

# Public Consultation: Interim evaluation of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

## 1. About you

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**1. In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?**

On behalf of an organisation/institution

**2. What type of organisation are you representing?**

A European level industry body/business association

**3. What is the name of your organisation?**

DIGITALEUROPE

**4. In which country are you located?**

Belgium

**5. Are you or your organisation involved with the EIT/ KICs in any way?**

Yes

**6. Please indicate the KIC(s) that you are involved with (*select all that apply*).**

Climate-KIC

EIT Digital

EIT Health

**7. Please specify the nature of your involvement with the above KIC(s)**

Several members of DIGITALEUROPE are involved in the above-mentioned KICs, as associate, affiliate or core partners or members of the Board.

**8. How familiar are you with the activities of the EIT and the KICs?**

Very familiar

**9. How familiar are you with the EU's other activities in the field of innovation or the field of integration of education, research and business?**

Very familiar

## 2. The EIT and its objectives

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**10. In order for it to achieve its mission (i.e. to enhance Europe's innovation capacity), how important is it for the EIT to deliver on the following.... ?**

|   | Not important | Moderately Important | Very important | No opinion |
|---|---------------|----------------------|----------------|------------|
| ... Creation of new models of knowledge sharing and open innovation   |               |                      | X              |            |
| ... Creation of innovation communities across the EU  |               |                      | X              |            |
| ... Cutting edge and innovation-driven research in areas of key economic and societal interest  |               | X                    |                |            |
| ... Development of a pool of talented, skilled and entrepreneurial people   |               |                      | X              |            |
| ... Improved connectivity and knowledge transfer between universities, research labs and businesses   |               |                      | X              |            |
| ... Improved access to finance for innovation   |               |                      | X              |            |
| ... Creation of new, innovative businesses  |               |                      | X              |            |
| ... Support services (eg. accelerators, hubs) to innovation-based start-ups   |               |                      | X              |            |
| ... Creation of new networks and collaborations of world-class partners from diverse countries, sectors and disciplines                                 |               |                      | X              |            |
| ... Creation of new value chains (e.g. through a more "networked" or collaborative approach or through the development of new products or technologies) |               |                      | X              |            |

**3. (untitled)**

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**11. And to what extent is the EIT actually contributing to the following....?**

|   | Not at all | To some extent | To a large extent | No opinion |
|---|------------|----------------|-------------------|------------|
| ... Creation of new models of knowledge sharing and open innovation   |            |                | X                 |            |
| ... Creation of innovation communities across the EU  |            |                | X                 |            |
| ... Cutting edge and innovation-driven research in areas of key economic and societal interest  |            | X              |                   |            |
| ... Development of a pool of talented, skilled and entrepreneurial people   |            |                | X                 |            |
| ... Improved connectivity and knowledge transfer between universities, research labs and businesses   |            |                | X                 |            |
| ... Improved access to finance for innovation   |            | X              |                   |            |
| ... Creation of new, innovative businesses  |            | X              |                   |            |
| ... Support services (e.g. accelerators, hubs) to innovation-based start-ups  |            |                | X                 |            |
| ... Creation of new networks and collaborations of world-class partners from diverse countries, sectors and disciplines                                 |            |                | X                 |            |
| ... Creation of new value chains (e.g. through a more "networked" or collaborative approach or through the development of new products or technologies) |            | X              |                   |            |

**4. (untitled)**

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**12. To what extent do you agree with the statements below?**

|  | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly agree | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|------------|
| The EIT and its KICs address the needs of the markets in which they operate  |                   |          |         | X     |                |            |
| The innovation challenges the EIT and KICs are tackling can most effectively be addressed at the EU level  |                   |          |         |       | X              |            |
| The EIT complements well the existing European and national initiatives to support innovation  |                   |          |         |       | X              |            |
| The purpose of the EIT and its KICs is clear and well founded  |                   |          | X       |       |                |            |
| The EIT and its KICs are successful in bringing together the top innovation actors from across the EU  |                   |          |         | X     |                |            |
| In order to strengthen its innovation performance, the EU needs to foster a culture of innovation at higher education institutions and in educational programmes |                   |          |         |       | X              |            |
| The results of the EIT and its KICs' work are well known   |                   |          | X       |       |                |            |
| The EIT and its KICs are working well  |                   |          |         | X     |                |            |

**5. (untitled)**

**13. Please explain your answer. Examples would be particularly welcome:**

Especially the first wave of KICs needed a very long start-up period before becoming fully operational and effective. It is still unclear what the EIT will finally be - an institute, a grant distributing agency or an investor. In addition, whereas the added value and complementarity of EIT vis-à-vis the existing H2020 instruments are evident, its positioning with regard to the forthcoming European Innovation Council (EIC) is not so clear.

**14. In your view, what has been the impact of the EIT on...?**

|                                    | Negative impact | No impact | Little positive impact | Moderately positive impact | Significant positive impact | No opinion |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| ... The European innovation system |                 |           |                        | X                          |                             |            |
| ... National innovation systems    |                 |           | X                      |                            |                             |            |
| ... Regional innovation systems    |                 |           | X                      |                            |                             |            |
| ... Local innovation systems       |                 |           | X                      |                            |                             |            |

**15. Please explain your answer. Examples would be particularly welcome:**

The impact of the EIT varies considerably between member states. E.g. although 4 out of 5 existing KICs have a CLC based in the Netherlands and Dutch participants are receiving more EIT funding than any other country, these CLCs are not getting much policy attention and have not really been embedded in the Dutch innovation system.

**16. To what extent does the EIT contribute to strengthening Europe's innovation capacity**

To some extent

**6. Specific characteristics of KICs**

A KIC has a number of specific characteristics which distinguishes it from other initiatives at European and national level. These are summarised below:

**Integration of the three sides of the knowledge triangle:** the KICs support the entire innovation value chain by delivering a portfolio of activities comprising education, research & development to business creation and innovation. Moreover, KIC partnerships comprise all three sides of the knowledge triangle (education, research and innovation).

