

EIT ALUMNI

IMPACT REPORT 2022

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EIT ALUMNI

EIT Alumni is an interdisciplinary and multicultural network of change agents who share a vision of a more sustainable Europe.

FOREWORD

THANK YOU FOR VISITING THE IMPACT REPORT OF OUR EIT ALUMNI

The achievements of the EIT Alumni in 2022 demonstrate why the EIT is key pillar of the New European Innovation Agenda. It links the best talent with the best companies. You need only to look at the winners of the EIT Awards or the success stories of our alumni to see why we've been so successful at this. As it enters its 7th years of existence, the Alumni Community has grown to around 16 000 members⁽¹⁾, and we've also recently welcomed a new Alumni Community from EIT Urban Mobility.

The growth and development of the community can be measured through the great collaboration we put together like INNOVEIT BUDAPEST-CONNECT 2022. EIT Alumni CONNECT, the flagship event of the EIT Alumni, became part of the EIT INNOVEIT Weeks, reaching more than 500 attendees, a record number of participants.

In 2022, EIT Alumni contributed to the European Year of Youth through its collaboration with the EIT Initiative of Girls Go Circular. Our alumni provided mentorships to girls still in high school and showing them how they can become leaders in tech and business, areas that are traditionally hostile to women. And we included them into CONNECT 2022.

With my background in research, I very much welcome that EIT Alumni teamed up with the EIC and joined two EIC Innovation Bootcamps to support EIC research teams commercialise their ideas.

MISSION

The mission of the EIT is to drive innovation forward, as innovation is key to solving pressing global challenges, ensuring a green and sustainable future for Europe. We put the innovators in the centre and mobilise our ecosystem to provide

VISION

It is our job to strengthen the European innovation landscape and invest in Europe's future through EIT Alumni. With great thanks to the members of the EIT Alumni Community, this is what we did in 2022 and this is what we shall

⁽¹⁾ Overlaps between KICs might be predictable.



Welcome to the world of EIT Alumni – a powerful community of change-makers and innovators who are dedicated to creating a sustainable and impactful future. Our diverse network brings together individuals from different backgrounds and cultures who share a common vision for tackling societal challenges through innovation and entrepreneurship. As graduates from all of EIT's Knowledge Innovation Communities (KICs), we are uniquely positioned to leverage our multifaceted network and empower the next generation of leaders.

RESULTS

What we have achieved until now is the solid proof that the EIT's pan-European Community contributes to solving Europe's most outstanding societal challenges and to the wellbeing of European citizens. And the EIT Alumni Community has been a great contributor to that.

Enjoy reading the Impact Report 2022 of the EIT Alumni Community!

Mr. Nektarios TAVERNARAKIS

Chairman of the EIT Governing Board



MESSAGE FROM THE EIT ALUMNI PRESIDENT

Anca del Rio

EIT Alumni President

Dear Members of the EIT Alumni Community,

Dear Young Leaders of Europe,

At EIT Alumni, we believe that together we can make a real difference. We are building a community of like-minded individuals who are passionate about creating a sustainable future through innovation and entrepreneurship. As an Alumnusi you can expect a feeling of belonging and growth, leadership, impact, networking, meaningful connections and fun.

Being a part of the EIT Alumni means joining a supportive community of changemakers committed to creating a positive impact. You can connect with fellow alumni across our global network and collaborate on exciting projects while gaining access to programmes, events and resources designed to help you grow both personally and professionally.

By joining a larger movement of changemakers you have the chance to leave a legacy with a lasting impact on future generations by working together to create a sustainable future.

The EIT Alumni represents a powerful platform designed to shape the future of Europe across various industries. We are driven by innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainability, and most importantly 'togetherness'.



