DECISION 19/2026

OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF

THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

ON THE ASSESSMENT AND ADOPTION OF THE 2025 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AUTHORISING OFFICER OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

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 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast),[1] (hereinafter referred to as the 'EIT Regulation'), and in particular, Article 19 (2) thereof, point (1) (b) of section 2 and point (6) (d) of section 5 of the Statutes of the EIT provided in Annex I to the EIT Regulation (hereinafter the 'Statutes of the EIT');

Having regard to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 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[2] (hereinafter referred to as the 'Framework Financial Regulation'), and in particular Article 48 thereof;

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast)[3];

Having regard to Decision 21/2019 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 25 September 2019 on the Financial Regulation of the EIT[4] (hereinafter referred to as the 'EIT Financial Regulation'), and in particular Article 1 thereof;

Having regard to Decision 18/2023 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 12 May 2023 on the Charter of the Audit Committee and on the Members and Chairperson for the EIT Audit Committee[5] and Decision 37/2023 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 21 November 2023 amending Decision 18/2023 on the Charter of the Audit Committee and Chairperson of the EIT Audit Committee[6];

Having regard to the draft consolidated annual activity report prepared by the Authorising Officer in respect of the year 2025;

WHEREAS

- The Authorising Officer shall report to the Governing Board on the performance of his or her duties in a form of a consolidated annual activity report pursuant to Article 48(1) of the Framework Financial Regulation;

[1] OJ L189 of 28.05.2021, p. 61.
[2] OJ L122 of 10.5.2019, p. 1.
[3] OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024.
[4] Ares(2019)6810859 - 04/11/2019
[5] Ares(2023)3472176 - 17/05/2023
[6] Ref. Ares(2023)8035963

- The consolidated annual activity report shall be submitted to the Governing Board for assessment in accordance with Article 48(1) of the Framework Financial Regulation;
- The Governing Board shall adopt the consolidated annual activity report of the EIT based on the draft prepared by the Director pursuant to point (1) (b) of Section 2 and point (6) (d) of Section 5 of the Statutes of the EIT;
- No later than 1 July each year the consolidated annual activity report together with its assessment shall be sent by the Governing Board to the Court of Auditors, to the Commission, to the European Parliament and the Council in line with Article 48(2) of the Framework Financial Regulation;
- In line with the Charter of the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee shall advise the Governing Board regarding the assessment of the annual activity report of the Authorising Officer;
- The EIT Audit Committee expressed its positive opinion on the draft annual activity report prepared by the Director and supports the adoption of the Governing Board's assessment of the consolidated annual activity report 2025 as well as the adoption of the consolidated annual activity report 2025.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Assessment of the Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2025

The EIT Governing Board:

1. Welcomes the results presented in the 2025 Consolidated Annual Activity Report of the EIT's Authorising Officer (the 'CAAR') and appreciates the presentation of all the underlying building blocks that underpin the declaration of assurance. Expresses its satisfaction and appreciation of the results achieved by the EIT and the high level of commitment of the Director and his staff, and the effectiveness and efficiency of work of the EIT.
2. Welcomes that the call for selecting a new KIC for Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors was successfully launched and completed in 2025, and the winning consortium for EIT Water was successfully designated by the EIT Governing Board in November 2025. The Board is of the view that this KIC addresses a high policy priority for the European Union in a strategic sector, which is reflected in the high interest in the call to establish a KIC in this area.
3. Welcomes the fact that under the Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027, the EIT Community continues to increase in size and the positive impact of its activities on Europe's competitiveness and in addressing global challenges, and has collectively now enabled over 2 400 innovative products and services to be put on the market, trained several thousands of entrepreneurs and supported over 9 900 start and scale-ups that attracted EUR 9.5 billion in investments.
4. Welcomes that as regards the EIT's core operations, the error rate established in the final reports on 2023 grants, estimated during ex-post verification of costs claimed by the KICs, is 0.8%, which is significantly below the materiality level of 2%.
5. Welcomes the successful implementation of key synergies via structured cooperations, including but not limited to the Memoranda of Understanding with the European Innovation Council (EIC), the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), the European Patent Office (EPO), the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) initiative, the European Investment Fund (EIF) and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL).
6. Welcomes that in 2025, the EIT Community exceeded all its key targets laid down in the EIT Gender Equality Action Plan. The targets included at least 25% women CEOs/Owners of the EIT KICs-supported start-ups and scale-ups (reaching 26.1%), at least 25% women CEO/Owners of start-ups created off/ for innovation (28%), at least 50% women in EIT non-labelled education programmes and trainings (55.9%), at least 40%

women students of the EIT labelled education programmes (43%) and at least 40% women at the EIT Community decision-making (41.1%).

