

DECISION 14/2024
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

ON THE ALLOCATION OF THE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION
FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE
EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY'S
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEI) INNOVATION CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE
IN 2024-2025

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY,

HAVING REGARD to Regulation 2021/819 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (hereafter referred to as the "EIT Regulation (recast)")¹, in particular to Articles 6(s) and (t), 7(1)(d), 18(7), and Section 2(1)(c) and (n) and Section 3(5) of the Statutes annexed thereto;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 2021/820 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) 2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe (hereafter referred to as the "EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027")², in particular to Sections 3.4, 3.6.2-3.6.3 and 5.2.1 thereof;

HAVING REGARD to Regulation 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013³;

HAVING REGARD to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (hereinafter referred to as the "EU Financial Regulation")⁴;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 21/2019 of the EIT Governing Board of the EIT of 25 September 2019 on the Financial Regulation of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (hereinafter referred to as the "EIT Financial Regulation")⁵, in particular Article 1 thereof;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 06/2022 of the Governing Board of the EIT on the amendment of the principles on the financial sustainability of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) and repealing decision 13/2021 of the Governing Board of the EIT⁶;

¹ OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 61-90.

² OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 91-118.

³ OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1-68.

⁴ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1-222

⁵ Ref. Ares(2019)6810859

⁶ Ref. Ares(2022)2098580



HAVING REGARD to Decision 14/2021 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 7 May 2021 on the principles for financing, monitoring and evaluating Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) activities⁷;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 21/2021 of the Governing Board of the EIT on the authorisation of the EIT Director to prepare, negotiate and conclude partnership agreements and grant agreements⁸;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 42/2021 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 23 November 2021 on the supervision framework of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)⁹;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 11/2022 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 16 March 2022 on the principles for the determination of the EIT financial allocation to the Knowledge and Innovation Communities' (KICs') Business Plans for 2023-2025 (Business Plans 2023-2024 for the first wave KICs), to Cross-KIC activities and shared services for 2023-2025, and to the Higher Education Institutions (HEI) Initiative for 2023¹⁰;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 35/2022 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 24 November 2022 on the initial allocation of the financial contribution to the Knowledge and Innovation Communities' (KICs') Business Plans for 2023-2025 (Business Plans 2023-2024 for the first wave KICs), to Cross-KIC activities and shared services (including the Thematic Innovations) for 2023-2025, and to the pilot Higher Education Institutions (HEI) Initiative for 2023¹¹;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 04/2023 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 14 March 2023 on the principles for the determination of the additional EIT financial allocation for 2024 to the Knowledge and Innovation Communities' (KICs') Business Plans, to Cross-KIC activities and shared services, and to the Higher Education (HEI) Initiative¹²;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 38/2023 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 23 November 2023 on the continuation and scaling up of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology's Higher Education Institutions (HEI) capacity building initiative beyond its pilot phase¹³;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 39/2023 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 23 November 2023 on the allocation of the additional financial contribution for 2024 to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th wave of Knowledge and Innovation Communities' (KICs') Business Plans, to Cross-KIC activities and shared services, and to the finalisation of the Higher Education Institutions (HEI) Initiative pilot¹⁴;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 42/2023 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 15 December 2023 on the adoption of the Final Single Programming Document (2024-2026) of the EIT¹⁵;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 43/2023 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 15 December 2023 on adopting the EIT Budget and Establishment Plan for the financial year 2024¹⁶;

⁷ Ref. Ares(2021)3111256

⁸ Ref. Ares(2021)3798804

⁹ Ref. Ares(2021)7384565

¹⁰ Ref. Ares(2022)2218730

¹¹ Ref. Ares(2022)8603359


¹² Ref. Ares(2023)1853153

¹³ Ref. Ares(2023)8036119

¹⁴ Ref. Ares(2023)8076871

¹⁵ Ref. Ares(2023)8668848

¹⁶ Ref. Ares(2023)8669589



HAVING REGARD to Decision 02/2024 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 29 January 2024 on the principles for the determination of the additional EIT financial allocation for the continuation of the Higher Education Institutions (HEI) Capacity Building Initiative in 2024-2025¹⁷;

HAVING REGARD to Decision 07/2024 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 26 March 2024 on endorsing the start-up phase of EIT Culture & Creativity and finalisation of the new KIC's designation process¹⁸;


