



# IMPACT REPORT 2020

[eitalumni.eu](http://eitalumni.eu)




EIT Climate-KIC



EIT Digital



EIT RawMaterials



EIT InnoEnergy



EIT Health

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## What is the EIT Alumni Community?

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



**CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy**



**EIT RawMaterials Alumni**



**EIT Digital Alumni**



**EIT Climate-KIC Alumni**



**EIT Health Alumni**



**Mariya GABRIEL,**

*European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth*

Promoting entrepreneurial competences among young people as a pathway to taking an active part in European society and tackle societal challenges is very important. I am pleased to see the EIT Alumni continuing to offer vital skill-based and value-added activities for equipping its members to critically reflect and respond to these challenges through innovation.



**Martin KERN,**

*EIT Director*

As the EIT continues to strengthen its impact and **deliver results** through its Knowledge & Innovation Communities (KICs), I am delighted to see the achievements and growth of the EIT Alumni community are fully aligned with this vision of tackling societal challenges through innovation.

The EIT Alumni plays important role in addressing the COVID-19 crisis by bringing together an **interdisciplinary and multicultural community of change agents** who are creating the innovations needed for a green and sustainable European recovery. I am extremely pleased to see so many of you continuing to attend online events to connect, network and build the **skills and knowledge needed to solve our major societal challenges**. I also like to congratulate you on the positive trend of increasing **professional opportunities being shared and created** as well as further developing and attracting funding for your ventures and projects amidst this crisis. This response is perfectly aligned with the EIT launching the **'EIT Crisis Response Initiative' mobilising EUR 60 million** to protect and promote innovators and help develop cutting-edge solutions to the crisis.

Looking forward, with the unprecedented challenges that we face in Europe and around the world, working together across the continent and globally has become more important than ever to **find solutions**. I encourage all EIT Alumni to **make use of the opportunities** whether online and offline to keep connected and engaged with other members of the EIT community well beyond the time of your education programme, start-up support or innovation project. This **long-term cooperation and community spirit** that continuous generates new ideas and innovation is the true added value of the EIT.

Finally, the EIT remains committed to steer and provide strategic guidance to the EIT Alumni Community (in cooperation with the EIT Alumni Board) to **maximise its entrepreneurial and societal impact** as well as the continuous involvement of Alumni in EIT-supported activities.

# FOREWORD



**Peter OLESEN,**

*Former Chairman of the EIT Governing Board, external member of the EIT Alumni Board*

After attending EIT Alumni Connect this year, I am continually impressed to see that despite the global pandemic, the EIT Alumni community has stepped up and created so many **opportunities for virtual connection**. I also have no doubt that the **community and job platforms** provided are extremely valuable for alumni. I firmly believe this multi-disciplinary network is key to creating the next generation of Europe's innovators.

I remain committed to providing my entrepreneurial and wider professional experience as external advisor to the EIT Alumni Board to assist this community is achieving its strategic objectives.



**Miguel AMADOR,**

*EIT Alumni Interim President*

The EIT Alumni has always been a network of the **next generation of global innovators** who share a common vision for creating positive societal impact. Today the EIT Alumni is **nearly 13 000 members** strong but what makes its strength is the network and opportunities it generates. This year showcased our community's **readiness to adapt** as more alumni than ever were able to connect online during webinar series, workshops and challenges. For this, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the **tireless work of the volunteers** who enable this to happen.

2020 also saw us **strengthen our collaborations** with similar European organisations, such as the Marie Curie Alumni Association and the Erasmus Mundus Students & Alumni Association. Looking forward, it is crucial that we continue to increase collaboration between communities, especially with the newest KIC Alumni communities by **allocating sufficient resources and sharing good practices**.

Finally, as we continue to expand as a community, namely with future cohorts of alumni, the EIT Alumni Community will take **an ambassador role in promoting an entrepreneurial mind-set in Europe** and beyond. It will also explore opportunities for collaboration with partners around the world that share a common vision to fully **embrace its sustainability**.

