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The EIT Alumni Community had a busy 2016. Not only did the Community continue to grow with the designation of a new KIC and with more students taking part in EIT-labelled courses than ever before, but there was also a continuation of events dedicated to EIT students and alumni.

One of these was the EIT Alumni CONNECT event held in April 2016, which built on the success of the previous CONNECT events in 2013 and 2015.

Another was the ambitious EIT Alumni Startup Days event in December, which was held simultaneously in six European cities.

The EIT Alumni Community continues to grow, and after the launch of two new KICs in 2014, EIT Health and EIT Raw Materials, the number of students and graduates from EIT-labelled programmes are increasing adding greatly to the size of the Alumni Community.

In 2016, we also saw the designation of EIT Food, putting trust and sustainability at the heart of food production. With the growth of students and alumni from these different thematic areas, 2017 and onwards promise to be a very exciting time for the EIT Alumni Community.

To fully take advantage of our community’s talent and network, connect and stay in contact with us.
Meet the EIT Alumni Community Board

One of the key elements and advancements of the Community in 2016 was the introduction of the new EIT Alumni Community Board. Formed in early 2016, the Board’s mandate is to drive the Community’s direction and develop it; to encourage an active exchange among EIT Alumni, amplify its activities and facilitate the exchange of ideas, knowledge and skills.

**Estefania Tapia**, President

**Responsible for:** the strategic development of the EIT Alumni Community, the coordination of the work and efficient conduct of the Board, and the representation of the EIT Alumni Community to stakeholders.

**Pilot action for first year:** generating social impact through the ‘Refugees’ pilot project.

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**Borce Stojkovski**, Vice-President and Interim Communications Officer

**Responsible for:** supporting the President of the EIT Alumni Board, drafting and overseeing the implementation of the Board’s work programme, and the communication and promotion of the EIT Alumni Community.

**Pilot actions for first year:** providing tools and mechanisms to develop the career opportunities of current and former students.

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**Claudio Geyken**, Community Officer

**Responsible for:** maintaining and growing the EIT Alumni Community.

**Pilot actions for first year:** looking at hubs where common events can be held and looking at other activities that can create engagement.

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**Antonio Martinez Millana**, Treasurer

**Responsible for:** developing the EIT Alumni Community’s financial plan and a plan for the mid-to long-term financial sustainability of the EIT Alumni Community.

**Pilot actions for first year:** looking at how EIT Community projects are presented to a global audience and how to engage with people outside of the Community.

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**Nadja Dokter**, EIT Representative

**Responsible for:** relations with the EIT and other EU and global initiatives in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship.

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EIT Alumni Community Board: Vision, Mission and Values

Collaboration is at the heart of the EIT, and so it was fitting that members of the EIT Alumni Community helped to define the vision, mission and values of the community. Split into groups, the students and alumni were asked for their opinion on three key questions. Their responses were used by the EIT Alumni Board to generate the essential foundations.

Vision: What do we want the EIT Alumni Community to look like in five years?

- **Key words:** Community, education, recognised, global
- **Vision:** To be a renowned community of interdisciplinary entrepreneurs and innovators who actively collaborate to create a positive impact in response to global challenges

Mission: What is our role and contribution as the EIT Alumni Community?

- **Key words:** Platform, different, people, communication, knowledge
- **Mission:** To inspire and facilitate interdisciplinary and multicultural collaboration and knowledge transfer to boost entrepreneurial action and amplify the impact of the Community's innovation activities

Values: What is important to us? Which values do we need to practice?

- **Key words:** Collaboration, transparency, sustainable, sharing, social
- **Values:** Transparency, collaboration, sustainability, social responsibility, sharing and diversity

'We are a diverse and vibrant people driven community, growing in number with our impact increasing day-by-day.'

Martin Kern - EIT Interim Director
EIT Alumni CONNECT 2016!

100 alumni
5 Alumni Board members
4 action areas
2 keynote speakers
1 Community!

The members of the EIT Alumni Community hail not just from Europe, but from all around the world. While today’s digital society makes it easier than ever to stay in touch, nothing can replace meeting, networking, sharing and collaborating face-to-face – and that’s exactly what EIT Alumni CONNECT offers.
EIT Alumni CONNECT 2016

From 24–26 April as part of the EIT Stakeholder Forum, ‘INNOVEIT,’ the EIT welcomed students, alumni, entrepreneurs and EIT Community members to the second annual EIT Alumni CONNECT event taking place at the Boscolo Budapest Hotel.

