Basic information

2019/0152(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT): strategic innovation agenda 2021-2027 **Subject** 3.50.01 European research area and policy 3.50.04 Innovation 4.40 Education, vocational training and youth	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	CARVALHO Maria da Graça (EPP)	18/09/2019
	Shadow rapporteur GÁLVEZ Lina (S&D) IJABS Ivars (Renew) BUCHNER Klaus (Greens/EFA) ROOS Robert (ECR) LIZZI Elena (ID) MATIAS Marisa (GUE/NGL)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
CULT Culture and Education (Associated committee)	BOTOŞ Vlad-Marius (Renew)	11/02/2020
JURI Legal Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	11/01/2021

Committee for opinion on the legal basis	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs	VOSS Axel (EPP)	11/02/2021

Council of the European Union	
European Commission	Commission DG: Education, Youth, Sport and Culture — Commissioner: GABRIEL Mariya
European Economic and Social Committee	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
11/07/2019	Legislative proposal published	COM(2019)0330	Summary
18/07/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
19/12/2019	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
16/06/2020	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
16/06/2020	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
24/06/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0121/2020	
08/07/2020	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 72)		
10/07/2020	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 72)		
23/02/2021	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	GEDA/A/(2021)001136	
26/04/2021	Debate in Parliament		
27/04/2021	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0127/2021	Summary
10/05/2021	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
20/05/2021	Final act signed		
20/05/2021	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/05/2021	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2019/0152(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 41 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 173-p3
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165

Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/9/00663

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE641.138	23/03/2020	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE650.625	04/05/2020	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE650.649	04/05/2020	
Committee opinion	CULT	PE644.924	09/06/2020	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0121/2020	24/06/2020	
Specific opinion	JURI	PE689.826	23/03/2021	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0127/2021	27/04/2021	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2021)001136	17/02/2021	
Draft final act	00009/2021/LEX	20/05/2021	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2019)0330	11/07/2019	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2021)359	18/06/2021	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	RO_CHAMBER	COM(2019)0330	29/11/2019	
Contribution	IT_CHAMBER	COM(2019)0330	02/03/2020	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES4496/2019	30/10/2019	

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Parliament	Briefing	17/12/2019
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Decision 2021/0820 OJ L 189 28.05.2021, p. 0091

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT): strategic innovation agenda 2021-2027

2019/0152(COD) - 27/04/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 673 votes to 6, with 20 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) 2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe.

Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amends the Commission's proposal as follows:

The Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) complements the legislative framework for the functioning of the EIT for the years 2021 to 2027. It sets out the priority fields and strategy of the EIT for the period 2021-2027 by defining the EIT's objectives, key actions, mode of operation, expected results and resources needed.

The SIA 2021-2027 should:

- ensure the coherence of the EIT with Horizon Europe as well as consistency with EU priorities and commitments, including those related to the European Green Deal, the Recovery Plan for Europe, the European strategy for data, the SME Strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe and the New Industrial Strategy for Europe and those related to achieving the Union's strategic autonomy, while retaining an open economy;

- contribute to tackling global and societal challenges, including the Sustainable Development Goals by following the principles of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and to achieving a net-zero greenhouse gas economy by 2050 at the latest.

Raising the bar

The EIT should continue to support Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) to strengthen innovation ecosystems that address global and societal challenges.

It should do this by promoting the integration of higher education, research and innovation to create environments conducive to innovation. It aims to support a new generation of entrepreneurs, helping to reduce the gender gap in innovative business creation, with a focus on SMEs.

The EIT's specific objectives for 2021-2027 should be to:

- increase the openness, impact and transparency of the KICs and the integration of the knowledge triangle across the EU;

- increase the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of higher education across Europe by promoting and supporting institutional change in HEIs and the integration of HEIs in innovation ecosystems;

- increase the regional and local outreach of the EIT and the KICs, in particular by including a wider range of stakeholders in order to address disparities in innovation capacity and to enhance knowledge and innovation diffusion across the EU.

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is an integral part of Horizon Europe, the future EU framework programme for research and innovation. The EIT's budget for the years 2021-2027 (as provided for in the Horizon Europe regulation) amounts to EUR 2.96 billion. The EIT's leading mission since 2008 is to contribute to sustainable European economic growth and competitiveness by reinforcing the innovation capacity of the Member States and of the EU as a whole by addressing societal challenges through innovation-driven knowledge integration between higher education, research and innovation (knowledge triangle). It brings together leading universities, research labs and companies to form pan-European

partnerships, the so-called Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), to help innovators and entrepreneurs across Europe turn their ideas into products and services for the market. Since 2010, the EIT has over the years launched eight KICs, each of them focusing on a different societal challenge (Climate, Digital, Food, Health, InnoEnergy, Manufacturing, Raw Materials, Urban Mobility).

In this context, the SIA:

- clarifies the scope of the new pilot phase to support the development of entrepreneurial and innovation capacities of higher education institutions;

- defines eligibility criteria and the budget to be allocated to activities under the Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS), which aims to extend the EIT's regional activities to low and medium-income innovative countries;

- provides for a simplified funding model for KICs, based on performance;

- establishes a system of continuous monitoring and evaluation of KICs, including closer monitoring of their openness, and clarifies the EIT's relationship with KICs after the termination of the Framework Partnership Agreement.

