

EIT Director Biography

Martin KERN

Martin Kern looks back at a 20-year long career with the European Union, working for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and the European Commission.

Prior to his appointment as EIT Director, he was the Interim Director and Chief Operating Officer at the EIT in Budapest, Hungary since 2014. He led the EIT in its growth from three to eight Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), delivering innovation and entrepreneurship.

Prior to joining the EIT, he worked at the European Commission for 15 years in a variety of posts. This included Head of Operations at the EU Delegation to Serbia, where he coordinated the programming and implementation of EU funds to bring Serbia closer to EU accession. Previously, he worked as country coordinator for financial assistance to Turkey.

He started his EU career in the EU Delegation to Lithuania and Estonia, helping the two countries join the EU and ending his six years there as Acting Head of the EU Representation in Tallinn. Among other tasks at the Commission, he was responsible for managing EU funds for Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania around the time of their accession. In 2009, he worked at the Swedish Foreign Ministry in Stockholm during their EU Presidency under a secondment scheme.

He holds degrees in Economics and English, as well as European Studies from the universities of Heidelberg, Reading and Manchester. Prior to his career at the EU, he had a brief stint at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva, Switzerland.