**Thematic focus on Horizon 2020 societal challenges:** each KIC focuses on a specific Horizon 2020 societal challenge.

**Large and diverse partnerships:** each KIC has 100-200 partners representing businesses, higher education institutions, research organisations and other stakeholders. The five operating KICs collectively have more than 800 partners.

**High degree of autonomy:** each KIC is organised as an independent legal entity, led by a full time Chief Executive Officer (CEO). It sets its own objectives, business plan and structure.

**Long-term perspective:** each KIC is set up for a minimum of seven years, which is longer than other trans-European research and innovation collaborations, such as the consortia in FP7 / Horizon 2020 projects.

**A geographically distributed network of innovation hubs:** each KIC consists of five or six co-location centres that are spread across Europe. Together, the five KICs operate in more than 30 locations across 14 European countries.

**Business-like approach to funding:** the financial model of KICs follows an ‘entrepreneurial logic’, whereby the EIT provides seed investment of up to 25% of the total KIC budget and the KICs raise additional funds from private sources, from other EU or national funding instruments, or from income generated by their own activities.

**A long-term goal of financially sustainable KICs:** EIT funding for KICs is available for 7-15 years. Over this time period it is expected that the KICs will become ‘financially sustainable’.

**Clear targets and deliverables:** KICs must produce annual business plans, including an ambitious portfolio of activities from education to business creation, with clear targets and deliverables, looking for both market and societal impact.

17. How important are the following characteristics of the KICs in order for the EIT to achieve its mission of enhancing Europe’s innovation capacity?

|   | Not important | Moderately Important | Very important | No opinion |
|---|---------------|----------------------|----------------|------------|
| The integration of the three sides of the knowledge triangle i.e. education, research and innovation  |               |                      | X              |            |
| Thematic focus of KICs on Horizon 2020 societal challenges  |               | X                    |                |            |
| A decentralised and geographically distributed co-location model  |               |                      | X              |            |
| The business-like approach to funding of KICs   |               |                      | X              |            |
| The long term goal of financial sustainability of KICs  |               | X                    |                |            |
| Autonomy and flexibility in defining the governance model and structure in order to adapt to specificities of the thematic area and related markets |               |                      | X              |            |
| Large and diverse KIC partnerships  |               |                      | X              |            |
| Significant private sector participation  |               |                      | X              |            |
| Focus on excellence i.e. cutting edge or breakthrough innovation  |               |                      | X              |            |
| Bringing on board actors from regions with less developed research and innovation systems to improve their innovation capacity                      |               |                      | X              |            |
| Transparency of operations, both internally and to the wider public   |               |                      | X              |            |

## 7. The added value of the EIT/KICs

## 18. To what extent is the EIT distinctive from existing initiatives that support innovation?

|   | Not at all | To some extent | To a large extent | No opinion |
|---|------------|----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Other EU innovation initiatives / activities (e.g. other areas of Horizon 2020)                     |            |                | X                 |            |
| National innovation initiatives / activities  |            |                | X                 |            |
| Sub-national / regional innovation initiatives / activities   |            |                | X                 |            |
| Non-public policy innovation activities (e.g. collaborative activities of universities, businesses) |            |                | X                 |            |

## 19. In your view, what is the key added value of the EIT/ KICs?

The key added value is the integration of entrepreneurship, innovation and education (instead of a pure research focus) at the European level. This approach has opened up new ways of working in open innovation and public-private partnering close to market.

## 8. The EIT brand

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### 20. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

|  | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly agree | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|------------|
| The EIT brand is well recognised                 |                   |          | X       |       |                |            |
| The EIT brand stands for cutting edge innovation |                   |          | X       |       |                |            |

### 21. Please explain your answer:

The brand is well recognized with the EU R&I community, also thanks to harmonization of the websites and logos of the active KICs, and dissemination via participating students and other stakeholders, also using social media. However, these efforts can still be improved and the EIT and its KICs are not really known by the broad public.

## 9. Closing questions

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### 22. What could the EIT / KICs do differently to have a larger beneficial impact?

Drastically cut red tape and simplify the models for governance and funding

- If the EIT is supposed to foster an innovative way of working that is really different from the traditional instruments in H2020, it should be granted more regulatory leeway to do so, without being forced into every element of the H2020 straightjacket, e.g. applying its ill-fitting framework partnership agreements to the EIT, its KICs and their partners.
- EIT should define upfront the framework in which new KICs should fit, in order to prevent new negotiations and constructions varying from KIC to KIC. Experiences from existing KICs should be taken into account in this framework.
- From our own experiences we recognize almost word-by-word the observations recently made by the Court of Auditors and we endorse its recommendations for modifying the delivery mechanism of the EIT and elements of its design to achieve the expected impact.

Improve communication: There are very good examples of impact by the KICs but there has to be a better dissemination and publication.

### 23. If you have any other comments, please add these here:

The EIT budget should not be cut once again for financing EFSI (Juncker plan)

IP should be owned by the inventing partner, without royalties to the KIC

A KIC should not become a business in itself, but it should support the businesses of its industrial partners, without transferring control over their assets, IP and resources to the KIC

## 10. Consent

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**24. Responses or contributions received may be published on the Commission's website along with the identity of the respondent/ contributor. Do you agree to your response/ contribution being published?**

***NB: Regardless of the option chosen, your response/ contribution may be subject to a request for access to documents under Regulation 1049/2001 on public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. In this case, the request will be assessed against the conditions set out in the Regulation and in accordance with applicable data protection rules.***

My response/ contribution may be published under the name indicated