



European Institute of  
Innovation & Technology

The EIT is a body of the European Union



# Making Innovation Happen!

Introduction to the EIT and its  
Knowledge and Innovation  
Communities (KICs)



**Mathea Fammels**

Head of Unit (acting) Policy and Communications

Athens, 18 March 2016

# European Institute of Innovation and Technology

**Our vision is to become the leading European initiative that empowers innovators and entrepreneurs to develop world-class solutions to societal challenges, and create growth and skilled jobs.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> EU initiative bringing together the three sides of the 'knowledge triangle': business (large companies and SMEs), education institutions, research centres.
- Aim to increase the co-operation and integration between higher education, business and research to facilitate the transition from:



**student to  
entrepreneur**

**idea to product**

**lab to customer**



## The European innovation paradox

**Excellent European research base, dynamic companies and creative talent**



**Good ideas are too rarely turned into new products or services!**



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# EIT – An Integral Part of

## HORIZON 2020



The EIT contributes to H2020 by addressing societal challenges via the integration of the knowledge triangle



H2020 has a budget of approx. € 80 billion for 2014 to 2020, out of which the EIT has been allocated € 2.4 billion



The EIT will further nurture synergies and complementarities across H2020 and its different initiatives





# EIT Priorities 2014-2020

1

**Fostering**  
Growth and Impact of  
the first three KICS

Climate-KIC  
EIT Digital  
KIC InnoEnergy

2

**Creating**  
Five new KICs

**2014** EIT Health  
EIT Raw Materials

**2016** EIT Food  
EIT Manufacturing

**2018** EIT Urban Mobility

3

**Sharing and  
Disseminating**

EIT Community  
good practices

Incl. EIT Regional  
Innovation Scheme  
(EIT RIS)



# EIT Community across Europe

## Climate-KIC

- Co-location Centre
- Regional Centre (RIC)

## EIT Health

- Co-location Centre

## EIT Digital

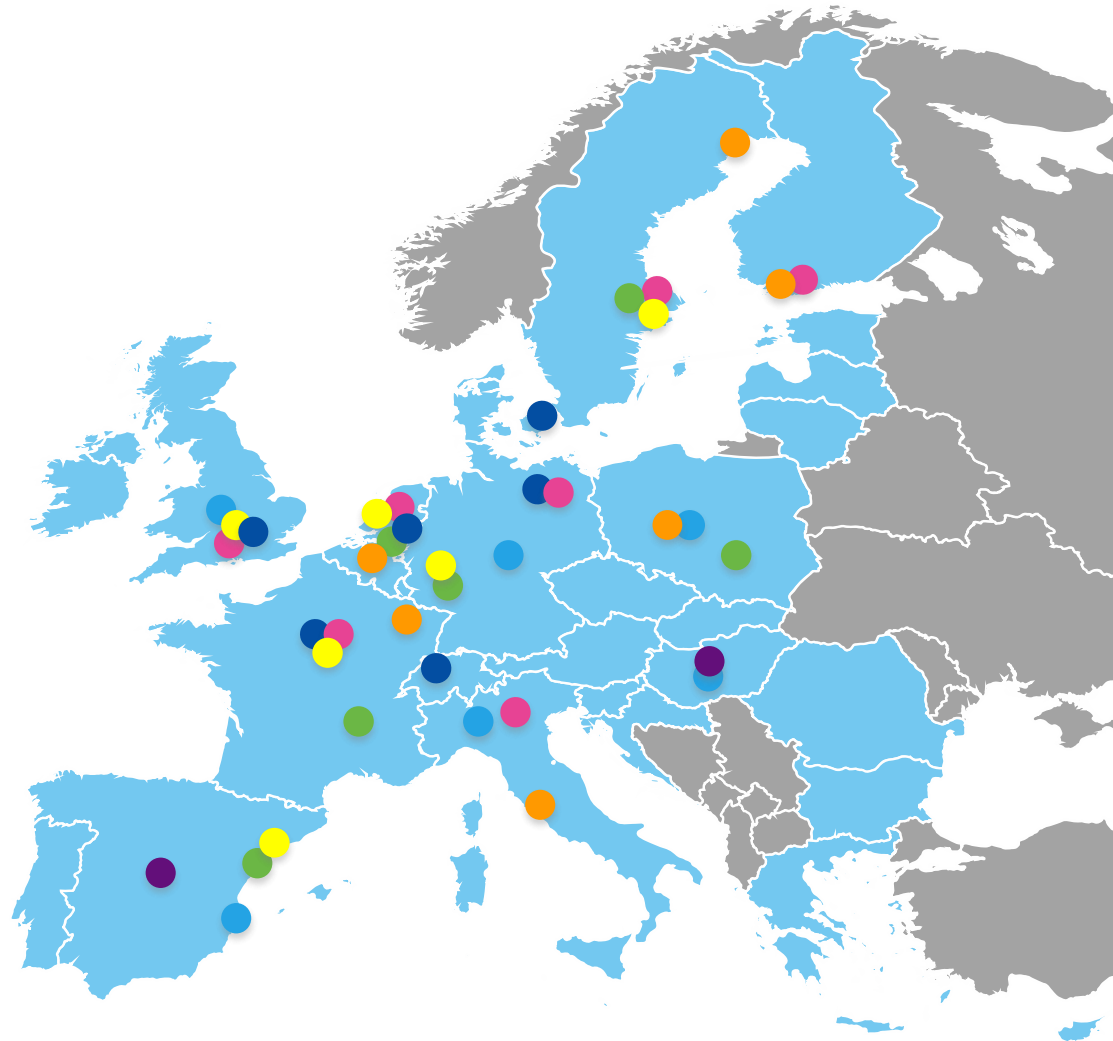
- Co-location Centre
- Associate Partner