EIT ALUMNI PRESIDENT

The EIT Alumni President, appointed by the EIT Director represents over 16.000 alumni from all EIT Alumni KICs and leads the EIT Alumni Board. The role of the EIT Alumni President is to ensure accurate strategic planning and forecasting for the EIT Alumni and provide effective representation of the entire network and vis-à-vis the EIT, the KICs and relevant, external stakeholders. The President also coordinates the operations of the EIT Alumni Board members.

EIT ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

The EIT Alumni Board is the overarching body of the EIT Alumni and sits at the intersection of all EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). Led by the EIT Alumni President, the EIT Alumni Board composed of representatives of the eligible individual EIT KICs alumni, external board member(s) and a representative of the EIT, is responsible for the strategic steering and development of the EIT Alumni community and the promotion of an active exchange between its members and their representation in the broader Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) ecosystem.

EIT ALUMNI COMMUNITY INITIATIVE - CROSS SECTORAL EIT ALUMNI

The EIT Alumni Board is working hands in hands with dedicated colleagues from around the Knowledge and Innovation Communities, forming the a cross community consortium that provides cooperation to the implementation of the EIT Alumni work programme under the overall steer of the EIT Alumni Board. The consortium is consolidating the EIT Alumni Community by ensuring alignment with other EIT Initiatives and ensuring that information and opportunities are exchanged between KIC Alumni communities.

MESSAGES FROM THE EIT ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

JEROEN VAN LENT

Being a part of the EIT Alumni provides great opportunities for learning, sharing and networking with likeminded people. Our community is full of bright individuals that innovate within their own start-up, multinational company or side-project and improve the society around them. For me, it is super inspiring to be among all these insightful people and contribute to a better world by bringing them together. As EIT Alumni Board we aim to facilitate, provide opportunities to meet, and give you the chance to develop your own projects. Jointly making the world a better place one small innovation at the time.

SELENE TONDINI

In 2022, EIT Alumni thrived through interdisciplinary collaboration among KICs, shaping an innovative ecosystem for Europe's sustainable future. As a Board member and EIT Climate KIC Alumna, I'm grateful for the community's opportunities. EIT Alumni, a familial mosaic of European innovation, inspires my commitment to giving back and fostering positive impact.

LIANA SHVACHIY

As an EIT Alumni member, you gain access to a vibrant and dynamic community of like-minded innovators, entrepreneurs, and professionals from diverse backgrounds and disciplines. The community provides opportunities for networking, learning, and collaboration, as well as access to funding and resources to support your ventures. Being a member of the EIT Alumni Board brings an exclusive chance to create and promote those opportunities and help our members to get the best out of the community. Join us to grow your network, learn from peers, and create new opportunities for impact.



FRANCISCO VEIGA SIMÃO

At the EIT Alumni Board you have the chance to create and provide alumni members with the best events, training, funding, and job opportunities surrounding innovation and entrepreneurship fields. Moreover, the interaction with the different KICs gives you a holistic approach on how to provide the alumni community with more added value opportunities apart from their communities. The EIT Alumni Board wants to thank all the Alumni members for connecting and working towards a more sustainable, more inclusive and more resilient community of future leaders.

PETER OLESEN

As external member to the EIT Alumni Board, I had the chance to see EIT Alumni in action from different angle. I am impressed by the dynamic, entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of all the members of the community. I am also convinced that the with its exemplary commitment and enthusiasm, the EIT Alumni Board shall continue ensuring further development of the community that connects its members with the global innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

BILAL BAIJU

It has only been a short while since I joined the EIT Alumni Board. I am thrilled about working with the other board members in building a high-spirited community of young professionals, challenging the status quo through innovation and state-of-the-art technology. I am looking forward to how the alumni from different KICs are going to collaborate and be at the forefront of innovation in Europe. I am especially curious about the first EIT Alumni node in Europe which is foreseen to be established this year.

AGNES MOLNAR

The dedicated talents in the EIT Alumni Board and all the engaged community members are real game-changers who are shaping the future of next generations with impact at scale. Join the community in case you would like to leave a long lasting legacy in Europe with joint efforts of the community members through innovation and entrepreneurship.

