

MINUTES OF MEETING: IGLO joint working group on Higher education and Innovation

Date:	25 November
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On 25 November the CZELO office participated in the meeting of the joint **IGLO working group on Higher education and Innovation**. At this meeting representatives of DG RTD and EIT presented two initiatives focused on supporting innovations and talents – the representative of DG RTD presented the **EIC Next Generation Innovation Talents** initiative and the representative of EIT presented the **EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative**.

EIC Next Generation Innovation Talents

- The EIC is already funding companies, but there is still more space for companies to host researchers and students, which is why the EIC Next Generation Innovation Talents was established.
- Four main objectives:
 - To boost entrepreneurship,
 - to perform automatic talent discovery,
 - to support entrepreneurship through partnership,
 - to increase visibility of EU funding.
- Now the first pilot is running (2024-2026) and its aim is to have 600 innovation internships.
- The newly established platform will gather CVs of potential interns and then there will be matching between the applicants and the companies.
- Hosting organizations will be start-ups and scale-ups only (no big companies).
- Visiting “interns” will be young researchers, already holders of a grant under one of these activities (the internship must be realised during the running of the project):
 - EIC Pathfinder, EIC Transition, EIC Accelerator
 - MSCA
 - ERC
 - EIT and Research and Infrastructures programmes
- For MSCA and ERC the grants (basically the salary of “interns”) will be paid by the programme, for the rest of the actions, it will be paid by the original grant (this can be done via amendment to the grant agreement).
- First version of the call and first version of the platform are being finalised now and will be launched soon (still this year). First the call for companies will be launched, then the call for interns. There will be 5 calls over 2 years (2025 and 2026).
- Concerning the matching, researcher and company can be from the same country (it is preferable if it is the same country, but not mandatory) and the matching will be done in two rounds to find the best fit.
- Companies can also look through approved projects in the activities mentioned above to search for best candidate for them and then can then target these researchers specifically.
- Contractual issues will be between the company and the intern and should be on the same basis as in the original activity/project where the researcher is taking part.



EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative

- It is a cross-KIC initiative involving for example EIT RawMaterials, EIT Digital, EIT Climate and EIT Health.
- It contributes to the priorities and aims of the New European Innovation Agenda, specifically to the flagship focused on “Fostering, attracting and retaining talents”.
- Current statistics:
 - over 380 partners/organizations involved
 - over 170 courses offered
 - over 500 000 people already trained
 - over 1mil. pledged to be trained people
- There can be different pledge members: education and training providers; enterprises and enterprise associations; financing partners; institutional partners (national and EU public organizations).
- The main aim of the initiative is to create the biggest knowledge hub in the field of deep tech, while “deep tech” is understood in the broadest terms as technology solutions to scientific or engineering challenges requiring lengthy research and development and large capital investment before successful commercialization (for example quantum computing, cybersecurity and data, AI and machine learning, etc.).
- Each course offered by the platform must fulfil certain criteria (e.g. must be deep-tech focused, should be at least 50 hours of learning, should issue a certificate of achievement, etc.).
- The Initiative offers several tools:
 - EIT Deep Tech Training platform (including the quality check of courses offered) – on the platform the overview of the course is available, then the interested person is re-directed directly to the provider.
 - EIT Deep Tech Technology Radar (offering overview of fields, topics and connected courses).
 - EIT Deep Tech Talent Community (open-AI based - individuals can upload their CVs and get recommendations on possible courses; companies can reach out to individuals who registered to this Community)
 - EIT Deep Tech Pledgers Network (internal network for partners to cooperate)
- Funding opportunities and communication
 - each year there is an open call under Horizon Europe to develop deep tech talent courses (for 2025 the call will be published approximately in March, the call is only open to organisations who are partners in the initiative)
 - Deep Tech Skills Days (organized each year)
- The Pledge does not mean any financial payment, there is no contract, only a pledge how many people organization wants to train. After approval, the organization gets access to all tools and it invited to upload courses.

