## Is the EIT a model for realizing the knowledge triangle?

### **Alexander von Gabain**

Chairman of the EIT Governing Board

**30th Conference of Rectors & Presidents of European** Universities of Technology, *Sept 2011, Vienna* 



European Institute of Innovation & Technology

### **About discovery, invention, translation innovation &**



### **DEFINING THE TERMS**

- **Discovery:** finding something existing before
- **Invention:** creating or designing something not existing before
- -**Translation:** processing discoveries and/or invention into innovations
- Innovation: making changes with societal impact, based on discoveries and/or invention

Science & Research are necessary, but not sufficient for innovation

### Academia, innovation & industry – traditional model (Francis Bacon; 1561 – 1626)



### LINEAR TECHNOLOGY EVOLUTION



### Academia, innovation & industry -Californian model (Adam Smith; 1723 – 1790) BRANCHED TECHNOLOGY EVOLUTION MODEL





\* Leary et al 2002 More than half of economic growth during 1945 – 2002 is attributed to innovation within the high-technology sector\*

### Biotech example: EU has strong assets to support a strong innovation-driven industry

### HOW TO CAPITALIZE ON THE ASSETS?

- High level of education
- Solid academic base
- Top science at many historical power houses of research: EMBO, Pasteur, Karolinska, Cambridge, Oxford, Max Planck, VBC etc.
- Increasing number of Centers of Excellence
- Long tradition of pharmaceutical development and industry
- Excellent clinical institutions with the potential to carry out studies
- Growing interaction between the national bio-medical scenes

### – Scientific output in biotech is even larger than in the USA

**Biotech example: However, does European biotech exploit its chances?** 



### **CREATING VALUE - CREATING JOBS**

	Europe	USA
No. of employees	63,000	172,000
Average Investment per year	EUR 6 bn	EUR 18 bn
Public listed	<10%	>30%
Origin of patents from commercial enterprises	~ 28%	~ 52%
Total value of companies	EUR ~30 bn	EUR ~300 bn

Europe Bio Report for 2007

### The fuel of innovation is venture capital from private and public markets

**EXAMPLE BIOTECH FUND RAISING: USA VERSUS EUROPE** 



Source:

Biocentury, May 2010



### So what's wrong with Europe?

## Why do we underperform in innovation?

### Why do we miss to recruit venture capital leading to innovation?

### Age distribution of companies' contribution to innovation: Europe v. US and others





**Bruegel** policy brief March 2009 Reinhilde Veugelers

Source: author's calculations. Note: Figure based on a sample of 226 companies, obtained from matching firms in the FT Global 500 from 2007 with the 2007 EC-IPTS Top 1000 EU and non-EU R&D scoreboard companies. Leading innovators are thus defined both by their market capitalisation and R&D expenditures. The US has 80 companies in this sample, Europe 86 and other countries 60.

### Major road blocks counteracting innovative entrepreneurs in Europe



- prevailing averse public mindset towards entrepreneurship, ownership and risk taking,
- lack of light towers of entrepreneurial "role models", like Gates (Microsoft) and Boyer (Genentech)
- lack of a supportive attitude by academic teachers towards colleagues and trainees, seeking an entrepreneurial path in their life, and
- lack of incentive structures and risk capital; which is ironically counteracted by a surplus of red tape thwarting the set up of innovative businesses.

### $\rightarrow$ Opportunity windows are missed

## Innovation driven by entrepreneurs, an accepted paradigm in Europe of 1900 et European Institute of Innovation & Technology

### e.g.: BEHRING's & EHRLICH's SERUM BIOTECH COMPANY



Bolis & 14 at Attack ticken

Homed in an arch of a suburban railway in Berlin - 1894

Contract between the Founders - 1894

1 cow, 7 goats and 10 employees

### Behring, Nobel, Citroen, Siemens, Reuter European history, but Boyer, Gates and Zuckerberg – US reality!

HOW TO MOTIVATE KIDS TO SET UP GARAGE COMPANIES IN EUROPE?



One definition of entrepreneurial innovation: "A Grapefruit is a lemon who took a chance"

# towards innovative entrepreneurship et Innovation & Technology Changing the mindset: the first step

# **OUR HORIZON NEEDS TO BE RESHAPED**

# - Joseph Schumpeter:

The entrepreneur uses the invention, new idea and transforms it into a product and thereby brings the innovation to the market

# Academic success is not enough:

university - but he was smarter and didn't graduate. Cheers "Dear Alex, he (Bill Gates) and I were in the same class at Rich" (Richard Hudson, former editor of Nature)

# Career goals need to be redefined:

When graduates from India and Europe are asked for their future plans, 25% of the Indian students want to become entrepreneurs, but only 2% of the European students



### The core of innovation is the Knowledge Triangle driven by entrepreneurship

Actors in the knowledge triangle are at the core of the **innovation web** 



![](_page_14_Picture_0.jpeg)

### **EIT - an Innovation Impact Investment Institute**

- The EIT is an EU Institute that encourages, seeds (25%) and enables existing European education, research and business hotspots to form entrepreneurial and excellence driven innovation clusters - its KICs
- The KICs are driven by entrepreneurship to provide higher innovation impact