Meet the EIT Alumni Board [\[here\]](#).



2022 IN REVIEW

7
YEARS OF
EXISTENCE

NOW OVER
16 000
MEMBERS

In 2022, The EIT Alumni Board continued to build a more **sustainable operational capacity**, including standardising processes. The EIT Alumni continued to **strengthen the knowledge sharing process between KICs alumni communities** including opportunities and encouraging more cross-KIC alumni collaboration by implementing improved information workflows.

Another notable example of EIT Alumni achievements in 2022 was the **activation of the newest EIT KICs and the involvement of their KIC alumni associations/communities at EIT Alumni level**.

With the support of the EIT Alumni Board, good practices were shared between and implemented by the KICs alumni communities and helped them structure their activities and align governance structures to EIT Alumni standards. As a result, the EIT Alumni community **welcomed the EIT Urban Mobility Alumni Association** in October 2022.

Increasing and improving the EIT Alumni community visibility, recognition, and outreach within and outside of the EIT ecosystem proved to be one of most highly achieved goals in 2022.

In 2022, the EIT Alumni has made a giant leap towards becoming a more sustainable, dynamic, entrepreneurial, engaging and impact-oriented community.

Engaging with leading European stakeholders (i.e., European Innovation Council (EIC), European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), European Patent Office (EPO), JA Europe) **in various initiatives, strengthening relations with existing partners** (i.e., European Commission, Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA), ERASMUS Mundus, Women@EIT et.al), **exploring future partnerships with potential paying partners** (i.e., Microsoft), **and being present on stage or presenting EIT Alumni at branded booths at acclaimed events** (i.e., European Open Doors Day, WebSummit, LEAP Summit, OILS Conference, European Researchers' Night, Women and Girls in STEM Forum (mentoring Ukrainian teams of young talented girls in STEM), EIT goes to NYC, EIT INNOVEIT event series in Budapest, Paris and Brussels, HIVE2 conference) **propelled the EIT Alumni brand in 2022 like never before.**



DATABASE

A shared-resource database was developed in 2022 with the purpose of allowing deeper cross-KIC alumni communities integration and access to shared benefits for the EIT alumni provided by external partners of the different KICs. This will allow greater rewards for the community and offer a huge growth potential for the EIT Alumni.

EIT URBAN MOBILITY ALUMNI

The first nominated President of EIT Urban Mobility alumni will have a seat in the EIT Alumni Board in early 2023. The current Alumni Board has been stabilised by ensuring that each EIT Alumni Board member plays an active role in and brings further contributions to the EIT Alumni Strategic Development Framework.

EIT ALUMNI CONNECT 2022

The impactful flagship event EIT Alumni CONNECT unfolded in 2022 with unprecedented proportions engaging a record number over 550 participants. For the first time in the history of organising CONNECT event, the EIT KICs, including the global hubs Israel and Silicon Valley, investors and unicorns were invited, and the local I&E ecosystem (Hungary) played an active role in the programme and expo.

ONE HACKATHON

One hackathon was organised in 2022 under the umbrella of the cross-KIC Alumni mechanism, in Berlin on 10-11 December 2022 in partnership with Trinkle around the topic of "3D printing customisation across different sectors" (smart design platform with modularity + design constraints included).

THE COMMUNITY IN FIGURES

KEY NUMBERS FOR 2022

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

FACEBOOK **2300**

LINKEDIN **2145**

INSTAGRAM **2124**

TWITTER **820**

22 EXTERNAL EVENTS
ATTENDED BY ALUMNI

ALUMNI PARTICIPANTS: **116**

1 CROSS COMMUNITY
EVENTS

82 ALUMNI COMMUNITY
EVENTS

ALUMNI PARTICIPANTS: **2706**

161 NUMBER OF JOBS SHARED/CREATED IN THE
EIT ALUMNI COMMUNITY

COMPOSITION OF THE EIT ALUMNI COMMUNITY (*)