## EIT Raw Materials

- Co-location Centre

## KIC InnoEnergy

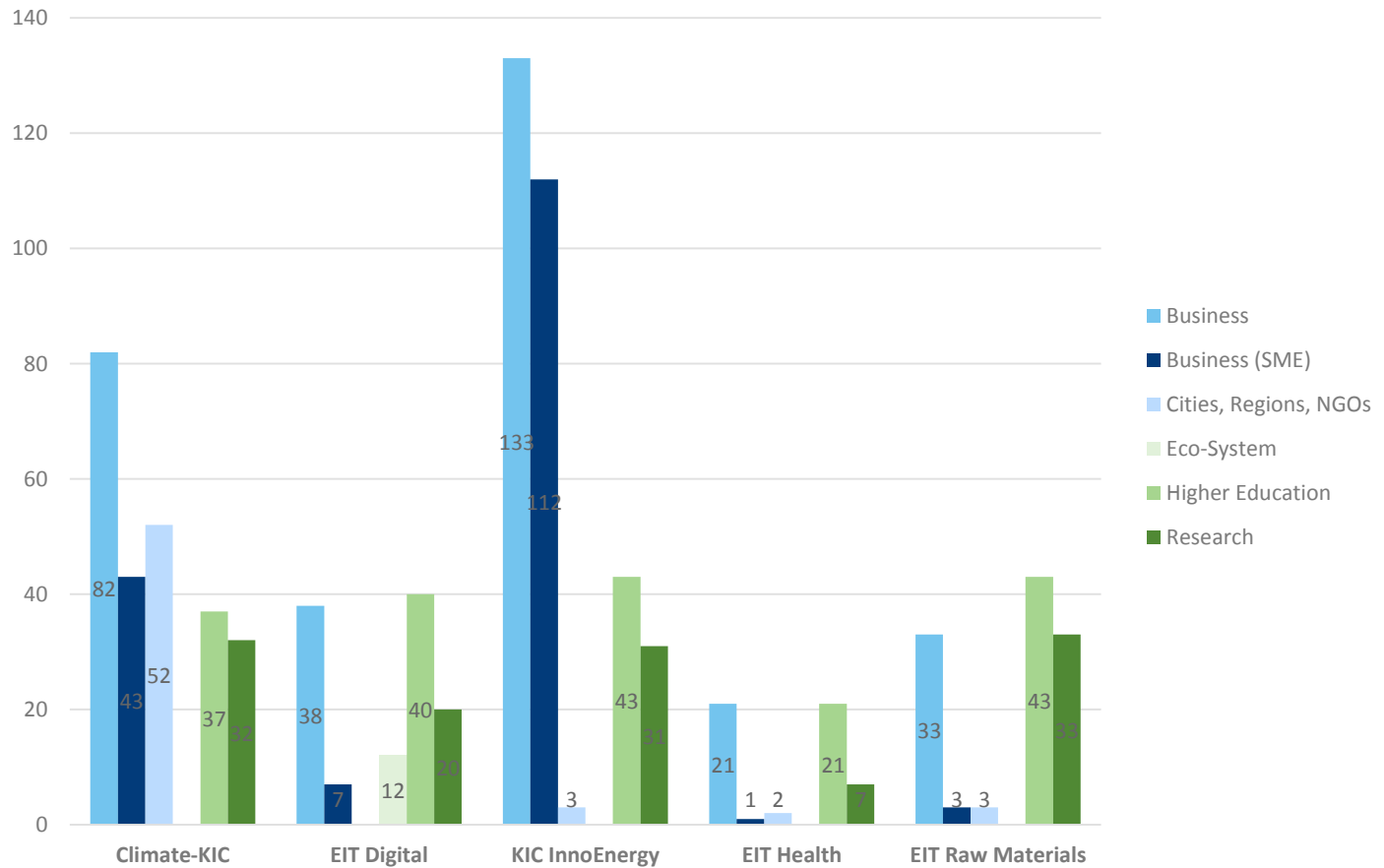
- Co-location Centre



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# Overview of KIC partners

Today, the EIT Community brings together more than **800 partners**:



# EIT Community: 1<sup>st</sup> achievements

Climate-KIC, EIT Digital and KIC InnoEnergy have grown into thriving European innovation hubs:



**24,162**

Attractiveness of education programmes – more than 13 applicants per offered seat



**486**

number of graduates



**903**

number of business ideas incubated



**181**

number of start-ups created



