

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

EIT CLIMATE-KIC HUBS IN CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA UNDER THE EIT REGIONAL INNOVATION SCHEME

Overview

Programme

EIT Regional Innovation Scheme

Date Published

12 November 2019

Online Application Form

[Click here](#)

Submission Deadline

12 January 2020, 23:59 CET via [Application Form](#)

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In the subject line, please write “Call for Hubs”.

Short Description

EIT Climate-KIC, Europe’s largest public-private innovation partnership focused on climate change, is launching a call to recruit EIT Climate-KIC Hubs in two new locations (one in Czech Republic, one in Slovakia) to participate in its EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS). The EIT RIS is a structured outreach scheme to support the integration of the knowledge triangle (education, research, business) and increase the innovation capacity in regions in Europe not yet directly benefitting from the EIT and its KICs.

Target Group

Partnerships from Czech Republic and from Slovakia across the knowledge triangle of research, higher education and business, but also spanning the public sector, NGOs as well as cities and regions interested in tackling climate change through active national and international cooperation of various stakeholders. Partnership – potential EIT Climate-KIC Hub should consist of at least two entities (one as a lead entity), each from different knowledge triangle sector.

Business Background

About EIT Climate-KIC

EIT Climate-KIC (“CKIC”) is the EU’s largest public private partnership addressing climate change through innovation. We educate students and experienced professionals on the challenges and opportunities of climate change; we develop,

implement, and fund innovation programs and projects with leading climate innovators; and we incubate and accelerate climate-relevant start-ups. In so doing, we focus on four thematic priority areas: urban transitions, sustainable land use, sustainable production systems, and decision metrics and finance.

We deliver our activities through our community of more than 250 leading organizations from the public, private, and academic sectors, and with our staff located in major cities across Europe. Founded in 2010, CKIC is supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union.

About the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

Innovation is the key to growth, competitiveness and social well-being in the 21st century. The capacity of a society to innovate is crucial in an ever more knowledge-intensive economy.

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) aims to enhance Europe's ability to innovate, which translates into adapting quickly to the fast pace of development, being one step ahead in providing solutions to rapidly emerging societal problems and developing products that meet the demands and desires of consumers.

Europe is facing a significant innovation challenge, where despite an excellence research base, dynamic companies and creative talent, good ideas are too rarely turned into new products or services. Europe needs a real change of mind-set towards the promotion of a more innovative and entrepreneurial culture.

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is a body of the European Union based in Budapest, Hungary. It was established by the Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008. It became operational in 2010 in its premises of the EIT Headquarters. The EIT currently employs approximately 50 members of staff and its Director is Martin Kern.

EIT Climate-KIC is one of the current eight Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) set up by the EIT:

EIT Climate-KIC	http://www.climate-kic.org
EIT Digital	https://www.eitdigital.eu
EIT Food	https://www.eitfood.eu
EIT Health	https://www.eithealth.eu
EIT InnoEnergy	http://www.innoenergy.com
EIT RawMaterials	https://eitrawmaterials.eu
EIT Urban Mobility	https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/
EIT Manufacturing	http://eitmanufacturing.eu/

You can find out more about the European Institute of Innovation and Technology on its website: <https://eit.europa.eu/>

About EIT Climate-KIC's Regional Innovation Scheme

About the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS)

The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS) is the EIT Community's outreach scheme. The scheme enables the transfer of good practices and know-how from the EIT's unique approach to boosting innovation. The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme was introduced in 2014 to share good practices and experience emerging from EIT Community activities and to widen participation in our activities across Europe.

The objective of the EIT RIS is to contribute to boosting the ability to innovate of countries and regions in Europe that belong to the groups of so-called 'modest and moderate' innovators (according to the [European Innovation Scoreboard](#)).

Each KIC designs its own EIT RIS Strategy, fully aligned with its objectives and activities. EIT Climate-KIC started to implement the EIT RIS in 2014 – since then we have gradually extended our geographic reach. Our EIT RIS currently covers twelve countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Serbia

and Slovenia. In each of the countries we work with a partnership of organisations across the Knowledge Triangle of business, research and education. In 2017 we have designated EIT Climate-KIC Hubs in each of the countries to cooperate with local innovators - individuals (e.g. students, researchers, entrepreneurs) and organisations (e.g. SMEs, universities, research labs, regions, NGOs and cities) - in our activities in education, business creation and acceleration, and innovation-driven research.

