



eit

# Impact Report 2018

eitalumni.eu



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# Foreword

Here at the EIT, our vision for the EIT Alumni Community is that it not only provides the foundations for the future success of the broader EIT Community, but also that the EIT Alumni members are the drivers of the European innovations needed to solve our major societal challenges, increase our EU citizen's quality of life, and ensure Europe remains competitive on the world stage through its innovation and entrepreneurship activities.

The last four years have seen the EIT Community grow from three to eight Innovation Communities with the recent arrival of EIT Manufacturing and EIT Urban Mobility, making it Europe's largest innovation network. This is only the beginning of the significant number of leaders, talents and innovations that we will see emerge from the EIT Community.

In my meetings with EIT Alumni members over the years, I always particularly appreciate their maturity and readiness to reflect on the social implications of the change and innovations which they work on. This makes me optimistic that many future business and policy leaders will emerge from the EIT Alumni Community.

It is therefore the EIT's wish to see the EIT Alumni Community structure itself further and in a way that will foster meaningful connections among the alumni of the Innovation Communities, creating value and contributing strongly to the broader EIT Community's impact and results.

What strikes me most about the EIT Alumni Community is that its members not only connect with one another but they can also greatly benefit from the diversity of the EIT community and our broad network of schools, universities, businesses and like-minded innovators.

All of you that participated in the 2018 EIT Alumni activities can be proud of what you will find in this first annual EIT Alumni Impact Report. Results range from productive events to success stories to sustainable initiatives that match EIT priorities such as our flagship event INNOVEIT, the societal challenges addressed by the EIT, or key focus areas such as women entrepreneurship and leadership.

Thank you for keeping your enthusiasm for 2019 and beyond for the benefit of the EIT Alumni Community and the broader EIT Community!

**Martin Kern,**  
*EIT Interim Director*



# What is EIT Alumni?

The EIT Alumni Community brings together an interdisciplinary and multicultural community of professionals, comprising graduates of the EIT's education and business creation programmes.



EIT Climate-KIC Alumni

Community by EIT InnoEnergy



EIT Health Alumni

EIT Digital Alumni



EIT RawMaterials Alumni

Connect  
Collaborate  
Innovate





## Year in Review

2018, which marks the third year of an EIT Alumni Community guided by an EIT Alumni Board, has been a period of growth and stability for our Community, as our President, Falko Döring, reaches the end of his 2nd year on the Board.

The inclusion of dedicated Cross-Community managers to the boards of the individual Alumni Communities has greatly enhanced the stabilisation process. The new role, as proposed by EIT Health Alumni and taken up by the remaining communities, entrusts one representative per community to focus solely on strengthening the bridges between networks, and to commit more time to the EIT Alumni Board.

To name a few milestones of 2018, we successfully piloted a new partner-based, challenge-solving edition of the EIT Alumni Start-up Days in March and May, we welcomed EIT RawMaterials Alumni into our Community and onto our Board in June, our Community expanded to a network of over 5000 members in September, and we have taken steps towards forging our own path in Europe by organising our annual event – EIT Alumni CONNECT – independently from the EIT's INNOVEIT in October.

In terms of highlights, our President was invited to speak at the European Youth Event at the European Parliament in June, Swati Pandey, an alumna of EIT Climate-KIC was called upon to sit on the opening panel discussion at INNOVEIT 2018 alongside EU Commissioner for Education, Culture,

Youth and Sport – Tibor Navracsics, and we are proud to have supported the first Women@EIT leadership Intensive, an initiative that aims at the increased participation of women in entrepreneurial activities across Europe.

It is evident that with stability comes progress.

EIT Alumni CONNECT 2018 was a particular high point for our community. Bringing together over 150 participants of 40 different nationalities, this event was a great opportunity to showcase the diversity of our community and to prove to the rest of the EIT Community the potential of the EIT Alumni as drivers of cross-sectoral collaboration.

