



The EIT aims to create a new European way of delivering essential economic growth and societal benefits through innovation.

The KICs are the operational part of the EIT, bringing together actors from the entire innovation web (academia, business and research) to stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship.

### WHAT IS A KIC?

A Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) is a highly integrated, creative and excellence-driven partnership which brings together the fields of education, technology, research, business and entrepreneurship in order to produce new innovations and new innovation models that inspire others.

KICs are active in areas of long-term societal challenges, offering new opportunities for innovation in Europe and generating real impact in terms of new business creation, entrepreneurship education and societal benefit.

### HOW DO THE KICS WORK?

KICs are a completely new generation of partnerships in Europe and for the first time at a European level, bring together the whole so called "knowledge triangle" (research, education and business). They are organised around co-location centres – geographical locations where most or the whole innovation web can be found in close proximity where all partners will work together face-to-face in highly integrated teams, which ensures that the KICs are not simply loose networks but real focal points of integration based on excellence. The co-location centres, which bring together people that were previously separated and from diverse backgrounds, build the collaborative activities of the KIC partners into regional or national centres of excellence.

Key features of the KICs' structure are their co-location centres, top quality leadership and management combined with simplicity and a 'can do' approach. Each KIC has been set-up as its own legal entity and has appointed a CEO to run its operations – a first for a EU initiative. The relationship between the KICs and the EIT is organised on a contractual basis, which means the EIT has left the KICs with a great degree of autonomy to define their own legal status, internal organisation and working methods.

#### KICs: Facts and figures

- Number of KICs: 3 (Climate-KIC, KIC InnoEnergy, EIT ICT Labs)
- Co-location centres: 16
- Number of KIC partners involved: currently over 200
- Budget contribution from the EIT: maximum 25% of the KIC's total budget



## THE FIRST 3 KICS

The EIT's first three KICs were designated in December 2009 in the fields of climate change mitigation and adaptation (Climate-KIC), sustainable energy (KIC InnoEnergy) and the future information and communication society (EIT ICT Labs).

### CLIMATE-KIC



**Climate-change mitigation and adaptation present not only a formidable societal challenge; they also offer huge innovation and business opportunities. Its vision is to:**

- lead the world toward low-carbon prosperity: Climate-KIC will help innovators capitalise on new business opportunities driven by Europe's first mover response to climate change
- create an emerging climate-change innovation space: Climate-KIC will build the critical mass and forge alliances among existing businesses and new businesses with the aim of creating partnerships that jointly cover all elements of emerging value chains
- capitalise on public-private synergies to induce innovation: Climate-KIC will help governments and

public agencies to develop effective policy frameworks and to pioneer early introduction of climate change products and services in collaboration with the private sector.

Climate-KIC is now well established with 5 Climate-KIC national centres:

- Paris (France)
  - London (UK)
  - Zurich (Switzerland)
  - Berlin (Germany)
  - Randstad area (The Netherlands)
- and 6 Regional Innovation Communities (RICs) in Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Spain, and the UK.

**More information:** [www.climate-kic.org](http://www.climate-kic.org)

### EIT ICT LABS



**EIT ICT Labs intends to turn Europe into the global leader in ICT innovation aims to fulfil this mission by establishing a new type of partnership between leading companies, research centres, and universities in Europe.**

The KIC breeds entrepreneurial ICT top talent by transforming higher education towards promoting innovation and entrepreneurial spirit. EIT ICT Labs will equip students, researchers, academics and business people with skills for applying creativity, risk-taking spirit and entrepreneurial capacity. It will empower top talents to lead Europe into a new ICT age.

Each Thematic Action Line is coordinated through a specific co-location centre. These six focus areas are:

- Smart Spaces
- Smart Energy Systems
- Health & Wellbeing
- Digital Cities of the Future
- Future Media and Content Delivery
- Intelligent Mobility and Transportation Systems

**More information:** [eit.ictlabs.eu](http://eit.ictlabs.eu)

### KIC INNOENERGY



**KIC InnoEnergy SE is a European company fostering the integration of education, technology, business and entrepreneurship and strengthening the culture of innovation. Its strategic objective is to become the leading engine of innovation in the field of sustainable energy.**

The KIC is a world class alliance of top European players with a proven track record. 8 companies, 7 research institutes and 13 universities and business schools are joining – covering the whole energy mix. Six regionally bundled European co-location centres make up the consortium.

Each of the six KIC InnoEnergy co-location centres (CC) coordinates one important energy topic for all partners:

- CC Alps Valleys: Sustainable Nuclear and Renewable Energy Convergence
- CC Benelux: Intelligent Energy-efficient Buildings and Cities
- CC Iberia: Renewables (Wind, CSP, Photovoltaics, Wave and Tidal Energy)
- CC Germany: Energy from Chemical Fuels
- CC Poland Plus: Clean Coal Technologies
- CC Sweden: European Smart Electric Grid and Electric Storage.

**More information:** [www.kic-innoenergy.com](http://www.kic-innoenergy.com)