Over 100 young entrepreneurs from EIT Climate-KIC, EIT InnoEnergy, EIT Digital, EIT Raw Materials and EIT Health networked, collaborated and most importantly, set the direction for the EIT Alumni Community as it moves forward.

Throughout the weekend the alumni would hear from speakers from top companies and institutions such as Dr Ken Gabriel of Daper Laboratory and Tibor Navracsics, E.U Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport.

As well as giving the students and alumni a forum in which to share experiences and exchange knowledge, attendees also heard from alumni members who are already successful entrepreneurs.

Martin Kern, EIT interim Director, kicked things off by welcoming the students and alumni to what promised to be a game-changing EIT Alumni Community event.

Emphasising the strength of the community, he also acknowledged the huge potential waiting to be harnessed and introduced the newly formed EIT Alumni Board, a key milestone in the development of the Community.

EIT Change Award Winner 2015, Govinda Upadhyay, gave a keynote speech encouraging his fellow alumni to help change the world. Making an impact on a global scale is something that all young entrepreneurs aspire to. After winning the EIT Change Award, Govinda won the Forbes ‘Under 30 Change the World’ competition, in recognition of his work in sustainable solar energy.

“We are the entrepreneurs, but there’s the word “social” before that. We’ve changed LEDsafari into an educational company and we use a ‘Robin Hood’ model - taking from the rich and giving to the poor!” – Govinda Upadhyay - LEDsafari
After being formally introduced by the EIT Interim Director, the EIT Alumni Board took to the stage to define the Board’s vision, mission and values.

The Board got a chance to introduce themselves, state the goals of the EIT Alumni Community and set out their vision for a community built from the bottom-up. The Board set off the activities: an afternoon for the alumni to decide the direction of their community.

The alumni proceeded to participate in group work which resulted in their contributions being taken forward by the Board.

The ideas raised encompassed what and how the community should look like in five years and how this can be achieved. At the end of this process the Board highlighted four action areas for the Community; engagement, career opportunities, outreach and external relations and social impact.

The evening saw keynote speaker, Dr Mario Romero, discuss sustainable development within five key areas: water, energy, health, education and transportation.

Dr Romero highlighted many of the innovative and student-led initiatives taking place across Europe in areas such as visualisation and public transportation.

INNOVEIT Young Social Entrepreneurs Roundtable

As INNOVEIT event continued over the weekend, social entrepreneurs from the EIT Community named in the prestigious ‘30 Under 30 Europe’ took to the stage. Arno Zimmerman, Govinda Upadhyay and Tanmoy Bari shared their experience and knowledge about their successes and the challenges they faced.

This was followed by the EIT Change and Venture Award nominee pitches. Each nominee had two minutes to deliver an ‘elevator’ pitch that encapsulated their idea or venture, as well as its potential, with props including musical instruments, a pair of shoes and a power cable!

To conclude INNOVEIT 2016, the winners were announced; Allen Mohammadi received the EIT Change Award; Norbert Kuipers took home the EIT Innovators Award; and Florian Schneider won the EIT Venture Award.

The second annual EIT INNOVEIT and CONNECT events brought together over 500 people for a successful event.

The next EIT Alumni CONNECT and INNOVEIT event will take place in Budapest from 15 to 17 October 2017. Given the increasing size and talent within the community, this is a great opportunity for networking and collaboration.
EIT Alumni Startup Days 2016

- 160+ Alumni
- 300+ Participants
- 54 Hours
- 6 Cities
- 1 Event
- 1 Community
Welcome to the EIT Alumni Startup Days event!

In December 2016, EIT students and alumni came together from across Europe and beyond to answer the challenges set by the EIT Alumni Startup Days event; to form a team, develop and conceptualise a start-up; and pitch their business and idea to a panel of expert judges, all in just 54 hours. Throughout this process the teams received invaluable support from a range of mentors, coaches and speakers in all locations.

It sounded like a daunting task, but these students and alumni showed why they’re leading the charge for entrepreneurship and innovation in Europe by developing over 30 inspiring start-ups with a real potential for societal change.