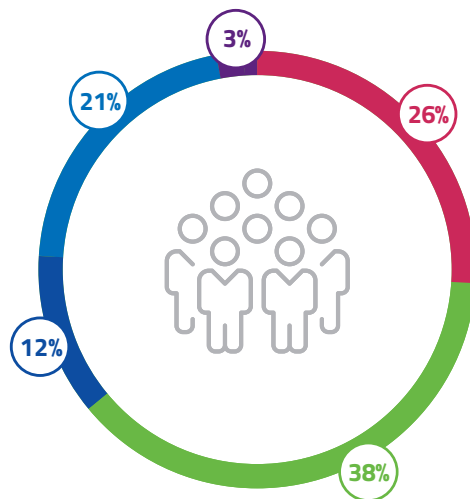
Looking into 2019, we plan to further professionalise our network. Firstly by reforming our governance structure to include Advisory Board members; one or two key figures from the EIT's history. This should bring weight and a depth of experience to our leadership team.

Secondly, we are becoming more business-orientated. As our community matures it makes sense to not just welcome alumni from the EIT's education programmes, but also those from the EIT's business accelerators, who will no doubt bring a fresh burst of innovation to our ranks.

To conclude what has been a great year for our community, we would like to express our continued thanks to you, the alumni. Your continued willingness to voluntarily contribute to the development of our network is what makes our community thrive.



**We look forward to a constructive 2019!**



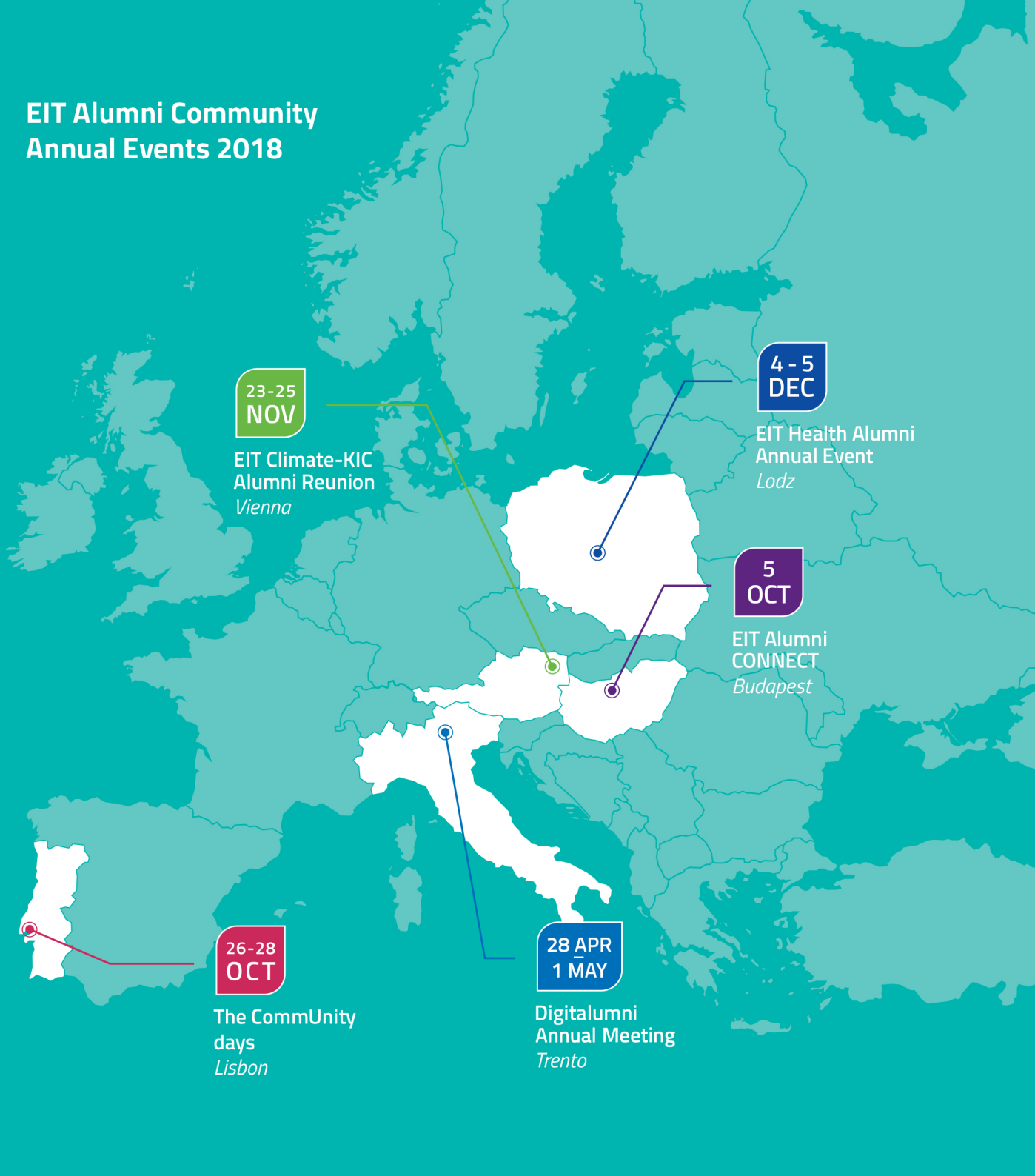
## Composition of the EIT Alumni Community\*

- CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy = 1771 members
- EIT Climate-KIC Alumni = 2550 members
- EIT Health Alumni = 811 members
- EIT Digital Alumni = 1436 members
- EIT RawMaterials Alumni = 206 members

**Total number of members = 6774 members**

\*Numbers as of December 2018

# EIT Alumni Community Annual Events 2018



23-25  
NOV

EIT Climate-KIC  
Alumni Reunion  
*Vienna*

4 - 5  
DEC

EIT Health Alumni  
Annual Event  
*Lodz*

5  
OCT

EIT Alumni  
CONNECT  
*Budapest*

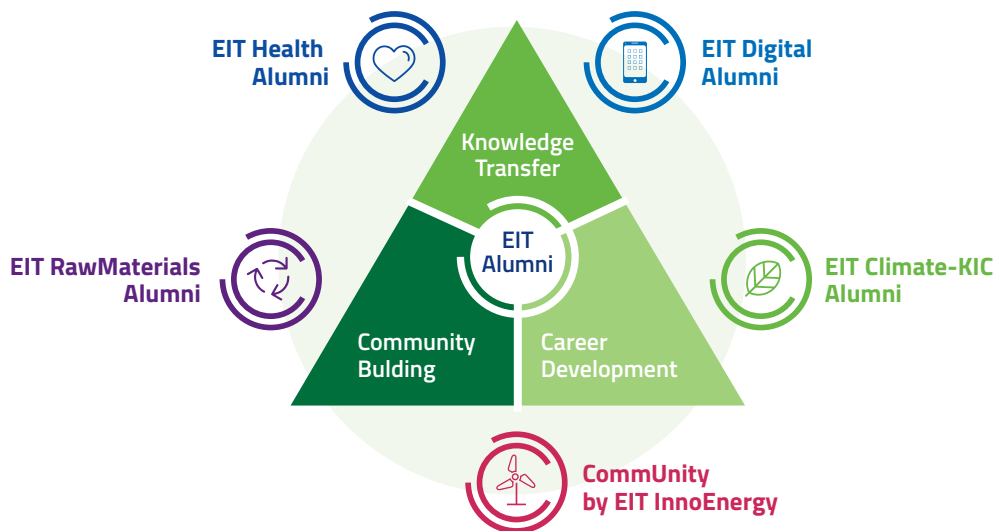
26-28  
OCT

The CommUnity  
days  
*Lisbon*

28 APR  
1 MAY

Digitalumni  
Annual Meeting  
*Trento*

# A Growing Community



## Key numbers for 2018



# Journey of an EIT Alumni entrepreneur

**Philipp Hollberg**

**SEPTEMBER 2013**

Philipp begins EIT InnoEnergy  
SELECT Master's programme  
– Environmental pathways for  
sustainable Energy