**478**

number of knowledge transfers/adoption



**142**

number of new or improved products, services and processes launched



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Figures – November 2015





# Our Strategy to Boost Innovation in Europe

Facilitate the development of European eco-systems where research, business and education come together to find sustainable solutions to societal challenges by:

- Creating inter-connected knowledge and creativity hotspots
- Fostering talent: innovators, entrepreneurs and students
- Attracting investors



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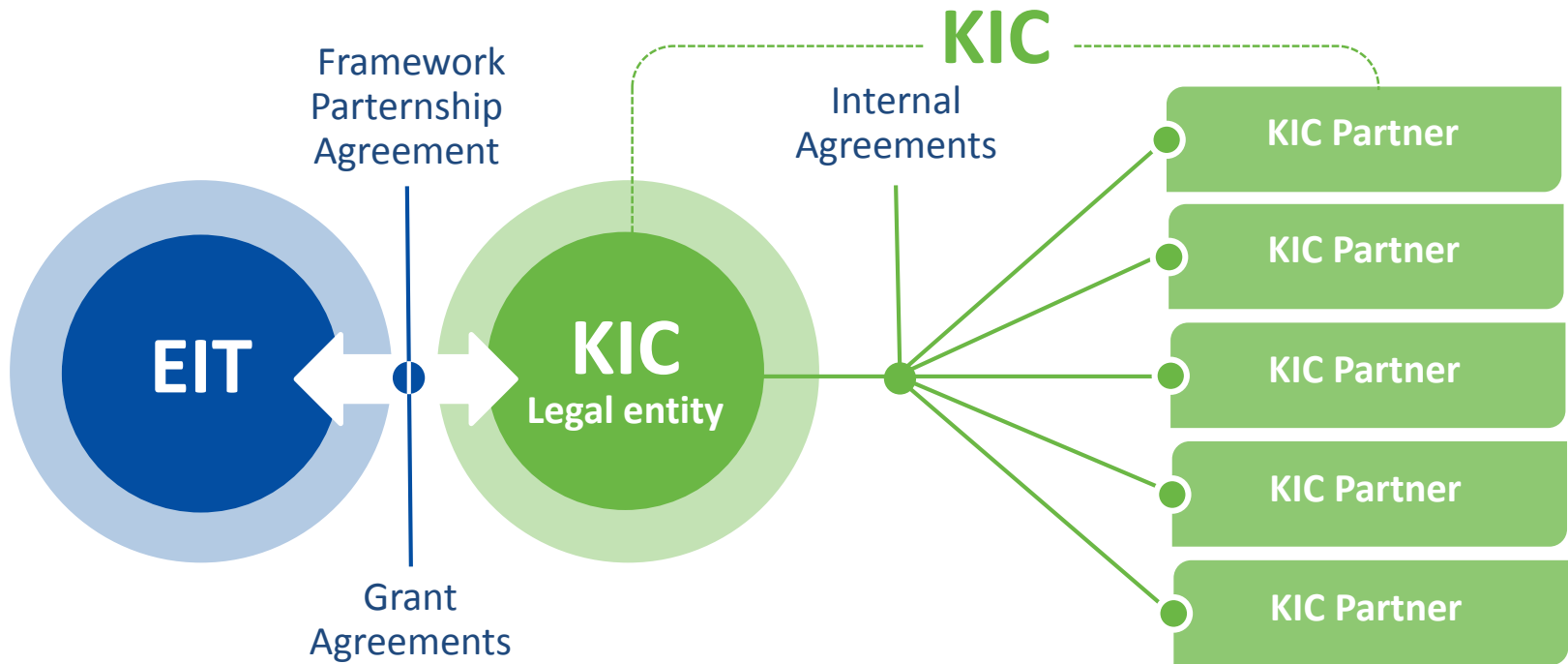
# EIT KIC Model