The EIT should ensure that the KICs continue to pursue financial sustainability, in order to achieve financial independence from the EIT grant at the latest after 15 years following their launch by leveraging public and private investment.

Launching new KICs

The EIT foresees a streamlined procedure for the launch of a new KIC in the cultural and creative sectors and industries in 2022 or 2023 and a second new KIC in the aquatic, marine and maritime sectors and ecosystems in 2026, taking into account the strategic planning process under Horizon Europe.

Tackling the crisis resulting from the outbreak of COVID-19

Major social, economic, environmental and technological changes arising from the COVID-19 crisis will require the collaboration of all Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies. The EIT should contribute to the necessary innovation efforts by providing a coherent response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The EIT should contribute to the necessary innovation efforts by providing a coherent response to the COVID-19 crisis. In particular, it should ensure that the KICs are able to operate with the necessary flexibility to adapt to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis and to respond to unexpected new challenges and priorities.

Budgetary needs

The budgetary needs of the EIT over the period 2021-2027 amount to EUR 2 965 000 000 and cover: (1) expenditure for the expenses of the eight existing KICs and the launch of two new KICs; (2) EIT administrative expenses; and (3) the expenses related to preparation, monitoring, control, audit, evaluation and other activities and expenses that are necessary for the management and implementation of the EIT activities, as well as for the evaluation of the achievement of its objectives. Around EUR 2 854 000 000 (96 % of the total EIT budget) is envisaged to fund existing and new KICs.

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT): strategic innovation agenda 2021-2027

2019/0152(COD) - 11/07/2019 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to propose a new strategic innovation programme for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology for the period 2021 to 2027.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the European Institute of Innovation and Technology was established in 2008 by Regulation (EC) No 294/2008, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1292/2013. Its overall mission is to stimulate sustainable European economic growth and competitiveness by strengthening the innovative capacity of Member States and the Union.

The EIT achieves these objectives mainly through its Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), which bring together more than 1 200 partners from business, research and education.

The EIT is an integral part of the Commission's proposal for the Horizon Europe Programme (2021-2027), and more particularly the Open Innovation pillar of this programme, but it has a separate legal basis (the EIT Regulation).

This initiative aims to make the EIT Regulation compatible with Horizon Europe and to improve the functioning of the EIT, taking into account the lessons learned in recent years. It also aims to propose a new Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIP) setting out the EIT's strategy and priorities for the period 2021-2027, as well as its objectives, key actions, expected results and resource requirements.

For the period 2021-2027, the SIA should ensure consistency with Horizon Europe's objectives and the programme's requirements for multiannual strategic planning, monitoring and other activities, and promote synergies with other relevant programmes.

This proposal for a new EIT SIA for the period 2021-2027 is therefore presented in parallel to the proposal to recast the EIT Regulation.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: the chosen option is based on the baseline scenario (continuation of the EIT's activities in their current form, with the necessary adjustments to bring the EIT into line with the Horizon Europe proposal). In addition, it adopts a number of technical measures to enhance the functioning of the EIT and proposes a new action to foster entrepreneurial education across Europe.

CONTENT: the proposed EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) for the period 2021-2027 defines the EIT's priority areas, strategy and financial needs for this period and sets out how the EIT will contribute to the achievement of Horizon Europe's objectives.

Main improvements

The SIA clarifies the role of the EIT in the Horizon Europe programme and sets out its complementarity to the various parts of Horizon Europe, notably also the European Innovation Council. It includes a number of improvements to the existing EIT model. They concern: (i) the alignment with the European partnerships under Horizon Europe and their governing rules, (ii) the improvement of the current funding model as recommended by the European Court of Auditors and, (iii) the inclusion of the possibility for the EIT to conclude memoranda of cooperation with KICs to keep former KICs as active members of the EIT Community after the termination of their framework partnership agreement.

Clear monitoring and evaluation provisions are defined taking into account the Horizon Europe framework and the EIT’s specificities.

Support to KICs

The EIT will consolidate the eight existing KICs, fostering their growth and impact, and accompany their transition to financial sustainability. In particular, this will concern the first wave of three KICs launched in 2009 (EIT Climate, EIT Digital and EIT InnoEnergy) whose framework partnership agreements will terminate after 2024.

The EIT will also launch two new KICs in specific thematic areas in order to tackle future emerging global societal challenges and needs. The SIA identifies Cultural and Creative Industries as a priority field for a new KIC with a call to be launched in 2021. A second call for a new KIC is foreseen in 2024 to add new priority fields.

EIT-coordinated activities

The EIT will support 750 higher education institutions through funding, expertise and mentoring, enabling them to develop economic activities in their field of interest and to better integrate into local innovation ecosystems. The EIT Label will be part of the EIT's reinforced focus on education.

The EIT will put a strong emphasis on cross-cutting actions such as communication, identification, codification and dissemination of good practices, and international cooperation. Another key area of action for the EIT will be the expansion and strengthening of its regional outreach through the Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS). RIS will offer in particular opportunities to Member States with low innovation performance and enhance their access to the EIT KICs.

BUDGETARY IMPACT: the impact on expenditure is estimated at EUR 3 billion for the period 2021-2027. The impact on administrative appropriations is estimated at EUR 75 million.