WHEREAS

- (1) With its Decision 38/2023, the Governing Board of the EIT decided on the continuation and scaling up of the HEI initiative. Additionally, Article 2(2) of Decision 38/2023 confirmed that *“the EIT Governing Board intends to allocate a similar amount to the post-pilot phase of HEI Initiative for 2024-2027 as it did during the pilot phase. The exact amount to be allocated overall and under the individual grant agreements will depend both on the overall availability of EIT funding as well as on the detailed proposal for the scaled up Initiative that will be developed under the lead of the coordinating KIC, EIT RawMaterials, in close consultation with the EIT. The EIT Governing Board expects that outcomes, results and impact of the Initiative will be scaled up compared to the pilot phase.”*
- (2) On 29 January 2024, the EIT Governing Board adopted its Decision 02/2024 on the principles for the determination of the additional EIT financial allocation for the continuation of the Higher Education Institutions (HEI) Capacity Building Initiative in 2024-2025.
- (3) In accordance with Article 1(1) of Decision 02/2024, the additional funding allocation shall take into account the available EIT budget, the ongoing multiannual legal commitments between the EIT and the KICs, the performance of the KICs and the estimated financial needs. The additional funding allocation decisions shall ensure that there is no double funding of KIC activities. Additionally, the additional funding allocation shall be subject to compliance with the Governing Board recommendations (if any) and the adjustments to be made to the proposals after the EIT's assessment.
- (4) Moreover, with Article 1(2) of Decision 02/2024, the Governing Board of the EIT has decided to apply more favourable funding conditions (i.e. funding rate up to 100%) in for the continuation of the HEI Initiative activities in 2025-2025.
- (5) On 12 February 2024, the EIT launched its Invitation for the HEI Initiative continuation activities¹⁹ and on 29 February 2024 the HEI consortium has submitted its amendment request via eGrants and signed it on 12 March 2024 after the EIT performed the admissibility and eligibility check. This amendment request includes the proposal for the HEI Initiative continuation activities in 2024-2025, in line with the Invitation. The independent external experts have made a detailed assessment of the proposed amendment on the basis of criteria encompassing excellence, impact, and implementation in line with the Invitation. The outcome of this assessment serves as a basis for this additional funding allocation decision.
- (6) At its meeting on 26 March 2024, the EIT Governing Board discussed the amendment proposal for the continuation of the HEI Initiative activities in 2024-2025 and agreed to follow it up in the written procedure for the adoption of the funding allocation procedure.

¹⁷ Ref. Ares(2024)704659

¹⁸ Ref. Ares(2024)2295438

¹⁹ Ref. Ares(2024)1063685



ADDITIONAL FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE HEI INITIATIVE IN 2024-2025



- (7) Following the endorsement of the start-up phase of EIT Culture & Creativity by Decision 07/2024, and upon signature of the Partnership Agreement between the EIT and the KIC, EIT Culture & Creativity shall join the continuation of the HEI Initiative activities in 2024-2025.
- (8) The participation of the 1st wave KICs in the HEI continuation activities beyond 31 December 2024 is subject to the signature of the Memorandum of Cooperation with the EIT.
- (9) In line with point 5 of Section 3 of the Statutes annexed to the EIT Regulation (recast), the agreement of the European Commission, expressed by its Representative in the EIT Governing Board, is necessary for the adoption of the present decision. The Commission Representative's observations and opinion were shared with the Governing Board in the written procedure. As a result, the Commission, by way of its Representative, gave its agreement with the adoption of the present decision.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Additional financial allocation for the continuation of the HEI activities in 2024-2025

The maximum EIT financial contribution for the continuation of the HEI activities in 2024-2025 shall be EUR 29,999,967.82.

Article 2

Award and implementation

- (1) Based on the amendment proposal submitted by the HEI consortium, the EIT Director shall award the additional grant for the continuation of the HEI activities in 2024-2025, subject to fulfilment of strategic recommendations of the Governing Board, if applicable.
- (2) The EIT Director shall be responsible for the implementation of this decision, including the communication of the strategic recommendations of the Governing Board for the amendment to be addressed (if applicable), and including the signature of the amendment.

Article 3

Entry into force

This decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

Done in Budapest, 24 April 2024²⁰

(e-signed)
Nektarios Tavernarakis
Chairperson of the Governing Board

²⁰ Adopted in written procedure