**JULY 2014**

Participates in EIT  
Climate-KIC's The  
Journey

**MAY 2015**

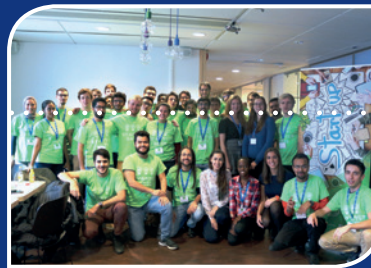
Attends EIT Alumni  
CONNECT 2015. Meets  
co-creator of EIT Alumni  
Startup Days – Lara Obst

**APRIL 2016**

Attends EIT Alumni  
CONNECT 2016

**NOVEMBER 2015**

Co-organises the first EIT  
Alumni Startup Days



**MAY 2016**

Co-founds CAALA



**OCTOBER 2016**

Joins the EIT  
Climate-KIC  
Accelerator  
Programme

**OCTOBER 2017**

Nominated by EIT  
InnoEnergy for the EIT  
CHANGE Award 2017

**OCTOBER 2018**

Attends EIT Alumni  
CONNECT 2018

**OCTOBER 2017**

Attends EIT Alumni  
CONNECT 2017



# Breaking the Glass Ceiling

## Women@EIT

Women constitute 52% of the European population but only 30% of entrepreneurs and only 32% of economic leaders.

### What is Women@EIT

The ladies behind Women@EIT have created a network that connects both female EIT students and Alumni members and gives them a sense of belonging. They organise regular events that give attendees the opportunity to learn new technical skills to advance in their careers, and get encouraged to start their own businesses in the future.

On top of that, Women@EIT stands for promoting female role models, creating comfortable learning environments, female networking, raising awareness that inequalities between men and women still exist and trying to diminish them. Women@EIT is a cross-Community initiative, which also creates a platform for sharing opportunities, events and ideas and increases the visibility of EIT among potential female applicants to EIT's programmes.



### Their goal for 2019?

10 unique events across Europe to increase the number of women entrepreneurs and to increase the visibility of EIT among potential female applicants.



**60**  
applicants



**10**  
leaders



**10**  
cities

“A major takeaway from the Leadership Intensive was that I am finally part of a community of driven women who are passionate and committed to making the EIT thrive and to share their love for science and STEM. I felt empowered, part of a community, and I can tackle going out there, organising events, and creating opportunities.

*Giulia Marzetti, EIT Climate-KIC Alumna, on the Women@EIT Leadership Intensive*

## Women@EIT in 2018

This year, Women@EIT organised the first Leadership Intensive, an annual workshop aimed at empowering women from across the EIT Alumni Community who are eager to take the initiative of Women@EIT forward.



## Get in contact:

[women@eitalumni.eu](mailto:women@eitalumni.eu)





# Success Stories

## Anand Narasipuram & Jeevan Dasan



Anand Narasipuram & Jeevan Dasan are alumni of the EIT InnoEnergy Master School and are now Co-founders of Smartivate, a start-up based in Germany, enabling homes to be smart, efficient and secure.

**> 200 000 EUR**  
investment raised

**Smartivate named 'Most Marketable idea of the year 2017'**

*Burda Startup weekend, Munich*

We first met in the EIT InnoEnergy ENTECH Master program. An experience which has made us better overall engineers & eventually young entrepreneurs. The combination of technical education and management courses helped us to build a strong foundation in our areas of specialization.