31,66%

17,63%

START-UPS CREATED OF EIT LABELLED MSC/PHD PROGRAMMES



GRADUATES FROM EIT LABELLED MSC/PHD PROGRAMMES



STUDENTS ENROLLED IN EIT LABELLED MSC/PHD PROGRAMMES



EIT RIS START-UPS CREATED OF EIT LABELLED MSC/PHD PROGRAMMES



EIT RIS STUDENTS AND GRADUATES FROM EIT LABELLED MSC/PHD PROGRAMMES



EIT RIS EIT LABELLED MSC/PHD STUDENTS AND GRADUATES WHO JOINED START-UPS



11,47%

11,14%

9,40%

5,99%

0,19%



SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

EIT RAWMATERIALS ALUMNI

Open call for the Local Representative Initiative

Reactivation of this initiative started in the previous board. This initiative incentivized EIT RM Alumni members to develop an idea/initiative in their local community with access to financial support from the EIT RawMaterials Alumni Board. 4 local representative initiatives were selected and took place in 2022 (3 presential workshops and 1 podcast).

Career-oriented workshops and newsletter

A series of online workshops (3) focused on soft skills training for the professional careers of the alumni members. Monthly newsletter about the news of EIT RM Alumni community with opportunities and news.

Outreach presence in external events and Board meetings

The outreach included events like Web Summit 2022 (Lisbon) and European Researchers' Night 2022 (Gaia). The first physical EIT RM Alumni Board meeting took place in Cascais and Lisbon, where members discussed priorities, engaged with the Cascais I&E ecosystem, visited DNA Cascais (a business incubator), and explored potential collaborations.

EIT ALUMNI CLIMATE-KIC

Climate Leadership Journey programme Kick-off 2022

The recruitment for the 2022 EIT Climate-KIC Climate Leadership Journey, a challenge-based extracurricular program, has closed. It prepares students and young professionals for societal

transformation, combining a decade of EIT-supported education with a methodological summer school approach that began on April 28, 2022. More details [[here](#)].

A Climate Leadership Journey student cycled through NetZeroCities

Before the 2022 Climate Leadership Journey in Milan, Sietse de Vilder cycled from Delft to Rome, visiting NetZeroCities. An EIT Climate-KIC initiative for cities achieving net-zero emissions by 2030. This article compiles de Vilder's journey from his LinkedIn posts.



EIT DIGITAL ALUMNI

Digital nomad experience with networking on Fuerteventura

In Feb & Mar 2022, we organized the first EIT Digital Alumni Coliving in two cohorts, hosting 60+ participants. Talks & workshops covered UX to cybersecurity. Speed networking and external events enhanced networking. Participants organized sports and leisure activities like surfing, yoga, and dance, fostering community engagement.

Meeting new friends at the Annual Meeting in Athens

Our 2022 flagship event in Athens, Greece, from June 16-19, centered on 'Emerging Technologies' in the digital realm. Opening to external participants for the first time, it received positive feedback, fostering new community connections.

The grand Graduation Ceremony in Madrid

After 2 pandemic years, the EIT Digital Master School Graduation (2020-2022) happened in Madrid in November. It's crucial for the Alumni Community; we urged grads to join our site, with three cohorts graduating simultaneously. To make it extra special, we organized an EIT Digital Alumni Graduation Party to celebrate with the new grads.



EIT HEALTH INNOVATORS COMMUNITY

EIT Health Alumni rebranding to EIT Health Innovators community

In 2022, the EIT Health Alumni community hit 3000 members. Now rebranded as EIT Health Innovators, we're dedicated to driving positive change in European healthcare. The new identity signifies our commitment to a vibrant, diverse community creating innovative health solutions. Join us here.

