. This will ensure a comparative evidence-base on results and impacts generated by KICs vis-à-vis the rest of the programme. In addition, the EIT will ensure that the monitoring system would capture progress in relation to activities specific to the KIC model, such as knowledge triangle integration and entrepreneurial skills. These additional indicators will aim **at monitoring** the progress and impact over time. For example, the indicators on EIT education-related activities (including those supporting the capacities of HEIs) shall monitor human capital skill acquisition (short term), career (medium term) and working conditions (long term), HEIs engagement and capacity improvement (short term) or HEIs role and performance in local innovation ecosystems (medium and long term).

### **Amendment 134**

#### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Annex I – point 4 – point 4.2 – paragraph 10**

### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The EIT **will** ensure that the data it collects through its internal monitoring system, including the results from KICs, **are** fully integrated in the overall data management

### *Amendment*

Additional indicators, including societal impact indicators in the KICs areas of activity, will be developed by the EIT together with the Commission in line with the development of the Horizon Europe programme indicator framework and will reflect the overall approach for European Partnerships to contribute to scientific, economic and societal impact. Overall the alignment of the impact indicators with Horizon Europe will aim **to monitor** the progress towards the set objectives over time. This will ensure a comparative evidence-base on results and impacts generated by KICs vis-à-vis the rest of the programme. In addition, the EIT will ensure that the monitoring system would capture progress in relation to activities specific to the KIC model, such as knowledge triangle integration and entrepreneurial skills. These additional indicators will aim **to monitor** the progress and impact over time. For example, the indicators on EIT education-related activities (including those supporting the capacities of HEIs) shall monitor human capital skill acquisition (short term), career (medium term) and working conditions (long term), HEIs engagement and capacity improvement (short term) or HEIs role and performance in local innovation ecosystems (medium and long term).

### *Amendment*

**In order to improve transparency and openness**, the EIT **shall** ensure that the data it collects through its internal monitoring system, including the results



system of Horizon Europe programme. The EIT **will** ensure that detailed information arising from its monitoring and evaluation process are made available timely and are accessible in **a** common e-database **on** Horizon Europe implementation. In addition, the EIT **will** ensure dedicated reporting on quantitative and qualitative impacts, including on committed and actually provided financial contributions.

from KICs, **is** fully **accessible and** integrated in the overall data management system of Horizon Europe programme. The EIT **shall** ensure that detailed information arising from its monitoring and evaluation process are made available timely and are accessible in **the** common e-database on Horizon Europe implementation. In addition, the EIT will ensure dedicated reporting on quantitative and qualitative impacts, including on committed and actually provided financial contributions.

## Amendment 135

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 4 – point 4.2 – table 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**The EIT will:**

**deleted**

— **Improve its current monitoring systems and introduce a reporting and monitoring framework including impact indicators, aligned with the Key Impact Pathways of the [Horizon Europe programme].**

— **Regularly monitor the KICs operational performance and their outputs, results and progress towards impact in line with the [Horizon Europe framework].**

— **Ensure the development of the specific societal indicators in the KICs areas of activity and its regular monitoring in line with Horizon Europe framework for societal impact.**

— **Ensure reporting on quantitative and qualitative impacts, including on financial contributions.**

— **Ensure access to results and project data from KICs and integrating it in the overall data management and reporting system of Horizon Europe programme.**

## Amendment 136

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 5 – paragraph 1 – point 1 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**1a. Water, Marine and Maritime  
Sectors and Ecosystems**

**Amendment 137**

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 7 – paragraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

Cultural and Creative Industries (**CCI**) can bring a horizontal solution to an array of rising challenges, which are of a permanent nature, and can be addressed through research and innovation activities. These challenges can be grouped into four pillars: 1) Europeans' creativity, cultural diversity **and values**; 2) European identity and cohesion; 3) European employment, economic resilience, and smart growth; and 4) Europe as a global actor.