Find out more about the EIT RIS:

<https://eit.europa.eu/our-activities/outreach/eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris>

EIT RIS Guidance Note:

https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit_ris_guidance_note_2018-2020.pdf

Links between the EIT RIS and Smart Specialisation

The EIT RIS has been conceptualised in a way that allows for synergies and efficiency gains for regions that have been designing Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3) and are looking for a better integration of the Knowledge Triangle as a driver on enhanced innovation capacity at regional level. We see Smart Specialisation as providing a strategic framework for investments in research and innovation funded by the European Regional Development Fund by:

- Setting out the main priorities for investment,
- Listing other policies and programmes that support businesses to invest in innovation,
- Helping regions and their partners to identify opportunities and collaborate across nationally and beyond, and
- Helping to align the activities of European Structural Investment Fund with other research and innovation programmes.

The EIT RIS is fully aligned with that and we create a space for our EIT Climate-KIC Hubs to capitalise on synergies and complementarities with their RIS3 (and equivalent) and constantly encourage them to do so.

Complementarity with our Strategies

EIT Climate-KIC aims to have impact in all EU member states, covering clusters of countries across Europe. The EIT RIS is our strategic instrument to:

1. Target the climate mitigation needs and challenges within EIT RIS eligible countries, noting that they encompass some for Europe's largest greenhouse gas emitters in the industrial and manufacturing context and through poor energy transition in the industrial and urban contexts. In addition, southern and eastern Europe faces some of the most acute climate adaptation risks and projected economic and societal costs, particularly regarding impact on agri-food.
2. Recognise local challenges spawn innovation to meet local needs. Our experience is we find astounding innovators and organisations wherever we work. We expect to learn how local actors and ecosystems are facing their challenges and learn from that. At the same time, well will ensure the best of the experience and skills in our programmes and partnership are ready to support the EIT RIS countries in facing their part of Europe's climate change challenges.

Europe is where we build strong ecosystems at national and sub-national levels to grow impact in line with the EIT Climate-KIC strategy: *Transition, in time. EIT Climate-KIC Strategy 2019-2022*. Climate-KIC strategy where 12 EIT Climate-KIC's Climate Innovation Impact Goals are specified:

1. Goal 1: Promote retrofit and decentralised energy: Drive a significant increase in urban retrofit rates and enable district-scale clean energy production, paving the way for deep cuts in emissions;
2. Goal 2: Nurture nature-based resilience for cities: Create more liveable resilient cities through substantially increasing the introduction of nature-based solutions and enhancing natural systems;
3. Goal 3: Accelerate sustainable urban mobility: Trigger the switch to clean urban mobility to achieve considerable cuts in urban transport emissions;
4. Goal 4: Make agriculture climate – smart: Instigate a substantial increase in the application of climate-smart agriculture solutions;
5. Goal 5: Reform food systems: Transform climate-damaging food value chains and enhance the climate resilience of food supply;
6. Goal 6: Nurture forests in integrated landscapes: Grow carbon sequestration in forests and linked value chains, while avoiding deforestation and protecting ecosystem services;
7. Goal 7: Build circular material flows: Catalyse a switch to a circular economy and transform production for fossil-energy intensive materials;
8. Goal 8: Reduce industry emissions: Partner with key industry stakeholders in cutting Scope 3¹ emissions to reach science-based targets;
9. Goal 9: Reboot regional economies: Transition carbon-intensive regions to become zero-carbon innovation hotspots;
10. Goal 10: Mainstream climate in financial markets: Advance metrics, standards and instruments that enable transparent, true-cost and benefit accounting for a well below 2⁰ C pathway.
11. Goal 11: Democratise climate risk information: Enhance access to risk information through capacity building and a major expansion of the climate services market.
12. Goal 12: Foster bankable green assets in cities: Develop capacity in preparing projects and investment vehicles to boost the availability of sustainable investment assets in cities.

We expect the interplay between the EIT RIS and regular EIT Climate-KIC countries to be dynamic and attractive to EIT RIS countries and entities, encouraging them to get involved in the range of Climate-KIC activities and progress to partnership where this is deemed strategic.