Local Representatives Summit in Vienna

The EIT Health Innovators Community LR Summit in Vienna on 25 Nov, following the EIT Health Career Path event, showcased our year's recap, future goals, co-creation sessions for ideas and plans, and focused on adding more value for members. Our diverse community spans digital health, Medtech, venture capital, and more across Europe. More [\[here\]](#).

Female Leadership Webinar series: season 2

The Female Leadership webinar series, in collaboration with EIT Women, thrives into Season 2 after a successful first season. From industry vs academia to effective workplace communication, it covers crucial topics. Launched in Sep 2022, ongoing in 2023, it boasts 6 new episodes. A favorite in EIT Health Innovators community, each episode draws 100+ registrations!

EIT INNOENERGY COMMUNITY

Fabia Miorelli - A role model for women in STEM

Fabia Miorelli, an EIT InnoEnergy Master School graduate, makes Forbes 'under 30' lists, showcasing her role at the German Aerospace Centre, focusing on open-source models for electric vehicle flexibility. Breaking barriers, she inspires female engineers in a male-dominated field, contributing to a carbon-free future.

2 Alumni nominated as Young Global Changers with Climatize

Renewable Energy alumni William Wiseman and Alba Forns, co-founders of Climatize, nominated as Young Global Changers by the Global Solutions Initiative. They build a financial network for climate action and lead the movement for global challenges recoupling.



EIT FOOD ALUMNI

Networking Breakfast

The Networking Breakfast marked EIT Food Alumni's first in-person career event, featuring Career Speed Dating where 55 alumni met food industry partners for 5 to 7 interviews, organized by EIT Food.

Alumni Database of Resources

In 2022, EIT Food launched the Cross-KIC Alumni Resources Database, offering exclusive deals like online courses, event tickets, software discounts, and more to EIT Alumni. The platform was shared across KICs' alumni communities. Check out the EIT Food platform for the Database Launch

Connecting in Person

In 2022, EIT Food alumni reunited at Innoveit Connect in Budapest, marking a return to in-person events post-Covid. They engaged in networking, attended sessions, and participated in a usability survey. The alumni also joined EIT Food's Annual Event, connecting with stakeholders and peers, engaging in co-creation, and enjoying an informal Alumni Dinner.

EIT URBAN MOBILITY ALUMNI

Founding Milestones and Governance Approval

The EIT Urban Mobility Alumni achieved early milestones, securing unanimous approval for its governance document at the inaugural General Assembly in October 2022. The document serves as a framework under Spanish laws.

Strategic Collaborations and Membership Growth

Moving forward, the association crafted a communication strategy and began partnering with EIT Urban Mobility and the doctoral training network. Collaborating on a white paper project, they explored the impact of digitalization on mobility. By February 2023, they welcomed 17 full alumni and 38

INSIDE THE COMMUNITY

249
ONLINE
PARTICIPANTS

310
ON SITE
PARTICIPANTS



INNOVEIT BUDAPEST – EIT ALUMNI CONNECT 2022: YOUNG LEADERS FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

INNOVEIT Budapest – EIT ALUMNI CONNECT 2022: Young Leaders for the Future of Europe was an opportunity to celebrate cross-sectoral collaboration, share ideas and forge partnerships. Furthermore, the event offered the possibility for participants to take part in live Q&A sessions with unicorns, investors, high-level speakers, and influential figures from the global I&E ecosystem. In addition to the conference content (eight tailor-made stage sessions), attendees benefited from an unrivalled networking opportunity at EIT Alumni CONNECT by socialising at the booths located in the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Arena throughout the full day.

This event was hosted by the Moholy-Nagy University of Arts and Design (MOME) in Budapest, Hungary. The mission of MOME is to provide answers to the pressing challenges of the 21st century with design-based learning, research, and applied mastery. MOME sees its mission as serving its communities, spreading design consciousness and contributing to the sophistication of the local and regional economic and cultural ecosystems.

The hybrid program offered a roadmap for gaining access to funding and empowered the next generation of leaders to pursue social good and sustainability through innovation and entrepreneurship.