### Where the EIT comes in: Seeding entrepreneuship

![](_page_15_Picture_1.jpeg)

SME development and funding instruments Source: Renda et al. (2006)

![](_page_15_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Picture_0.jpeg)

### **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)**

- The EIT, established in September 2008, is the first initiative of the European Union bringing together all the three sides of the knowledge triangle.
- 2. It is an EU institute with unprecedented **autonomy** and HQ in Budapest.
- 3. Its **Mission** is "to be the <u>catalyst</u> for a step change in the European Union's *innovation capacity* and <u>impact</u>"

## **EIT operates via Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)**

![](_page_17_Picture_1.jpeg)

### • KICs =

highly integrated, creative and excellence-driven autonomous partnerships; internationally distributed but thematically convergent partners

### • **KIC** partners =

key actors from the knowledge triangle: research, higher education and business

![](_page_17_Picture_6.jpeg)

### **KICs Co-Location & Culture**

![](_page_18_Picture_1.jpeg)

### Co-location hotspots

- The KICs' innovative "webs of excellence" consist of four to six innovation hotspots where all the elements of the Knowledge Triangle are co-located.
- Additional Regional Innovation and Implementation Centres (RICs) help address geographical coverage and cohesion through Europe.

### • Culture

 KICs are shaped by strong entrepreneurial mindsets and cultures and driven by common visions and <u>goals/impact</u> expressed in a **business plan**, led by a CEO.

### **KICs' specificities**

![](_page_19_Picture_1.jpeg)

### • Smart funding

- EIT funding or seeding of the KICs accounts for only 25% of the total KIC budget.
- Remaining 75% reflects the commitment of the KIC partners , but also from regional, national or European funding attracted by the partners.

### • Legal and financial entity

- Core partners have formed legal entity
- Led by a CEO under a supervisory board
- Business plans as a moving target controlled by project management and milestones

### EIT strategic work streams Next steps:

![](_page_20_Picture_1.jpeg)

- Building up of the EIT and the KICs by further development of the EIT HQ and of all KIC co-location centres as a hotspot driving innovation;
- 2. Further development of **entrepreneurship education** within KICs sealed and branded by an EIT label;
- 3. Continued focus on new **business creation** within KICs based on **entrepreneurship** leading to
  - i. new products and services for existing industry,
  - ii. new businesses and SMEs and
  - iii. better entrepreneurially minded and trained people.

### **Example KIC InnoEnergy A world class** alliance of top European players with a proven track record

![](_page_21_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_2.jpeg)

- 13 companies,
  10 research institutes,
  13 universities
- ~50% industry partners (incl. associated partners)
- >50% of key research players in Europe
- Covering the whole energy mix
- Knowledge triangle balanced along all dimensions
- Strong connection with VCs and local governments

# EIT Added Value: implementation of the first three KICs with 23 centres and associates

### **Climate-KIC**:

- Co-location centre
- RIC (Regional Implementation and Innovation Centre)

### EIT ICT Labs:

- Co-location centre
  Associate Partner
- **KIC InnoEnergy**
- ▲ Co-location centre

### Some early results from the KICs ...

![](_page_23_Picture_1.jpeg)

<u>Climate KIC</u>: As a result of a business plan competition, two Climate KIC projects have been awarded seed funding. One group, DeCo! won the international SEED award 2010

![](_page_23_Picture_3.jpeg)

- <u>EIT ICT Labs</u>: One project has received 5.8 million € funding from the French national research agency (ANR) to develop new internet technology
- <u>KIC InnoEnergy</u>: Its postgraduate degree programmes are hugely popular already in their first year: 850 students applied for 220 available places

![](_page_23_Picture_6.jpeg)

### **The role of the EIT - an Innovation Impact Investment Institute**

![](_page_24_Picture_1.jpeg)

- The EIT encourages, seeds and enables existing European education, research and business hotspots to form KICs
- The EIT will accompany KICs in their learning curve and monitor their success, but also gather information, how to build KICs and make it available to others
- The EIT is proposing to set up 7 10 further KICs until 2020, as outlined in the SIA
- Innovation is risk, thus the EIT also expects KICs to fail, as a venture fund does seeding high tech companies

### The EIT's Vision for the Future: Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA)

![](_page_25_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_2.jpeg)

Initial theme ideas for the envisaged new KICs that are to start activities in 2014 include:

- Learning and learning Environment
- Human Life and Health
- Food for Future
- Manufacturing by/for Creative Beings
- Security/Safety
- Human Mobility and Smart Cities

**The initial themes remain included** (climate change adaptation and mitigation, future information and communication society and sustainable energy)

### The EIT's Role in the European Innovation Landscape

![](_page_26_Picture_1.jpeg)

The EIT should be part of the Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation (CSFRI) while maintaining a strong link with the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). However, at the same time, any rules applying to the EIT will have to remain tailor-made and fully flexible to fit the EIT's mission!

![](_page_27_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_1.jpeg)