



**Innovate
UK**

**Presidency
2022**

Reconnection & Rebuilding for All

Driving a better future for all

Foreword



Indro Mukerjee
CEO Innovate UK

We are delighted to hold the 2022 Taftie Presidency. It is 10 years since the UK last held it. In that time the world has markedly changed, and is now more conscious of turbulence, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity – while continuing to capitalise on opportunities to create a better tomorrow.

2022 presents a jumping off point for innovation agencies. Just as innovation has historically responded to the World's challenges, it must do so again, to deal with the inter-related challenges of post-pandemic recovery, climate change and social inequality. And it must now do so in ways that are diffusive, inclusive, resilient and sustainable.

These challenges require innovation agencies to evolve – to innovate within and amongst themselves. Innovate UK is evolving, from being a grant awarding body to becoming an agency focused on driving economic growth by supporting business innovation, while unleashing private sector investment into R&D.

In our Plan for Action for UK Business Innovation, we commit to Inspire, Involve and Invest in innovation, to deliver the UK Government's vision. Innovation is at its most effective when it involves diversity of all kinds. And shared challenges require a collective response. This makes diversity and inclusion fundamental to successful innovation in the national realm, and also internationally.

This makes Taftie a crucial forum to share knowledge and insights with each other. By working together, Taftie members can strengthen the region's innovation networks, create lasting value, attract foreign direct investment, strengthen trade links and make a global impact.

I look forward to meeting my Taftie colleagues during 2022's programme of events, to create a lasting legacy that we can all be proud of.



David Golding

Chair of Taftie 2022

As the impact of Covid changes and our focus moves to achieving a sustainable economic recovery, innovation will be key to providing many of the solutions. The mutual sharing of knowledge and experiences between Taftie members play an important role in delivering the support businesses need to provide the solutions and achieve success.

The Covid pandemic has shown the true value of Taftie and the sharing of information between trusted partners to help with the rapid response required.

We have seen over recent years the introduction of international partners as part of Taftie and the broadening of the insights gained as a result. During 2022 we will consider how we best involve our international partners and link to other innovation agencies globally for mutual benefit.

Taftie does not strive to achieve a common position or have a single voice on matters of innovation policy, it does however have an inherent collective strength which when harnessed can achieve brilliant results. During 2022 we hope to galvanise that strength for the benefit of all.

I look forward to Chairing the Presidency this year and working with you all.

Taftie vision

Supporting our members in shaping the future of innovation ecosystems, improving effectiveness and efficiency of public innovation support.

For the 2022 Presidency of Taftie we will focus on the basics of why Taftie exists and why people engage with us. We plan to harness the knowledge and expertise of the member organisations, providing time for discussion and debate on topics of interest, driving forward our collective understanding of how to better provide support to innovative businesses.



Innovating the future

The main theme of the Presidency for 2022 is Reconnection and Rebuilding for All

Reconnection

Coming together and maximising the true value of Taftie

Rebuilding

How do we rebuild economies in a more sustainable way

For All

How we ensure equality, diversity and inclusion in all that we do

Aims

We plan to hold all the meetings physically. However, these events will also be run in a hybrid format, giving the option to join virtually should people not be able to attend in person.

More time within the Executive Working Group and Board meetings for discussion around topical innovation issues.

By the agencies for the agencies. The Policy Forum will bring together the CEOs of innovation agencies from across Taftie, our international partners and wider agencies. We would like this to become an annual event building on the Policy Forum, providing an annual platform for the CEO's of innovation agencies to meet.



Programme

Date | Location

7-8 February
London

Executive Working Group 1

Insight Session 1 | Supporting innovation in different sectors

Sectors operate differently in terms of the pace they move as well as the challenges they face. At the same time innovation support is often established with a generic focus. This Insight Session will look at how agencies can better tailor support to the needs of different sectors with a focus on the creative industries and compare with very different sectors such as health.

25-26 April
Oxford

Executive Working Group 2

Insight Session 2 | Global collaboration

How do we prioritise which countries to collaborate with? How do we best support innovative businesses to grow and scale globally? This Insight Session will look at the strategies and methods used by different agencies to prioritise their international partnerships and the programmes and activities they use to support innovative businesses to go global.

27-28 June
Edinburgh

Board Meeting

Annual Conference | Net Zero: Innovating the future

The world is facing many challenges such as global pandemics and climate change. The Annual conference will consider how we can look into the future and ensure the innovation we are supporting will meet future global needs, particularly a move to net zero. It will draw on the strategies and programmes of Taftie member organisations as well as other relevant organisations.



Programme

Date | Location

19-20
September
Bristol

Executive Working Group 3

Insight Session 3 | Equality, diversity and inclusion

This Insight Session will focus on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and how different agencies are considering it in terms of what it means for their own organisation, the programmes they deliver, as well as highlighting to the businesses they work with the strategic importance of EDI in driving culture change and economic benefit. It will present some of the findings of the Taftie Diversity and Inclusion Task Force.

21-22
November
Brussels

Board Meeting

CEO Policy Forum | Scaling innovative businesses

The CEO Policy Forum will bring together the leaders of Taftie member organisations and other global innovation agencies to focus on the subject of 'Scaling innovative businesses' and to share ideas and learn from each other.

Scaling businesses drive economic growth and are therefore increasingly at the heart of the strategy and delivery of many agencies. The Forum will be the chance to look at the latest evidence and to see how different member organisations are supporting businesses to scale.

Presidency team

Chair

David Golding

Executive Secretary

Kate Yarrington

Treasurer

Zain Arain

Presidency Co-ordinator

Sophie Mifsud

www.taftie.eu

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