7. Expresses its satisfaction that the EU Agencies Network (EUAN) recognised the EIT's work on bridging the gender gap with the EIT winning the first prize of the EUAN Diversity & Inclusion Awards 2025 in the "Outstanding external initiative" for the EIT's Girls Go Circular Programme.
8. Welcomes that building on the positive outcome of the independent external evaluation of the Higher Education Institutions Initiative's pilot phase (2021-2024) and as a result of the programme continuation being endorsed by the EIT Governing Board until 2027, 47 EIT HEI projects will be implemented in the 2025-2027 period. In this regard it notes that the EIT launched the 5th Call for Proposals in December 2025 aiming to distribute EUR 70 million, which attracted a record 138 applications, signifying the EIT commitment to further empowering the Initiative to become engine of European innovation.
9. Notes with satisfaction that the EIT Community is outlined as one of the key contributors and actors in the New European Innovation Agenda (NEIA) adopted in 2022 by the European Commission to position Europe at the forefront of the new wave of deep tech innovation and start-ups. Expresses its satisfaction that in 2025 the EIT contributed to several actions including the Women2Invest programme, the Supernovas VC Academy, the EIT Deep-Tech Talent Initiative and the Next Generation Innovation Talents Scheme.
10. Welcomes that the strategic Deep Tech Talent Initiative has achieved its goal of training one million people in deep tech fields by 2025, working together with over 600 partner organisations, KICs and other EIT Community initiatives offering courses.
11. Recognises the European Battery Alliance (EBA) initiative with over 80 000 learners by the end of 2025. Expresses its satisfaction that building on this success, the EIT started implementing an additional three Neto-Zero Industry Academies – the European Solar Academy, which aims to train 100 000 workers by end of 2027, the European Raw Materials Academy to train 100 000 learners within 3 years and the European Advanced Materials Academy to train 200 000 learners within 4 years in the framework of the EIT's contribution agreements with DG GROW and DG RTD.
12. Welcomes the EIT Community's continuous support to the people of Ukraine. Expresses its satisfaction that the EIT, as an EU body, fully stands behind the EU position condemning the invasion by Russia and that the EIT Community launched several bespoke Ukraine support activities aimed at nurturing Ukrainian talent by making easier for them to access the opportunities offered by the EIT Community.
13. Welcomes that in 2025, the EIT continued to implement the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS), which supported the delivery of a significant impact in the RIS area. Aimed at widening the geographical spread of EIT activities and contributing to bringing Europe's persistent innovation divide and further advanced implementation of its EIT Regional Innovation Scheme agenda, the EIT established 24 EIT Community Hubs in total by the end of 2025.
14. Welcomes, that in 2025, the EIT expanded RIS activities and launched the EIT Regional Innovation Booster (RIB) strategic initiative, aiming to attract ventures from RIS regions towards commercial success, to create and support a pathway for local ventures and to decomplexify and defragment Europe's startup and scaleup support landscape. In May 2025, the EIT launched a pre-pilot of the EIT RIB, with a wider pilot expanding to at least four countries expected in 2026.
15. Welcomes that until March 2025, the EIT successfully chaired the EU Agencies Network (the network comprising of 52 EU agencies and bodies) in collaboration with the other EU Agency based in Hungary, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), and remained an active member in the EUAN Steering Board until February 2026. It expresses its satisfaction that the EIT has launched its training series on Artificial Intelligence for the EUAN, training over 800 individual participants from EU Agencies and Joint Undertakings across 23 training sessions in 2025.
16. Welcomes that following a successful pilot, the EIT continued to actively support efforts of using shared services across the EUAN by preparing a Memorandum of Understanding with two other EU agencies, the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in the areas of HR, legal services and cybersecurity, which was subsequently signed in February 2026.