About 14 months after graduation, we decided to present a business idea we had casually been discussing at the Burda start-up weekend in Munich, and were awarded the “Most Marketable Idea of the Year” prize, which included mentorship from Innogy and an office space at the Burda Bootcamp. The innovative mindset, inter-personal communication and entrepreneurial spirit nurtured in all of our EIT programs kept us motivated throughout. Thereafter, we chose to go full-time with our start-up. We then got **shortlisted in the top 10 start-ups supported by Innowerft**, a joint initiative of SAP & a start-up incubator in Walldorf. Our Alma-mater Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) then mentored us and supported us in making a grant proposal to the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs & Energy (BMWi), Germany, which later awarded us the **EXIST Business Start-up grant of about 130 000 EUR for starting-up our business**.



## Swati Pandey



Swati is an alumna of EIT Climate-KIC. She is now the CEO and Co-founder of Arboreal.

Swati started her entrepreneurial journey at the EIT Climate-KIC Summer School where she first came up with the idea of Arboreal that went on to win the public vote at the Business Plan Competition held at the conclusion of the journey. She was motivated to pursue the idea further, when Prof. Cramer (Ex-CEO, EIT Climate-KIC) wrote a 5000 Euros cheque and handed it to her team at the same event. Swati has been an active member of the EIT Alumni since and considers the EIT Climate-KIC summer school as one of the transformational events in her personal and professional journey.

Swati is the **CEO and Co-founder of Arboreal – an award-winning plant biotechnology company focused on creating a diabetes free world**. Arboreal has combined advanced scientific R&D and proprietary innovations with a traceable, sustainable and scalable supply chain to reinvent Stevia – a 100% natural, zero calorie sweetener that comes from a plant source. Arboreal's strength lies at the intersection of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Food Technology, and is currently focused on industrial scale production and marketing of its proprietary range of Stevia extracts and formulations globally. Arboreal is backed by a clutch of angels from UK, Ireland, India, US and Indonesia; and has recently raised **3M USD** from a leading family office in India and a group of FMCG industry veterans to build its next phase. Earlier this year, Swati was announced as the Asia-Pacific Laureate at Cartier Women's Initiative Awards in Singapore from amongst 2900+ high quality women led ventures, from 130+ countries, which were adjudged by Cartier, McKinsey and INSEAD Business School.

More than  
**3 MILLION USD** raised

Winner of Asia-Pacific  
Laureate of the Cartier  
Women's Initiative Awards

# Journey of an EIT Alumni entrepreneur

## Florence Gschwend

**OCTOBER 2013**

Begins EIT Climate-KIC supported PhD

**JULY 2014**

Took part in the EIT Climate-KIC 'The Journey'

**SEPTEMBER 2015**

EIT Climate-KIC Greenhouse incubator programme

**MAY 2017**

Received BioBase4SME from EU Horizon 2020 programme

**JANUARY 2017**

Accepted into the EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator Programme



**JANUARY 2017**

Listed on Forbes 30 under 30 list

**JUNE 2017**

Finishes EIT Climate-KIC supported PhD

**JULY 2017**

Founds Chrysalix Technologies



**NOVEMBER 2018**

Awarded the SME Instrument from EU Horizon 2020 programme

**JULY 2018**

Awarded financial support from EU Horizon 2020 SuperBio programme



**MAY 2016**

Runner-up at the Imperial College Althea Competition

**OCTOBER 2016**

3rd place finalist of the Global Climate Launchpad



**SEPTEMBER 2016**

Selected as UK nominee to EIT Climate-KIC Launchpad International finals

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

Awarded EUR3000 at Climate-KIC Venture competition (2nd prize)

