

## Press Release

The online event "[Innovation and Technology for a Green, Digital and Just Recovery The Greek EIT Ecosystem](#)" was successfully held on Monday, November 2, 2020



The European Cluster on Sustainability Transition ([EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece](#), [SDSN Greece](#) και [ReSEES AUUEB](#)) successfully organized the online event "[Innovation and Technology for a Green, Digital and Just Recovery The Greek EIT Ecosystem](#)" on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of November under the auspices of the [Goulandris Museum of Natural History](#), the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology](#), the [Ministry of Environment and Energy](#) and the [Ministry of Development and Investments](#). The event was held with the participation of **Martin Kern**, Director of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology ([EIT](#)) and the representatives of all Greek Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC). The event was welcomed by the Minister of the Environment and Energy Mr. Kostis Hatzidakis and the Deputy Minister for Research and Innovation Mr. Christos Dimas.

The aim of the event was the exchange of views between the eight Greek KICs and the beginning of their cooperation with the ambition of accelerating innovation towards the sustainable transition of the country, the joint implementation of the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the European Green Deal, as well as to prepare for the sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Representatives from all Greek KICs, companies, financial institutions, research organizations and organizations spoke at the event, and a consensus was reached on the need to develop a memorandum of understanding between the Greek government and the EIT to support the country's sustainable recovery.

In his speech, **Martin Kern**, Director of the EIT, highlighted the pandemic period we are going through as the most appropriate time to discuss the role that the EIT community can play on the road to Europe's recovery. He called on entrepreneurs and innovators to join hands for a digital and green future, stating that the EIT ecosystem has the right vehicle in this direction. Mr. Kern also highlighted the impact of Knowledge and Innovation Communities across Europe, which is achieved by turning ideas into businesses, products and jobs.

From the point of view of the political leadership, the Minister of Environment and Energy **Mr. Kostis Hatzidakis** underlined the particularly high added value of Communities such as the EIT for the country's development and its dynamic presence in Europe, as well as the need for strong networks of dissemination and exchange of knowledge for the existence of strong innovation systems, including green innovation which serves green growth. The Deputy Minister of Research and Technology **Mr. Christos Dimas** stressed the need for scientifically proven solutions to address the climate crisis and the protection of the environment and biodiversity, with research and innovation playing a central role in achieving the relevant goals at national and European level.

**Prof. Pheobe Koundouri**, Director of EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece, stated that *“Greece faces three challenges at once: the pandemic, the economic crisis, and the climate crisis. The main development goal for the country's recovery must be the systemic increase of productivity and extroversion, and the closer connection of production with technology and innovation. By developing the cooperation between the EIT Community and the innovation ecosystem of Greece, we can contribute to the creation of a new generation of entrepreneurs and innovators in Greece, to encourage the mutual transfer of knowledge, advice and best practices to public and private institutions in Greece, to promote entrepreneurship and digital skills, to explore the appropriate synergies between EIT Community activities and national programs and initiatives. Through the new actions of the EIT, we can support the effective use of funds (25.2 billion) of Next Generation EU for the green, digital and just recovery of the country”*.

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is a unique initiative of the European Union to promote innovation across Europe through the collaboration of business, education and research to find solutions to pressing global challenges, through Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). EIT was founded 10 years ago, and is the largest innovation ecosystem in Europe, with 2,000 partners and 60 nodes internationally. To date, the EIT has supported more than 3,200 companies, created more than 1,170 products and services and at least 13,000 jobs, and attracted 3.3 billion in foreign investment. The presence at the event of the **Director of EIT Mr. Martin Kern** sends a strong message on the level of commitment this important European organization shows in supporting the Innovation ecosystem in Greece.

For more information on the eight Greek Knowledge and Innovation Communities (EIT KICs) that participated in the event, visit the following links: [EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece](#), [EIT Food Hub Greece](#), [EIT Health Hub Greece](#), [EIT InnoEnergy Hub Greece](#), [EIT Raw Materials Hub](#), [EIT Digital Hub Greece](#), [EIT Manufacturing Hub Greece](#), [EIT Urban mobility Hub Greece](#).



The event was part of the celebrations in memory of Angelos Goulandris, founder of the Goulandris Museum of Natural History and was live streamed online at [YouTube](#).

Watch the full video of the event [here](#).

Watch a short video with highlights of the event [here](#).

