

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

IN VIEW OF THE REPLACEMENT OF TWELVE APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

The EIT hereby invites stakeholder organizations from across the knowledge triangle (education, research, innovation) to put forward candidates in view of the replacement of twelve appointed members of the EIT Governing Board. Proposed candidates will act in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their sponsoring organisations.

Preamble: It is a prevailing view in Europe that top class research and education *per se* lead to innovation. However, when taking a closer look at how research and education creates innovative chains of added value, it becomes apparent that the entrepreneur plays a crucial role within the “knowledge triangle” (business, education and research). He/she unlocks the knowledge and education found within R & D institutions to drive their potentials into solutions with societal impact. Innovative entrepreneurship is a rare species in Europe: teachers, students and graduates of European higher education institutions seldom see the opportunity to translate their knowledge and education into innovative products and services. To overcome the above mentioned innovation gap, the EIT (European Institute of Innovation and Technology), an independent body of the European Union, was set up in 2008 to implement Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). KICs, as legal entities, integrate public and private research organizations, innovative industries, higher education institutions, investors and spin offs.

1. The EIT: addressing societal challenges via innovation in the knowledge triangle

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is an independent body of the European Union, set up in 2008 by the Regulation¹ of the European Parliament and of the Council. Its overall goal is to create a new European way of delivering essential economic growth and societal benefits through innovation by fully integrating the knowledge triangle of education, research and innovation, with the entrepreneur in the centre.

The EIT primarily operates by Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) which are the operational base of the EIT. The KICs are excellence-driven partnerships, which bring together the whole innovation web in order to offer new opportunities for innovation in Europe and generate real impact in terms of new business creation and societal benefits. The KICs enable top-class European education, research and business hotspots to form entrepreneurial and excellence driven innovation factories. They address focused innovation topics and integrate public and private research organisations, innovative industries, higher education institutions, investors, start-ups and spin-offs. The first three KICs were designated in December 2009 and addressed the following societal challenges: climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable energy and future information and communication society.

The long term strategic direction, priorities and modalities of operation of the EIT for the period 2014-2020 are set out in the Commission's proposal on the EIT's Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA)², currently under discussion with the Council and the European Parliament. The EIT is part of and will contribute to the objectives set out in Horizon 2020, in particular by addressing societal challenges in a complementary way to other initiatives in these areas. Main priorities of the EIT in the future will be the consolidation of three existing KICs, the gradual set-up of new KICs, in two waves, i.e. three new KICs each in 2014 and 2018, in

¹ Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (OJ L 97/1 of 9.4.2008).

² COM (2011) 817 final 2011/0384(COD)

areas of high societal relevance (healthy living and active ageing, food for the future, raw materials, added value manufacturing; smart secure societies and urban mobility); outreach and attraction of talent; and simplification and effective monitoring.

For further information and indication about the EIT current and future budget, please consult the EIT web page: eit.europa.eu

2. EIT Governing Board

2.1 Role and composition

The Governing Board is the EIT's principal body entrusted with providing the strategic leadership of the Institute. It is independent and autonomous in its decision-making and in particular is responsible for the selection, designation and evaluation of the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), but also for monitoring and fostering their success.

Currently, the Governing Board brings together 22 high-calibre members balancing prominent expertise from the higher education, research, business and innovation fields. It consists of 18 Members appointed by the European Commission, and four Representative Members elected by and from the KICs. The mandate of 12 out of the 18 initial appointed members comes to an end in July 2012.

In the draft Strategic Innovation Agenda, the Commission has proposed to reduce the size of the Governing Board to 15 members (12 appointed members appointed by the European Commission and 3 representative members from the KICs) and the mandate of appointed members (from six to four years). Transitional provisions measures are laid down in the proposal amending the EIT Regulation to ensure a smooth transition.

2.2 Responsibilities and functioning of the Board

GB members should participate in the Governing Board in their personal capacity and must act in the best interest of the EIT, independently from any political, governmental, academic, scientific, industrial, financial or other specific interests. Avoiding conflicts of interest may require limits on the extent to which members that hold other national or international positions may participate in some items of business.

The EIT Governing Board meets in ordinary session on average four times a year and in extraordinary session when convened by its Chairperson or on request of its members. Usually the ordinary sessions last one full day. Besides the meetings, the members of the Governing Board might be asked to take written decisions and/or be invited to attend events on behalf of the EIT. GB members are reimbursed for the travel costs and in addition members receive honoraria³ for their attendance to GB meetings.

The meetings of the Governing Board are prepared by the Executive Committee which is presently composed of four members chosen by the Governing Board from among the GB's appointed members and the Chairperson of the EIT GB. Furthermore, two members of the EIT Governing Board sit also in the Governing Board of the EIT Foundation.

3. Procedure for the selection of the new Appointed Members

The selection process for the identification of 12 new appointed EIT GB members will be carried out by the EIT Steering Committee⁴, fully mandated and appointed by the EIT Governing Board, composed of the following four outgoing Board members: Bertrand Collomb, Giovanni Colombo, Anders Flodström and Julia

³ Decision of the Governing Board of 17/10/2008 on Honorarium for the members of the GB, its chairperson and the members of the Executive Committee of the EIT (ref. n. EAC/TF/D (08) 13208, published on the EIT website eit.europa.eu

⁴ For further information about the composition and the mandate of the Steering Committee: <http://eit.europa.eu/newsroom-and-media/news-archive/single-view/article/selecting-new-members-of-the-eit-governing-board.html>

King. The role of the Steering Committee is to identify a list of potential candidates that will be submitted by the EIT Governing Board to the European Commission.