In 2019 we decided to divide EIT RIS countries into two groups and assigned them to our bigger regional schemes such as: CEE (Central and Eastern Europe) and MED (Mediterranean countries). Czechia and Slovakia next to another RIS countries such as: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and together with Poland and Hungary are assigned to the CEE and will contribute to achieve goals of the EIT Climate-KIC CEE Strategy. Within the CEE we would like to focus on 3 EIT Climate-KIC's Climate Innovation Impact Goals mentioned in EIT Climate-KIC strategy such as:

1. Goal 1 (Goal 1 of EIT Climate-KIC strategy): Promote retrofit and decentralised energy: Drive a significant increase in urban retrofit rates and enable district-scale clean energy production, paving the way for deep cuts in emissions;
2. Goal 2 (Goal 4 of EIT Climate-KIC strategy): Make agriculture climate – smart: Instigate a substantial increase in the application of climate-smart agriculture solutions;
3. Goal 3 (Goal 9 of EIT Climate-KIC strategy): Reboot regional economies: Transition carbon-intensive regions to become zero-carbon innovation hotspots;

and

4. Goal 4: Combating air pollution - as a crosscutting strategic area.

¹ The GHG Protocol Corporate Standard classifies a company's GHG emissions within three 'scopes'. Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy. Scope 3 emissions are all indirect emissions (not included in scope 2) that occur in the value chain of a company, including both upstream and downstream emissions.

EIT Climate-KIC approach to innovation expressed in the *Transformation, in time EIT Climate-KIC Strategy 2019-2022* can be described through our value proposition, particularly:

1. Systems innovation & ecosystem building – integrated and coordinated interventions in economic, political and social systems and along whole value chains through a portfolio of deliberate and connected innovation experiments (i.e. a *portfolio approach*). Such an approach is designed to generate viable pathways to change through identification of options, social and behavioural inflexion points, and scaling of transformative solutions.
 - i) A portfolio approach means supporting many different but connected initiatives, less on their individual potential, and more as a spread of options for exploring alternatives and connections and test our way forward.
 - ii) Learning by doing enables actions: experience, exploration and sense-making across multiple, connected experiments and demonstrations can generate alternative business and industrial models and create options and pathways for choice and momentum.
 - iii) Understanding and using the properties of systems is the key to transformation. Cities, land use, materials, finance, human societies are all complex adaptative systems, which means they have self-transforming properties – they change in dynamic ways in response to different interventions. Systems innovation is innovation designed to engage those properties, intervening on levers of change around financing models, policy and regulatory frameworks, perception and social norms, skills and capabilities, technologies, citizen participation and behaviour, business models, and production systems
2. Demand-Led Model – “Deep Demonstration” – catalysing systemic change through innovation means connecting a supply of innovation with demand-side actors: problem-owners and those with high ambition for change. A breakthrough demand-led approach starts by identifying the complex nature of the problem and the necessary scale for intervention. It encourages us to cast innovation challenges as mission that capture imagination and inspire action across boundaries and contexts. It highlights the importance of understanding and addressing underlying assumptions that determine habits, behaviours and value generation models. And it favours using a combination of solutions – and working on multiple drivers of change – to create deep demonstrations that enable different futures. Innovation that involves these actors working together in ways that bridge multiple contexts is more successful in tackling social challenges than innovation that generates solutions in silos.

EIT Climate-KIC Hubs

In all our EIT RIS countries we are working with selected local partners to set up EIT Climate-KIC Hubs to serve as entry points for interacting with local players, mobilising and internationalising local networks as well as facilitating Knowledge Triangle Integration.

Going forward, EIT Climate-KIC Hubs will be acting as the main local ‘champions’ in the EIT RIS countries.

The following minimum criteria are used for the assessment and recruitment of EIT Climate-KIC Hubs, ideally composed of several organisations across the knowledge triangle with usually one lead organisation:

Criteria

1. Thematic alignment: The EIT Climate-KIC Hub is able to demonstrate commitment to the low carbon agenda and can show clear low carbon priorities.

2. Focus: The EIT Climate-KIC Hub should focus part of its activities on at least one EIT Climate-KIC Climate Innovation Impact Goals in CEE:

- Goal 1: Promote retrofit and decentralised energy: Drive a significant increase in urban retrofit rates and enable district-scale clean energy production, paving the way for deep cuts in emissions;
- Goal 2: Make agriculture climate – smart: Instigate a substantial increase in the application of climate-smart agriculture solutions;
- Goal 3: Reboot regional economies: Transition carbon-intensive regions to become zero-carbon innovation hotspots.
- Goal 4: Combating air pollution.

