

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

1. About you

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

On behalf of an organisation/institution

2. What type of organisation are you representing?

Public authority (national level)

3. What is the name of your organisation?

Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Netherlands

4. In which country are you located?

Netherlands

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

No

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

Moderately familiar

7. 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?

Moderately familiar

2. The EIT and its objectives

8. 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)

9. 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)

10. 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)

11. Please explain your answer. Examples would be particularly welcome:

1. complementarity and synergy with existing local, regional and national initiatives is questionable, in education and in start-up support.
2. focus should be: adding value to these national/regional initiatives by
 - * facilitating cross border guiding, funding, expansion and exploitation
 - * developing bottom up smart specialisation across borders
 - * creating an overview of talents and innovative companies in the EU
 - * and a vivid networking community

12. 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		

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

The innovation driven connection between innovation and knowledge at European level fills a clear gap in the portfolio of EU instruments in the area of research, development and innovation RDI

14. 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.

15. 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

16. 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		

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

1. complementarity and synergy with existing local, regional and national initiatives is questionable, in education and in start-up support.
2. focus should be: adding value to these national/regional initiatives by
 - * facilitating cross border guiding, funding, expansion and exploitation
 - * developing bottom up smart specialisation across borders
 - * creating an overview of talents and innovative companies in the EU
 - * and a vivid networking community

8. The EIT brand

18. 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			

19. Please explain your answer:

It is questionable EIT needs to be a brand to be effective

9. Closing questions

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

Better connecting to and building on national, regional and local initiatives.

At the education side the idea that activities should be self sustaining should be reconsidered so as to direct it towards a more systemic approach and influence in university education/curricula.

see also reply 11 and 17

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

A lot of very good activities and results can be seen for EIT and the KIC's.

A value for money assessment is difficult to make as financial information on KIC operations is limited.

10. Consent

22. 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