**OCTOBER 2017**

Participates in EIT Alumni CONNECT 2017



**MARCH 2018**

Accepted into Royal Academy of Engineering Fellowship

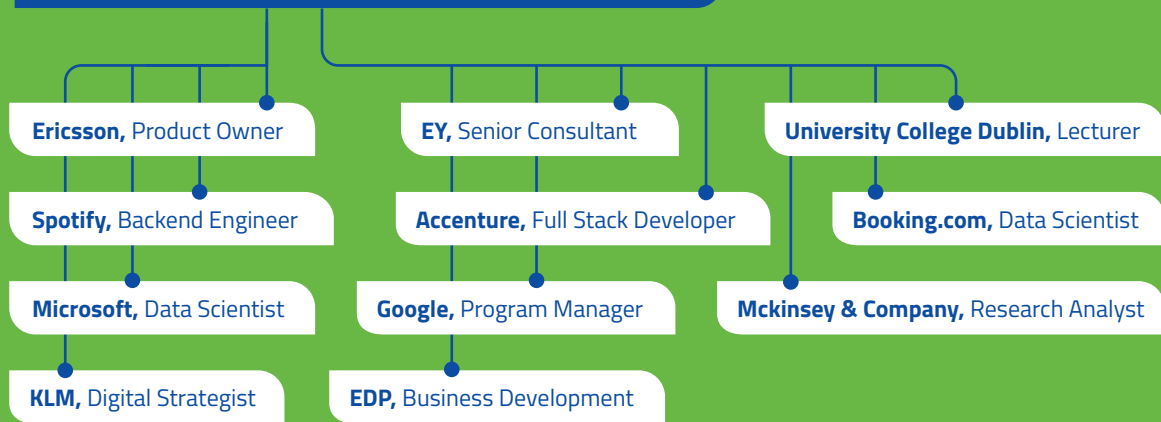
**NOVEMBER 2017**

Runner up at Climate Impact Battle @ SLUSH 2017

**OCTOBER 2017**

Wins EIT CHANGE award at INNOVEIT 2017

## Our alumni have excellent career paths



We support our members in their path towards success

## Consolidating Impact

### Alumni Career Development

Alumni are critical to engage more and more stakeholders in EIT goals. As they join or create companies, universities, NGOs, etc., they continue to boost the visibility of the EIT and EIT Alumni Communities, and are exceptional brand ambassadors. It is important, therefore, that alumni have the ability to develop their skills within the EIT Alumni Community and have the support of the entire alumni network in their on-going careers.

## EIT Health Alumni Mentorship circles

The EIT Health mentoring programme is a peer-to-peer learning format that connects alumni with others in the organization who share common interests or learning objectives, and allows them to learn together as a group. Mentoring circles help create organizational relationships and networks, drive career development goals, build key skillsets, expand organizational knowledge and increase functional expertise.



## CommUnity Career Centre and Mentoring Programme

The CommUnity by InnoEnergy's Career Centre prepares students and graduates for the employment market so that you can find and secure a job that fits your qualities, skills and interests. They work together with today's energy industry to create the best possible career opportunities for students, graduates and alumni.

The Game-Changing Impact Programme (GCIP) is one of the career centre's offerings. This programme, developed together with their partner, The GC Index, helps to identify and fine-tune the skills needed to drive innovation and achieve a sustainable energy future. It assesses how you are going to make an impact and follows up with an 18-month programme.

## EIT Digital Alumni Mentorship Programme

In 2018, the EIT Digital Alumni Community launched a Mentorship programme, where younger members (mentees) starting their careers will receive guidance and support from more experienced Alumni (mentors) who already have successful careers. This support may include: career and business advice, exchanging stories and experiences, access to job opportunities, technical topics of expertise or even soft-skills.

Since its launch earlier this year, over 50 Alumni have already applied to become mentors, and were assigned to almost 40 mentees! Most have already been matched based on their interest and mentorship goals and have been interacting since January 2018.



# Looking In

## EIT Alumni Startup Days – Corporate Challenge Solving



10 MARCH 2018  
**EASD Barcelona**

### Challenge:

Incubating a new innovation district in Badalona, the recovery of the littoral front

### Winning solutions:

Four winning teams were selected. Including:

- An EU-Chinese-cultural business centre
- An Artificial Intelligence Living Lab
- An eco-friendly village for Badalona's 100 hectare development land
- A 3D Print Fab Lab and Makers' Space for social innovation

Partners: **tataj innovation**



### Impact:

Winning teams were invited to a two-day Innovation Retreat, hosted by Tataj Innovation at Tataj Studios.

