

DECISION 26/2024

OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF

THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

ON THE AMENDMENT OF

THE FINAL SINGLE PROGRAMMING DOCUMENT (2024-2026) OF THE EIT

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 2021/819 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast) (hereafter referred to as the “EIT Regulation”)<sup>1</sup>, in particular Articles 17(4) and 19(1) and Section 2(1)(b) of the Statutes annexed thereto (“Statutes”);

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 and repealing Decision No 1312/2013/EU (hereafter referred to as the “EIT SIA 2021-2027”)<sup>2</sup>;

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 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 1291/2013 (hereafter referred to as the “Horizon Europe Regulation”)<sup>3</sup>;

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 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 966/2002<sup>4</sup> (hereinafter referred to as the “EU Financial Regulation”);

Having regard to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/715 of 18 December 2018 on the framework financial regulation for the bodies set up under the TFEU and Euratom Treaty and referred to in Article 70 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council (hereinafter referred to as the “Framework Financial Regulation”)<sup>5</sup>, in particular Article 32 and 33(4) thereof;

Having regard to Decision 21/2019 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 25 September 2019 on the Financial Regulation of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology<sup>6</sup>, and in particular Article 1 thereof;

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 61

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 91

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 193, 30.07.2018, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 122, 10.5.2019, p. 1–38

<sup>6</sup> Ref. Ares(2019)6810859 - 04/11/2019

Having regard to the Communication from the Commission<sup>7</sup> of 20 April 2020 on the strengthening of the governance of Union Bodies under Article 70 of the Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and on the guidelines for the Single Programming Document and the Consolidated Annual Activity Report;

Having regard of the Commission Opinion of 25.8.2023 on the Draft Single Programming Document (2024-2026) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)<sup>8</sup>.

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)<sup>9</sup>;

Having regard to Decision 15/2024 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 24 April 2024 on adopting the EIT Budget Amendment No 1/2024<sup>10</sup>;

Having regard the Note for the Attention of Martin Kern, Director of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology of 15 April 2024, regarding the EIT request for additional human resources<sup>11</sup>;

## WHEREAS

- (1) Article 32(1) of the Framework Financial Regulation provides that a Union body shall draw up a single programming document containing multiannual and annual programming taking into account guidelines set by the European Commission.
- (2) The Final Single Programming Document (SPD) for 2024-2026 was adopted by the Governing Board on 15 December 2023.
- (3) Following the adoption of Decision 15/2024 of the Governing Board of the EIT on the EIT Budget Amendment No 1/2024, the budget in the Final Single Programming Document (SPD) for 2024-2026 needs to be revised. The changes are addressed in Annex II and Annex III. Subsequent to the preparation of the Final Annual Accounts for year 2023, table 3 – Budget outturn and cancellation of appropriations needs to be revised.
- (4) Under the Horizon Europe programme, the relevant regulations foresees that “where justified, the grant agreement shall provide” for the right to object of the Commission or the relevant funding body. In the case of the EIT, so far, the provisions concerning the right to object of the EIT have not been expressly foreseen and activated in the EIT work programme and in the calls for proposals (invitations) issued by the EIT. Considering the relevance of intellectual property for the EIT-KIC model and the importance of the protection of the Union interests by means of the amendment of the Single Programming Document 2024-2026 of the EIT, the right to object of the EIT shall be expressly provided for in Annex XI B on Grants, in implementation of Article 40(4) of the Horizon Europe Regulation and the relevant provisions of Annex 5 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement. In all calls for

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<sup>7</sup> Ref. Brussels, 20.4.2020, C(2020) 2297 final

<sup>8</sup> C(2023) 5662 final

<sup>9</sup> Ref. Ares(2023) 8668848

<sup>10</sup> Ref. Ares(2024) 3048646

<sup>11</sup> Ref. Ares(2024)2731847

proposals, invitations to submit proposals and if applicable, invitations to submit amendments launched by the EIT following the amendment of the EIT SPD, explicit reference shall be made to the right to object of the EIT.

- (5) The timing for the launch of the invitation to the EIT National Contact Points (NCPs) for a Coordination Support Action (CSA) had to be revised as no coordinator among the EIT NCPs was. Consequently, the Final SPD 2024-2026 needs to be amended to reflect the new timeline for the EIT NCP call launch.
- (6) On 27 March 2024, DG EAC organised an ad hoc meeting to address the EIT request for additional posts as presented in the EIT letter of 15 December 2023. Following the budget hearing and the ad-hoc meeting between DG EAC, DG BUDG and the EIT to discuss the EIT's staff situation, DG BUDG positively adjusted the earlier positions on staff financed from third country contributions by granting the EIT 4 additional posts: 1 TA (to be recruited as AD5) and 3 CA (FGIV), which the EIT is entitled to use already in 2024. On staff financed by the EU budget, DG BUDG supports the conversion of 3 CA FGIII to FGIV. This will bring the total number of CA in the EIT to 13 FGIV in total in 2025 (16 when including the 3 additional CA financed from third country contributions mentioned above) and 10 FGIII (instead of 13 FGIII currently). This conversion of 3 FGIII into 3 FGIV might take place already in 2024. Consequently, the Final SPD 2024-2026 needs to be amended to reflect the change in the establishment plan.
- (7) In addition to the two Contribution Agreements signed with the European Commission for the European Battery Alliance (EBA) Academy and for the European Solar Academy, the signature of further four Contribution Agreements are foreseen in 2024, in particular for the European Raw Materials Academy, the European Advanced Materials Academy, the Critical Raw Materials Facility and the Innovate Together call. The funding of these activities will come from different EU programmes, such as the Single Market Programme, Horizon Europe framework programme, and the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) programme, and must be reflected in Annual Work Programme 2024.
- (8) The second edition of the European Women Innovators Award will be jointly launched by the European Innovation Council (EIC) and the EIT in 2024, therefore it must be included in Annual Work Programme 2024.
- (9) Following the reform of the EIT Alumni governance structure, the composition, size and mandate of the EIT Alumni Board was revised. The EIT Alumni governance and the EIT Alumni Board operations will fall under the EIT Alumni Community Initiative. Consequently, the Final SPD 2024-2026 needs to be amended to reflect this change, including new annual planning and reporting modality.
- (10) In light of the above, for the sake of legal certainty, Decision 42/2023 of the EIT Governing Board shall be repealed. The revised Final SPD 2024-2026 is annexed to this decision in a consolidated form for adoption.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

**Article 1**  
***Amendment***

The amended Final Single Programming Document of the EIT for 2024-2026, as annexed to the present decision in a consolidated form, is hereby adopted.

**Article 2**  
***Repeal***

Decision 42/2023 of the EIT Governing Board is hereby repealed.

**Article 3**  
***Entry into force***

The present decision shall enter into force on the day of its signature. It will be published on the EIT website.

Done in Budapest on 28 June 2024<sup>12</sup>

[E-signed]  
Nektarios Tavernarakis  
Chairperson of the EIT Governing Board

***Annex: Amended Single Programming Document of the EIT (2024-2026)***

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<sup>12</sup> Adopted in a written procedure on 28 June 2024