3. Capacity: Every entity acting as an EIT Climate-KIC Hub should demonstrate its capacity to work with local knowledge triangle actors (education, research, business) and national/local authorities, both in terms of resources as well as in terms of network.

With the view to ensuring the successful management and delivery of activities in the relevant EIT RIS country, the future EIT Climate-KIC Hub and involved entity(s) should demonstrate (i) an appropriate level of commitment of the required resources, and (ii) its capacity to leverage its existing network of knowledge triangle actors, including ways to develop the network (iii) its capacity to undertake activities related to at least one EIT Climate-KIC Climate Innovation Impact Goal in CEE.

Potential EIT Climate-KIC Hubs are asked to submit at least one recommendation letter/letter of support ideally written by a national, regional or local authority in respective country, dealing with climate/energy, R&D and/or innovation matters and serve as a testimony of potential EIT Climate-KIC Hub ability to effectively work across the country’s knowledge triangle, bringing together all relevant stakeholders and mobilise the national innovation ecosystem.

4. Commitment: To ensure the commitment of the potential EIT Climate-KIC Hub to the EIT RIS implementation, the candidate entities should describe their vision as to how they would facilitate the KIC’s work in alignment with the KIC’s EIT RIS Strategy (including stakeholder engagement) and at least one EIT Climate-KIC CEE Climate Innovation Impact Goal.

5. Relations with national/local authorities: Access to policy makers will strengthen synergies and complementarities at all governance levels. It is crucial especially in terms of striving for at least one EIT Climate-KIC CEE Climate Innovation Impact Goal. In this respect, the potential EIT Climate-KIC Hub should be able to demonstrate whether it has existing relations and enjoys the support of policy makers in national or local authorities. If this is not the case, a realistic and relevant plan to establish contact with national or local policy makers, within the framework of EIT RIS activities, should be described.

6. Partnership: Our partners are the backbone of our community and make climate innovation happen. For that reason, at least one entity from potential EIT Climate-KIC Hub should be interested in becoming EIT Climate-KIC Partner.

More information about EIT Climate-KIC partnership: <https://www.climate-kic.org/get-involved/partnership-opportunities/>

7. Track record in innovation: The EIT Climate-KIC Hub must be able to demonstrate a track record in low carbon sector innovation as well as the capacity to carry out activities across the entire innovation framework, working across the knowledge triangle (education, research, business).

8. Strong group of partners: The EIT Climate-KIC Hub has or is composed of a group of partners from across the knowledge triangle – universities, local authorities, companies and business intermediaries, research institutes, non-governmental organisations – who are keen and motivated to participate in local EIT RIS activities. EIT Climate-KIC Hub has to demonstrate strong links and relationships with the aforementioned organisations.



9. Plans to use other sources of funding: The EIT Climate-KIC Hub must outline plans to mobilise and use “other sources of funding”, such as national and regional funding, including EU Structural Funds, pre-accession assistance monies and own resources, to participate in the EIT RIS and create synergies. Ideally, the entities acting as an EIT Climate-KIC Hub have a track record in mobilising such funds.

Scope of EIT RIS Activities

In accordance with the EIT RIS Implementation Guidance Note, EIT RIS activities are to contribute to two action lines:

- **Action Line 1:** Engage local players in EIT Climate-KIC activities (example outputs: EIT RIS scholarships, internships, networking, and matchmaking for start-ups, students and researchers in innovation projects, etc.)
- **Action Line 2:** Mobilise, interlink and internationalise national/regional networks (example outputs: Identification and initiation of deep demonstration processes, joint projects and pilots)

Our EIT RIS activities span the entire portfolio of education, innovation and business creation activities.