#INNOVEIT POST REACH

FACEBOOK
REACH **1.292**

LINKEDIN
IMPRESSIONS **15.061**

(*) Source: EIT Alumni channels

EIT ALUMNI HACKATHON 2022

3D printing has enabled fast prototyping and manufacturing of new products. Combined with design automation, everyone, even those with little technical capability can now utilize the power of 3D printing to create their personalized products. Challenge partner was Trinckle 3D. The Hackathon took place online, 09-11 December 2022 with 9 participants from 3 countries. Challenge topic was defined in the way to respond to EIT Alumni community and their corresponding verticals (Health, Industry, Mobility).

The EIT Alumni Community organised a Hackathon in 2022 on Parametric Pegboards.



Two winning solutions were awarded:

- > App that makes customizable and printable PCB (like raspberry pi, Arduino or similar) boards holder/organizer that varies in size/number of boards
- > App that calculates requirements (size of the walls, number of pegs for hooking etc) of a pot for vertical farming.

Participants were expected to create innovative solutions using the methodological approach of co-creation, the practice of collaborating with other stakeholders to guide the design process.



"The strength of MOME has always been the talent, the creativity, the sense for innovation of its students and professors. Our goal has always been to teach our students to make a better world and to find solutions for problems, that have never emerged before. It is also our duty to prepare our students to humanize technology, to keep

- Rector of the university, Professor József Fülöp

"A sustainable business is also good for profit. A business that cares about diversity and inclusion might also show a better economy income, because it created space for more creativity, for more ideas to come from different views."

- Chen Shmilo, CEO, 8200 Alumni Association

"Startup ecosystems thrive when the experiences and success of one, contributes to the success of all."

- Jared Schrieber, Founder & President, Revolution Robotics Foundation

"You only have 10 seconds for people to decide you are worth listening to, or not you need to grab their attention immediately: paint pictures with your words"

- Beth Susanne, Global Pitch Coach



"Any business you want to launch, the biggest asset that you have at the very beginning is your idea."

- Sabina Rusconi, Project Manager, Ideas Powered for Business, EUIPO

"Make technology your ally and make knowledge your strength and let's make an impact together!"

- Anca del Rio, EIT Alumni President


WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY ABOUT US

"I have my best memories from when I'd been doing international mobility. It comes from the partnership that EIT Health has with Sorbonne University. In this experience, when I did international mobility, I learned a lot from the network and how to be in contact with the entrepreneurship system and environment. I would really recommend this programme because it provided me a new, different area that I never saw before."

- Lisbet Doris Casavilca Ortega, alumna in Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Biomedical Engineering , EIT Health

"The EIT Label programme was better than any of the others I was offered so far because it was a real combination between tech skills – around 70% of the entire programme – and 30% business topics. And especially with the second, I was really able to understand the big picture of the industry and therefore be able to understand how to better address the needs of the market and got a satisfying job."

- Daniele Montesi, alumnus in Data Science, EIT Digital



"Meeting so many people that motivate you to be better – and they're so smart so you can pick their brains – that's been a huge learning experience. Doing the Master's in Cyber Security led me to my job right now. I would recommend the programme to others because it is very interdisciplinary; you can choose some of the best universities in Europe."

- Elvira Sánchez, alumna in Cyber Security, EIT Digital

"I studied sustainable energy systems, and I'm very interested in energy and climate transition on a system level. I think all my lessons from that degree are directly relevant to my current job at Tesla, where I'm responsible for business, intelligence, and data analysis in their circular solutions. So, for instance, battery recycling and the strategy behind that and the data analysis."

- Markus Liski, alumnus in Sustainable Energy Systems, EIT InnoEnergy

"We look at the entire value chain, from geo resource exploration till the end of life, recycling and reusing of this product."

