



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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From: The Commission  
To: Council

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Subject: EIT Culture and Creativity Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC)  
*- Information from the Commission*

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Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission on “EIT Culture and Creativity Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) with a view to the AOB items at the meeting of the Competitiveness Council on 2 December 2022.

**EIT Culture and Creativity Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC)***Information from the Commission***Objective**

The Commission would like to update the Member States on the recent designation of the ninth European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC), EIT Culture and Creativity, as well as to inform about the next steps.

**Context**

The EIT, with a network of 3,000 partners and over 60 innovation hubs spanning the continent, is the largest innovation ecosystem of its kind and has been strengthening Europe's capacity to innovate since 2008.

The EIT supports dynamic pan-European partnerships, called EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). They are composed of leading companies, research labs and universities dedicated to solving pressing global challenges, from climate change to health and renewable energy. To date, there are nine KICs, each of them operating in a specific field, with the newest one being **EIT Culture and Creativity**. Work on this was included in the EIT's Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA)<sup>1</sup> for the period 2021-2027.

In line with the SIA, following a call for proposals that was published in October 2021 and closed in March 2022 and subsequent selection process, the EIT Culture and Creativity KIC was designated in June 2022. It is composed of 50 partners from 20 countries across Europe and coordinated by Fraunhofer Gesellschaft (DE). It foresees six Co-location centres across the EU: in the Netherlands (Amsterdam), Finland (Helsinki), Italy (Bologna), Spain (Barcelona), Austria (Vienna) and Slovakia (Kosice). The KIC is set to grow over the years and to include more partners from more countries.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision (EU) 2021/820 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 Start-up Plan submitted by the designated partnership will lead to the signature of the Start-up Grant Agreement by the end of 2022, which will come with a budget to finance initial activities in 2023, while full operations are expected to start on 1 January 2024.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously impacted and continues to affect the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries. EIT Culture and Creativity will therefore help strengthen the resilience and innovation potential of these sectors. The new KIC will train the sectors' future entrepreneurs, power their cutting-edge ventures and deliver innovative solutions to pressing challenges. It will bridge regional innovation gaps and harness the power of these sectors, as key drivers of economic growth and job creation, to support Europe's cultural leadership.

In addition, EIT Culture and Creativity will introduce systemic investment in the Cultural and Creative Sectors to (1) connect innovation value chains at the local, regional, national, and EU levels; (2) break down barriers to innovation across sectors and disciplines; and (3) equip the next generation of innovators with much-needed entrepreneurial skills.

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