Cultural and Creative **Sectors and Industries (CCSI)<sup>1a</sup>** can bring a horizontal solution to an array of rising challenges, which are of a permanent nature, and can be addressed through **education**, research and innovation activities. These challenges can be grouped into four pillars: 1) Europeans' creativity, cultural **and linguistic** diversity and values; 2) European identity and cohesion; 3) European employment, economic resilience, and smart growth; and 4) Europe as a global actor.

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***<sup>1a</sup> The Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries relate to all sectors and industries whose activities are based on cultural values, cultural diversity and individual and/or collective artistic and other creative expressions, whether those activities are market or non-market oriented, whatever the type of structure that carries them out, and irrespective of how that structure is financed. Those activities include the development of skills and talent with the potential to generate innovation, the creation of wealth and jobs through the production of social and economic value, including from intellectual property management. They relate also to the development, the production, the dissemination and the***

*preservation of goods and services which embody cultural, artistic or other creative expressions, as well as related functions such as education and management. The cultural and creative sectors include inter alia architecture, archives, arts, libraries and museums, artistic crafts, audio and visual (including film, television, software, video games, multimedia and recorded music), tangible and intangible cultural heritage, design, creativity-driven high-end industries and fashion, festivals, music, literature, performing arts, books and publishing (newspapers and magazines), radio and visual arts, and advertising.*

*(This amendment from "Cultural and Creative Industries" to "Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries" applies throughout the text. Adopting it will necessitate corresponding changes throughout. In order to align the numbering of the points in the Annex, the points under Annex I - point 6 – paragraph 1 – points 7, 8 and 9 will be renumbered at a later stage in the procedure.)*

## Amendment 138

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 7 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

Europeans' creativity and cultural diversity depends on resilient and robust cultural and creative sectors. However those sectors, **notably the audio-visual or music sector**, are facing a number of challenges as a result of the increased competition from global players and the digital shift.

##### *Amendment*

Europeans' creativity and cultural diversity depends on resilient and robust cultural and creative sectors **and industries**. However those sectors are facing a number of challenges as a result of the increased competition from global players and the digital shift.

## Amendment 139

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 7 – paragraph 2 – indent 1

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

— Producers, distributors, broadcasters,

##### *Amendment*

— Producers, **creators**, distributors,

cinema theatres and all types of cultural *organizations* need to innovate in order to attract new *generations of* audiences.

broadcasters, cinema theatres and all types of cultural *organisations and businesses* need to innovate in order to attract *and expand* new audiences *and to develop new processes, services, contents and practices that provide societal value*.

## Amendment 140

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 7 – paragraph 2 – indent 2

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

— The shortage of entrepreneurship and cross-cutting skills in *CCI*<sup>8</sup> concerns both emerging sub-sectors as well as very mature ones that undergo a profound digital transformation. These skills are needed for innovation and crucial in light of labour market changes that the sector is facing.

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<sup>8</sup> Cultural and creative studies in European universities are mostly focused on the “creative part” and their graduates are not always ready to enter the modern labour market as they lack cross-sectoral (entrepreneurial, digital, financial management) skills. With regards to HEIs, the EU is trailing behind the USA in Communication & Media studies (while EU universities are performing better in more traditional disciplines such as Art & Design or Performing arts).

##### *Amendment*

— The shortage of entrepreneurship and cross-cutting skills in *cultural and creative sectors*<sup>8</sup> concerns both emerging sub-sectors as well as very mature ones that undergo a profound digital transformation. These skills are needed for innovation and crucial in light of labour market changes that the sector is facing.

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<sup>8</sup> Cultural and creative studies in European universities are mostly focused on the “creative part” and their graduates are not always ready to enter the modern labour market as they lack cross-sectoral (entrepreneurial, digital, financial management) skills. With regards to HEIs, the EU is trailing behind the USA in Communication & Media studies (while EU universities are performing better in more traditional disciplines such as Art & Design or Performing arts).

