What is a KIC?

1. definition and common features
2. organisational structure
3. main activities

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...and now let's move to the Knowledge and Innovation Communities

the flagship tools of EIT

EIT Climate-KIC
Accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy

EIT Digital
Drive Europe's digital tranformation

EIT InnoEnergy
Achieve a sustainable energy future for Europe

EIT Health
Give EU citizens greater opportunities for a healthy life

EIT RawMaterials
Develop raw materials into a major strength for Europe

EIT Water
Contribute to a circular and sustainable water economy

EIT Culture & Creativity
Unite Europe's creatives

EIT Urban Mobility
Smart, green and integrated transport

EIT Manufacturing
Strengthen and increase the competitiveness of Europe's manufacturing industry

EIT Food
Lead a global revolution in food innovation and production

2026

WHAT IS A KIC?

- A highly integrated and excellence-driven consortium at European level **in a specific domain**

- it **brings together the main actors** across the innovation value-chain

- strategic goal to foster the production of **new innovations** (products, services and processes) and **new business initiatives**

- A **Institutionalised European partnership** that implements the EIT's long-term strategy

What is (NOT) a KIC?

- a research project or partnership among research centres

- an education/research dissemination centre

NTNU Brussels Office

From student to entrepreneur

From idea to product

From lab to customer

Driving innovation in Europe!

Knowledge and Innovation Communities: Shared Model

- **Independent legal entity:** gathering world-class partners

- **Effective governance:** run by a CEO and a lean management team

- **Autonomy & flexibility:** to determine organisational structure and activities

- **Long-term strategic approach vs annual reporting:** set up for a minimum of 7 years to eventually become financially sustainable vs Annual Business Plans

- **Result-based and impact-oriented funding:** with high degree of partners' commitment and specific KPIs to achieve

- **Shared Culture:** strong entrepreneurial and tech-transfer mind-sets at national, European and international levels

TARGET MEMBERS OF A KIC

Competing consortia - maximum 50 partners allowed to join the consortium at starting point

The winning bid is invited to gradually open its partnership through **different levels of membership** or open procedures to enlarge the number of partners (e.g. Core Partners vs Associate partners vs Task/Project partners)

- **TARGETS**: partners from the three sides of the knowledge triangle/quadruple helix

* **EDUCATION:** *Higher education institutions – Universities*

* **RESEARCH***: research centres and RTOs*

* **BUSINESS***: corporates, large companies, SMEs*

* **NEW BUSINESS CREATION***: entrepreneurs, startups + investment communities*

* **PUBLIC AUTHORITIES***: local, regional, national level*

* **RESEARCH FUNDERS***: private foundations, charities*

KICs Organisational Structure

EIT ⟷ **KIC (Legal Entity)** ⟷ **Headquarter**

* Providing global governance of the KIC
* In charge of structuring internal calls
* Issuing the overall KIC reporting to EIT
* 20+ ppl as operational staff

CORE GROUP –
Co-Location Centres

- CLC 1
- CLC 2
- CLC 3
- CLC 4

- Physical hubs (5-10)
- Geographical distribution
- Implementing activities
- Hosting facilities and infrastr.

WIDENING PARTICIPATION

- RIS HUB 1
- RIS HUB 2
- RIS HUB 3
- RIS HUB 4
- RIS HUB 5
- RIS HUB 6
- RIS HUB 7
- RIS HUB 8

EIT COMMUNITY ACROSS EUROPE

- 🔴 Headquarters
- 🔵 Innovation Hubs (Co-Location Centres)
- 🟡 Offices
- 🟢 EIT Hubs under EIT Regional Innovation Scheme

Knowledge and Innovation Communities: KEYWORDS and ACTIVITIES

According to the knowledge triangle, every KIC promotes a **threefold portfolio of activities** typically includes:

a) **Education** to innovation & entrepreneurship

b) **Tech transfer** and innovation projects between reseach and industry

c) **New** (high-tech) **business creation**

Shared and enabling elements: **IMPACT** & **TALENTS**

long-term innovation	impact-driven strategy	business logic	results-oriented approach

EIT opportunities: education, innovation and business – FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Businesses (including SMEs)