# 2020 IN REVIEW

The EIT Alumni Community celebrated its **fifth year of existence in 2020**. Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, this year saw the community broaden its outreach, impact and swiftly respond to societal challenges.

The EIT Alumni Board composition also changed, welcoming **new representatives** from [EIT RawMaterials Alumni](#), [EIT Climate-KIC Alumni](#), [CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy](#) and EIT.

An external observer, Peter Olesen, previously Chair of the EIT Governing Board, continued to provide his advisory support to the functioning of the EIT Alumni Board.

In terms of highlights the Community amplified experimentations towards **“challenge solver” concept** by the organisation of the first EIT Alumni Challenge: Covid-19 Map & Act and as a result of collaboration with European Food Safety Authority, launching a hackathon on Artificial Intelligence solution to detect fake news.

The Community also amplified the efforts of [Women@EIT](#), the community that brings together women students and alumni, in their first event of the Female Leadership series, Becoming a leader: EIT Alumni Stories. EIT female alumni discussed what it means to be a leader, their development journey, and how they approach decision-making and negotiation.

Another novelty this year was the annual **EIT Alumni CONNECT** going fully virtual. **The event** tackled Responsible Consumption and Production, welcoming EIT KICs Alumni including the representatives of the emerging EIT Food Alumni community. For the third year, its organisation was managed by the EIT Alumni members and supported by the EIT.

Major **collaborations were strengthened** illustrated by the organisation of joint sessions with Marie Curie Alumni Association and the Erasmus Mundus Students & Alumni Association on career development during European Research and Innovation Days.

Furthermore, the EIT Alumni Board continued working on adapting its governance and operational structure, to ensure the alignment with the management of the growing various individual EIT KIC Alumni communities and the integration of future ones that is EIT Food, EIT Manufacturing and EIT Urban Mobility.

Looking back on 2020, our community, now **over 14 000 members** strong, has achieved a lot and we are pleased to tell you about the hi-lights and lessons learnt in this report.

5<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary

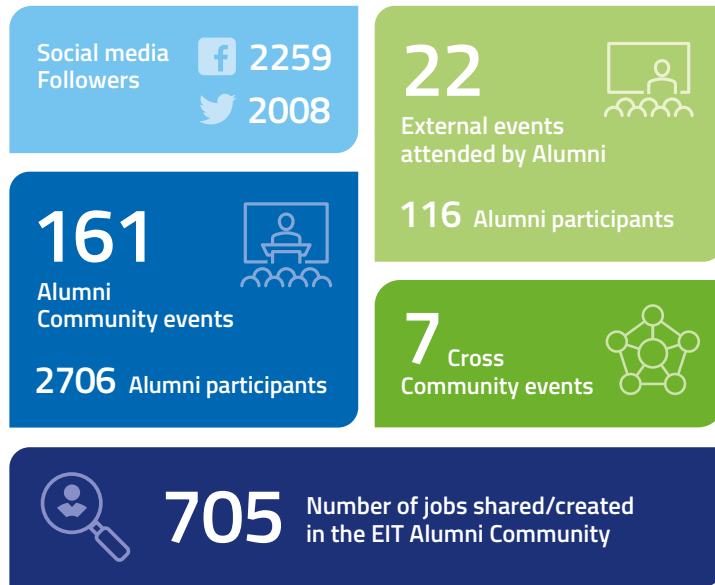
Now over  
14000  
members





# THE COMMUNITY IN FIGURES

## Key numbers for 2020



## EIT Alumni Community Events 2020

- EIT ALUMNI CONNECT 2020**  
*Responsible Consumption & Production*
- EIT ALUMNI CHALLENGE #1,**  
*Covid-19 Map & Act*
- 'I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE ...'**  
*Webinar series*
- DIGITAL EDUCATION HACKATHON**  
*DigiEduHack*
- FEMALE LEADERSHIP SERIES**  
*EIT Alumni Stories*
- LEADERSHIP INTENSIVE WOMEN@EIT**