Nominees of winning teams met with local industry leaders including the Mayor of Badalona, to develop their ideas and prepare them for implementation in the region.

**Challenge:**

Expanding the use cases of Blockchain technology

**Winning solutions:**

**Med Ac**, using blockchain to tokenise and regulate prescriptions and the pharmaceutical industry.



**Partners:**

The Energy Web Foundation  
and the International Young  
Professionals Foundation (IYPF)



**Impact:**

The 1st place team were accepted into a year-long incubator programme to develop their start-up idea.

The 2nd place team were accepted into an international leadership development programme to further their career development.



I liked that it was a pure business model innovation. No unnecessary mock up. The level of attention and quality of coaching we got was exceptional. The general bonhomie of the place was very positive. It truly brings out the positive aspects of EIT as a community. Looking forward to more events from EIT.

*EIT Alumni Startup Days participant*



# Looking In

## EIT Alumni CONNECT 2018

Entrepreneurs, innovators, and young professionals of the EIT Alumni network took part in EIT Alumni CONNECT 2018 in Budapest. For the first time, all five of the alumni communities of the EIT Alumni came together to share experiences, network, and learn from each other.

Three successful EIT entrepreneurs led the morning session, each with a background that spans sectors - representing the cross-sectoral nature of the EIT Alumni - and each with their own personal story to inspire the community.

The afternoon, consisting of 10 parallel workshops gave founders of existing or early stage start-ups the opportunity to present their ideas, practice their pitching skills, look for potential partners, and gain advice and insights from fellow entrepreneurs.

Developing your personal network is key to becoming a successful entrepreneur. EIT Alumni CONNECT gives our members the chance to meet like-minded innovators from outside of their fields.



3

key note success stories





150  
applicants



40  
nationalities



5  
communities



10  
parallel  
workshops



# Reaching out

## EIT Alumni Community Ambassadors

In its unique position at the centre of five exclusive Communities, each with its own offering of sector-specific experts, the EIT Alumni Community has the potential to be the go-to network for inspirational speakers in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship.

The EIT Alumni Ambassador Programme is designed to do just that. We want to harness opportunities for our community, showcase our potential, and boost our visibility in Europe.

Through this programme, we offer our members the chance to take part in valuable networking opportunities with leading European companies, participate in some of the most influential European events, and actively contribute to changing Europe's innovation landscape.

### Collaborate with us:

If you would like to invite an EIT Alumni member to actively participate in your event, workshop or conference, or would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities, please get in contact: [EIT-alumni@eit.europa.eu](mailto:EIT-alumni@eit.europa.eu)



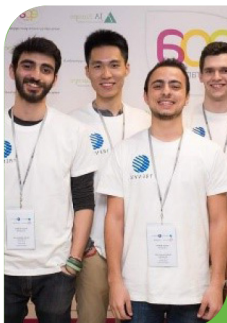
Although the Innovation Communities seem to stand on their own, the fact is that people who are part of the EIT Community are aware of the fact that cutting-edge solutions come out of cross-sectoral work, and the EIT Awareness Day I attended on behalf of the EIT Alumni in Malta was a proof of this approach.

**Ayşe Tolunay** , *EIT Health Alumni representative to the EIT Alumni Board*



Even though I might have not been the most active member within the alumni network since I graduated, this weekend at the Startup4Refugee Workshop has motivated me to contribute more and has taught me that once an alumnus of EIT, you're always an alumnus.

**Hassan Merghani** , *EIT Digital Alumnus*



In June we were honoured to represent EIT Alumni and participate in HEInnovate 2018 in Ruse, Bulgaria, an annual event hosted by the European Commission. With our strong ambition and perseverance we are on our way to develop our project into an outstanding startup company. And it will be our greatest honour to continue to contribute to our EIT Alumni community in any ways possible.