## *A business logic*

- **High degree of integration:** each KIC is an independent legal entity, gathering world-class partners from across the knowledge triangle based on a contractual relationship/partnership with the EIT.
- **Long-term strategic approach:** each KIC is set up for a minimum of 7 years to eventually become sustainable.
- **Autonomy and flexibility:** to determine organisational structure and activities governed by a Board of KIC partner organisations.
- **Effective governance:** run by a CEO and a lean management team at central and Co-location Centre level all implementing the Principles of Good Governance.



# Overview: contractual relations between the EIT and its KICs



The long-term cooperation between the KIC and the KIC partners must be formalised through Internal Agreements



## EIT KIC model

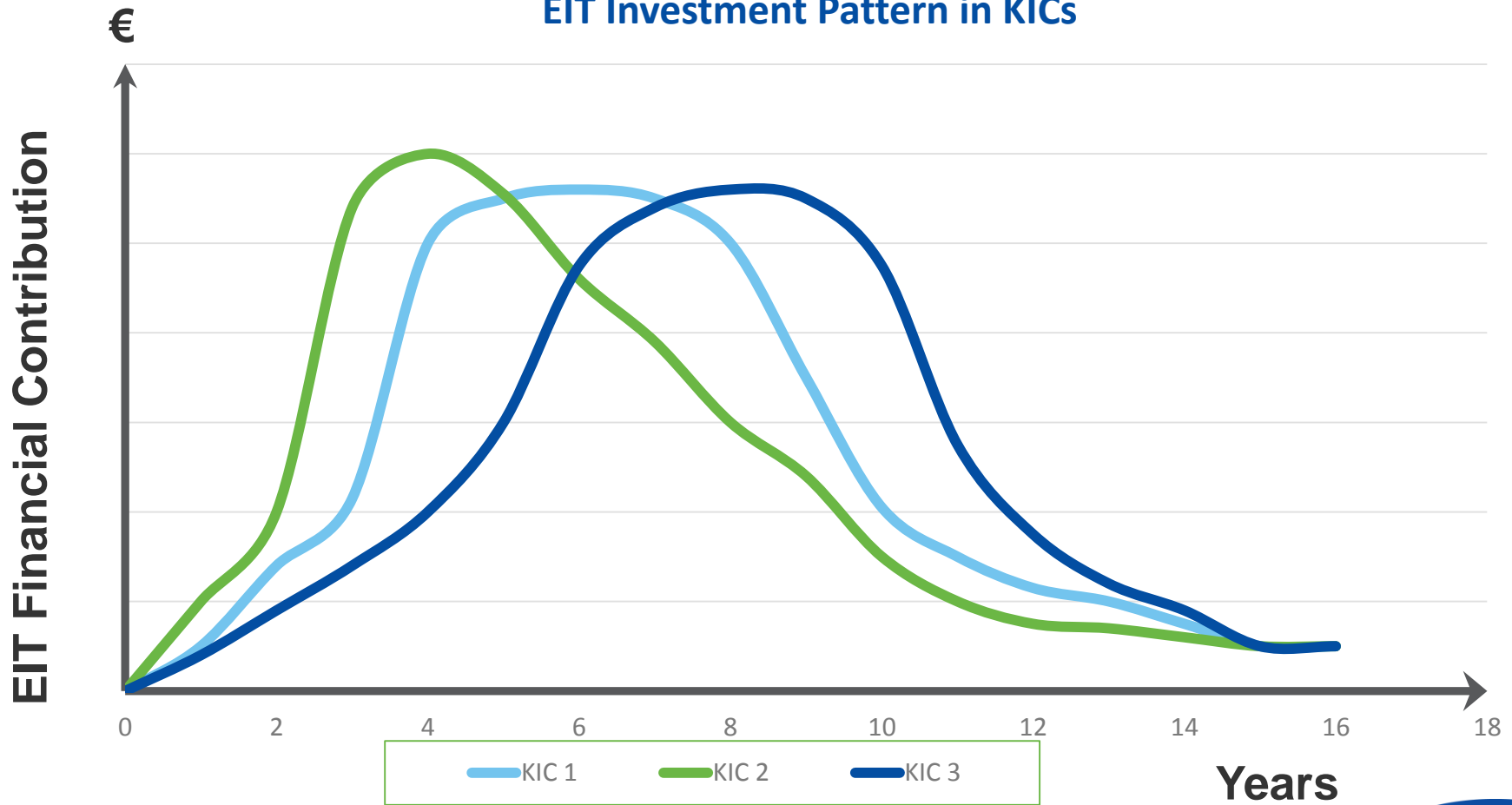
### *an investment logic*

- **Smart funding & high degree of commitment of KIC partners:** EIT funding to KICs is max. 25% of their total budget over time with 75% to be attracted from other sources, both public and private.
- **Culture:** KICs are shaped by strong entrepreneurial mind-sets and cultures.
- **The Co-location model:** each KIC consists of world class innovation hotspots leveraging on existing European capacities and building pan-European networks.
- **Results & high impact oriented activities:** KICs implement a Business Plan with measurable deliverables, results and impact.



# EIT Approach to Financial Sustainability

EIT Investment Pattern in KICs





# The EIT's Educational Vision and Mission

## Vision

- To empower entrepreneurs and innovators in Europe.

## Mission

- To deliver a unique brand of excellent education that is responsive to both business and societal demands, focused on innovation, entrepreneurship and creativity distinguished by an EIT label.

# EIT Awards 2015

## EIT VENTURE AWARD

**Regnar Paaske**

(Co-founder and CCO)