- Inara Kalina, alumna in Sustainable and Innovative Natural Resource Management, EIT Raw Materials

COLLABORATIONS & REPRESENTATIONS AT EXTERNAL EVENTS

WEB SUMMIT 2022

Participation in the Web Summit 2022 (Lisbon, Portugal) as a partner organisation (EIT).
Engaging new members at promotional booth by showcasing the different communities at EIT, funding schemes and opportunities.

EUROPEANS RESEARCHERS' NIGHT

Francisco Veiga Simão participated as a keynote speaker at Europeans Researchers' Night 2022 in Gaia, Portugal. He presented insights about the EIT community, discussing diverse opportunities across fields and sharing his personal journey with EIT since 2018.

EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL (EIC)

Participation in the Web Summit 2022 (Lisbon, Portugal) as a partner organisation (EIT).
Engaging new members at promotional booth by showcasing the different communities at EIT, funding schemes and opportunities.

MARIE CURIE ALUMNI

The EIT Alumni Network participated in the Marie-Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) Annual Conference and General Assembly on March 27, 2022. Emphasizing collaboration, EIT Alumni values its relationship with MCAA, connecting European and international researchers. The EIT Alumni hosted a session at MCAA 2022, aligning with the theme, Sustainability and the post-pandemic workplace.

EUROPEANS RESEARCHERS' NIGHT

Several EIT Alumni members participated as mentors in two editions of Innovation Bootcamp organised by the European Innovation Council (EIC). The bootcamp is a novel concept, organised by the EIC Tech to Market Business Acceleration Services to help researchers navigate through entrepreneurial world and acquire the right skills to successfully exit the lab with technology or product ready for the market.

"Innovation happens if you work together. If you go outside the boundaries, outside your comfort zone, if we work with people you normally would not work with and if you try new ideas."

Martin KERN
EIT Director



EUROPEAN UNION INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE (EUIPO), EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO)

The session on Prioritising Breakthroughs with Intellectual Property and Patenting organised at INNOVEIT Budapest - CONNECT 22 addressed target audience on how the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and European Patent Office (EPO) support entrepreneurs to empower them to take lead in the area of intellectual property and patents. Moreover, with emerging trends on the digital world, EUIPO and EPO presented on how virtual goods are treated as digital content or images and what IP matters can be important to relate to them. Through the online and onsite presentations, audience will have the chance to learn from EUIPO and EPO on opportunities provided by the two institutions on building and strengthening the IP agenda of start-ups, enabling inventors, researchers and companies to obtain protection for their inventions.

WOMEN AND GIRLS IN STEM FORUM

On October 26, 2022, Girls Go Circular, in collaboration with the European Commission (DG EAC), hosted the 2nd Women and Girls in STEM Forum. Researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders in STEM and gender equality engaged with students from Girls Go Circular's program. Girls played a pivotal role, discussing gender bias in STEM with EU policymakers, scientists, and entrepreneurs. EIT Alumni Board member, Liana Shvachiy, mentored a group of talented Ukrainian girls, fostering inspiration and success stories for future EU action.

EUROPEAN OPEN DOORS DAY

On Saturday, May 7, 2022, European Institutions opened their doors for citizens. EU citizens visited the Berlaymont, exploring topics managed by the European Commission. EIT Alumni participated, showcasing their contribution to the European innovation landscape.

EIT AWARDS 2022

The nominees are selected for driving European innovation through ground-breaking products, projects and services that tackle global challenges in the fields of climate, energy, digitalisation, food, health, manufacturing, raw materials and urban mobility. In 2022, EIT Alumni Members won first prizes in the following category.

CHANGE AWARD

Anna Vanderbruggen (EIT RawMaterials Alumni), a researcher who works for the start-up Erzlabor, won first place for developing a revolutionary new way to extract graphite from lithium-ion batteries. Her method, the first of its kind, separates the fine powder from crushed lithium-ion batteries in order to obtain two valuable products instead of one. This process enables the efficient and highly-selective recycling of both graphite and metals from used lithium-ion batteries. It could lead to a truly circular battery supply chain and decrease the environmental footprint of battery production as well as reliance on raw material imports from outside the EU.

