



DECISION 04/2024  
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF  
THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

ON THE OPENING OF THE GLOBAL OUTREACH HUB  
OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

**THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY,**

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 2021/819 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast) (hereafter referred to as the “EIT Regulation”)<sup>1</sup>, in particular Recital (17) and Article 7(e) thereof, and point (m) of Section 2(1) of the Statutes and Section 3(5) of the Statutes, as annexed to the EIT Regulation;

Having regard to Decision 2021/820 of the European Parliament and of the Council 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 (hereafter referred to as the “EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027” or “EIT SIA 2021-2027”)<sup>2</sup>, in particular to Section 3.5.3 thereof;

Having regard to Regulation 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013<sup>3</sup> (hereafter referred to as “Horizon Europe Framework Programme”);

Having regard to Decision 38/2022 on the Strategic Framework for EIT Community Global Outreach activities and repealing Decision 17/2019 of the Governing Board of the EIT<sup>4</sup>; in particular Section V.5 of the Framework, as annexed to the Decision;

Having regard to Decision 39/2023 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 23 November on the allocation of the additional financial contribution for 2023 to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> wave of Knowledge and Innovation Communities’ (KICs’) Business Plans, to Cross-KIC activities and shared services, and to the finalisation of the Higher Education Initiative (HEI) pilot<sup>5</sup>;

Having regard to Decision 42/2023 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 15 December 2023 on the adoption of the final Single Programming Document (2024-2026) of the EIT<sup>6</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 61

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 91-118.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1–68.

<sup>4</sup> Ref. Ares(2022)8699512

<sup>5</sup> Ref. Ares(2023)8076871

<sup>6</sup> Ref. Ares(2023)8668848



## WHEREAS

- (1) Following the negotiations held after the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union on 1 February 2020<sup>7</sup>, on 4 December 2023 the EU-UK Specialised Committee on Participation in Union Programmes adopted the political agreement on United Kingdom's association to Horizon Europe and to the Copernicus component of the Space Programme. As result, the United Kingdom associated to the Horizon Europe framework programme as of 1 January 2024.
- (2) With its Decision 38/2022, the EIT Governing Board adopted the revised Strategic Framework for EIT Community Global Outreach activities. The Strategic Framework states that the EIT global outreach activities shall cover third countries associated to the Horizon Europe framework programme.
- (3) Section I.1 of the Strategic Section V.5 of the Strategic Framework states that *“KICs shall consult the EIT on their suggestions for opening new EIT Global Outreach hubs, beyond the already existing hubs of Tel Aviv, Israel and Silicon Valley, USA. The EIT shall refer these suggestions with their analysis and recommendation to the EIT Governing Board for decision, taking into account EU political priorities in external relations and requiring the Commission’s agreement. These provisions concern future Global Outreach hubs to be opened at EIT community level in third countries.”*
- (4) Several KICs are historically strongly linked to partners in the United Kingdom through their ecosystems and activities. The association of United Kingdom to the Horizon Europe framework programme allows for reinforcing these activities that were hindered by the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union.
- (5) In addition, the Strategic Outreach activities of the KICs are implemented under the Cross-KIC Strategic Outreach Grant Agreement in the period of 2023-2025. Following the association of United Kingdom to Horizon Europe, the Strategic Outreach activities will be increased, which is duly reflected in the proposed Amendment 2024 to the Strategic Outreach Grant Agreement 2023-2025 with Work Package 4 dedicated to activities in the United Kingdom for 2024-2025. Such dedicated activities will strengthen the relations between KIC partners and United Kingdom partners, and will include ecosystem building activities and matchmaking events around Horizon Europe funding opportunities between KIC partners and UK partners.
- (6) The EIT Governing Board Global Outreach Advisory Group was consulted on setting up the EIT Global Outreach Hub in the United Kingdom at its meeting on 31 October 2023. The opening of the Hub in the United Kingdom was also discussed and agreed by the Governing Board at its 80<sup>th</sup> Governing Board meeting on 23 November 2023, when the additional financial allocation decision on KIC activities in 2024 was taken by the EIT Governing Board (i.e. Decision 39/2023 of the EIT Governing Board).
- (7) As a result, it is proposed for the EIT Governing Board to adopt the decision on the opening of the EIT Global Outreach Hub in the United Kingdom.

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<sup>7</sup> The Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community 2019/C 384 I/01 (OJ C 384I, 12.11.2019, p. 1–177) entered into force on 1 February 2020.



- (8) This decision on the opening of the EIT Global Outreach Hub in the United Kingdom remains in force as long as the United Kingdom is associated to Horizon Europe.
- (9) In line with Section 3(5) of the Statutes annexed to the EIT Regulation (recast), and in line with Section V.5 of the Framework, as annexed to Decision 38/2022 on the Strategic Framework for EIT Community Global Outreach activities, the agreement of the European Commission, expressed by its Representative in the Governing Board, is necessary for the adoption by the EIT Governing Board of the present decision. The Commission gave its agreement with the adoption of the present decision in written procedure.

## HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS

### Article 1

#### *Opening of EIT Global Outreach Hub in the United Kingdom*

The EIT Global Outreach Hub in the United Kingdom shall be opened by the KICs.

### Article 2

#### *Entry into force*

- (1) This decision shall enter into force retroactively on 1 January 2024, in alignment with the start date of the association of United Kingdom to the Horizon Europe framework programme and in alignment with the Cross-KIC Strategic Outreach Grant Agreement 2023-2025, and the subsequent the relevant Cross-KIC Strategic Outreach Grant Agreement in the period 2026-2027.
- (2) This decision on the opening of the EIT Global Outreach Hub in the United Kingdom remains in force as long as the United Kingdom is associated to the Horizon Europe framework programme. For the continuation of the Hub in the next framework programme for research and innovation after 1 January 2028, a new decision shall be taken by the Governing Board of the EIT.

Done in Budapest on 6 March 2024<sup>8</sup>

Nektarios Tavernarakis  
Chairman of the EIT Governing Board  
For the EIT  
*[E-signed]*

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<sup>8</sup> Adopted in written procedure.