MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

AND

THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

**The Government of the Republic of Latvia** (hereinafter referred to as the “Government”) and the

**European Institute of Innovation and Technology** (hereinafter referred to as the “EIT”) jointly hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”, are willing to collaborate building on the following relevant legal texts and documents:

1. Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 establishing Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020);

2. Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology;

3. Commission Communication on the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation – maximizing the impact of EU Research and Innovation (COM(2018) 2);

4. The Law on Scientific Activity of the Republic of Latvia.

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the “MoU”) does not create legally binding rights and obligations however both Parties shall act in mutual interest and in good faith towards implementation of this MoU.

# **Introduction / Background**

* 1. EIT
     1. The EIT is unique in its approach and distinctive from other European initiatives as it holistically supports the integration of education, research and business to address societal challenges. The EIT is a European Union body, established in 2008, operating through Knowledge and Innovation Communities (hereinafter referred to as the “EIT KICs”), each of them addressing a specific societal challenge. There are currently eight EIT KICs as follows:
* EIT Climate-KIC;
* EIT Digital;
* EIT InnoEnergy;
* EIT Health;
* EIT Raw Materials;
* EIT Food;
* EIT Manufacturing;
* EIT Urban Mobility.
  + 1. The EIT Community (hereinafter referred to as the “EIT Community”) is the EIT and the active community of all individuals and legal entities which benefited or benefit from the EIT financial contribution and support.
    2. The EIT Community has presence all over Europe with over 2,000 partners, making it a pan-European networked endeavour. The EIT Community bridges the “gap” between research and market by strengthening the links between education, research and business (Knowledge Triangle Integration). A unique model is put in place that aims at creating financial sustainability of the EIT KICs over time, with the ability for the EIT to allocate funds based on priorities and results.
    3. The EIT KICs are set up as independent entities. Within the EIT framework, the EIT KICs have a large degree of autonomy to define their internal organisation and composition, as well as their precise agenda and working methods.
    4. The EIT is based in Budapest, Hungary.
  1. The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia (hereinafter referred to as the “MES”)
     1. Is responsible for education, science, sports, youth and state language policies in Latvia.
     2. Cooperates closely with the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia, which is the leading public administration implementing and developing economic policy that is responsible for industrial policy, business policy and tourism policy, with co-responsibility for the implementation of this MoU.
     3. Cooperates closely with other sectoral ministries.

# **2. Objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding**

2.1 This MoU aims to promote cooperation between the EIT and the Government of Latvia, in line with the objectives of:

2.1.1. The Latvian Guidelines for Science, Technology Development, and Innovation;

2.1.2. The National Industrial Policy Guidelines 2021-2027 within which the Latvian Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3) has been integrated;

2.1.3. Decision No 1312/2013/EU on the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT): the contribution of the EIT to a more innovative Europe.

2.2. The Government and the EIT are equally convinced that R&I are the key drivers for sustainable growth and competitiveness. Better integration of the knowledge triangle and stronger cooperation within the European Research Area are necessary preconditions to enhance Europe’s performance in the global economic competition, and thus to ensure the future wellbeing of our societies.

**3. Main directions, content and tools of the cooperation**

3.1. Each Party declares its political will to:

3.1.1. develop and strengthen cooperation, as well as, exchange of information between the EIT Community and the Latvian innovation ecosystem, including relevant sectoral Ministries and other key stakeholders;

3.1.2. this will be done through cross-KIC initiatives, joint communications and awareness raising, in order to contribute to the creation of a new generation of Latvian entrepreneurs and innovators, as well as, increase the level of participation by Latvian stakeholders in EIT Community activities;

3.1.3. enhance outreach via the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme, by:

3.1.3.1. providing the Latvian innovation ecosystem with a flow of relevant information on current and upcoming EIT activities;

3.1.3.2. raising awareness among potential Latvian partner organisations and encouraging their participation in the EIT Community’s activities through the joint organisation of conferences and other events;

3.1.3.3. timely reciprocal information sharing, exploring appropriate synergies and complementarities between EIT Community activities and Latvian national programmes and initiatives, including potential national co-financing of KIC activities;

3.1.4. ensure the dissemination of results and achievements emerging from the EIT Community as well as encourage the mutual transfer of knowledge, advice and best practice with Latvian public organisations, private companies, higher-education institutions, and research institutions;

3.1.5 subject to the availability of funds, undertake co-funded joint activities, as appropriate, to foster entrepreneurship and innovation amongst Latvian stakeholders.

3.2. The main directions, content and tools of the cooperation as outlined in this MoU will be reviewed when deemed necessary by any of the Parties. This MoU may be modified in writing by mutual consent of the Parties.

3.3. This MoU will be implemented through an Action Plan (hereinafter referred to as the “Action Plan”), to be jointly drawn up and reviewed annually by the Parties. The MES shall mandate a research institution - derived public entity to implement the Action Plan.

**4. Closing remarks**

4.1. The EIT and the Government hereby express their intention to engage in cooperation in the above-mentioned areas.

4.2. This MoU is intended to commence upon its signing by both Parties.

4.3. This MoU may, at any time, be discontinued by either Party. The discontinuing Party should inform the other Party in writing at least 3 months in advance of its intent to discontinue. Unless decided otherwise, the Parties will ensure that the discontinuation of this MoU will not affect the projects or activities under implemented under the MoU, but not yet completed, at the time of discontinuation.

4.4. The Parties intend to exchange information about the implementation of this MoU and to resolve any disputes amicably through consultation or negotiation between them.

4.5. This MoU is drawn up in English, the language which will govern all documents, notices, meetings and processes relative hereto.

4.6. Two identical copies of this MoU shall be signed by both Parties. Each Party shall retain one copy of the MoU.

SIGNED IN [LOCATION OF SIGNATURE] ON THE [DD MM YYY]

*For the Government of the Republic of Latvia*

*For the European Institute of Innovation and Technology*

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**Prof.** **Ilga Šuplinska**

Minister for Education and Science

Republic of Latvia

**Mr Martin Kern**

Interim Director

European Institute of Innovation and Technology