The EIT Awards promote innovation and encourage entrepreneurs by putting the most innovative ventures, entrepreneurial graduates, innovation teams and women from the EIT Community in the spotlight. They create role models for change.



WOMEN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Catherine Schreiber, CEO and co-founder of ADVITOS, won first place for developing a 4-in-1 organ support therapy for critically-ill patients. Together with Dr. Bernhard Kreymann, her co-founder, she created the device from scratch, launching it from an idea to an EU market-approved (CE mark) product. She now runs a fully-certified MedTech company with 70 employees that boasts numerous awards.

EIT Award winners of 2022 from the broader EIT Community can be also found on [\[here\]](#).



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

In 2023, the EIT Alumni activities continues aiming to enable the knowledge transfer and skills within the EIT Alumni community and beyond. Activities of EIT Alumni encourage and empower its members to push boundaries and generate solutions that drive positive change. The EIT Alumni organises and supports several pan-European activities. These range from bottom-up, alumni driven initiatives to the promotion of EIT Alumni Board Members who actively take part in European and international events on behalf of the EIT Alumni, developing their own skills while also increasing community visibility and driving impact as outstanding young key opinion leaders. Furthermore, the EIT Alumni has its own flagship activity, EIT Alumni CONNECT annual event integrating all communities that constitute EIT Alumni. EIT Alumni CONNECT event is the annual meetup which gathers over 350 Alumni from the wider community. It is the only major event that brings together alumni and representatives from all the EIT KICs, fostering collaboration, synergies, and joint ventures, and strengthens the wider EIT Ecosystem. At EIT Alumni CONNECT, participants gather expand their network, build partnerships, co-create projects, and further collaborate.



With the purpose of establishing a stronger post-pandemic, physical presence for its members in innovative communities, connecting EIT alumni with local I&E ecosystems, strengthening the collaboration with the EIT Co-location Centres (CLCs), and setting the ground for several monetisation models, the EIT Alumni pursues, in 2023 – 2025, the rollout of several EIT Alumni European Nodes with the potential to scale and develop a global presence in alignment with EIT's vision.

In 2023, you will be able to read the first EIT Alumni labelled White Papers, "Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Public Good and Social Impact" with its first edition under the sub-topic "Ensuring and equitable future of healthcare through fit-for-purpose digital health systems".

Through cross-community events, career development opportunities, and the chance to represent the EIT Community with high-level stakeholders and decision-makers, the EIT Alumni members build and sustain an engaged and active community that offers unique opportunities for its members to connect and form alliances that shape the future of Europe.

As of 2023, the EIT Alumni will include contribution to the EIT's Deep Tech Talent Initiative. The Deep Tech Talent Initiative will play a pivotal role in consolidating the EIT Alumni platform of members, complementing the skills of the Alumni members for the next three years and become a key support element for bilateral outreach.

With the aim of extending the EIT Alumni Community, EIT Alumni will take actions to engage talents, professionals, students from similar EIT initiatives such as Girls Go Circular, Deep Tech Talent Initiative and develop an EIT Alumni membership policy to strengthen the value proposition of the Community.

We are looking forward to continuing the work with all EIT Alumni members to further build an impact-oriented, sustainable and future-proofed community in 2023!

LET'S COLLABORATE

As always, the EIT Alumni Community is open to supporting EIT Alumni driven projects and initiatives, especially cross-community projects with the focus on business, innovation or education aspects.

For cross-KIC projects, but also for the longer-term sustainability of the EIT Alumni, we welcome corporate sponsors to approach us.

CONTACT US!

Do you have an exciting cross-alumni community project we can support you with? Do you have suggestions for future events and initiatives? Or are you a corporate who would like to sponsor us? Let us know!



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