Research organisations

Educational institutions

Main activities in the Education domain
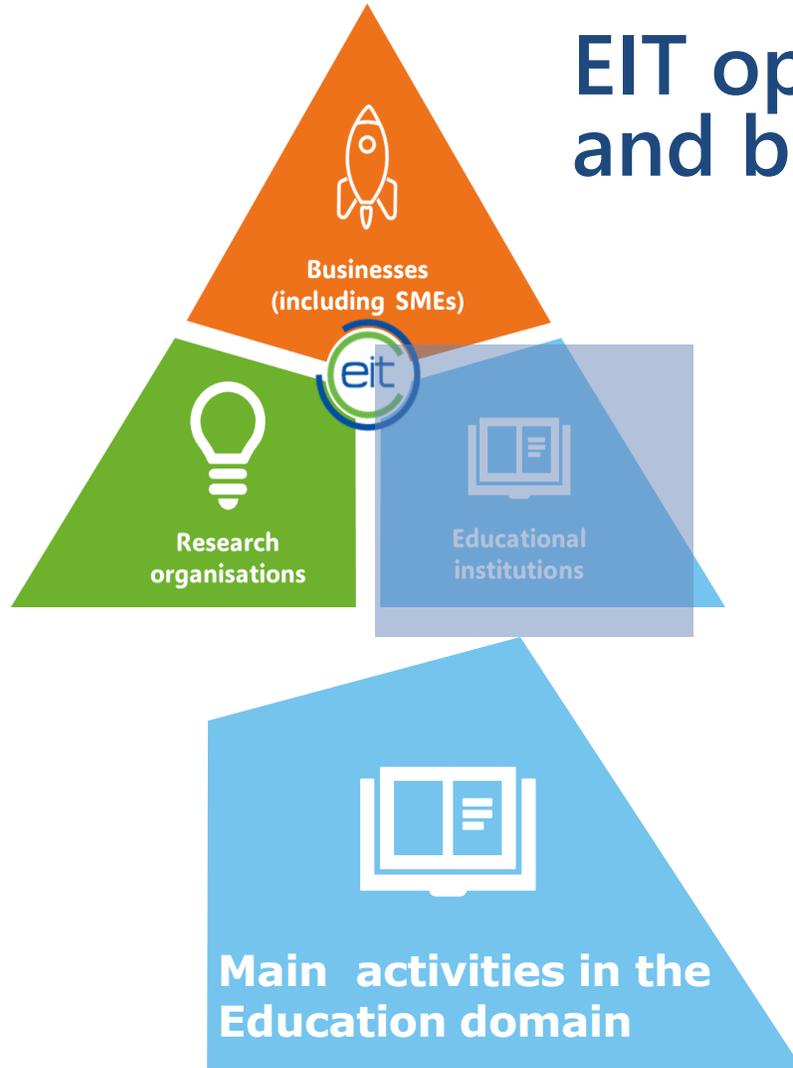
EIT LABELLED COURSES AND TRAININGS

o **Master and doctoral programmes**: International cooperation (**joint degrees**), **industry involvement**;

o **Upskilling and reskilling**: training on specific skills and competences; Mobility, internship and scholarships/fellowships

o Executive trainings and post-doctoral courses

o Challenge-base learning

o Continuous professional development courses/modules

o **Learning modules and MOOCs**; alumni and outreach activities

EIT opportunities: education, innovation and business – FOCUS ON INNOVATION

Businesses (including SMEs)

Research organisations

Educational institutions

Research uptake / tech-transfer / innovation
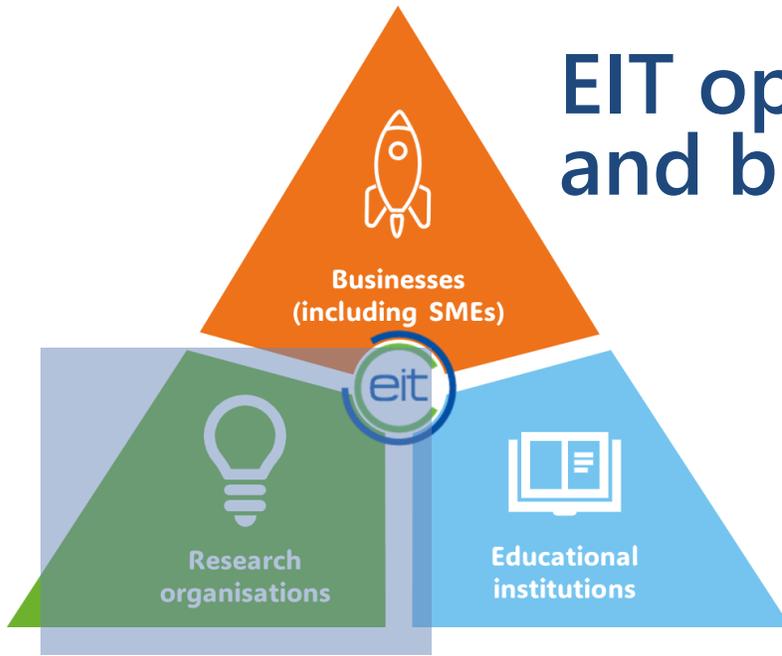
TECH-TRANSFER PROJECTs – HIGH TRL

