

INNOVATION & INVESTMENT WORKING GROUP

ANNUAL PLAN 2020

WORKING GROUP LEADERS

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OBJECTIVES

As stated in the mission letter by Ms Ursula Von Der Leyen to the Commissioner for the Internal Market, Mr Thierry Breton, “Europe’s industry provides a livelihood for millions, and is a driver of jobs, growth and competitiveness”. However, only a single market in line with the social market approach, which ensures its adaptation to the modern economy and to new business models, will allow the EU’s industry, small businesses and entrepreneurs to grow, scale up and employ more people.

The Innovation & Investment Working Group aims to monitor the main initiatives put in place by the European institutions under the priority “an economy that works for the people” and more specifically targeting SMEs, which have a key role in thriving regional innovation ecosystems as they represent 99% of all businesses and account for 85% of new jobs created in the last five years.

CONTEXT

What are the key EU level priorities, strategies, and events that the Working Group aims to follow up in 2020?

- Commission priority 2019-2024: An economy that works for the people
- Policy area: Internal Market (Digital Single Market – link with ICT WG)
 - Single Market Strategy – forthcoming SME Strategy
 - Capital Markets Union – private-public fund specialising in Initial Public Offerings of SMEs
- Policy area: Jobs, growth and investment
 - InvestEU – SME Window
- Policy area: Research and Innovation
 - European Innovation Council – Accelerator / Pathway
 - Public Procurement for Innovation Initiative

Which funding programmes are important for the Working Group and how does the WG aim to facilitate project development?

- COSME Programme / Horizon 2020 (EIC pilot)
- Cluster Collaboration Platform

How does the group support partnership building (e.g. S3 partnerships) and collaborate with other European organisations or networks?

- European Foundation Centre – event on alternative financing
- European Crowdfunding Network – event on alternative financing

ACTIVITIES

From start-up to SMEs: the upscaling mantra – alternative financing models

March 2020

- SME Strategy
- EIC Accelerator
- Innovation Radar
- EFC
- ECN
- Innochallenge

Target audience: Brussels-based and regional stakeholders,

Financing the Green Deal

6 May

The Green Deal will be one of the first major initiatives of the von DER LEYEN Commission. The Communication proposes a Sustainable Investment Plan for Europe. A presentation within an Energy and Climate Change WG will help ERRIN members to have a deeper insight on the Fund that will be shaped by the Commission. A special focus will be done on the Just Transition Fund aiming at helping the most vulnerable to climate change effects.

- Sustainable Europe Investment Fund
- Innovation Fund – one of the world's largest funding programmes for demonstration of innovative low-carbon technologies

Target audience: Brussels-based and regional stakeholders

Date: Potentially May 2020 as a side event of the Green Week, together with Energy and Climate Change WG.

InvestEU: SME Window

Autumn

InvestEU, building on the success of the Juncker Plan, will bring under a single scheme the European Fund for Strategic Investments and EU financial instruments. The Fund will target four policy areas: sustainable infrastructure, research/innovation and digitalisation, social investment and skills, small

and medium companies. The I&I WG together with Policy WG will focus on the last one. National Promotion Banks (NPBI) will play a major role in the implementation of InvestEU and will therefore be invited in the discussions.

Target audience: Brussels-based and regional stakeholders

Joint meeting with Blue Growth WG

September/October

Access to finance for stakeholders in the blue economy sector is complex. Recently “rebranded” as the Climate bank, the EIB has launched in 2019 its Blue Sustainable Ocean Strategy. The EIB committed to double the lending to sustainable ocean projects to 2.5 bn between 2019 and 2023. This strategy also fits with the Blue Invest platform of the EC which support investment readiness and access to finance for early-stage businesses, SMEs and scale-up in the blue economy sector. Presentations on both strategies will aim at helping ERRIN members to grasp these opportunities.

Target audience: Brussels-based and regional stakeholders