

DECISION 18/2020  
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF  
THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

ON THE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR NEW EIT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

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

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)<sup>1</sup>, as amended by Regulation (EU) No 1292/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013<sup>2</sup> ('EIT Regulation'), and, in particular, to the Statutes annexed thereto ('Statutes'), Section 1(2);

Having regard to Decision 08/2016 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 24 May 2016 on the Rules of Procedure of the EIT Governing Board and Executive Committee, and, in particular, Article 14<sup>3</sup>;

Having regard to Decision 15/2014 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 10 July 2014 on the Terms of office of the appointed Governing Board members<sup>4</sup>;

Having regard to Decision 13/2015 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 3 June 2015 on the Code of Good Conduct on conflicts of interest for members of the EIT Governing Board<sup>5</sup>;

Having regard to Decision 30/2017 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 23 November 2017 on the Endorsement of the proposed shortlist to the selection for new appointed members of the Governing Board of the EIT<sup>6</sup>;

WHEREAS

- (1) The mandate of four appointed members of the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology expired on 30 June 2020.
- (2) The EIT Governing Board shall consist of 12 members, appointed by the European Commission ('the Commission') for a four-year non-renewable term of office.
- (3) Members of the Board act in the interest of the EIT, safeguarding its goals and mission, identity, autonomy and coherence, in an independent and transparent way. They are bound by the Code of Good Conduct on conflicts of interest for the members of the Board<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 97, 9.4.2008, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 174.

<sup>3</sup> 00507.EIT.2016.I.GB.WP

<sup>4</sup> 01729.EIT.2014.I.AM

<sup>5</sup> 00227.EIT.2015.I.GB35

<sup>6</sup> 11581.EIT.2017.I.GB49

<sup>7</sup> Decision 13/2015 of the Board of 3 June 2015 (ref.no. 00227.EIT.2015.I.GB35).

- (4) Whenever necessary, the Board will submit a proposal for appointment of new members of the Board in the form of a shortlist of proposed candidates to the Commission. The proposed candidates will be selected on the basis of the outcome of a transparent and open procedure initiated by the EIT.
- (5) For the purpose of appointment of members of the Board, the Commission shall have regard to the balance between higher education, research, innovation and business experience as well as to gender and geographical balance and an appreciation of the higher education, research and innovation environment across the Union.
- (6) The Commission may establish a reserve list from candidates proposed by the Board but not appointed under the selection procedure based on this decision, which can be used to replace members appointed under the current procedure who are unable to complete their mandate<sup>8</sup>.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

**Article 1**  
*Selection procedure*

The proposal for the appointment of new members of the Board shall be subject to the procedure set out in Annex I.

**Article 2**  
*Steering Committee*

The mandate and role of the Steering Committee for the selection procedure for new members of the Board is hereby adopted as set out in Annex II.

**Article 3**  
*Timeline of the selection procedure*

The indicative timeline for the selection procedure for the appointment of new members of the Board is hereby adopted as set out in Annex III.

**Article 4**  
*Entry into force*

This decision shall enter into force on the day of its publication on the EIT's website.

*Done in Budapest on 31 July 2020<sup>9</sup>*



Gioia Ghezzi  
Chair of the EIT Governing Board

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<sup>8</sup> The reserve list will remain valid for the whole duration of the mandate of the appointed members of the Board under this decision.

<sup>9</sup> Approved by written procedure on 31 July 2020.

## Selection procedure

### for the appointment of new members of the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

1. The selection procedure shall follow the requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)<sup>10</sup>, as amended by Regulation (EU) No 1292/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013<sup>11</sup> ('EIT Regulation'), and, in particular, to the Statutes annexed thereto ('Statutes'), Section 1(2).
2. The Governing Board of the EIT ('the Board') intends to submit to the European Commission ('the Commission') a shortlist of proposed candidates for the appointment of new members of the Board. For the purposes of this selection procedure, the shortlist prepared by the Board will not contain a ranking of the candidates and will be presented in alphabetic order<sup>12</sup>.
3. The new members will serve for a four-year non-renewable term of office.
4. If the number of candidates proposed by the Board is inferior to the available positions, the Board will take the necessary steps to launch a new selection procedure for the remaining open positions.
5. The selection procedure is expected to take around 12 months following the setting up of the Steering Committee.<sup>13</sup>
6. The Board will approve the establishment of a Steering Committee and will decide on its composition, role and mandate<sup>14</sup> in consultation with the Commission's Observer.

