

EIT Awareness Day, Athens (February 14, 2013)

Thursday, 14 February 2013

Athens Concert Hall (Megaron)

Vass. Sophias & Kokkali, Athens 115 21

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT): new opportunities for talented people

EIT Background

The **European Institute of Innovation and Technology** (EIT) is a body of the European Union established in March 2008. Its mission is to increase European sustainable growth and competitiveness by reinforcing the innovation capacity of the EU. This translates into developing a new generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.

The EIT builds on Europe's excellent universities, research centres and businesses to create an unprecedented network of innovation and excellence centres allowing these actors to grow and capitalise on their innovation capacity and capability. Its aim is to boost the innovation process:

- from idea to product,
- from student to entrepreneur,
- from lab to market.

To do so, the EIT fully integrates all three sides of the 'Knowledge Triangle', i.e. higher education, research and business, by way of highly integrated public private partnerships – the so-called **Knowledge and Innovation Communities** (KICs), thereby boosting innovation and entrepreneurship.

The KICs focus on priority topics with high societal impact. To date, 3 KICs were launched in 2010:

- Climate-KIC: Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- EIT ICT Labs: Information and Communication Technologies
- KIC InnoEnergy: Sustainable energies

The EIT has its headquarters in Budapest, Hungary and operates through the KICs. Each of the KICs operates across 5 or 6 innovation centres – or co-location centres. Knowledge and Innovation communities gather hundreds of partners in 17 co-location centres in Europe.

Educational dimension

An important added value of the EIT is to integrate the education dimension within the innovation web as this has often been the missing partner of the more traditional Research-Business partnerships. The EIT is to create the entrepreneurs of tomorrow and promote a real change of mindset towards an entrepreneurial culture and attitude. By investing in the EIT, Europe invests in the talent of tomorrow who will not only create new start-ups but also contribute to innovation in existing companies, thus becoming the source of growth needed. Therefore, universities within the KICs focus on developing curricula that give students the knowledge, personal development and the research and entrepreneurship skills consistent with the highest standards. They are based on partnerships between different universities, offering double degrees and mobility experience between universities or with companies and research labs.

The EIT objective for 2020 is to train 10 000 Master Students and 10 000 PhDs and create 600 new companies.

Theme and objective of the event

The event will present the EIT (its activities, achievements and future strategy) to Greek universities, research centres and companies. The second part of the event will focus on the opportunities offered by the EIT to Greek students for post-graduate degrees and entrepreneurial education.

EIT: new opportunities for talented people, Athens (February 14, 2013)- *Draft agenda(all speakers are tbc)*

9:00 **Registration**

9:30 **Welcome and Introduction**

- Prof. Chrysoula Paliadeli | Member of the European Parliament
 - Prof. Ioannis Tsoukalas | Member of the European Parliament
 - Representative of the Greek Ministry of Education
 - Welcome message by Commissioner Vassiliou (tele-conference/video message)
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9:45 **The EIT in a Nutshell**

- Ms Keravnou-Papailiou | Member of the EIT Governing Board, Rector of Cyprus University of Technology tbc
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10:15 **Present and Future of EIT**

- Lucia Recalde | Directorate General for Education and Culture, European Commission
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10:30 **1st Panel discussion**

Postgraduate studies in the EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities: academic excellence and entrepreneurial spirit

- Chaired by MEP Prof. Paliadeli
 - Representatives of the 3 KICs
 - EIT alumnus/student/young researcher (testimonies from KICs)
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11:30 **Coffee break and Networking**

12:00 **2nd Panel discussion:**

EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities creating new career opportunities: training, coaching, and support for innovative business ideas

- Chaired by MEP Prof. Tsoukalas - introductory remarks
 - Representatives of the 3 KICs
 - Young entrepreneur or CEO of company participating in one of the KICs (testimony from KICs)
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13:00 **Closing Remarks**

13:15 **Lunch**

Note: The event will be web-streamed to universities and research institutions across Greece and Cyprus through DIAVLOS, the streaming service of the "Greek Research & Technology Network"

(<http://webcast.grnet.gr/>)