## Amendment 141

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 7 – paragraph 2 – indent 3 a (new)

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

##### *Amendment*

- *Cultural heritage is an important source of innovation, providing good return on investment and significant*

*economic revenues, but its potential is still untapped. Being a catalyst for sustainable heritage-led regeneration and an essential stimulus to education and lifelong learning, fostering cooperation and social cohesion, it can vastly benefit from the CCSI KIC.*

## Amendment 142

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 7 – paragraph 3 – introductory part

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

Societal challenges related to the European identity and cohesion can generally be described in terms of lack of ‘bridges’ connecting different parts of the society including different territories. They include issues related to social exclusion, the need to build closer intercultural links *and developing* a sense of common belonging based on our cultural diversity and common heritage that could be addressed through more community participation, innovations in design, architecture and the use of public spaces, as well as culture-led *social* innovation. In particular:

##### *Amendment*

Societal challenges related to the European identity and cohesion can generally be described in terms of lack of ‘bridges’ connecting different parts of the society including different territories. They include issues related to social exclusion, the need to build closer intercultural links, *protect linguistic diversity, including minority languages, and develop* a sense of common belonging based on our cultural diversity and common heritage that could be addressed through more community participation, innovations in design, architecture and the use of public spaces, as well as culture-led *societal* innovation. In particular:

## Amendment 143

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 7 – paragraph 3 – indent 1

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

— There is limited cooperation between researchers and between research and industry as well as insufficient coordination of R&D efforts, sharing of methods, results, and best practices. Additionally, most of the research in *CCI* have not been translated which leads to repetition, as researchers are often unaware

##### *Amendment*

— There is limited cooperation between researchers and between research and industry, *public and third sector organisations* as well as insufficient coordination of R&D efforts, sharing of methods, results, and best practices. Additionally, most of the research in *cultural and creative sectors and*

of similar projects.

*industries* have not been translated which leads to repetition, as researchers are often unaware of similar projects.

#### Amendment 144

##### Proposal for a decision

##### Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 7 – paragraph 3 – indent 3

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

— A significant share of regional smart specialization priorities in Europe refer to culture under different angles (e.g. cultural heritage, creative industries, etc.). Given the important role of culture and creativity for the economic and social development of cities and regions and their ability to further help address disparity issues across Europe, the potential of *the CCI* KIC is high.

###### *Amendment*

— A significant share of regional smart specialization priorities in Europe refer to culture under different angles (e.g. cultural heritage, creative industries, etc.). Given the important role of culture and creativity for the economic and social development of cities and regions and their ability to further help address disparity issues across Europe, the potential of *this* KIC is high.

#### Amendment 145

##### Proposal for a decision

##### Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 7 – paragraph 4 – introductory part

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

Challenges related to European employment, economic resilience, and smart growth, include *economic* issues such as unemployment (especially youth unemployment) *and* global competition.

###### *Amendment*

*Current* challenges related to European employment, economic resilience, and smart growth, include *socio-economic* issues such as *tackling* unemployment (especially youth unemployment), *improve skills and working environments and facing* global competition.

#### Amendment 146

##### Proposal for a decision

##### Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 7 – paragraph 4 – indent 2

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

— European industries are *challenged by digitization and globalization and their*

###### *Amendment*

— European industries are *strongly impacted by globalisation, digitisation and*

**powerful impact on** the way artists produce and distribute their works and relate to their audiences. **The collapse of DVD markets, new consumer expectations and the continued power of US studios** together with the rise of global digital **giants** like Amazon, iTunes, Google and Netflix **have impacted** the traditional value chain.

**technological innovation. These developments have changed** the way artists produce and distribute their works and relate to their audiences. **They are changing the traditional business models of the cultural and creative industries, and they have fundamentally shifted consumers' expectations and behaviour. The collapse of markets selling physical goods such as CDs and DVDs,** together with the rise of global digital **content providers** like Amazon, **Alibaba**, iTunes, Google and Netflix **as well as the increasing power of non-European content production companies, has had a massive impact on** the traditional value chain.

