

INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT WG ANNUAL PLAN 2023

WORKING GROUP LEADERS

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OBJECTIVES

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. The Working Group monitors developments in the areas of industrial and cluster policy and promotes instruments that support innovative financing (e.g., cascade funding, financial instruments).

CONTEXT

The newly established development area of the Management Board on Entrepreneurship is an opportunity to create synergies between this Working group and other strategic and thematic domains, with three main axes of development.

1. The European Innovation Council

- EIC Forum Working Groups
- Governance of the EIC (programme manager, board member, board director)
- Dedicated funding opportunities for Regions and ecosystems in place to support applicants
- Deep tech – and how it is defined and guiding the EIC funding

2. Ecosystem approach to link research and industrial policy in EU Regions

- ERA Action 12 - ‘Accelerate the green/digital transition of Europe’s key industrial ecosystems’
- European Cluster Collaboration Platform activities
- European Cluster Alliance
- Industrial Forum
- PRI

3. Coordination with other ERRIN Working Groups

With the cross-cutting nature of the Innovation and Investment domains, collaboration with other Working Groups could be foreseen.

ACTIVITIES

Net Zero Industry Act – Information session

Date: 16 June 2023

The initiative is proposed to scale up manufacturing of clean technologies in the EU and make sure the Union is well-equipped for the clean-energy transition, as a part of the Green Deal Industrial Plan. The Act will strengthen the resilience and competitiveness of net-zero technologies manufacturing in the EU and make the energy system more secure and sustainable.

This meeting was organised in the presence of the European Commission and Bellona Europe. The presentation is available [here](#). This meeting also raised questions on the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP), answering the need to boost investments in critical technologies in Europe. It could lead to a meeting in the coming months.

Dedicated meeting with the EIC President of the Board

Date: Q2/Q3

The I&I WG will organise an introductory meeting with Michel Scheffer, President of the EIC Board since 2023. This meeting will be an opportunity to discuss the state of the play for the EIC and related instruments, and to prepare the organisation of an open meeting on the EIC for EU Regions.

Open meeting on the European Innovation Council

Date: Q3

The focus of the meeting will be determined thanks to the introductory meeting with the President of the EIC Board. The I&I would invite Michel Scheffer, President of the EIC Board and EIC programme managers to discuss the involvement of EU Regions in the EIC. This meeting could feature examples for successful proposals submitted by ERRIN members and potential challenges encountered in this process.

Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) – Information session

Date: Q4

The Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) is the European reply to the need to boost investments in critical technologies in Europe. STEP seeks to reinforce, leverage and steer EU funds – existing and new – to investments in deep and digital, clean and biotechnologies in the EU, and in people who can implement those technologies into the economy.

This meeting could be organised to understand the impact of this initiative on relevant funding programmes (Horizon Europe, EIC, InvestEU, etc.).

Supporting documents are available at: <https://errin.eu/wg-resources>