Cross-KIC collaboration

The event brought together participants from as far away as China and the USA, and from across the five Knowledge and Innovation Communities: EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Digital, EIT InnoEnergy, EIT Raw Materials and EIT Health.

The teams combined knowledge and expertise with the talent and different perspectives needed to create game-changing start-ups.
Six European locations


In **Stockholm**, the participants were welcomed to EIT Digital in Kista Science Park, home of some of the world’s foremost ICT and mobile communications companies;

**Paris**’s venue was Agoranov, an incubator for innovative start-ups that was founded in 2000 by some of the top scientific institutions in France;

The Technical University of Berlin, one of the largest and most prestigious research and education institutions in Germany, hosted the **Berlin** event;

The **Lisbon** chapter of the Startup Days took place at the Lisbon School of Economics and Management, part of the University of Lisbon.

In **Barcelona**, the event took place at Empren UPC, an entrepreneurial space for students and recent graduates who want to develop their business ideas.

The **Eindhoven** event took place at the EIT Digital Co-Location-Centre, an ecosystem of universities, research institutions, companies and SME’s.

Awards

To reward the start-up teams for their hard work and the high-quality of their ideas, awards were given at each location. To find out who won these awards, and more about the event in general, simply turn over the page!
What happened when?
Friday 2 December

17:30
Registration began at each of the six locations at 17:30. Throughout the day, our local teams had been preparing the venues and eagerly awaiting the arrival of the participants.

18:30
The participants were officially welcomed to the event by the key organisers in each location and informed of the schedule to come. There was also food to be had for all the hungry travellers!

19:00
After the opening speeches, participants were able to pitch their ideas and were presented with the company challenges set by sponsors.

21:00
With the teams formed and startup names chosen, the real work could begin. The teams began to develop their ideas and discuss how to shape their business models. With a few pivots along the way, their start-ups slowly began to take shape.

Saturday 3 December

09:00
An early start brought the teams back together - along with some much needed food and coffee. Immediately after, they continued to work on their business models.

10:00
Throughout the day, all teams made use of their value proposition and business model canvasses in preparation for the one-on-one session with the mentors and coaches.
Now it was time for the mentors and coaches to step forward and offer the benefit of their expertise. This included serial entrepreneurs, VC’s and business mentors from the EIT Community.

Evening brought dinner and more hard work. In some locations, peer reviews took place, encouraging the spirit of collaboration. Teams could then work as late as they wanted or take some well-earned ‘chill out’ time!

Sunday 8 November 2016

Following on from a productive Saturday, our teams began to wrap up the final details of their ideas, finalising their business models and indulging in some well-earned coffee. Our mentors and coaches were on hand to give further advice as the teams began to prepare for their presentations.

The moment had finally arrived to show what can be conceived in 54 hours! With over 30 great ideas produced, it would be up to the juries to decide which was the best and who would win the prizes on offer.

Our jury members were a mix of serial entrepreneurs, EIT Alumni, representatives of multinational corporations and a few of the mentors and coaches that had been with the start-ups over the weekend.

In each location a team was chosen as a winner!
Meet the teams

Barcelona

**NEZ:** A mobile app that informs users of energy usage in real time.

**Surfarms:** Helping give yourself and society the best physical environment.

**Jugo:** Educating children about renewable energy through the items they play with.

**Fuddies:** Innovating the food sector through the “3D printing” of food.

**AirCare:** Activated carbon to purify the air inside buildings.

Berlin

**Random:** Supplying healthy food to people who cannot afford a healthy diet.

**aqWva:** Supplying communities in developing countries with permanent access to clean drinking water.

**Slangsh:** A structured repository of worldwide slang labelled with formal definitions, sentiments, contexts, and demographic information. It is not just an App, but a platform for business.

**Arup UP and AR:** Arup UP brings a better working environment to your employees and they bring more value to you. It is an automated product that combines light, temperature and acoustics. Arup AR is similar but functions on a different business model.

Lisbon

**Poopy:** A sensor for your toilet.

**Algarve Solar:** A solution to aid energy efficiency.

**FoodLizer:** Transforming food waste into fertiliser.

**NoSho:** Solving the no-shows problem in top-rated restaurants.

**Chalo-Chale:** A solution to find educational facilities in India.
Eindhoven

Queue-Less: A measurement device to be used in theme parks, ski resorts and waterparks using IoT to broadcast the waiting times on screens around the location without using the internet.

