

18 EIT Community innovators and entrepreneurs in Forbes' 30 under 30 Europe list 2017

Forbes has chosen 18 EIT Community innovators and entrepreneurs for their annual Forbes 30 under 30 list featuring the best young innovators, entrepreneurs and game changers from Europe. The number of EIT Community members included in the list has more than tripled since 2016 – see the list below!



"This is an amazing result showing that the EIT Community empowers innovators to turn their best ideas into reality: products, growth and jobs for the future of Europe. Congratulations to all EIT Community entrepreneurs selected by Forbes! Together we are making innovation happen!" said Martin Kern, EIT Interim Director.

The EIT is Europe's largest innovation community which currently brings together more than 800 excellent partners from business, higher education and research, working in 30 innovation hubs across Europe. We provide entrepreneurs with a unique environment and opportunities for innovation, supporting the entire innovation process from idea to product, lab to market and from student to entrepreneur. Our community is active in the area of climate, digitalisation, food, energy, health and raw materials. To date, we have supported the creation of more than 200 innovative start-ups and entrepreneurship training for 2 000 students and graduates.

The Forbes 30 under 30 list includes 10 categories by industry. Innovators and entrepreneurs from the EIT Community are now present in 5 of these, namely: Industry, Social Entrepreneurs, Technology, Science and Healthcare, and Retail and E-commerce. They come from four of the EIT innovation communities: EIT Digital, EIT Climate-KIC, EIT InnoEnergy and EIT Raw Materials **from the following countries: Estonia, Germany, Iran, Italy, France, Sweden, The Netherlands and UK.**

List of the EIT Community innovators and entrepreneurs featured in the Forbes 30 under 30 list for 2017:

Category – Industry

Konux (Germany) – EIT Digital



German start-up [Konux](#) offer smart sensor solutions to companies for the monitoring of industrial equipment. What sets them apart from other competitors is their provision of predictive maintenance solutions tailored to the specific needs of clients. Users of Konux systems benefit from up to a 70% decrease in machine breakdowns and a 30% reduction of maintenance costs. Konux became part of the EIT Community in 2014 after winning the EIT Digital Idea Challenge competition. In the spring of 2016, EIT Digital assisted Konux with a successful roadshow in Silicon Valley which brought in substantial investment. Their client portfolio now includes major business names such as Deutsche Bahn.

Florent Longa (Echy - France) – EIT Climate-KIC

Florent is a co-founder of [Echy](#), an EIT Climate-KIC supported start-up from France which offers indoor lighting during the day by capturing natural light via solar panels and fiber optic cables. Echy's technology has the



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potential to light 15 million square meters in Europe and could save 180 GWh of electricity generation annually – the equivalent of 82,800 tons of CO₂.

Matthias Melner (Lilium Aviation - Germany) – EIT Climate-KIC



Matthias is a co-founder of [Lilium Aviation](#), who are designing the world's fastest and highest-range electric vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft that is commercially available. Not only will this revolutionise the way in which we view transport and distance, but it also has great environmental benefits as it will reduce pollution. Lilium joined the EIT Community in October 2014 after being accepted into the EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator programme.

Christian Olsson (Sustainalube - Sweden) – EIT RawMaterials

Christian is a co-founder of [Sustainalube](#), which has developed a new type of industrial lubricants that are completely water soluble and oil-free. This has the potential to revolutionise the industry. Sustainalube was the winner of the EIT Raw Materials pitch event in Stockholm in February 2016.



Unu Motors (Germany) – EIT Digital



The co-founders of [Unu Motors](#) have designed an innovative electric scooter that can be charged virtually anywhere, even out of a standard wall socket. Additionally, the scooters contain a lightweight portable battery that has a range of up to 100km and a top speed of 45km/h. Unu Motors was displayed at an EIT Digital tech innovation event in 2015.

Yohei Kiguchi (Smap Energy - UK) - EIT Climate-KIC

Kiguchi is the founder of the EIT Climate-KIC supported start-up [SMAP Energy](#), the leading smart energy-switching company in the UK. SMAP Energy uses a novel algorithmic technique to help analyse user behaviour and derive insights that make the energy sector more efficient. SMAP Energy was accepted into the EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator programme in June 2016.



Category - Social Entrepreneur

Elena Dleckmann & Ryan Robinson (AEROPOWDER - UK) – EIT Climate-KIC



[AEROPOWDER](#) is a project aiming to utilize poultry feather waste to develop and manufacture a range of sustainable, low cost and high performance additive materials. Billions of chickens are slaughtered every year and AEROPOWDER is looking to repurpose the feathers that are usually just discarded by capitalising on properties like water repellency and thermal insulation. AEROPOWDER joined Climate-KIC in 2016.

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Lennart Budelmann & Pratap thapa (aQysta - Netherlands) – EIT Climate-KIC

With a vision to enhance food-security in the world, [aQysta](#) have developed a hydro-powered irrigation system that can increase crop yield by 2 to 5 times. Their pump (called Barsha pump) works on an optimized spiral principle and is designed as a sustainable, low-maintenance, low-cost irrigation pump to enable rural communities in developing countries to increase crop yield. aQysta was named the most innovative cleantech start-up at the EIT Climate-KIC Venture Competition in 2014.

Saverio Murgia & Luca Nardelli (Eyra - Italy) – EIT Digital

[Eyra](#) have developed an innovative, wearable device to assist blind and visually impaired people during the entire day. The device analyses its surroundings, obtains useful information through text reading, object and people recognition, road signs, and zebra crossing detection; and audibly communicates them to the users. Eyra entered the EIT Community in 2014 after winning 3rd prize in the EIT Digital Idea Challenge competition.