#### Amendment 147

##### Proposal for a decision

##### Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 7 – paragraph 5

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

Finally, the role of Europe as a global actor includes the need to enhance the dissemination of the cultural content **created in Europe**. Europe needs to remain competitive in the global digital race for creation of new technologies (e.g. AI, IoT, blockchain) for which **CCI** are important generators of content, products and services **globally**. Moreover, on a global scale, **CCI** (e.g. design, architecture, etc.) contribute actively to the sustainable development and drive green innovation, while cultural content (literature, film and the arts) can raise awareness of ecological problems and inform public opinion.

###### *Amendment*

Finally, the role of Europe as a global actor includes the need to enhance the dissemination of the **European** cultural content. Europe needs to remain competitive in the global digital race for creation of new technologies (e.g. AI, IoT, blockchain) for which **cultural and creative sectors and industries** are important generators of content, products and services. Moreover, on a global scale, **cultural and creative sectors and industries** (e.g. design, architecture, etc.) contribute actively to the sustainable development and drive green innovation, while cultural content (literature, film and the arts) can raise awareness of ecological problems and inform public opinion.

#### Amendment 148

##### Proposal for a decision

##### Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 8 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

An EIT KIC on **CCI** – with its holistic and integrated approach - will help address all challenges defined above. By covering nearly all sectors of our lives, society and economy, such KIC will be highly relevant in terms of economic and societal impact, unlocking strategic opportunities for economic, technological as well as social innovation.

*Amendment*

An EIT KIC on **CCSI** – with its holistic and integrated approach - will help address all challenges defined above. By covering nearly all sectors of our lives, society and economy, such KIC will be highly relevant in terms of economic and societal impact, unlocking strategic opportunities for economic, technological as well as social innovation. ***It will also be instrumental to strengthen knowledge and continuous learning, allowing higher arts education institutions to play a significant role in developing hybrid competences and an entrepreneurial mindset that meets industry needs.***

**Amendment 149**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 8 – paragraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Culture-based and creativity-driven innovations boost European competitiveness either directly by creating new enterprises and jobs or indirectly by creating cross-sector benefits to the wider economy, improving quality of life and increasing the attractiveness of Europe. **CCIs** are increasingly seen as new sources of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and jobs. employing already more than 12 million people in the **EU**, which amounts to **7.5%** of all EU people in employment.

*Amendment*

Culture-based and creativity-driven innovations boost European competitiveness either directly by creating new enterprises and jobs or indirectly by creating cross-sector benefits to the wider economy, improving quality of life and increasing the attractiveness of Europe. ***Cultural and creative sectors (e.g. cultural heritage and arts)*** are increasingly seen as new sources of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and jobs. ***Those sectors are*** employing already more than 12 million people in the **Union**, which amounts to ***more than 7,5%*** of all EU people in employment. ***Cultural heritage is a key component of the cultural and creative sectors and a major contributor to the attractiveness of Europe's regions, cities, towns and rural areas. It is a driver for private sector investments, for talent attraction, for footloose business generation and for direct and indirect job***



*creation.*

## Amendments 150 and 152

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 8 – paragraph 3

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The contribution of culture and creativity to innovation ***is not limited to the direct impact of the CCI, since innovation across-the-board*** is increasingly driven by non-technological factors such as creativity, design and new organisational processes or business models. In particular, ***CCI*** with distinct value chains (i.e. music, design, fashion, audio-visual, video games, architecture ...) have a strong innovation capacity in economic terms and are able to drive innovation in other sectors of the economy.

##### *Amendment*

The contribution of culture and creativity to innovation is increasingly driven by non-technological factors such as creativity, design and new organisational processes or business models. In particular, ***the sectors*** with distinct value chains (i.e. music, design, fashion, audio-visual, video games, architecture ...) have a strong innovation capacity in economic terms and are able to drive innovation in other sectors of the economy.