**Tian Xia**, *EIT Digital Alumnus*



It was very insightful to see the incredible level of the Junior Enterprises in the JADE network. You can see that this incredible group of young people has a passion for innovation and entrepreneurship similar to the EIT Alumni Ecosystem. Just like us, they are very passionate about their businesses and the JADE network gives them unique opportunities for networking and further expansion.

**Jeroen Van Lent**, *EIT Digital Alumnus*





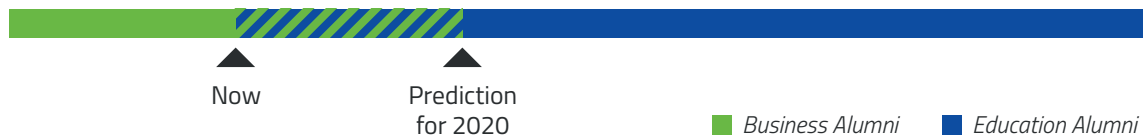
# Moving Forward

## A business orientated community

Over the past three years, the EIT Alumni Community and the impact of its members have been growing steadily. As our community matures, we are now looking to cement our foothold in the European business sector by on-boarding alumni of the EIT's business accelerator programmes.

Currently our network is primarily composed of education alumni, with business alumni constituting approximately 20% of our members.

By 2020 we want to boost this number to 40%.



By welcoming more start-ups and prospering young businesses into our community we will bring a new dimension to the EIT Alumni. This will greatly enhance the impact of our network and improve our capacity to foster innovative ideas, create bridges, and promote partnerships among the finest minds and forward thinking organisations.

We will ensure that the EIT Alumni continues to contribute, learn and grow within the EIT Community. As a network of change-makers, entrepreneurs and thought leaders, our goal is to inspire, lead, and create.



COLDPLASMATECH benefited hugely from EIT Health's business accelerator programme; being part of the EIT Alumni Community is an excellent way to continue to network with like-minded entrepreneurs outside your sector

**Dr. Carsten Mahrenholz**, CEO of COLDPLASMATECH

# Thank you to our governing team

The progress we have made so far would not have been possible without the dedication and passion of our EIT Alumni Board Members. Those who have volunteered their time over the past three years to steer the development of our Community.

We would like to give particular thanks to:

- **Mark Aguinaldo**, EIT Climate-KIC Alumni
- **Miguel Amador**, EIT Health Alumni
- **Francesco Bonadiman**, EIT Digital Alumni
- **Nadja Dokter**, EIT HQ
- **Falko Döring**, CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy
- **Jagadeesh Gandla**, EIT Health Alumni
- **Claudio Geyken**, CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy
- **Stefano Imoscopi**, EIT Digital Alumni
- **Esmee Kooijman**, EIT Climate-KIC Alumni
- **Antonio Martinez**, EIT Health Alumni
- **Robin Maxton**, EIT HQ
- **Laurent Roux**, EIT HQ
- **Borce Stojkovski**, EIT Digital Alumni
- **Estefania Tapias**, EIT Climate-KIC Alumni
- **Marilu Valente**, EIT RawMaterials Alumni

## Call to Action for 2019

The EIT Alumni Community is becoming a stronger professional network, and with this in mind we hope that our members will continue to be actively engaged with our community and give back to this unique ecosystem.

We are always open to supporting new 'alumni driven' projects and initiatives, this year we will give particular focus to three focus areas:

1. **Women Entrepreneurship**
2. **The European Commission's Digital Education Action Plan**
3. **Alumni career development**

If you would like to propose future events or initiatives, particularly within the context of the areas outlined above, please contact us: [EIT-alumni@eit.europa.eu](mailto:EIT-alumni@eit.europa.eu)

**Not yet a member? Find out how to [join your respective community here!](#)**



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