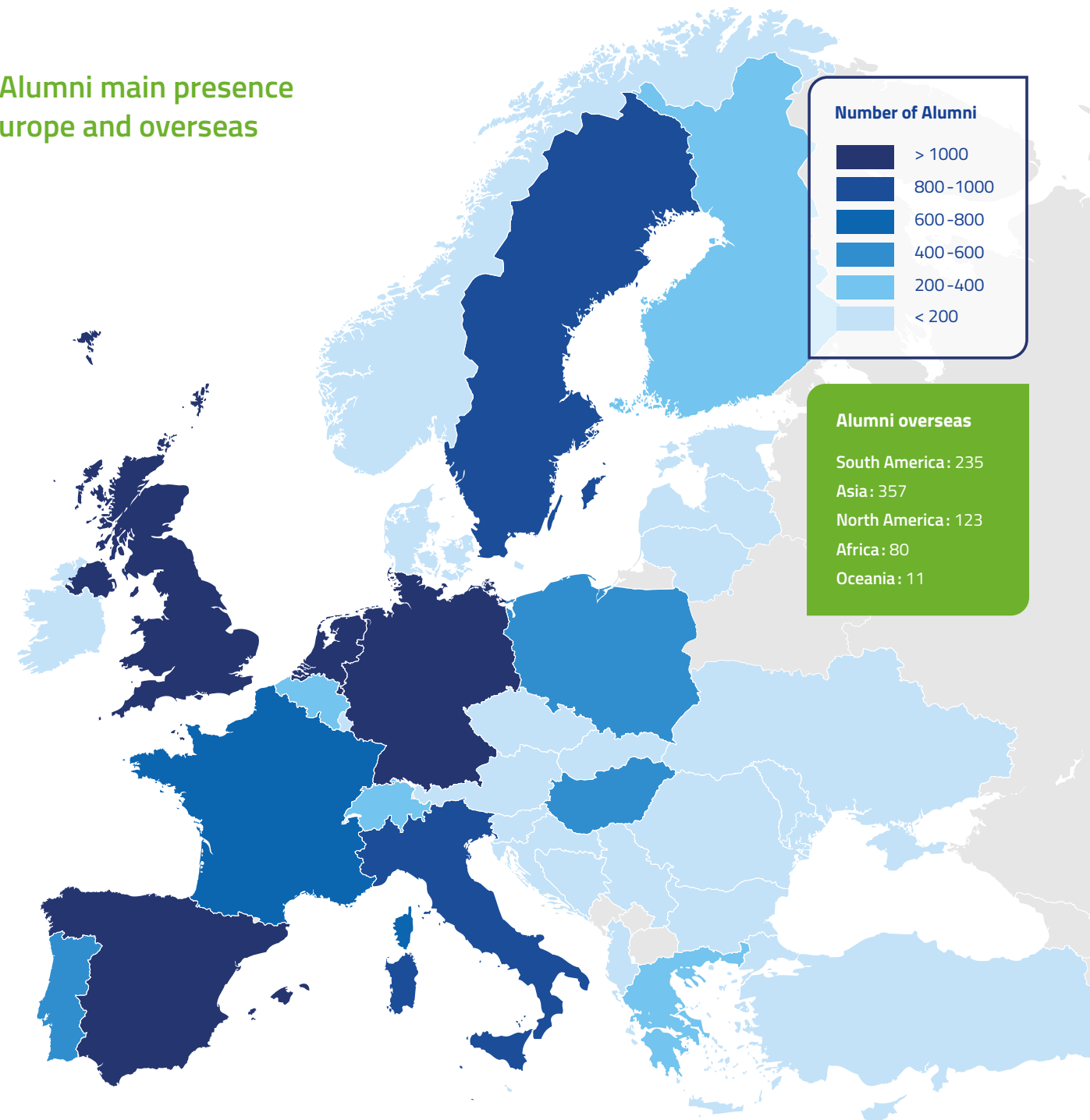
## Composition of the EIT Alumni Community\*

\*Disclaimer: Each KIC Alumni Community has different criteria for Alumni membership.

- CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy: 2255 Alumni
- EIT Climate-KIC Alumni: 5966 Alumni
- EIT Health Alumni: 3115 Alumni
- EIT Digital Alumni: 2110 Alumni
- EIT RawMaterials Alumni: 765 Alumni



## EIT Alumni main presence in Europe and overseas



# JOURNEY OF AN EIT ALUMNI ENTREPRENEUR

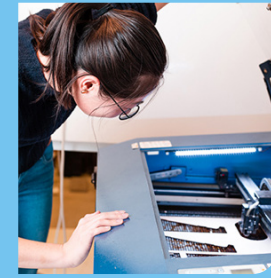


**Selah Li**  
from Tianjin,  
China

2016

Won EIT Digital Master School excellence scholarship for both University of Twente in the Netherlands and KTH, the Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden.

“The scholarship provided me the freedom to work on projects that I am truly passionate about and helped me to reach academic excellence!”



2016-2018

Attended EIT Digital Master School completing the Human Computer Interaction and Design course.

JULY 2020

Won the [EIT Digital Alumni Startup of 2020](#) and money prize

“It’s one of the most satisfying moments in my life to see the happy posts and shares of our customers on social media! You have the feeling that your vision and dream is inspiring other people. With every small step, we are making a big change!”

NOVEMBER 2019

Won KTH Innovation New York pitch competition recognised as one of the best companies to succeed in US markets along with a desk at the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce.



2019

Created Swedish start-up **Ellure** with fellow EIT Master School Student and EIT Digital Alumni Marc van Almkerk.



NOVEMBER 2020

**Ellure** launched its first product, a custom lipstick. Customers design custom lipstick online and realise it on demand using mass-personalisation technology without producing unwanted or unused products. Ellure’s vision is to lead the way to a new standard in the beauty industry, that celebrates individuality without creating excessive waste.

NOVEMBER 2020

Nominated for the EIT Woman Award 2020 and recognised as one of Europe’s most successful start-ups.



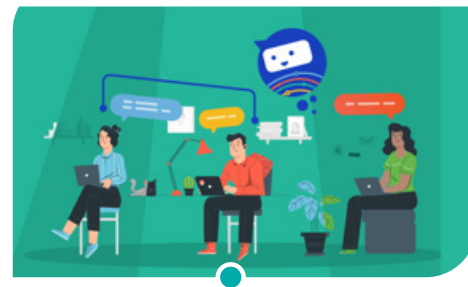
“Our future is decided by what we do today, and I am helping to build a society that cares about our planet and social diversity. I am proud that Ellure’s effort is recognised and supported by the EIT ecosystem and look forward to the future we are building together!”

# SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

## Community COVID related projects

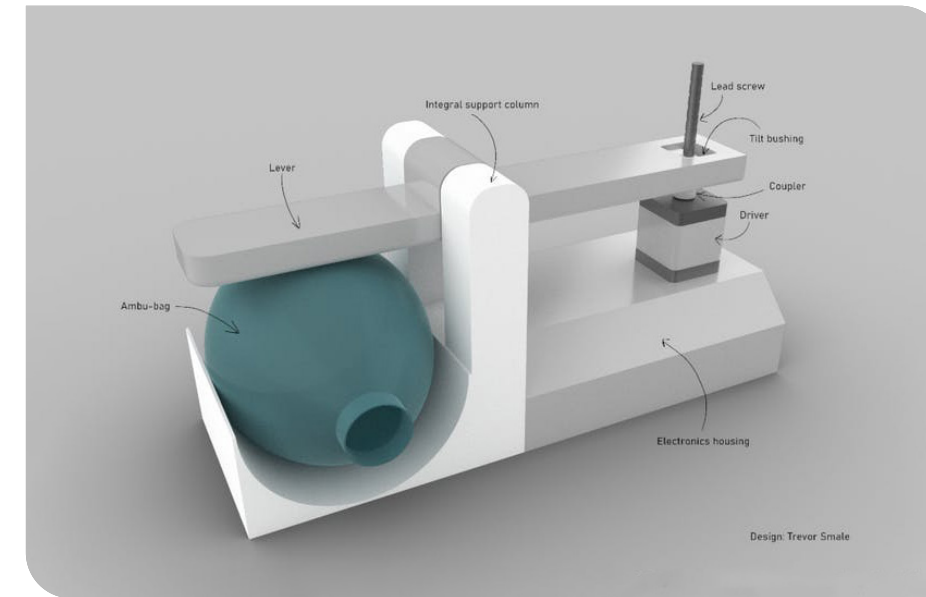
### Backed by EIT Health Alumni, the Digital Aid Project aids care facilities