Eyelfte: A camera in cars to observe facial reactions to detect unusual behaviours to alert drivers to threats.

mHealthX: Blockchain-based technology allowing patients to store and share data with certain parties in real time.

Expense Buddy: A mobile app showing all receipts from card transactions.

SLIM: SLIM uses the EXE platform to create an energy management system for municipal governments.

FloralVision: A device which detects diseases on orchids through deep learning and computer vision.

Metagora: Metagora developed a matchmaking platform to scale-up energy efficiency in the residential sector.

IDU: IDU sends a business card by swiping it in the direction of a new acquaintance by detecting the phone direction.

Paris

Appero: An app which allows clients of bars to order their drink, avoiding the need to queue. The bar will be able to serve more drinks per hour because they only have to check the cellphone of the customers, increasing their revenue.

Napizza: An AirBnB-style app with shared experiences to reduce expenditure for the traveller.

Omega: Aims to let customers invest directly in the environmental production projects of farmers in times of difficulty by integrating a transparent donation system included in the placement of the food product.

Urafeo: A product to help replace old petrol engines with electric engines on motorbikes to help them become more sustainable.

Stockholm

Think Twice: An app for educational facilities for teaching students how to find ‘fake news’ through a gamified approach.

Alpha: A solution for large businesses to organise expenses in a fast and smart way.

SocialiseMe: Tackling the social issues of today by connecting people with similar interests.

AI Talk: Making your life easier by managing all messages sent over different platforms.

Elderly Care: A solution connecting loved ones who live far away.
EIT Alumni Startup Days Winners

Barcelona: AirCare

Team AirCare, a mixture of both EIT Climate-KIC and EIT-Health alumni, conceptualised a product which can solve both health and environmental issues in one go.

As a society, many have changed their behaviour when purchasing products such as sourcing sustainably produced clothing or eating organic food. But have we considered the interior spaces of the buildings we reside in? Considering that we spend approximately 20 hours each day indoors, our interior environments are a very important factor in determining our health.

Active Wall, the product conceptualised during the EIT Alumni Startup Days, utilises activated carbon molecules, an already existing technology and sustainable material by filtering air within a building.

The team was composed of Mareia Marques Gomez, Javier Molinar, Ana Korelidou, Cristina Catayud and Mil Comasolliuas.

Berlin: aqUVa

Made up of EIT Climate-KIC alumni and externals, team aqUVa: Gabriele Simone, Michael Dittol, Marlin Valanto, Tillman Herberger, Jacob P. Bussman, all met at the EIT Alumni Startup Days in Berlin.

The team name comes from H2O and UV light, ‘where light meets water’. With water scarcity an issue for millions around the world, the product could have an unprecedented social impact.

Their idea is a plug and play purification unit which utilises both ultraviolet light and photocatalytic technology to remove harmful bacteria from drinking water. Being off-grid, the ability to scale this product in countries where there is little in the way of existing power infrastructure is an additional bonus.

Team aqUVa won because they had the right skills and motivation, not only during the Startup Days but also to see this project through! They also went one step further and had a twitter account and website already produced for the pitch.

Eindhoven – FloraVision

Being members of EIT Digital and EIT InnoEnergy, they are another example of cross-KIC collaboration.

The Dutch are renowned for their flowers and greenhouses, and this idea found a solution to first decrease the infection rate among plants, secondly to monitor horticulture, and thirdly to increase efficiencies in the industry.

First conceived during an EIT business development course at TU Delft, the EIT Alumni Startup Days helped refocus the team’s efforts to integrate the product into the Dutch market.

By utilising computer vision and deep learning, their product is able to monitor, spot and stop the spread of diseases on orchids. In this way they can reduce plant loss (and income loss) and automate a labour-intensive industry, thus saving extra on costs.

Flora Vision consisted of Stefano Imoscipi, Kaiqi Dong, and Marco Pavesi.
EIT Alumni Startup Days Winners

Lisbon: Lettuce Grow

The winner of the first EIT Alumni Startup Days to be held in Lisbon was Lettuce Grow, an idea bringing locally produced fresh food from small farmers directly to consumers. Households in turn will be able to source fresh, organic food directly from local farmers. This process can have an added bonus on the rural economy.

