

INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT WG

ANNUAL PLAN 2021

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

The key EU level priorities, strategies, and events that the Working Group aims to follow up in 2021:

Events:

- European Industry Days: 23-26 February 2021
- WIRE - Week of Innovative Regions in Europe
- Smart Regions Conference
- European SME Week
- European Assistance for Innovation Procurement events

Funding programmes:

- Horizon Europe – European Innovation Ecosystem Work Programme
 - Project Development Session facilitated by ERRIN on Destination 2 Interconnected innovation ecosystems
 - European Innovation Council Work Programme
- The new COSME
- Partnership for Innovative SMEs
- Knowledge Innovation Communities

Partnership building and collaboration:

- European Cluster Alliance
- European Cluster Collaboration Platform
- European Foundation Centre
- European Crowdfunding Network

Foreseen collaboration with other WGs:

- Look into the different windows of InvestEU together with the Energy, Smart Cities and Transport WGs
- Suggestion to appoint a Board Member to a Working Group

ACTIVITIES

EIC – 1st Round: Programme Managers and Work Programme

3 March

This meeting will be an exchange of views with EIC Programme Managers to explore how regions and their stakeholders can further benefit from the EIC. The EIC Programme Managers are responsible for developing visions for technological and innovation breakthroughs, management of portfolios of EIC supported projects, and bringing together stakeholders to propose priorities for the EIC work programmes.

The meeting offers a unique opportunity to receive first-hand information from EIC Programme Managers involved in the development of the EIC Work Programmes. Two Programme Managers will present the scope of their role within the broader context of the EIC. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the portfolio approach, the topics shaping the upcoming work programmes, as well as ways to leverage ESIF-funded projects.

EIC – 2nd Round: Accelerator

Date: March (end)

Type: Exchange of experiences and best practices

The main objective should be to introduce the new aspects of the programme under Horizon Europe, with insights into the first experiences with equity funding and the portfolio approach

Speakers: EIC Task force, EIC laureate (XSUN)

European Innovation Ecosystems

April (TBC)

Project Development Session

Other potential topics:

- EU Industrial and SME Policy
- Internal Market Programme
- Alternative funding opportunities for the new programming period