The potential candidates will be assessed on the basis of the merit related criteria under point 4 below.

Organisations representative of the various segments of research, academic and innovation, stakeholders at European and national level are hereby asked to provide proposals of candidate(s) who in their views:

- has/have the appropriate qualifications and experience, reflecting the set criteria;
- is/are available and willing to work as a member of the EIT Governing Board independently of any other interest.

Organisations interested are invited to submit an application in accordance with the rules set out in this notice for the purpose specified. The application shall be submitted by the organisations in English and shall contain:

- Cover letter from the supporting organization introducing the candidate(s).
- Candidate(s) motivation letter(s), which should include his/her declaration to serve for a six-year period⁵, as well as to engage strongly in the work of the EIT
- Curriculum Vitae of the proposed candidate;

Application shall be submitted by the **9 April 2012** at **24:00** (CET) to the functional mailbox EIT-APPLICATIONS-GB@eit.europa.eu.

The Steering Committee will subsequently assess the applications in line with the criteria set under point 4. If necessary, in order to provide a well-balanced and representative group of individuals, the Committee may identify a small number of additional candidates by its own efforts, who will follow the same assessment.

At the end of the assessment process, the Steering Committee will draft a list of potential candidates that will be submitted to the European Commission. The Commission, having regard to the balance between higher education, research, innovation and business experience as well as to gender balance and an appreciation of the higher education, research and innovation environments across the Union will appoint the new members and inform the applicants (expected July 2012). The Commission will also inform the European Parliament and the Council about the selection process and the final appointment of the new members of the Governing Board.

4. Criteria for the selection of new EIT Governing Board members

A member of the EIT Governing Board should:

- Have substantial experience as an innovator, entrepreneur, academic, scientific, financial or business leader with an international reputation.
- Have outstanding leadership abilities on European and global level.
- Have a broad view and practical understanding of overall European innovation goals and systems and academic, research and business environments.
- Have a thorough appreciation of key economic and societal challenges for Europe as defined in the EU2020 strategy and Horizon 2020.
- Have the ability to take strategic decisions and demonstrate extensive managerial and financial experience, in particular in mobilising resources from private, public and philanthropic sources.
- Have high level networking abilities with relevant players within and outside the EU, with special emphasis on the integration of the knowledge triangle.
- Have a proven record in promoting academia-business cooperation and knowledge transfer.

⁵ This period may be shortened subject to the decision of the European Parliament and the Council on the amendment of the EIT Regulation

5. Data Protection

In processing application to this call for expression of interest, the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV) will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, any replies to the questions and any personal data requested are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the specifications of this call and will be processed solely for that purpose by the Steering Committee and the EIT. For further information, see the Privacy Statement in Annex I.

Annex 1: Privacy Statement

1. General : information collection

This Privacy Statement outlines the information the Steering Committee and the EIT will collect and how this information will be used, with the purpose of replacing twelve appointed members of the EIT Governing Board.

2. What personal information is collected, for what purpose and through which technical means?

According to art 1.2 of the Annex of the regulation establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)*, the EIT Governing Board will propose to the Commission a list of potential candidates. On behalf of the Steering Committee, the EIT has launched a public consultation requesting stakeholder organisations to submit to the functional mailbox EIT-APPLICATIONS-GB@eit.europa.eu a motivation letter and Curriculum Vitae of suggested candidates for the EIT Governing Board. Personal data treated will be those included in the motivation letters and the Curriculum Vitae.

** Regulation (EC) Nr. 294/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology.*

3. Who has access to my information and to whom is it disclosed?

Submitted information will be accessed and treated by a support team within the EIT, led by the EIT Director and subsequently transferred to and accessed by the members of the Steering Committee, responsible for the selection process, and by a representative from the Commission in a password-protected mode. Access to personal information is protected by managing access rights, which are strictly limited. The entitlement is distributed according to the principle of "the need to know". Consequently, access rights would only be updated if changes in the EIT support team so require.

4. How is my information protected and safeguarded?

Submitted information will be collected and processed using the EIT's IT standards and telecommunication infrastructure.

It will be stored in a local database on a central server, with individualised access rights. The submitted information will be stored in secured offices within the EIT premises until its destruction.

5. How can I verify, modify or delete my information?

Organisations (or suggested candidates) can request the modification or withdrawal of their submitted information before the closing date of the public consultation (30 March 2012). After the closing date of the consultation, organisations (or suggested candidates) can, if need be:

- request a copy of the information submitted to the functional mailbox;
- send changes of address (postal address and/or e-mail);

- request the cancellation of their submission and the deletion of all associated data.

Requests must be sent by email to the following address: EIT-DPO@eit.europa.eu

6. For how long will my data be kept?

Data will be kept in the local database until the appointment of the 12 members of the EIT Governing Board (July 2012) and will thereafter be stored in a secured mode until the 31 December 2014)

7. Further questions?

Should you have any further questions on data protection, please contact: EIT-DPO@eit.europa.eu.