In the countryside of Portugal, there is little in the way of direct transferral of food and money from the producer to the consumer, most of the time going through a middleman or a large shop chain. This is in turn reduces the amount of money flowing from urban to rural areas.

Meeting at the EIT Alumni Startup Days, the team was a mixture of both externals and EIT InnoEnergy students; Andrii Sydor, Daniel Lind, Gergely Szabados, Melinda Vargas and Rafael Bartolomeu Martins.

Paris: Appero

Appero, a team composed entirely of EIT Digital students: Ana Gonalex Plaza, Andrea Vallejo, Devrat Shekhawat, Emmanuel Chaudron, Jacehu Lea and Wissem Choukry, conceptualised an app for the would be bar-goer.

Their idea consisted of an end-to-end user journey app helping would be customers to find a bar, to place orders through the app allowing users not to queue, to split the bill based on who drank what and to have a payment facility integrated within the app.

Given the scalability of this app, breaking into the hospitality market and succeeding could lead to further development in the long run, given how applicable it could be to more businesses.

Stockholm: Al Talk

The original concept for Al Talk was over three months ago. The founders, Dapeng Lan and Tianlong Du had noticed an emerging problem: as we continue to use and expand the number of messaging and communication providers, we are spending an ever increasing amount of time navigating through each and even forgetting the original message.

This fragmented dialogue not only takes up minutes if not hours each day trying to reply, leading to mistakes and confusion.

Al Talk provides a search function for all social media platforms and uses artificial intelligence to assemble messages and organise information for the user in a more efficient and time effective way.

Comprising both of EIT students and externals, the EIT Alumni Startup Days welcomed Dapeng Lan, Jingdan Cui, Maksym Kunytsia, Daniyal Shahrokhi, Carlos Azuaje Hernández and Tianlong Du.

‘This event was a great way to find team members to further develop Al Talk’ after the EIT Alumni Startup Days!

--Al Talk – Dapeng Lan

‘It is “learning by doing”; you get the chance to be creative and to challenge yourself. Join! Don’t be afraid! ’

--Lettuce Grow – Rafael Bartolomeu Martin
Cross-KIC Alumni Meetups and Workshops

The EIT Alumni are invited and encouraged to attend and host events held around Europe throughout the year. In addition to the main events hosted by the EIT Alumni, ‘Alumni CONNECT’ and the EIT Alumni Startup Days, the individual KIC Alumni associations hold numerous events with emphasis on cross-KIC collaboration which can be attended by EIT Alumni Members.

The EIT Community takes the initiative by hosting small scale workshops and meetups. In 2016, volunteer alumni from the different KIC-associations set up numerous events, of which some examples are beneath.

**Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Synergize!**
Paris - April 2016
For the first time, EIT alumni and students met in Paris at the top of the Zamansky Tower to meet various peers interested in entrepreneurship, to learn about start-ups and find future collaborators. Synergize brought together members of different KIC-Associations for an evening of networking.

**Vegan Tapas Workshop**
Valencia - May 2016
Climate-KIC Alumni Association organised a Vegan Tapas workshop with more than 20 alumni attending. The event bought our alumni together for an evening of networking, discussions on fair trade and sustainability and most importantly, creating some great tapas.

**Women @ EIT Arduino Workshop**
Stockholm - October 2016
Arranged by two female EIT Digital Students, the Arduino Workshop at Digital CIC in Stockholm brought together female students from the different KICs for an evening to try out different circuits with LEDs, push buttons and speakers. The event gave an opportunity for fellow EIT-labelled students to meet and network.

**Digital Meetup with Distribusio**n
Berlin - November 2016
Organised by EIT Digital Alumni, the meetup in Berlin introduced attendees to their newly assigned local reps and the upcoming EIT Alumni Startup Days. Towards the end, Distribusio, a scale-up supported by EIT Digital which had just raised 6M Euros took to the stage and gave a presentation on their story and milestones.

**EIT Alumni Post-SLUSH Meetup**
Helsinki - December 2016
The EIT Digital Alumni and Climate-KIC Alumni Association co-organised their first joint meetup following the SLUSH conference in Helsinki. As part of this meetup, attendees were shown around the Turbini Accelerator and were given access to some of the newest VR gadgets.