### Nordic Power Converters

- **Venture aim:** To become the new standard for electric power converters for LED, chargers and other applications
- **EIT Community connection:** Climate-KIC's Nordic Co-location Centre through the Accelerator programme and runner-up in the Climate-KIC Venture Competition 2014



## EIT CHANGE AWARD

**Govinda Upadhyay** (Co-founder)

### LEDsafari

- **Project aim:** To empower people in developing countries to make their own solar rechargeable lamps, using locally available material to promote sustainability and health, develop skills and gain jobs
- **EIT Community connection:** KIC InnoEnergy SELECT Master Programme, EIT label graduate in 2012 and incubated at Climate-KIC Swiss CLC

## EIT INNOVATORS AWARD

**Rajai Aghabi**

### EOLOS Floating Lidar Solutions

- **Project aim:** To develop a cost-effective, accurate and reliable offshore wind measuring system
- **EIT Community connection:** KIC InnoEnergy Iberia Barcelona

# What do EIT KICs Offer to Entrepreneurs?

## Access to EIT KIC infrastructure & network

- **Mentoring** and **business** coaching to prepare and implement business plans
- **Meeting** potential business partners and new **customers**
- **Raising** company's own **profile** through the KICs' partners
- **Access** to new technologies
- **Exploring** markets beyond the home market
- **Thematic** specialisation

## Comparative advantages

- Market-orientation
- Shorter time-to-market
- Bridging the gap between academia and business
- Proximity to finance sources: seed funding, VC, etc.





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## 5 Social Entrepreneurs from EIT Community!

[www.forbes.com/30under30europe](http://www.forbes.com/30under30europe)



# EIT Innovation Forum

## INNOVEIT 2016

### in Budapest on 25-26 April

One EIT event bringing together:

- ✓ EIT Stakeholder Forum
- ✓ EIT Awards
- ✓ EIT Alumni Connect event