Julian Melchiorri (Arborea - UK) – EIT Climate-KIC

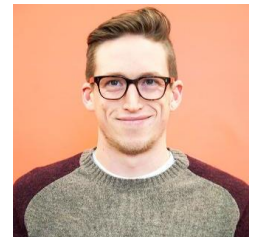
Julian, the founder of EIT Climate-KIC supported [Arborea](#), has invented a bio-based system called a Biosolar Leaf, which mimics a real leaf by absorbing CO₂ and releasing oxygen to purify the surrounding air. Arborea uses their system to empower energy self-producing, carbon-neutral buildings and waste treatment plants with a focus on climate change mitigation.

Ferdinand Grapperhaus & Willem Kesteloo (PHYSEE – The Netherlands) - EIT Climate-KIC

Grapperhaus and Kesteloo, the duo behind [PHYSEE](#), have invented fully transparent windows that generate energy called PowerWindows. The windows are transparent, double-paned windows that convert light into electricity and help to make homes and businesses become more sustainable by tapping into the energy already streaming into buildings thereby diminishing electricity costs. PHYSEE first entered the EIT Community in 2015 after being accepted into the EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator programme.

Tom Webster (GrowUp Urban Farms - UK) – EIT Climate-KIC

Tom and his co-founders at [GrowUp Urban Farms](#) operate the largest vertical farm in the UK. Through a combination of aquaponics and innovative vertical growing technologies, GrowUp Urban Farms produce 20 000 pounds of fresh vegetables and 4000 pounds of fish a year in their 2000 square meter warehouse in Beckton. GrowUp are causing quite a stir in London, not only through their production of healthy food for local markets, but also through the positive environmental impacts their farms offer. GrowUp Urban Farms entered the EIT community in 2013 and were a finalist of the EIT Climate-KIC Venture competition in 2014.

Category – TechnologySandra Rey (Glowee - France) – EIT InnoEnergy

Sandra founded the EIT InnoEnergy supported start-up [Glowee](#) in 2014 and has since been supported by the EIT InnoEnergy Highway. Glowee are developing a biological source of light using the bioluminescent properties of marine micro-organisms. By enabling bacteria to make light, Glowee have provided a living raw material which

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creates light entirely self-sufficiently. Sandra was also previously included in the MIT Technology reviews list of Innovators under 35.

Category – Science and Healthcare

Alex Bond (Freshcheck - UK) – EIT Climate-KIC

Alex is the co-founder of [Freshcheck](#), who have created a simple colour change system for food packaging that can alert the customer when food has spoiled. This will help to prevent foodborne illnesses and curb the 1.3 billion tons of food that is thrown out each year. Freshcheck received support from the EIT Climate-KIC greenhouse in 2015.



Florence Gschwend (Chrysalis Technologies - UK) – EIT Climate-KIC



Florence is the co-founder of [Chrysalis Technologies](#), who have developed an efficient and low-cost process to convert metal-contaminated waste wood into several usable products including bio-gas, bio-ethanol and other bio-based materials. Chrysalis entered the EIT Community after winning 3rd prize at the Climate Launchpad competition in 2016.

Allen & Max Mohammadi (Hippogriff AB – Iran/Sweden) – EIT InnoEnergy

After the loss of their grandmother, brothers Allan and Max Mohammadi, founders of EIT InnoEnergy supported Hippogriff AB, developed technology for the early detection of heart problems. Their AI based design uses a combination of demographic and patient medical data to allow early screening of heart disease. Allan Mohammadi is an alumni of EIT InnoEnergy and was the winner of the [EIT Change award in 2016](#).



Category - Retail and E-commerce

Freddy Macnamara (Cuvva - UK) – EIT Digital



Freddy is the founder of EIT Digital supported [Cuvva](#), who offer a new type of car insurance. People who borrow a car from friends or family can use their app to buy short term car insurance. This provides users with a number of benefits such as the ability to car share in order to reduce your carbon footprint or even to stamp out drink driving. Their system also offers a vast reduction of costs for users due to its adaptability. Cuvva were awarded 3rd prize in the EIT Digital Challenge for Digital finance in 2016.

Martin Mcgloin & Sabine Pole (Sorry as a Service - Estonia) – EIT Digital

Martin & Sabine are the co-founders of [‘Sorry as a Service’](#), a customer retention platform from Estonia. Sorry as a Service strive to make our ‘digital and impersonalised’ world friendlier by helping companies make their customers feel special. Their customer support agents can dispatch physical apologies, such as a freshly baked cake from a local baker or a personalised gift set. Sorry as a Service entered the EIT Community in 2015 after winning 2nd prize in the EIT Digital idea challenge for smart spaces in 2015.



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Background

About the EIT

EIT – Europe’s largest innovation community The EIT is an independent EU body set up to power innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe to overcome some of its greatest challenges in the areas of climate (EIT Climate-KIC), digitisation (EIT Digital), energy (EIT InnoEnergy), food (EIT Food) health (EIT Health) and raw materials (EIT Raw Materials). As an integral part of the EU’s Horizon 2020 framework programme for research and innovation, the EIT brings together leading companies, universities and research labs to form dynamic cross-border partnerships – innovation communities – that develop innovative products and services, start new companies, and train a new generation of entrepreneurs.

The EIT Community currently brings together more than 800 excellent partners from business, higher education and research, working in 30 innovation hubs across Europe. The EIT Community helps entrepreneurs across Europe to turn their best ideas into products, services and jobs. To date, it has supported the creation of more than 200 innovative start-ups and entrepreneurship training for 2 000 students and graduates. The EIT is planning to launch its next call for innovation communities’ proposals in 2018, focusing on urban mobility. The EIT – Making Innovation Happen

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

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