

# A Pact for Innovation

## Why Europe needs 'A Pact for Innovation'

The objective of the Pact for Innovation (INPACT) is to create a space for close collaboration between key stakeholders and the European Institutions. The collaboration is meant to result in concrete solutions addressing the pressing issue of multiple barriers preventing a strong and globally competitive innovation performance in Europe at all levels: national, regional and local.

A close cooperation both at the level of the different Commission DGs as well as the stakeholder community will help strengthening Europe's innovation performance.

INPACT calls for a joint effort to create pro-innovation conditions to overcome well-known weaknesses in turning knowledge created by research and inventions into innovation providing "added value" for Europe's economy and citizens. The signatories of INPACT share the vision that a globally competitive and successful Europe needs stakeholders and institutions to work together in an integrated approach to ensure that innovation can deliver solutions to major challenges Europe and the world are facing. Europe needs to modernise and implement Quadruple Helix principles.

To move quickly from research and invention to innovation and accelerate the market uptake of innovations, Europe must build on its existing strengths but also address shortcomings by creating a favourable environment and encouraging the next generation of entrepreneurs to take risk.

The focus of INPACT is on implementation of actions within identified priorities, where concrete timely changes can be achieved best at EU level. Harnessing Europe's innovation will be best achieved by creating strong value chains and effectively orchestrating innovation ecosystems at all levels. The signatories commit to implement INPACT projects across EU borders, individual regions and sectors by 2020.

## INPACT Priorities

### A) *A coherent set of EU policies for innovation*

- i) Ensure a horizontal approach in EU innovation policy making with a particular attention on synergies between industrial, digital and research and innovation policies as well as those that address major challenges.
- ii) Based on a political mandate, the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation should foster the coordination of policies relevant for innovation across the Commission. A hand-in-hand cooperation with the Commissioner for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness is indispensable.
- iii) Create a supportive regulatory framework that fosters innovation, strengthens transparency and focusses on the quality of legislation.
- iv) Apply systematically analysis on the consequences for innovation during the impact assessment of new and reviewed policies and legislation in various sectors.
- v) Ensure an important role of science in the decision-making process with high standards for science in policy making.
- vi) Foster a better exchange of best practices in innovation policy between member states and the EU to stimulate new solutions how to turn research into innovation and innovation into successful business.
- vii) Make sure that political structures and processes are adapted to new technological and societal challenges, while ensuring a strong role for stakeholders.

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## B) *Re-focusing and aligning EU budgets and investments towards innovation*

- viii) Use the mid-term reviews of the MFF, Horizon2020 and the ESIF funds to scale up innovations creating new European-wide markets.
- ix) Take into account the important role of intergovernmental organisations and Joint Programming through which Commission funds are strongly leveraged by national innovation funding.
- x) Align various funding programs and instruments to overcome "Valley of Death" to ensure a smooth transition from invention to innovation and the creation of economic value and employment. This should be considered for all critical phases from early stage to growth as well as on the way from SME to mid-cap and international market leader.

## C) *Improve Citizens and Investor confidence in Europe*

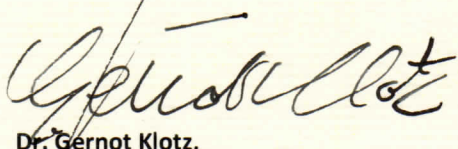
- xi) Enhanced tools for science communication and dialogue with key stakeholders to increase the understanding in the public for science and innovation in society and strengthen the relationship between scientists, societal stakeholders, media and the public.
- xii) Increase consumer and investor confidence in Europe by creating an EU wide dialogue between the different communities to find a balance between technology driven developments and those that are relevant from an environmental-, health and safety perspective.

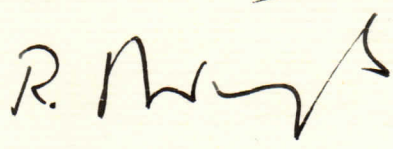
## D) *Paving the way for the next generation*

- xiii) Foster the engagement of the next generation of scientists, researchers, inventors and innovators.
- xiv) Prepare the future by strengthening networks of young innovators and entrepreneurs to gain critical mass across Europe. Appropriate skills sets have to be developed and made available in national curricula from primary school to master degree levels.

  
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*The launch of the Pact for Innovation is taking place during the Opening Ceremony of the 7<sup>th</sup> EIS on December 7<sup>th</sup> 2015. The initial signatories invite committed stakeholders to co-sign in combination with the demonstration of their commitment.*

*INPACT is open to cooperate with other dedicated stakeholder groups working in the field of EU Innovation. Key elements of the governance are described in Annex 1 of this document.*



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## ANNEX 1

### Governance and implementation

1. **Engagement:** The Pact for Innovation (INPACT) is launched on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 during the Opening Ceremony of the 7<sup>th</sup> European Innovation Summit. Initial signatories are the K4I Forum political members and the K4I leaders. The signed document is handed over to the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation.

Other stakeholders willing to engage are invited to co-sign and demonstrate their engagement by actively contributing to the implementation of INPACT priorities.

2. **Transparency and openness:** The Pact will discuss the most urgent questions related to innovation and report on progress. A first progress report will be presented at the INPACT Forum meeting in June 2016. INPACT is open to work with other stakeholder groups working on innovation.
3. **High-level leadership and commitment:** The implementation of the Pact will be steered by a 'Leadership Group' (LG) from committed pro-innovation public, private and non-governmental organisations. The LG will define the working programme and supervise its implementation. A Chair and two Vice-Chairs will be nominated/elected. The Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, a core group of innovation-literate MEPs around the K4I Forum leadership and the President of the Committee of the Regions are invited to represent the EU institutions in the LG.
4. **Concrete proposals for implementation:** The Pact will establish Working Groups along the priority areas. These will develop proposals to be endorsed by the Leadership Group and submitted to the European Commission
5. **Meetings:** The Pact for innovation will convene twice a year. The European Innovation Summit will host one of two annual Innovation Forums. The Commission is invited to participate in the organisation of the Innovation Forum in June 2016.
6. **Formal set-up:** Following commitment of a critical number of stakeholders, the platform will be set-up formally
7. **Financing:** Financial contributions from the committed stakeholders and institutions will ensure the long term financing of the INPACT activities.