#### I. Call for expression of interest and selection criteria

7. This selection procedure shall be initiated by a Call for expression of interest ('Call').
8. The start of the period of the term of office of the new Board members should be counted from the day of their appointment by the Commission.

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<sup>10</sup> OJ L 97, 9.4.2008, p. 1.

<sup>11</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 174.

<sup>12</sup> A list not containing the ranking of the candidates should be understood as not indicating or being accompanied by documents indicating preferred candidates

<sup>13</sup> See Annex II.

<sup>14</sup> See Annex II.

9. The above-mentioned Call will be published on the EIT's website and will remain open for at least six weeks. The call will also be disseminated by the EIT via the EIT's stakeholder network by social media, as well as e-mail, including to EU institutions, EU Member States and multiplier organisations from the knowledge triangle, to attract the right calibre of applicants. The call shall also be published in at least one major international business journal, as well as on the Commission's website.
10. The following criteria will be specified in the call for expressions of interest: eligibility criteria and specific criteria.

**a) Eligibility criteria:**

The EIT will assess the eligibility of individual candidates against the following mandatory criteria:

- *Professional Experience* — Candidates must have at least 5 years' experience in at least one of the following areas: research, business or education; and
- *Languages* — Candidates must have an excellent knowledge of English.

In addition to the above requirements, the following exclusion criteria will be implemented where:

- the candidate is in a situation of conflict of interest pursuant to the Code of good conduct on conflicts of interest for members of Board;<sup>15</sup>
- the candidate has been convicted of an offence concerning his or her professional conduct by a judgment that has the force of *res judicata*;
- the candidate has been guilty of grave professional misconduct;
- the candidate has been the subject of a judgment that has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the EU's financial interests.

**b) Specific criteria:**

The new members of the Board must demonstrate:

- strong track record and widespread reputation in at least one of the following lines of work: innovator, academic, scientist, entrepreneur, business leader, or investor;
- strong track record of knowledge triangle integration (i.e. cooperation between business, research and education) to foster innovation at the European or global level; and
- strong track record of experience with mobilising private, public or philanthropic resources.

11. The call for expression of interest will also indicate the main reasons for considering an application as incomplete or incorrectly submitted.

## II. Applications

12. Applications shall be submitted via e-mail to a functional mailbox ([EIT-APPLICATIONS-GB@eit.europa.eu](mailto:EIT-APPLICATIONS-GB@eit.europa.eu)) before expiry of the deadline specified in the call for expression of interest.

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<sup>15</sup> According to Decision 13/2015 of the Board of 3 June 2015 (ref.no. 00227.EIT.2015.I.GB35), EIT staff will conduct a preliminary assessment of any situation of conflict of interest raised by the applicant and inform the Steering Committee accordingly for its final decision.

13. The candidates will be assessed on the basis of the criteria specified in the Call.
14. Applications shall be submitted in English and shall contain the following:
  - a) a curriculum vitae (CV) of maximum 3 pages; and
  - b) the application form on identification, selection criteria (including eligibility, exclusion and specific criteria) and motivation, duly signed and completed by the candidate.

### III. Internal Selection Procedure

15. Following the closing of the call for expression of interest and after receipt of the applications, the EIT will compile a list of the applications received. The EIT will check whether the applications are complete and have been correctly and timely submitted. In the interest of the EIT, where a minor deficiency has been corrected in an application, such applications may be included in the list of proposed candidates.
16. The EIT will then perform a preliminary assessment of the above mentioned list of applications. The EIT will assess the submitted applications according to the eligibility criteria set out above.
17. EIT staff who are involved in the assessment of applications are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest in relation to any of the applications received.
18. After establishing the preliminary list of candidates, the EIT will forward this list to the Steering Committee.
19. After receiving the preliminary list of candidates from the EIT and in consultation with the Commission's Observer, the Steering Committee will assess the received applications in accordance with the criteria laid down in this Call and conduct interviews with the candidates who scored highest based on the evaluation of their applications. Having assessed the list of candidates and conducted the interviews, the Steering Committee, in consultation with the Commission's Observer, will draw up a shortlist of proposed candidates for the approval of the Board. The Steering Committee will ensure that the balance on the EIT Board composition required by the EIT regulation<sup>16</sup> is reflected in the shortlist proposed, in order to allow the Commission to take a decision in compliance with the above-mentioned requirements. For the purposes of this selection procedure, the shortlist prepared by the Steering Committee will not contain a ranking of the candidates and will be presented in alphabetic order<sup>17</sup>.
20. The Board will discuss, approve and forward the shortlist of proposed candidates to the Commission for the appointment of new Board members. For the purposes of this selection procedure, the shortlist prepared by the Board will not contain a ranking of the candidates and will be presented in alphabetic order<sup>18</sup>.
21. The EIT will inform the candidates proposed by the Board for appointment by the Commission as well as those who have not been proposed for appointment by the Board about the outcome of the internal selection procedure.