In early 2020, by Anca M. Sarbu, an [EIT Health Alumni](#), founded [The Digital Aid Project \(DAP\)](#). Its vision is to create a global, interdisciplinary ad-hoc network of health innovators and public health specialists and ensure the continued, resilient provision of care in nursing homes, rehabilitation centres and mental health facilities through tailored recommendations and bold, digital solutions – during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. During the first wave of the pandemic, the DAP Toolset was launched and has already provided valuable information to many long-term care facilities around the globe ensuring continuity of care and tailored support to overcome the crisis.



### EIT Digital Alumni start-up connecting remote teams

[SpotYet](#), a start-up showcased during the Alumni Startup Contest 2020, is a bot integrated within corporate communication systems which matches employees in groups to boost social interaction within companies. The bot organises short coffee breaks, so employees don't miss out on the spontaneous conversations that would normally take place at the office. It helps maintain a cohesive team culture and interpersonal relationships during remote work.



### EIT Health Alumni Board co-founds an Open-Source Design Movement fighting Covid-19: OSVX

In March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, EIT Health Alumni Board member Gillian Berry, co-founded [OSVX](#), an extension of TeamOSV. TeamOSV's vision was to build a team to design and develop an Emergency Field Ventilator (EFV), initially under the name Open Source Ventilator Ireland. In response to increasing needs and shortages, TeamOSV expanded and adapted. TeamOSV now stands at over 3,000 volunteers working on not only the EFV but also over 40 more open-source solutions related to COVID-19. These projects span from low-tech DIY and 3D printed face shields to high-tech thermal camera. TeamOSV is now a multidisciplinary team of engineers, designers, makers, and medical practitioners working on developing novel low-resource interventions through online collaboration.

### Small individual actions have a huge impact for all #itsUptoUs

An EIT Health Alumni driven [initiative](#) to leverage the knowledge of their community in Italy to promote, create, share and disseminate a list of social activities to prevent a worsening of the effects caused by the coronavirus, many of which are triggered by social behaviours which were perfectly normal before the pandemic, but are now deeply dangerous.

## Imagining a Sustainable COVID-19 Recovery



The graphic features a circular inset image of a person writing on a notepad. Below it, the EIT Alumni Challenges logo is displayed, followed by the text 'COVID-19: Map & Act' and the social media handles '@EITAlumni #EITAlumniChallenges'.

“The challenge was a good way to get to know Alumni from other EIT communities and offered a chance to respond to a really current and pressing issue.”

**Carolina da Silva Paes,**  
EIT RawMaterials Alumni

### COVID-19: Map & Act Challenge

In June 2020, the Alumni Community launched the [EIT Alumni Challenge COVID-19: Map & Act](#). The goal was to bring together alumni to map lessons learned, explore opportunities, and find ways to build a long-term resilient society. It asked the key question: **What can European citizens and institutions do to mitigate and overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on our society?**

Speakers and jury members throughout the day included Emanuele Baldacci, the Director of Digital Services at the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Informatics, João Figueirinhas Costa, CEO at Garage48 Foundation and experienced hackathon organiser and Dr Ursula Mühle, Former EIT Health Education Director, currently supporting the Bavarian Health and Food Safety Authority manage the COVID-19 crisis.