## Amendments 151 and 153

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 8 – paragraph 4

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

Culture and participation in cultural activities has a direct impact on the well-being of citizens. ***CCI enhance societal values of identity, democracy and community participation.*** Culture has a great potential to reinforce a European sense of belonging, where diversity represents an asset. This is of fundamental importance to enable resilience, social access, society cohesion, anti-radicalisation and gender equality, ***and to tackle Europe's political uncertainties and need of unity.***

##### *Amendment*

Culture and participation in cultural activities has a direct impact on the well-being of citizens. Culture has a great potential to reinforce a European sense of belonging, where diversity represents an asset. This is of fundamental importance to enable resilience, social access, society cohesion, anti-radicalisation and gender equality.

## Amendment 154

## **Proposal for a decision**

### **Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 8 – paragraph 5**

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

An EIT KIC on **CCI** will empower network 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 will catalyse bottom up and top down initiatives at regional, national and EU levels. It will develop the necessary framework conditions for the creation and scale up of new ventures in innovative ecosystems. It will 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. It will allow further cross-fertilisation with other economic and industrial sectors, acting as an accelerator for innovation.

#### *Amendment*

An EIT KIC on **CCSI** will empower network opportunities, collaboration, co-creation and know-how transfer between education, research, business, **public and third sector organisations**, within the cultural and creative sectors and with other sectors of the society and the economy. It will catalyse bottom up and top down initiatives at regional, national and EU levels. It will develop the necessary framework conditions for the creation and scale up of new ventures in innovative ecosystems. It will provide researchers and students in many disciplines (including arts, humanities, business, social sciences and applied hard sciences) and entrepreneurs of the **cultural and creative industries** and other sectors with the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver innovative solutions and to turn them into new **cultural, societal and** business opportunities. It will allow further cross-fertilisation with other economic and industrial sectors, acting as an accelerator for innovation.

## **Amendment 155**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 9 – paragraph 1**

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

A KIC **in CCI** would be complementary to number of other Union initiatives, as well as such at the level of Member States. The main synergies expected at EU level are presented below.

#### *Amendment*

A KIC **on CCSI** would be complementary to number of other Union initiatives, as well as such at the level of Member States. The main synergies expected at EU level are presented below.

## **Amendment 156**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 9 – paragraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

A KIC **on CCI** is expected to establish strong synergies with relevant policy initiatives under Horizon Europe Programme, and in particular under Pillar II with the cluster [Inclusive **and Secure** Society] and its areas of intervention on Cultural Heritage and Democracy. A future KIC 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**. Furthermore, it could efficiently complement other parts of the Horizon Europe Programme, the intervention of the existing EIT Digital and the actions foreseen under other EU programmes such as InvestEU, Digital Europe or the Cohesion Policy Funds.

*Amendment*

A KIC **about the cultural and creative sectors and industries** is expected to establish strong synergies with relevant policy initiatives under **the** Horizon Europe programme, and in particular under Pillar II with the cluster [**Culture, Creativity and** Inclusive Society] and its areas of intervention on Cultural Heritage and Democracy. A future KIC could also provide valuable horizontal inputs across various activities to be carried out in the cluster [Digital, Industry **and Space**], in particular as regards the manufacturing technologies in which the need to develop new products rely heavily on **cultural and creative sectors and industries**. Furthermore, it could efficiently complement other parts of the Horizon Europe programme, the intervention of the existing EIT Digital and the actions foreseen under other EU programmes such as InvestEU, **Erasmus, Creative Europe**, Digital Europe or the Cohesion Policy Funds.