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<sup>16</sup> The Commission shall have regard to the balance between higher education, research, innovation and business experience as well as to gender and geographical balance and an appreciation of the higher education, research and innovation environment across the Union.

<sup>17</sup> A list not containing the ranking of the candidates should be understood as not indicating or being accompanied by documents indicating preferred candidates.

<sup>18</sup> A list not containing the ranking of the candidates should be understood as not indicating or being accompanied by documents indicating preferred candidates.

#### IV. Appointment of new members of the Board

22. The new members of the Board will be appointed by the Commission on the basis of a proposal submitted by the Board and after having a regard to the balance between higher education, research, innovation and business experience as well as to gender and geographical balance and an appreciation of the higher education, research and innovation environment across the Union .
23. If the Commission appoints fewer Board members than the open positions, the Board will launch a new procedure for the remaining open positions.
24. The Commission may establish a reserve list from candidates proposed by the Board but not appointed under this selection procedure, which can be used if there is a need to replace members appointed under the current procedure who are unable to complete their mandate.<sup>19</sup>
25. The Commission will notify to the EIT the Decision of appointment of new EIT Board members together with the reserve list, if is constituted.
26. The EIT will inform the shortlisted candidates about the outcome of the appointment procedure.
27. The Commission will inform the European Parliament and the Council of the EU ('the Council') of the selection procedure and of the final appointment of the new members.

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<sup>19</sup> The reserve list will remain valid for the whole duration of the mandate of the appointed members of the Board under this decision.

# Mandate of the Steering Committee

## for the selection procedure for the new members of the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

### I. Composition

29. The Steering Committee is appointed by the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) ('the Board'). The Steering Committee will be composed of three members of the Board, appointed by the Board, and of one Observer representing the European Commission ('the Commission').

### II. Mandate

30. Following the closing of the call for expressions of interest ('the Call') and after receipt of applications, the EIT will produce a list of the applications received. If an insufficient number of applications has been received, the Steering Committee may decide to extend the duration of the Call before the deadline for applications has passed.
31. The Steering Committee will analyse and evaluate the applications received against the criteria set out in the Call. The Steering Committee conduct interviews with the candidates who scored highest based on the evaluation of their applications before the shortlist of proposed candidates is finalised and submitted to the Board for discussion and approval. For the purposes of this selection procedure, the shortlist prepared by the Steering Committee will not contain a ranking of the candidates and will be presented in alphabetic order<sup>20</sup>.
32. The Steering Committee will prepare a shortlist of proposed candidates with at least a double number of candidates than the positions available.

### III. Role of the Steering Committee

33. In consultation with the Commission's Observer, the members of the Steering Committee will propose a shortlist of proposed candidates to the Board for its approval. The Steering Committee ensures that the balance on the EIT Board composition required by the EIT Regulation<sup>21</sup> is reflected in the shortlist proposed, in order to allow the Commission to take a decision in compliance with the above-mentioned requirements.

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<sup>20</sup> A list not containing the ranking of the candidates should be understood as not indicating or being accompanied by documents indicating preferred candidates.

<sup>21</sup> The Commission shall have regard to the balance between higher education, research, innovation and business experience as well as to gender and geographical balance and an appreciation of the higher education, research and innovation environment across the Union.