Via our EIT RIS Hubs we work with

- Startups: Common accelerator curriculum and methodology focusing on inter-country and regional mobility and cross-fertilisation
- Cities/districts: place-based hackathons, challenge-led workshops and (early stage) innovation projects
- Professionals: professional education and capacity-building courses and mobility programmes such as ‘[Pioneers into Practice](#)’
- Students: climate innovation summer school ‘[The Journey](#)’, pre-incubation programmes and hackathons
- Ecosystems: network development and internationalisation/interlinking

Main Tasks of EIT Climate-KIC Hubs

Our EIT Climate-KIC Hubs carry out the following main tasks:

- Identify and map relevant local stakeholders across the knowledge triangle and closely cooperate with them, putting special emphasis on local, regional and national authorities. Special focus should be given on stakeholders who may help achieve at least one EIT Climate-KIC CEE Climate Innovation Impact Goal.
- Function as interaction point between EIT Climate-KIC and local stakeholders.
- Organise regular events and outreach activities to inform local stakeholders how to get involved in EIT Climate-KIC activities and engage them.
- Source local talent (students, startups, innovators) and enable them to participate in EIT Climate-KIC activities.
- Cooperate with other EIT Hubs (both internationally - within EIT Climate-KIC - and nationally - cross-KIC) as necessary and regularly participate in EIT Climate-KIC organised meetings and calls to further refine EIT RIS strategy and goals.
- Provide EIT Climate-KIC with access to local, regional and national authorities and policy makers.
- Participate in high-level events to present the EIT RIS to relevant stakeholders and networks in Brussels and across Europe.
- Develop intelligence on EU, regional and national funding instruments and how these can be synergised with EIT RIS.

About this Call



EIT Climate-KIC is looking to extend its geographic scope via the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS), the EIT Community's outreach scheme. We are targeting innovative organisations from Czechia and Slovakia to join our network of partners and act as EIT Climate-KIC Hubs in the target countries. The EIT RIS connects EIT Climate-KIC with selected partnerships from business, higher education and research, as well as regional policy-makers, public entities and other stakeholders to spur innovation across Europe.

Call Duration

The call opens on Tuesday, 12 November 2019.

The call closes on Monday, 12 January 2020, 23:59 CET.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Target countries

The two target countries for this call are: Czechia, Slovakia. Only organisations based in those two countries are eligible to apply under the current call.

Selection Criteria, Process and Timeline

Applications have to be sent via a dedicated [online form](#) and will be assessed against selection criteria. The selection criteria correspond to the above specified criteria:

No	Criterion	Max. score
1	Thematic alignment	10
2	Focus	15
3	Capacity	15
4	Commitment	10
5	Relations with national/local authorities	10
6	Partnership	10
7	Track record in innovation	10
8	Strong group of partners	10
9	Plans to use other sources of funding	10
		100

All complete and eligible applications received until 12 January 2020, 23:59 CET via the [online form](#) will be assessed against the selection criteria. The threshold to pass the first assessment round is set at 60 points. The minimal score that must be achieved per criterion may not be less than 5.

!!!Please be aware that lead entities will be asked to send the scanned duly signed version of the submitted application form to the email address karolina.piadlowska-firlej@climate-kic.org if their application reach the threshold of 60 points during the first assessment round.

After this first round of assessments based on submitted application forms, EIT Climate-KIC will schedule bilateral calls with the candidates whose applications were scored with 60 or more points and who sent the scanned duly signed version of the submitted application. During the calls the applicants will have the opportunity to present themselves. This will be followed by a round of questions. The selection panel will be composed of representatives of EIT Climate-KIC's themes as well as independent experts.

Please be aware that the selection panel may propose to merge two or more independent partnerships if such solution is considered as beneficial for achieving EIT Climate-KIC goals and allows to cover fuller list of stakeholders and themes. Applying entities have a right not to agree on such a merger. In such a case their applications will be assessed separately.

The one most qualified partnership in each country will be selected to participate in the EIT RIS as EIT Climate-KIC Hub. Please be aware that the selection panel's decision is final. There is no appeal procedure.

Timeline

Time	Action
12 January 2020	Call closes
13-26 January 2020	1st assessment round (based on the written applications)
27-30 January 2020	2nd assessment round (interviews via videoconferencing)
3-4 February 2020	Communication of selection results

The results of the selection will be communicated to all applicants no later than **4 February 2020**. All applicants will receive confirmation in writing.

Frequently Asked Questions

Our organisation is already involved with another KIC. Can we still apply to become an EIT Climate-KIC Hub?

Yes, it is possible to get involved with more than one KIC. We even encourage synergies between activities.

Is it possible to apply for the EIT RIS as a single organisation?

No, it is impossible.