**Amendment 157**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 9 – paragraph 3**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The new Creative Europe Programme will be highly relevant for the activities of **the KIC on CCI**. The Programme elects strands and special calls reflecting some of the already mentioned challenges facing the sector (e.g. creatives' skills and employment, business models, etc.) and strong synergies and complementarities should be developed. Still under the Creative Europe Programme, and in the context of limited access to finance for the cultural and creative sectors, synergies could be expected with the Cultural and

*Amendment*

The new Creative Europe Programme will be highly relevant for the activities of **this KIC**. The Programme elects strands and special calls reflecting some of the already mentioned challenges facing the sector (e.g. creatives' skills and employment, business models, etc.) and strong synergies and complementarities should be developed. Still under the Creative Europe Programme, and in the context of limited access to finance for the cultural and creative sectors, synergies could be expected with the Cultural and Creative

Creative Sector Guarantee Facility, a financial mechanism to help scale up cultural and creative projects by providing insurance to financial intermediaries.

Sector Guarantee Facility, a financial mechanism to help scale up cultural and creative projects by providing insurance to financial intermediaries.

## Amendment 158

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 1 – point 9 – paragraph 4

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) platform on Industrial Modernisation has identified a number of R&I strategies that focus on *CCI* and explore new linkages between local assets, potential markets and societal challenges through the involvement of a large set of entrepreneurial actors. In particular, the promotion of new partnerships between research organisations, enterprises and public authorities is a major concern of S3 strategies, calling for the set-up of new collaborative platforms.

##### *Amendment*

The Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) platform on Industrial Modernisation has identified a number of R&I strategies that focus on ***the cultural and creative sectors and industries*** and explore new linkages between local assets, potential markets and societal challenges through the involvement of a large set of entrepreneurial actors. In particular, the promotion of new partnerships between research organisations, enterprises and public authorities is a major concern of S3 strategies, calling for the set-up of new collaborative platforms.

## Amendment 159

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex I – point 6 – paragraph 2

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

An EIT KIC on *CCI* is most suited to address the major economic and societal challenges outlined above. Creativity is a key driver of innovation and a KIC on *CCI* has the capacity to unleash the potential of culture-based creativity and ***help strengthening*** Europe's competitiveness and smart growth.

##### *Amendment*

An EIT KIC on *CCSI* is most suited to address the major economic and societal challenges outlined above. Creativity is a key driver of innovation and a KIC on ***cultural and creative sectors and industries*** has the capacity to unleash the potential of ***artistic***, culture-based creativity and ***to help strengthen*** Europe's competitiveness, ***sustainability, prosperity*** and smart growth.

## Amendment 160

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 6 – table**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***An EIT KIC on CCI will:***

***deleted***

***— Reduce the fragmentation of the cultural and creative sectors' innovation landscape by fostering the creation of innovation ecosystems that will connect actors and networks across sectors and disciplines at local, regional, national and EU levels.***

***— 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.***

***— Contribute to the development of the right framework conditions to transform ideas into new technological developments and social innovation that will improve the quality of life and benefit EU citizens.***

***— Foster the creation and development of new ventures in the cultural and creative sectors by mobilizing investment and long-term commitment from the business sector.***

***— Synergize with the existing KICs, as well as with other European partnerships, programmes and initiatives to drive innovation beyond cultural and creative industries in other sectors of the economy.***

***— Strengthen the EU position as a global actor in CCI by harnessing Europeans' creativity and cultural diversity.***

**Amendment 161**

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Annex I – point 6 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**6a. Annex 1Ba.**

***Factsheet on the Knowledge and Innovation Community “Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems” (“WaterKIC”)***

***(1) Integrated approach***

***An integrated approach to a crucial economic, environmental and social challenge for the Union Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems covers a wide range of traditional and emerging economic sectors, which are intrinsically linked to natural ecosystems that are under pressure. That field will play a crucial role in delivering a climate-neutral, sustainable and competitive Europe by 2050, as new technologies and the need to decarbonise the economy should not lead to a further increase in the use and exploitation of marine and aquatic resources and deterioration of ecosystems. Seas, oceans and inland waters play a central role in climate processes, in human health and wellbeing, in the provision of food, critical ecosystem services, renewable energy and other resources, as well as the preservation of biodiversity.***

