

# The EIT

## **Sustainable Growth and Competitiveness through Innovation**

### **EIT role in future information society technologies**

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# Our Dream, Vision and Ambition

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EIT is recognized as a key driver of sustainable economic growth and competitiveness across Europe :

*through  
stimulation of world-leading innovation*

# Stakeholders

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- Business
- Entrepreneurs, including SMEs
- Research and Technology Organizations
- Education
- Investment communities (private investors and venture capital)
- Research funders, including charities and foundations
- Local, regional and national governments

# Mission

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*To be the catalyst for a step change in the European Community's  
innovation capacity and impact  
through the delivery of major new actions.  
The first of these is the creation of the Knowledge and Innovation  
Communities, KICs.*

KICs will:

- build innovative 'webs of excellence'
  - integrating education, technology, research, business and entrepreneurship
  - driving effective "translation" between partners: ideas, technology, culture, business models...
- create new business
  - for existing industry
  - for new endeavours
- educate and develop entrepreneurial people
  - able to work across stakeholder boundaries
- have societal impact

## A KIC...

- is a high-profile, collaborative consortium
  - a “legally and financially structured and managed entity”
  - of geographically distributed but thematically convergent stakeholders
  - open to international participation
  
- will become a world leader in its field
  - encompassing the whole innovation chain from education to economic impact
  
- will deliver a measurable impacts on society
  - economic, scientific, educational and entrepreneurial
  
- will have a minimum life of 7 years

# KIC Goals (EP, March 2008)

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- To address long-term challenges and identify new opportunities for innovation in Europe
- To transfer ideas and activities from higher education, research and innovation to the business context and on to commercial application
  - including the creation of spin-outs, start-ups and SMEs
- To attract partners and top-class talent from around the world
- To develop entrepreneurial people and embed them in businesses
- To maximize the financial contribution from the private sector

# Size and lifetime of a KIC

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- 50-100 M Euro total spending per year
- Life 7-15 years
- Funding :
  - EIT 25%, fully committed, subject to evaluation of milestone delivery
  - Others 75% (leverage factor 3), for example :
    - European programmes
    - European Structural Funds
    - National and regional funding
    - Industry investment (including in-kind contributions)
    - EIT Foundation (also seed funding, scholarships...)
    - Private investors & Venture Capitalists
    - Investment banks

# First Call for Proposals

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- Topics
  - Sustainable energy
  - Climate change mitigation and adaptation
  - **Future information and communication society**
  
- Proposals must ...
  - have a clear prevailing focus
  - promote trans/inter-disciplinary approaches
  - draw on existing European programmes and projects
  
- Total number of KICs to be selected : 2 or 3

# Ingredients for a KIC with impact

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- Geographically distributed people
  - across the European Community and linking to centers of excellence in other parts of the world
- Working in networks focussed on typically 4 – 6 major nodes
  - which are “co-location centers”, where staff from different stakeholders come to work together, face-to-face
  - and which link other partners, such as local clusters of SMEs
- Each co-location center should encompass a significant part of the innovation chain
- Co-location of people is critical
  - it is the key to achieving knowledge transfer and ‘translation’ between stakeholders and between science, research and business
  - effective translation is fundamental to delivery of KIC goals
- Mobility of people is therefore a pre-condition

# KICs and people

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## **Innovative European entrepreneurs are a major output of every KIC :**

- Business people, entrepreneurs, researchers, technologists, educators, working together in ***world class*** KIC programmes
- Talented and committed academics from Europe and beyond, flexible, mobile and eager to innovate
- An environment which catalyzes movement of people between industry / business and academia
- Top quality leadership, engendering a highly developed team culture / spirit across the KIC

## **People management :**

- Incentive schemes to attract excellent partners from across the innovation chain
- An environment which stimulates working / studying together in diverse teams in co-location centers
- Recognition of people and pride in the EIT brand: e.g. “EIT” label for students

# KIC call, Selection, Monitoring

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- Call for proposals for KICs by April 2009, submission August 2009
  - Based on KIC format and selection criteria, finalized by end March 2009
- Selection of the first 2-3 KICs by January 2010
  - Strong teams with the best chance of success
  - Proposals recognized as innovative, ambitious and coherent
  - Extensive publicity for the selected KICs in order to support them by all appropriate means
- Evaluation and monitoring of KICs starting by August 2010
  - Recognized as fair, simple and effective
  - Consistent and clearly derived from the original selection criteria
  - Rewarding good performance and achievement
  - Recognizing and communicating the EIT brand

# Conclusions

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- The EIT capitalizes on European innovation potential by adopting a new way of working between research, education and innovation
- Long-term commitment by business from the outset is essential to the EIT's success
- Education and entrepreneurship must be integral parts of innovation partnerships
- Opportunity for cross-fertilization and co-funding with other European and national programs and funds
- The EIT must be owned by all of Europe