

Memorandum of Understanding

Between the Ministry of Education and Science, acting on behalf of the Bulgarian government, and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria (hereinafter referred to as: the Ministry), fully mandated to act on behalf of the Bulgarian government, is willing to collaborate with the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (hereinafter referred to as: EIT), building on the following relevant legal texts and documents:

- Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 establishing Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020);
- Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology;
- Decision No 1312/2013/EU on the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT): the contribution of the EIT to a more innovative Europe;
- European Commission Communication on the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation – maximising the impact of EU Research and Innovation (COM(2018) 2).

Introduction / Background

EIT

The EIT is unique in its approach and distinctive from other European initiatives as it holistically supports the integration of education, research and business to address societal challenges. The EIT is a European Union body, established in 2008, operating through Knowledge and Innovation Communities (EIT KICs), each of them addressing a specific societal challenge. There are currently eight EIT KICs as follows:

- EIT Climate-KIC;
- EIT Digital;
- EIT InnoEnergy;
- EIT Health;
- EIT Raw Materials;
- EIT Food;
- EIT Manufacturing;
- EIT Urban Mobility.

The EIT Community has presence all over Europe with over 2,000 partners, making it a pan-European networked endeavour. The EIT Community bridges the “gap” between research and market by strengthening the links between education, research and business (Knowledge Triangle Integration). A unique model is put in place that aims at creating financial sustainability of the EIT KICs over time, with the ability for the EIT to allocate funds based on priorities and results.

The EIT KICs are set up as independent entities. Within the EIT framework, the EIT KICs have a large degree of autonomy to define their internal organisation and composition, as well as their precise agenda and working methods.

The EIT is based in Budapest, Hungary.

The Ministry

The Ministry is the main policy-maker and coordinator of the activities related to education and science in Bulgaria.

It is responsible for creating favourable environments and incentives, elaboration of policies and programmes for the development of education, science and research. The Ministry is the primary funder of the education and research system in Bulgaria, and the national coordinator for the Framework Programmes for Research and innovation of the EU.

The Ministry represents Bulgaria on the EIT Member State configuration, and has been fully mandated to act as a single point of contact for the EIT on behalf of the Bulgarian government.

Objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding

With all due regard to the independence of the EIT as provided in the EIT Regulation, this Memorandum of Understanding aims to promote cooperation between the EIT and the Ministry, in line with the objectives of the relevant Bulgarian National Strategies and Policies as well as the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the EIT.

The EIT and the Ministry are equally convinced that R&I are the key drivers for sustainable growth and competitiveness. Better integration of the knowledge triangle and stronger cohesion within the European Research Area are necessary preconditions to enhance Europe's performance in the global economic competition, and thus to ensure the future wellbeing of our societies.

Main directions, content and tools of the cooperation

We declare our intention to:

- develop and strengthen cooperation between the EIT Community and the Bulgarian research and innovation ecosystem, including through cross-KIC initiatives, joint communications and awareness raising, in order to contribute to the creation of a new generation of Bulgarian researchers, entrepreneurs and innovators, as well as, increase the level of participation by Bulgarian stakeholders in EIT Community activities;
- enhance outreach via the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme, by:
 1. providing the Bulgarian research and innovation ecosystem with a flow of relevant information on current and upcoming EIT activities;
 2. raising awareness among potential Bulgarian partner organisations (including higher education institutions) and encourage their participation in the EIT Community's activities through the joint organisation of conferences and other events;
 3. timely reciprocal information sharing, explore appropriate synergies and complementarities between EIT Community activities and Bulgarian national programmes and initiatives, including the potential of national co-financing of EIT KIC activities;
- ensure the dissemination of results and achievements emerging from the EIT Community as well as encourage the mutual transfer of knowledge, advice and best practise with Bulgarian public organisations, private companies, higher-education institutions, and research institutions;
- undertake co-funded joint activities to foster entrepreneurship and digital skills amongst women, students, researchers and promote STEM education (in higher education institutions) to develop the skills for the future.

The main directions, content and tools of the cooperation as outlined in this Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed annually by the Parties and may be updated on the basis of mutual agreement.

Closing remarks

The EIT and the Ministry, acting on behalf of the Bulgarian government, hereby express their intention to engage in cooperation in the above-mentioned areas.

SIGNED BY

For the Ministry

For the EIT

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Ms. Karina Angelieva
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Education and Science

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Mr. Martin Kern
Director
EIT

Date: 24 April 2020

Date: 7 May 2020