***The challenge of the "WaterKIC" will be to turn freshwater and marine ecosystem degradation into an opportunity for a competitive and sustainable circular blue-economy. That challenge can be addressed only through a multi-disciplinary and integrated approach looking at the interlinkages between water on the one hand and climate, ecosystem protection and restoration, food, land, society, energy and others, on the other. The "WaterKIC" could be aligned with the following pillars which are fully in line with the orientations towards the first Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe<sup>1a</sup>:***

- (a) preserving and restoring marine biodiversity and aquatic ecosystems;***
- (b) sufficient availability, quality and security of water;***

*(c) sustainable planning and management of inland water, coastal and marine resources;*

*(d) contributing to food and nutrition security;*

*(e) Sustainable Blue Economy development.*

***(2) Relevance and Impact***

*The “WaterKIC” - with its holistic and integrated approach - will help address the challenges set out in point 1, deliver on Union priorities and help the Union achieve the SDGs. Under the motto “the science we need for the ocean we want”, the UN is to hold a “decade of ocean science for sustainable development” between 2021 and 2030<sup>1b</sup>. The “WaterKIC” should be part of this UN worldwide community. In addition, the “WaterKIC” has the potential to support several SDGs, in particular SDG 6 “Clean Water and Sanitation”, SDG 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities”, SDG 13 “Climate Action” and SDG 14 “Life below Water”. The IPCC Report on the Oceans and the Cryosphere (2019)<sup>1c</sup> provides solid evidence on ominous developments ahead calling for urgent action: there is a need to make ecosystems more resilient by reducing impacts and existing and new stressors, adapt to extreme sea level events and coastal hazards, as soon as possible.*

*According to the most recent figures from 2017, the established sectors of the Blue Economy employed over four million people in the Union, generated EUR 658 billion of turnover and EUR 180 billion of gross value added<sup>1d</sup>. This does not include the emerging sectors of the Blue Economy such as blue energy, blue bioeconomy and biotechnology, which offer significant potential for growth and jobs, especially in renewable energies. In addition, there is solid evidence demonstrating that marine research and education have a positive economic impact on local coastal*

*economies. The fact that almost 45% of the Union population (214 million people) live in coastal regions demonstrates in itself the relevance and potential impact of the “WaterKIC”.*

*The “WaterKIC” is fully enshrined in the new policy objectives of the Union, as described in the European Green Deal. Therefore there is a pressing need for the Union to develop the next generation of researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs in this field. The unique integration of education along with technology and innovation in the knowledge triangle model of the EIT will contribute to these overarching and ambitious Union goals. It will contribute to ensuring that by 2030 the potential of oceans, seas and inland water, their ecosystems and economies to drive a healthy planet is fully understood, unlocked and harnessed, in particular through human capacity building and enhanced R&I for the protection and restoration of ecosystems. As demonstrated in the impact assessment for the EIT proposal, the “WaterKIC” is not limited to a specific economic sector, but is necessary for many sectors and the whole environmental ecosystem to prosper sustainably<sup>1e</sup>.*

*It will also contribute to priorities outlined in the communication on the European Green Deal<sup>1f</sup> from January 2020, in particular:*

- the “Farm to Fork Strategy”*
- the “zero pollution action plan for air, water and soil”*
- the “initiatives to increase and better manage the capacity of inland waterways”*
- the “EU biodiversity strategy”.*

*(3) Synergies and Complementarities with existing initiatives*

*The “WaterKIC” will not only establish the strongest possible synergies with relevant Union policy initiatives as well as*



*within the Horizon Europe programme, but it will also interact on an international level with relevant UN initiatives and SDG actions.*

