



European Institute of
Innovation & Technology

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EIT WATER

Appointment of

EIT Water Chair, Supervisory Board

April 2026



EIT Water Chair, Supervisory Board

Purpose

The Supervisory Board ("SB") provides strategic oversight and supervision of EIT Water in line with the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Regulation, the EIT KIC Supervision Framework, and Danish governance requirements. The SB safeguards the long-term mission of EIT Water to address water-related innovation challenges across Europe and to become financially sustainable.

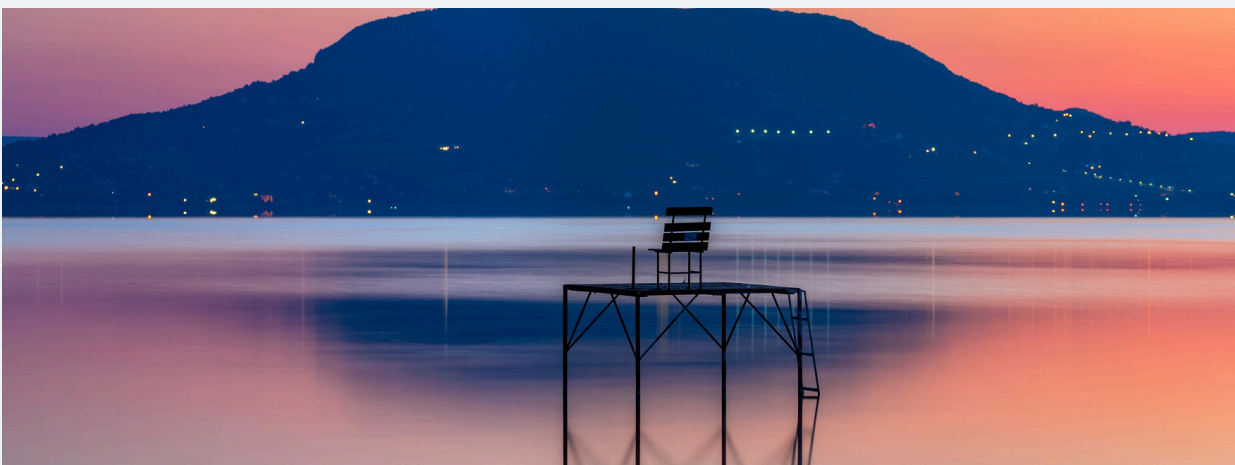
Safeguarding new perspectives and continuity, members and the Chair will be recruited for a period of up to 3 years with overlapping periods to ensure continuity, and open calls will be made for new members as and when needed. The mandate may be renewed.

Alongside the core SB responsibilities, the Chair will also assume responsibility for the following:

Chair, Supervisory Board

The Chair of the EIT Water SB provides independent^[1], high-level strategic guidance to support the establishment and development of the EIT Water Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC). The role ensures that the SB contributes expert insight to the strategic orientation of EIT Water in this important start up phase and connects business, research, and education to drive European innovation. This role presents an exciting and unique opportunity to actively lead and shape the development of EIT Water, guiding its evolution and growth during its formative start-up phase.

The Chair helps ensure that the SB aligns with the Management Board and other governance structures such as the General Assembly, strengthening the coherence and quality of EIT Water's strategic direction and ensuring alignment with the core values and Code of Conduct.



[1] Please note candidates for this position must ensure they are considered 'independent'. Independence criteria include no recent employment with EIT Water members, no significant business relationships, and no close family ties to management of EIT Water members (in line with EIT Code of Conduct) over the past 2 years.



Key Responsibilities

Expected Profile of the Chair

The Chair should be a recognised leader within the water, marine, maritime, sustainability, or related innovation fields. Typical backgrounds include senior industry executives, business leaders, finance or policy experts with a sound commercial understanding and experience of working in a start-up environment. This reflects the leadership standards seen in other EIT governance bodies, where Chairs are appointed for their credibility, independence, and high-level strategic capability.

Strategic Advisory Leadership

- Oversee securing alternative sources of revenue and funding in support of long-term financial sustainability.
- Lead the SB in providing structured and evidence-based advice on EIT Water's strategic priorities, activities, and long-term positioning.
- Ensure alignment with EIT's overarching goals, including closing innovation gaps, enhancing skills, and advancing ecosystem-based innovation.

Support to Governance Processes

- Ensure SB input is coherent with EIT Water's formal governance bodies.
- Provide external perspective to support transparency, accountability, and quality assurance during the start-up and subsequent operational phases.

Ecosystem Engagement & Representation

- Act as a senior ambassador for EIT Water, supporting external engagement with industry, academia, governments, and other stakeholders across Europe.
- Strengthen cross-regional and cross-sector collaboration to help EIT Water contribute effectively to the European innovation ecosystem.

Oversight of Impact & Programme Coherence

- Guide the SB in reviewing whether EIT Water's portfolio of activities, including ecosystem building, innovation calls, education initiatives, and Regional Hub actions, is achieving intended impact.
- Promote alignment with EIT priorities such as financial sustainability, regional inclusiveness, and innovation leadership.

Experience & Background

- Senior leadership experience in industry, finance/venture capital sector, academia, or the public sector, ideally spanning more than one of these domains
- Familiarity with European innovation ecosystems, R&I policy, or knowledge transfer environments
- Networks across relevant industrial sectors or thematic areas aligned to the EIT Water remit
- Experience of governance, board-level accountability, or audit and risk oversight in a complex, multi-stakeholder organisation
- Previous experience as a Non-Executive Board Chair in a start-up environment would be an advantage.

Knowledge & Skills

- Familiarity with EU financial regulations, state aid rules, or public procurement frameworks
- Ability to interrogate financial statements, KPIs, and impact reports with confidence
- Strong strategic thinking with the ability to distinguish governance from management and resist operational overreach
- Excellent communication and diplomatic skills, with the ability to build consensus across diverse cultural and institutional contexts



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