34. The Steering Committee will guarantee that the principles of transparency, neutrality and absence of conflict of interest are respected. In this regard, EIT staff who are involved in the assessment of applications are required to assess and disclose any conflict of interest they may have in relation to any candidates proposed by the Steering Committee in accordance with the Code of Good Conduct on conflicts of interest for members of the Board.<sup>22</sup> The Steering Committee will produce a report at the end of the procedure, which will be submitted to the Board. The minutes of the meetings of the Steering Committee will be attached to the report.
35. The EIT will provide secretariat support to the Steering Committee. During the selection procedure, the Commission's Observer in the Steering Committee will be consulted in relation to the assessment of the selection criteria and implementation of the principles of transparency, neutrality and absence of conflict of interest. The EIT will cover any travel and accommodation expenses of the Steering Committee members incurred in relation to the above mentioned selection procedure.
36. Following the appointment of the three members of the Steering Committee, the EIT will publish a news item informing the general public about the upcoming call as well as of the establishment of the Steering Committee and its members.

#### IV. Role of the Chairperson of the Steering Committee

37. The Board will also appoint a Chairperson who will lead and coordinate the work of the Steering Committee. The Chairperson shall ensure the full independence of the Steering Committee.
38. The Chairperson will inform the Board on the progress regarding the selection procedure and will supervise the drawing up of the report.

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<sup>22</sup> Decision 13/2015 of the Board of 3 June 2015 (ref.no. 00227.EIT.2015.I.GB35).



## Timeline of the selection procedure<sup>23</sup>

The procedure for the selection of new members of the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) ('Board') will last approximately 12 months, including an inter-service consultation within the European Commission ('Commission'). The following timeline and actions are recommended to ensure efficient and timely appointment of the new Board members:

Steps	Description	Responsible	Timeline
<b>Approval of the selection procedure, selection criteria and timeline</b>  <b>Appointment of the Steering Committee</b>  <b>Adoption of the call text</b>	The Board shall approve:  1) the selection procedure for the proposal for the appointment of new members of the Board, the selection criteria and the related timeline in consultation with the Commission;  2) the appointment and the mandate of the Steering Committee;  3) the call for the expression of interest for the appointment of new Board members.	<b>Board</b>	July 2020
<b>Launch of the call and collection of applications</b>	The call text will be published on the EIT's website. A wide dissemination among relevant stakeholders will be ensured by the EIT Community. The EIT will ensure that the applications are processed in accordance with the European Union's (EU) data protection rules <sup>24</sup> .	<b>EIT Steering Committee</b>	<b>Publication:</b> 1 August 2020  <b>Deadline:</b> 30 September 2020
<b>Evaluation and shortlist of proposed candidates</b>	The Steering Committee will evaluate the applications submitted. The Steering Committee will propose a shortlist of proposed candidates to the Board providing justification of their opinion. A list of other candidates and their evaluation will also be available to the Board members and the Commission's Observer in a report. Compliance with EU data protection requirements will be ensured. For the purposes of this selection procedure, the shortlist prepared by the Steering	<b>Steering Committee</b> (involving the Commission's Observer)	October – December 2020

<sup>23</sup> The timeline of the selection procedure indicated in the table below is indicative.

<sup>24</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC, OJ L 295, 21.11.2018.

	Committee will not contain a ranking of the candidates and will be presented in alphabetic order <sup>25</sup> .		
<b>Adoption</b> of the shortlist of proposed candidates by the Board	The Board will adopt the shortlist of proposed candidates without ranking. For the purposes of this selection procedure, the shortlist prepared by the Board will not contain a ranking of the candidates and will be presented in alphabetic order <sup>26</sup> .	<b>Board</b>	January 2021
<b>Submission</b> of the shortlist of candidates to the Commission	Following the adoption of the shortlist by the Board, it will be formally sent by the Board Chairperson to the Commission (with the Steering Committee in copy).  The EIT will inform the shortlisted candidates and unsuccessful candidates about the outcome of the internal selection procedure.	<b>Board</b>	January 2021
<b>Appointment</b> by the Commission	The Commission will consider the shortlist with regard to the balance between higher education, research, innovation and business experience as well as to gender and geographical balance and an appreciation of the higher education, research and innovation environment across the EU.  On this basis, the Commission will appoint the new members of the Board. The Commission will inform the European Parliament and the Council of the EU of the selection procedure and of the final appointment of new Board members.  The EIT will inform the shortlisted candidates about the outcome of the appointment procedure.	<b>Commission</b>	February - May 2021

<sup>25</sup> A list not containing the ranking of the candidates should be understood as not indicating or being accompanied by documents indicating preferred candidates

<sup>26</sup> A list not containing the ranking of the candidates should be understood as not indicating or being accompanied by documents indicating preferred candidates