



DECISION 24/2025
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

ON AUTHORISING THE EIT DIRECTOR
TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND INNOVATION OF HUNGARY AND THE EIT

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/819 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology¹, (hereinafter "EIT Regulation"), point 1 m) of Section 2 of the Statutes of the EIT, point 5 of Section 3 of the Statutes of the EIT and point 6 j) of Section 5 of the Statutes of the EIT as annexed to the EIT Regulation (hereafter "EIT Statutes");

Having regard to Decision (EU) 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 (the "EIT SIA")², in particular, sections 3.2. "Increasing the regional impact of KICs" and 3.7. "Synergies and complementarities with other Union programmes" thereof;

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 Innovation³, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013;

Having regard to Council Decision (EU) 2021/764 of 10 May 2021 establishing the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and repealing Decision 2013/743/EU⁴, in particular the Pillar III section, read together with and Widening Participation and Strengthening the ERA sections of Annex I thereof;

Having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "A Competitiveness Compass for the EU"⁵ and recommendations on bridging the innovation and productivity gap between the European Union and the best performing countries;

Having regard to the Memorandum of Understanding between the EIT and the Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary signed on 15 October 2019;

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 167I, 12.5.2021, p. 1–80

⁵ eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0030; COM(2025)30 final of 29.01.2025

WHEREAS:

- (1) In line with the EIT Statutes, the Governing Board of the EIT shall promote the EIT across the Union and globally, so as to raise its attractiveness, and for that purpose authorise the Director to sign memoranda of understanding with Member States, associated countries or other third countries.
- (2) The EIT signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary on 15 October 2019.
- (3) The EIT is now planning to sign an updated Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Culture and Innovation of Hungary, which will replace the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Innovation and Technology of Hungary and the EIT on 15 October 2019.
- (4) The Ministry of Culture and Innovation of Hungary is responsible for developing Hungary's cultural, educational, innovation, and youth policy strategy. Its mission is to support Hungarian culture, advance higher and vocational education, and promote scientific and innovation achievements.
- (5) The updated Memorandum of Understanding takes note of the growth of the EIT Community since 2019 and adapts its objectives, main directions, content and tools of the cooperation to the current context in the research and innovation area within the European Union.
- (6) Building on the findings of the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe's Innovative Europe Pillar the EIT proposes to scale-up its efforts to tackle Europe's innovation divide by launching a EIT Regional Innovation Booster (hereinafter: "RIB"), initially as a pilot (2026-2028). The EIT RIB will aim to propel a growing number of ventures from weaker innovation regions towards significant commercial success, by creating seamless entrepreneurial support pathways for the most promising local ventures, using existing initiatives, thereby decomplexifying and defragmenting Europe's startup and scaleup support landscape;
- (7) The scope of the updated Memorandum will also cover the cooperation between the National Research, Development and Innovation Office and the Hungarian Innovation Agency and the EIT.
- (8) In line with these objectives, the draft MoU has been prepared between the Ministry of Culture and Innovation of Hungary and the EIT.
- (9) In the context of the preparation of the final text of the draft MoU for signature, it is necessary to foresee a possibility for the EIT Director to introduce non-substantial changes in the text. Such changes shall not affect the nature, objectives and scope of the draft MoU.
- (10) The Commission Representative in the EIT Governing Board gave their agreement to the adoption of the present decision.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS

Article 1

Authorisation of the EIT Director to sign the updated Memorandum of Understanding

The EIT Director is hereby authorised to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Culture and Innovation of Hungary and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. This updated Memorandum of Understanding will replace the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Innovation and Technology of Hungary and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology on 15 October 2019.

Article 2
Entry into force

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

Done in Budapest on 24 November 2025⁶

Stefan Dobrev

Chairperson of the EIT Governing Board
[E-signed in ARES]

Annex 1. Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Culture and Innovation of Hungary and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology

⁶ Adopted by means of written procedure.

Memorandum of Understanding

Between the European Institute of Innovation & Technology and
the Ministry of Culture and Innovation of Hungary

The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (hereinafter referred to as: EIT or Party) is willing to collaborate with the Ministry of Culture and Innovation (hereinafter referred to as: Ministry or Party) of Hungary, building on the following relevant legal texts and documents:

- Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) 2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe (Decision No 2021/820 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021);
- Horizon Europe: Research and Innovation at the heart of competitiveness (**COM** (2025/198)).

Introduction/Background

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

- Climate-KIC;
- 28 Digital;
- InnoEnergy;
- EIT Health;
- EIT Raw Materials;
- EIT Food;
- EIT Manufacturing;
- EIT Urban Mobility;
- EIT Culture & Creativity;
- EIT Water.

The EIT Community operates all over Europe with over 2000 partners, making it a pan-European networked endeavour. The EIT Community bridges the gap between research and the market by strengthening the links between higher education, research and business (Knowledge Triangle Integration). A unique model is put in place that aims at creating financial sustainability of the KICs over time, with the ability for the EIT to allocate funds based on priorities and results.

EIT KICs are set up as independent entities. Within the EIT framework, 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 Headquarters are based in Budapest, Hungary. The EIT has a Host Agreement with the Hungarian Government that regulates its administrative status.¹

Objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding aims to promote cooperation between the EIT and the Ministry in line with the objectives of the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the EIT and with due regard to the independence of the EIT as provided in the EIT Regulation.

The Ministry and the EIT are equally convinced that research and innovation 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.

The scope of this Memorandum also covers the cooperation between the National Research, Development and Innovation Office and the Hungarian Innovation Agency and the EIT.

Main directions, content and tools of the cooperation

We declare our intention to jointly:

- organise conferences and events;
- develop and strengthen activities and synergies between the EIT Community and the Hungarian innovation ecosystem, making use of existing resources and contributing to the creation of a new generation of entrepreneurs and innovators;
- raise awareness and encourage knowledge transfer and the dissemination of results of the EIT Community, in particular under its EIT Regional Innovation Scheme, to reinforce cooperation among Hungarian actors of the knowledge triangle;
- enhance outreach, including via the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme, providing information and support to Hungarian companies, universities and industrial research institutions, with a particular emphasis on supporting start-ups and scale-ups;
- explore potential areas for cooperation in innovation education, promote STEM disciplines and digital skills, and foster entrepreneurship among students and researchers;
- raise awareness among potential partner organisations and to increase their participation in the EIT Community's activities,
- foster talent management for young researchers of the future.

¹ Act CLXVI of 2010 on the Proclamation of the Host Agreement between the European Institute of Innovation and Technology and the Government of the Republic of Hungary

Closing remarks

The joint activities will be implemented in the framework of time-bound action plans agreed between the EIT and the Ministry, with the active involvement of the National Research, Development and Innovation Office and Hungarian Innovation Agency.

The implementation of joint activities under this Memorandum of Understanding will be done in line with the EIT Legislative Framework and in full respect of equality of treatment.

This document replaces the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Innovation and Technology of Hungary and the European Institute of Innovation & Technology on 15 October 2019.

This Memorandum of Understanding enters into force on the day following its signature by both Parties.

It shall remain in force for two years from the date of signature, unless terminated by joint agreement, or by one Party, giving at least three (3) months prior written notification to the other Party.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be renewed for additional periods of three (3) years, each following a joint agreement between the Parties, in writing, a minimum of three months before its expiry.

Budapest, 2025

SIGNED BY

For the EIT

For the Ministry

Director

Minster

European Institute of Innovation
and Technology

Ministry of Culture and Innovation