Is there funding available under the EIT RIS?

Yes, there is limited funding ("seed funding") available for qualifying proposals following selection as an EIT Climate-KIC Hub, however, we want to stress that neither EIT Climate-KIC nor the EIT RIS is a funding/granting scheme. By successfully applying to the present call for applications you become eligible to benefit from funding under the EIT RIS. Once you have been selected to work with us as an EIT Climate-KIC Hub under the EIT RIS you will be able to apply for internal calls for proposals open to EIT Climate-KIC entities involved in the delivery of our EIT RIS activities.

The primary sources of funding for the EIT RIS are from non-EIT sources (national funding, structural funds, participants' own resources, etc.) and we expect our partners to be able to co-fund and, ideally, pre-finance activities. The annual funding volume for an EIT Climate-KIC Hub typically ranges between 200,000 € and 500,000 € for EIT Climate-KIC partners (out of which approximately 200,000 € for startup and education grants alone that go directly to beneficiaries). Synergies and complementarities with other EU, national, regional innovation initiatives and funding sources are strongly encouraged.

If successful in the call, do we have to become an EIT Climate-KIC Community Member and EIT KIC partner?

Through the EIT RIS, EIT Climate-KIC is looking to expand its geographical reach and bring in committed and complimentary members to join our community. We welcome applicants whose core competencies complement our existing community portfolio. EIT Climate-KIC intends to welcome certain selected EIT RIS entities into the community and will support their community membership application process to become fully-fledged EIT Climate-KIC community members and, thereafter, EIT Climate-KIC partners, if this is deemed strategic and in line with the other relevant criteria. It is obligatory that at least one of the entities constituting an EIT Climate-KIC Hub applies to become an EIT Climate-KIC Community Member and, thereafter, EIT Climate-KIC partner. In addition to formal community membership other forms of engagement are possible.

What are the benefits of being an EIT Climate-KIC community member?

The Community members have access to a range of benefits and services. Becoming an EIT Climate-KIC community member will not only enable you to benefit from funding under the EIT RIS, but will also grant you all the benefits of getting involved in our community:

- Membership of a long-term community which is transforming climate change ideas into commercial success. We bring together the most influential and commercially minded players in the climate change space
- Attractive returns on investment through open innovation
- More influence in the climate change field by working alongside the brightest academic minds and commercial entrepreneurs
- Being part of a network, which not only effectively combats climate change but also generates prosperity across Europe with global impact
- Potential to apply to become an EIT KIC partner

Note there is a fee associated with community membership. Annual Community Membership fees are invoiced based on the size of the member. Please note that the definition of SMEs applied by EIT Climate-KIC is an officially provided by the European Commission (EU recommendation 2003/361). If you would like to know more about the issue, please contact with karolina.piadlowska-firlej@climate-kic.org.

What are the expected benefits of the EIT RIS?

Selected EIT RIS partnerships and their regions benefit from the exchange of knowledge and good practice capitalising on their strengths, accelerating their innovation output, boosting regional innovation, and thus contributing to economic growth and prosperity. As main innovation actors in the regions, their participation in the EIT RIS will strengthen the regional innovation eco-system and output.

Based on the principle that people are and/or act as carriers of knowledge, participants from diverse backgrounds will be able to apply the knowledge, expertise and entrepreneurial mind-set gained through this stimulus scheme in the KICs. Upon return they will benefit not only their institutions but also the way in which innovation is approached in their areas of origin. Moreover, they may act as multipliers by sharing the insights gained and the tangible benefits of the scheme with the selected partnership and beyond.

By collaborating with excellent partnerships from across Europe's regions, KICs benefit from an influx of talent and ideas which add value to their activities and amplify their impact in spurring innovation. Selected partnerships may act as test beds for the EIT and its KICs with a view to explore how Knowledge Triangle governance and activities could be replicated in and how lessons learnt and emerging good practices can be transferred successfully to a multitude of environments.

How the EIT RIS will look like after 2020?

It hasn't been decided yet. Before making final decision EIT would like to evaluate the effectiveness of the current approach and check if there are any aspects that should be improved or changed. Nevertheless, there are plans to strengthen cooperation between regular EIT countries and EIT RIS countries and even to integrate the EIT RIS in the EIT innovation model. More details about the future of the EIT RIS will be known in the middle of the next year.