Participants were asked to map good practices and lessons learnt to come up with innovative ideas for immediate responses or long-term measures. Each idea went through the ideation, evaluation, suggesting improvement and refining process.

The winning idea was a platform to connect local producers and consumers, strengthening food production ecosystems in a sustainable manner while enabling consumers to discover local services. Other winning ideas included recycling and upcycling e-waste in order to distribute it to people who currently lack access to technology and an IoT tracing chip based on multi-party crypto to prevent data leaks in a time where data can save lives.

Overall, participants were able to **develop innovative ideas tackling the COVID-19 crisis**, work together with their peers from various professional backgrounds, meet inspiring speakers dealing with the COVID-19 crisis and get feedback from the community and experts from the EIT ecosystem.



The graphic features the date '06 JUNE' in large white text on a dark blue background. To the right, it says 'Building Resilient Societies' and 'Online Hackathon in collaboration with EIT Health Alumni' with the time 'Saturday, 9:30am - 6:00pm'. The bottom right corner shows an illustration of people working at computers on a stage. Logos for EIT Health, EIT Health Alumni, and NSXTCODER are visible at the bottom.

### EIT Health Alumni Hackathon - Building Resilient Societies

On 6 June, over the course of 8 hours, the EIT Health Alumni Network, hosted their first online hackathon to **develop and improve some of the most promising digital solutions to build a resilient and more caring European society**. One unique aspect of this hackathon was that patients were included in the teams to ensure that the ideas and projects were fit for real needs.

The winning team project is based on creating an affordable, personalised early warning system to monitor for early signs of COVID-19 symptoms with the use of a phone camera. They have already entered into discussions with N3xtcoder to design the perfect product Lab to take their idea forward and will have access to a team of marketing, coding, and business development experts, as well as 3,000 EUR from EIT Health.

“The hackathon allowed for inclusive co-creation of e-health solutions [...]. This experience could be a beginning of a “new way of doing business”. The challenge lies in creating a culture of patient and citizen partnerships, establishing the leadership and organisational context required to foster engagement, and building bridges between the highly technological digital culture, the still largely academic medical knowledge and the experiential patient knowledge.”

**Anne Schweighofer,**  
Jury member, CEO of the Patient Conseil



## Innovation & responsiveness to the climate crisis

### EIT Climate-KIC Alumni Association gives Climathons a worldwide reach

This year's edition of [Climathon](#) focused on ideas that could contribute to a **sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis** and were hosted almost entirely online. In Cali, Colombia, participants created concepts on how to better manage the waste generated by COVID-19 such as gloves, face masks and eye protection. Some Climathons, e.g. in Germany, Switzerland and Argentina, saw cities joining forces within one country to elevate the impact that they together could have by working on similar challenges. Climathons had the opportunity to engage people from outside their city or country by going virtual, leading to different perspectives and ideas on how to solve local challenges.

Some highlights of the 2020 Climathons were:

- **100 Ideathon** events were hosted simultaneously across five continents lasting from eight to 72 hour with more than **4 500 participants**
- The first Germany-wide Climathon: 7 cities in Germany organised a Climathon with **15 partners** such as Facebook, Tchibo and ShareNow
- City officials such as the Mayor of Pasig and the Head of Environmental Protection and Deputy Head of the Office for Environment and Energy in Basel giving keynotes
- The city of Trondheim in Norway gave out **EUR 10 000** to the winning team and a 6-month timeline to implement their idea



### CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy launches EU Green Deal Virtual Cafes

Energy Policy Program (EPP) CommUnity launched '[The Online Café](#)' series. The sessions provided a virtual space for **over 144 registrants** to discuss topics relevant to the European Green Deal. They provided a platform to share knowledge and experience among the diverse community. The goal was for alumni to connect with others working or interested in a particular topic while learning about the current policy matters related to it. The value of the Café has become evident during this pandemic, as a **low-carbon, low-cost and COVID-free way** to build an energy transition community.