17. Encourages the EIT to take further measures to further disseminate the results achieved, more broadly incorporate information about the EIT achievements and present the EIT Community success stories in its communication and external stakeholders' activities, as well as mobilise EIT KICs to contribute more strongly to these agendas.
18. Expresses its satisfaction that the EIT further advanced its simplification agenda aimed at reducing and simplifying the administrative procedures and outsourcing basic administrative tasks, allowing the organisation to focus on implementing impactful activities with initiatives such as the use of shared services between ENISA and EFSA and the continued adoption of European Commission IT systems, including a successful transition to SUMMA in 2025.
19. Welcomes the fact that the EIT sustained its administrative operations effectiveness and efficiency as its administrative budget for 2025 constituted 2.5% of the overall EIT budget managed in the 2025 financial year.
20. Welcomes that the EIT's 2025 budget implementation rate reached 100% for 2025 new funds, representing an increase of 4 p.p. compared to 2024. The overall implementation rate stood at 97%, which is 9 p.p. higher than in 2024. The 2025 implementation rates demonstrate a consistent improvement compared to 2024 across all budget titles. In particular, the strengthened payment performance reflects improved financial planning and execution, as well as more effective monitoring of contractual commitments. It is acknowledged that the remaining differences are mainly attributable to the multiannual nature of administrative contracts.
21. Notes with satisfaction that the European Parliament granted discharge to the EIT in respect of the financial year 2024, which confirms the positive evaluation of the EIT's management and control systems.
22. Appreciates the fact that throughout 2025, the EIT Director kept the Governing Board fully informed of the EIT's activities and progress by way of regular Governing Board meetings, facilitated by a structured agenda and regular activity reports, as well as actively engaged the Board members in additional activities to support the EIT, inter alia as Rapporteurs for KICs and in Advisory Groups of the EIT Governing Board.
23. Expresses satisfaction that in 2025, the EIT successfully closed all remaining IAC audit recommendations, completing the closure of all 206 recommendations.
24. Notices that no significant weaknesses are detected in any of the EIT's Internal Control system components, as regards to financial transactions and/or operations with financial impact performed directly by the EIT, which could jeopardise the achievement of operational, financial or control objectives.
25. Notes with concerns that the critical risks due to structural understaffing of the EIT remain valid and that this also creates non-sustainable risks to EIT's staff health and well-being given the increasing workload.
26. Seconds the EIT Director to continue calls upon the EU institutions to effectively address the structural understaffing of the EIT compared to its budget and mandate, which was confirmed by independent auditors, including the European Court of Auditors and the Commission's Internal Audit Service.
27. Notices that the Declaration of Assurance is signed by the EIT Director with a Reservation, referring to five irregularities which occurred at the level of the Knowledge and Innovation Communities. Notes that these irregularities were investigated by OLAF and financial and administrative recommendations have been issued by OLAF respectively. Notes that the EIT is in the process of implementing OLAF's recommendations and the respective financial recoveries, and that furthermore, ongoing procedures related to linked investigations may result in additional recoveries, with the total financial exposure from all cases expected to be below the range of €15–20 million indicated in the CAAR for the previous reporting period.
28. Requests the EIT to continue enhancing its ex-ante and ex-post controls and strategies and to continue providing support to the KICs to improve further their antifraud and internal control capacities.

Article 2
Adoption of the Consolidated Annual Activity Report

Based on the assessment of the Governing Board, as set out in Article 1 of this decision, the Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2025 prepared by the EIT Director is adopted as set out in Annex 1 to this decision.

Article 3
Publication

The Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2025 shall be sent by the Chairperson of the EIT Governing Board, on behalf of the Governing Board, to the European Court of Auditors, to the Commission, to the European Parliament and the Council and shall be published on the website of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology.

Article 4
Entry into force

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

Done in Budapest on 29 June 2026[7]

(e-signed)
Stefan DOBREV
Chairperson of the EIT Governing Board

Annex 1: Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2025

[7] Adopted in a written procedure on 29 June 2026