The establishment of the Alumni Board along with the expansion of the community, means there is more drive and emphasis for more Cross-KIC events to take place. If you are interested in hosting or advertising a cross-KIC event through the EIT Alumni social media channels then please get in touch! At the same time, check our social media channels and see if an event is taking place near you over 2017.
Get involved!

Inspired by the EIT Alumni Connect or Startup Days 2016 events? Want to stay in touch with your fellow alumni and continue networking and pursuing innovative collaboration? 
Then get involved with the EIT Alumni’s social networking community through LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter.

LinkedIn
EIT Alumni Community private group
/group/6568822
EIT Alumni Community public page
/company/eit-alumni-community

Become part of an active alumni community and engage with the EIT and your fellow students and alumni from EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Digital, EIT InnoEnergy, EIT Health and EIT Raw Materials.

Facebook
EIT Alumni public page
/eitalumni
EIT Alumni private page
/groups/eitalumni
Startup Days Page
/eitalumnistartupdays

Connect and keep up-to-date with all the latest news from the EIT Alumni Community!

Twitter
@EITAlumni
/EITAlumni

Join the conversation on Twitter

About the EIT Alumni Community

The EIT Alumni Community is made up of students and alumni from EIT-labelled educational programmes. The community comes together during EIT Alumni events in order to develop and exchange ideas, pursue opportunities for cross-KIC collaboration, and find partners for future projects.
About the EIT Community

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is an independent EU body. With our KICs, we enhance Europe’s ability to innovate by nurturing entrepreneurial talent and supporting new ideas.

Our mission

- To contribute to the competitiveness of Europe, its sustainable economic growth and job creation by promoting and strengthening synergies and cooperation among businesses, education institutions and research organisations
- To create favourable environments for creative thought, to enable world-class innovation and entrepreneurship to thrive in Europe. The EIT is an integral part of Horizon 2020, the EU’s Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Horizon 2020 is a key pillar of the Innovation Union – a Europe 2020 flagship initiative that aims to enhance Europe’s global competitiveness

Innovation through integration

The EIT brings together the ‘knowledge triangle’ of business, education and research to form dynamic cross-border partnerships: KICs. Working closely together in the KICs, leading companies, universities and research centres create more effective and innovative solutions for Europe.

These unique partnerships:
- Develop innovative products and services
- Start new companies
- Train a new generation of entrepreneurs

We are growing!

The EIT’s first three KICs were launched in 2010:
- Climate-KIC: addressing climate-change challenges
- EIT Digital: generating world-class ICT
- KIC InnoEnergy: tackling sustainable energy

Two new KICs were designated in December 2014 and they are setting up their activities across Europe:
- EIT Health: improving quality of life for European citizens and sustainability of health and social care systems
- EIT Raw Materials: ensuring the accessibility, availability and sustainable use of raw materials for the economy and citizens

One new KIC was established in November 2016 and are beginning to set up their activities:
- EIT Food: ensuring a climate-resilient and sustainable global food value chain (2016)

We will set up one more KIC by 2020:
- EIT Urban Mobility: providing sustainable solutions for urban mobility (2018)

The EIT Alumni Community

The EIT Alumni Community brings together an interdisciplinary and multicultural community of change agents, who share a common vision for tackling world challenges and creating a positive impact through innovation and entrepreneurship.
EIT Alumni Community in numbers:

EIT-labelled graduates - 486
EIT-labelled enrolled students - 1974

EIT Climate-KIC Alumni
Engage and transfer knowledge and skills within the community and beyond

EIT Digital Alumni
Organise joint activities with the KICs and KIC Alumni organisations

EIT Food Alumni
A self-sustaining community with clear leadership

EIT Health Alumni
Share ideas through newsletters and webinars
Hold and host simultaneous events across Europe

EIT InnoEnergy Alumni

EIT Raw Materials Alumni

EIT Alumni Community

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Each of the KICs operates in innovation hubs called ‘Co-location Centres’. The EIT’s KICs have Co-location Centres spread across the EU and work with regional centres to increase the impact of their activities. All Co-location Centres offer entrepreneurial training and support, so get in touch with them to discover the different opportunities they offer!