The #TalkingClimate Handbook  
HOW TO HAVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE IN YOUR DAILY LIFE

### Climate KIC fighting climate silence in a climate crisis by #TalkingClimate

In 2020, [The #TalkingClimate project](#) by EIT Climate-KIC and Climate Outreach, equipped people with tools to have meaningful and productive conversations about climate change. More than 40 alumni were recruited as pilot trainers. They were trained to deliver workshops in their own communities and reached 280 people across the world. In early 2021, The Trainer's Guide was developed based on lessons learned by the alumni hosts to allow any and everyone to host their own workshop.

42	alumni trained
33	workshops hosted
280	participants in total
4007	#TalkingClimate report downloads
34K	#TalkingClimate webpage views

## Career & skill driven activities

This year, the Alumni communities focused their resources on webinars and learnt to best utilise online tools and software to maintain high quality interactions between members in this new online format.

### Alumni Afterwork series on self-development

[EIT Digital Alumni](#) launched an online 'Tuesday Afterwork' series featuring various alumni speaking about **personal and professional development** topics like a workshop focused on '**Lifelong learning**' and how the Alumni Foundation could support the continuous development of its members' professional skills. Jeroen Van Lent, EIT Alumni Foundation President, led a brainstorming about training and knowledge exchange opportunities and how volunteers could implement their ideas.

### Alumni attend their first ever virtual graduation ceremony

**EIT RawMaterials Academy** held their first ever virtual graduation ceremony, **Label-Launch!**, for all EIT-Label Master students. Over **100** EIT-Label graduates came together to participate in soft skills workshops, HR sessions, matchmaking events and listen to inspirational graduation speeches from their peers. In addition, **Label-Launch!** hosted over 10 leading industry, research and start-up representatives in the interactive matchmaking session.



### Alumni Workshop at RawMaterials Summit 2020

Ali Hassan, EIT RawMaterials Alumni Board President, and Francisco Veiga Simão, EIT RawMaterials Alumni Board Industry Chair hosted a workshop on 'The Power of a Story' at the EIT RawMaterials Annual Summit. The workshop helped participants develop storytelling skills to drive change in their industry and make strategic communications more effective. The workshop was aimed at entrepreneurs, industry professionals, policy makers, students, and researchers. The Alumni were also able to showcase to a wide audience the activities and opportunities the alumni community provides.

### EIT Alumni Community trainings on Intellectual Property (IP)

In collaboration with [European IPR Helpdesk training](#) focused on **IP related skills**, knowledge and tools which are key to master when it comes to creating a new tech venture or for any innovation that is launched on the market. Participants learnt about what IP rights are, how to protect their solution from counterfeiting or lawsuits, scaling strategies etc. Another training focused on how IP can be applied to Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

### Other career-focused activities in the community

**EIT Digital Alumni** first AlumniHack took place online in September to collect new ideas for the website and provide **web design and development training** to their members. Ideas generated during the event have been implemented on the website.

A **Community by EIT InnoEnergy** alumnus hosted a webinar about how to find a job in France during the pandemic offering insights into the French electricity market.

**EIT Health Alumni Network** launched a new community platform, which had 1550 users sign ups in the first 9 months and has led to the creation of a Job Board where alumni currently receive exclusive job and internship opportunities from EIT Health partners.

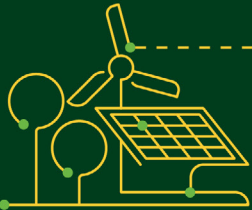






# Alumni CONNECT

## RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



# INSIDE THE COMMUNITY

## EIT Alumni CONNECT 2020

For the first time this year, the annual meetup of the wider community took place online. **Over 120 Alumni** from the EIT's Knowledge & Innovation Communities came together to connect, build partnerships, co-create on projects and work together to build and develop the EIT Alumni Community. Take a look at the wrap up video [here](#).