*In terms of Union policy initiatives, the “WaterKIC” will not only be aligned with the priorities defined in the Water Framework Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive. It will also contribute to priorities outlined in the communication on the European Green Deal, in particular the “Farm to Fork Strategy”, the “zero pollution action plan for air, water and soil”, the “initiatives to increase and better manage the capacity of inland waterways” and the Union’s biodiversity strategy.*

*Some regional Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) have identified a number of R&I strategies that focus on marine and aquatic industries and explore new links between local assets, potential markets and societal challenges through the involvement of a large set of entrepreneurial actors. This should be considered to be an asset by the “WaterKIC” when selecting applications for colocation centres and innovation hubs, and maximal interactions with the relevant regional authorities will be provided for.*

*As far as the subparts of the Horizon Europe programme are concerned, strong complementarities shall be ensured, and duplications shall be avoided, in particular with:*

- the mission area on “healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters”;*
- the overarching partnership on “a climate-neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Economy”;*
- clusters of pillar II;*
- joint programming initiatives (JPI), in particular “JPIWater” and “JPI Oceans”;*

- *research infrastructures;*
- *the EIC and the EIB for the uptake of promising innovations.*

*Indeed in the past years, the EIB has played an important role in helping the public and private sectors build a sustainable Blue Economy. The EIB increased lending to R&I projects in the Blue Economy. For example, the EIB was one of the first lenders to offshore wind projects and has helped fund around 40% of all capacity of the wind energy sector in Union<sup>1g</sup>.*

#### *(4) Conclusion*

*The "WaterKIC" is most suited to addressing the major economic, environmental and societal challenges outlined in this Annex. This Water KIC is needed, in particular, to build human capacity building and find innovative solutions for ecosystem protection and restoration and translate into actions.*

*The "WaterKIC" will:*

- *promote an integrated and multidisciplinary approach through collaboration among higher education institutions, research organisations, innovative companies, public and third sector organisations to ensure that the Union becomes climate-neutral, sustainable and competitive by 2050;*
- *connect actors and networks across sectors and disciplines at local, regional, national and Union levels, in particular, identifying the relevant R&I smart specialisation strategies (RIS3) and further regional strategies which include blue economy sectors;*
- *train and develop the next generation of researchers and innovators in the blue economy sectors by equipping them with the necessary entrepreneurial and technological skills needed for sustainable and competitive development. This will include jointly recognised and tuition-free educational modules, as well as a long-*

*term plan for human resources development;*

*- contribute to the development of the appropriate framework conditions to transform ideas into new technological developments and social innovation, and to their market deployment in view of improving the quality of life and benefitting Union citizens;*

*- synergise with the other existing Union partnerships, Horizon Europe missions, joint programming initiatives, the EIC and the EIB to scale-up innovations, allow other sectors to prosper in a sustainable manner and increase the market deployment and societal acceptance of innovative solutions.*

*- strengthen the Union's position as a global actor in ocean science and maritime security, inland waters management and ecosystem protection and restoration.*

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*<sup>1a</sup>*

*[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/research\\_and\\_innovation/strategy\\_on\\_research\\_and\\_innovation/documents/ec\\_rtd\\_or\\_ientations-he-strategic-plan\\_122019.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/research_and_innovation/strategy_on_research_and_innovation/documents/ec_rtd_or_ientations-he-strategic-plan_122019.pdf)*

*<sup>1b</sup> <https://www.oceandecade.org/>*

*<sup>1c</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/>*

*<sup>1d</sup> In: The blue economy report 2019, p. 7.*

*<sup>1e</sup>*

*<https://ec.europa.eu/education/sites/education/files/document-library-docs/impact-assessment-swd-330-final.pdf>*

*<sup>1f</sup>*

*[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf)*

*<sup>1g</sup> In: The Blue Economy report 2019  
<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/676bbd4a-7dd9-11e9-9f05-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-98228766>*