- EIT powered activities through **internal calls** (only for partners):
  - ○ **Testing/prototyping research-industry joint projects**
  - ○ Focus on **commercialisation** (patents, licensing)
  - ○ Facilitation of co-creation and cooperation
  - ○ Linking innovation players from different innovation ecosystems - **networking**
  - ○ Adaptive and responsive to market and social trends

- Activities aimed at bringing new/innovative products, services, processes & business models to the market

EIT opportunities: education, innovation and business – FOCUS ON NEW BUSINESS CREATION

Businesses (including SMEs)

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Businesses (including SMEs)
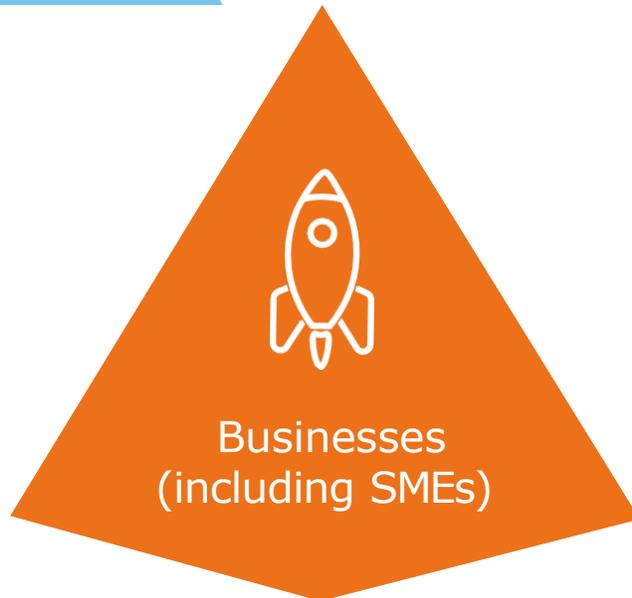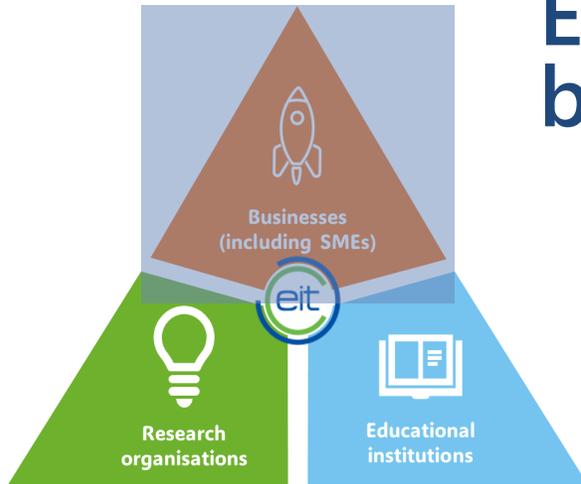
o **Acceleration** and **incubation** services (connected with the TTOs)

o **Tailored support for the entrepreneurs of the future**: business coaching & mentoring, access to market and customers, access to new technologies and testbeds, access to talent, access to finance...

o **Open-innovation** to foster commercial relations between companies and startups

o Sourcing start-ups and scale-ups: **venture and ideas competitions**, referrals

o Venture support within thematic specialisations of each Innovation Community (mainly seed venture)

KICs financial sustainability

- Gradual reduction of dependence from EIT funding

- Integral objective of the Innovation Community's business model

- Essential to mobilize other sources of financing for EIT-funded and non EIT-funded activities to maintain Knowledge Triangle Integration (Innovation, Education, Business Creation) and ecosystems activities

	Start-up	Ramp-up	Maturity	Exit from EIT grant
Years	1*-4	5-7	8-11	12-15
EIT funding rate	Up to 100%	Up to 80%	Up to 70%	50% at year 12, decreasing by 10 percentage points per annum