Even before the event, participants started to connect as they walked across Europe together. The EIT Health Alumni Community came up with Walk2Talk where they challenged alumni to walk, run or swim in their cities and record their activity throughout November. Together, **27 alumni from 6 different alumni communities walked 921.03 km.**

This year's theme was based on SDG 12 'Responsible Consumption and Production' and how EIT Alumni could address this. The event covered how to do more and better with less, decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, increasing resource efficiency, and promoting sustainable lifestyles.

Throughout the two days, two panel discussions took place on the event theme looking at both the industry and consumer perspective. Speakers included Alumni members like Selah Li founder of ELLURE AB as well as external speakers from the [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#), [Fab Lab Barcelona IAAC](#), [CollAction](#) and [DESOS Opcio Solidaria](#).

Both panels touched upon very relevant themes including the idea of developing **mass personalisation** instead of mass consumption, the need for **Doughnut economics** ('economy that grows within the boundaries of society') and advocating for a **degrowth movement** ('societies that prioritise social and ecological well-being instead of corporate profits').



In addition, a series of parallel workshops were held by EIT alumni on topics such as improving living conditions for farm animals and sustainable food systems, as well as industry experts delivering workshops like 'Gender Databias in applied AI', led by Women@EIT, '[Climate Impact Forecasting](#)' and a final one on reducing your organisation's travel footprint led by the [NGO ExPlane](#).

The final day hosted an online **networking session** where over **60 alumni** took the opportunity to connect and share. The event ended with a virtual 'party time' where participants enjoyed games and quizzes. Despite the pandemic, EIT Alumni Connect 2020, still provided a space for more alumni than ever to connect, learn and network.



Funded by the European Union

## WOMEN@EIT ACTIVITIES

### Mission

Create a strong network of female entrepreneurs and innovators from the EIT by contributing to making gender equality a reality across Europe while addressing the women leadership gap, the gender pay gap, and the gender investment gap.

### Vision

Inspire the next generation of women leaders in innovation, business, entrepreneurship, and technology and become Europe's largest women community in innovation and entrepreneurship.

### Values

Equity, diversity, and inclusivity as fair and just drivers of innovation and prosperity. We believe that society needs to advance in this space to ultimately close the gender leadership gap, the pay gap, and the investment gap, for the benefit of present societies and next generations.

700+

Members

20

Local Leaders

11

events

254

Attendees

 [women.eitalumni.eu](https://women.eitalumni.eu)

 [womenatEIT](https://www.facebook.com/womenatEIT)

 [eitwomen](https://www.linkedin.com/company/eitwomen)



## Highlights from 2020

A **Female Leadership webinar series** was launched to help women take their leadership and communication skills to the next level in a 6-month journey. EIT women alumni from a wide range of sectors were invited to discuss what it means to be a leader, how they approach their development journey, including how they approached conflict, decision making and negotiation processes. They also shared with us their personal struggles and success stories.

**New Local Leaders** were welcomed during the **Leadership Intensive event**. The event takes place each year to scale up the Women@EIT community and encourage new Local Leaders to initiate activities at their Local Hub across Europe. This year the event brought together 20 women students and alumni of the EIT labelled programs for two days full of workshops, inspiring talks and knowledge sharing sessions to kick-off the ideation of activities and events across Europe.

A **mentorship program with McKinsey Digital** was launched to recognise and support women with a background in technology. For six months, McKinsey consultants will mentor a group of EIT women, share advice regarding their academic or professional advancement and show them what it is like to do work at the crossroads of business and technology.

**Interviews with mothers working in tech** were organised to provide space for them to share their thoughts with fellow women who want to have a career while having a family.

In September 2020 the [new website](#) and [newsletter](#) were launched. In just three months, the newsletter had more than 200 subscribers increasing Women@EIT's outreach and making the initiatives and events available to a wider community.

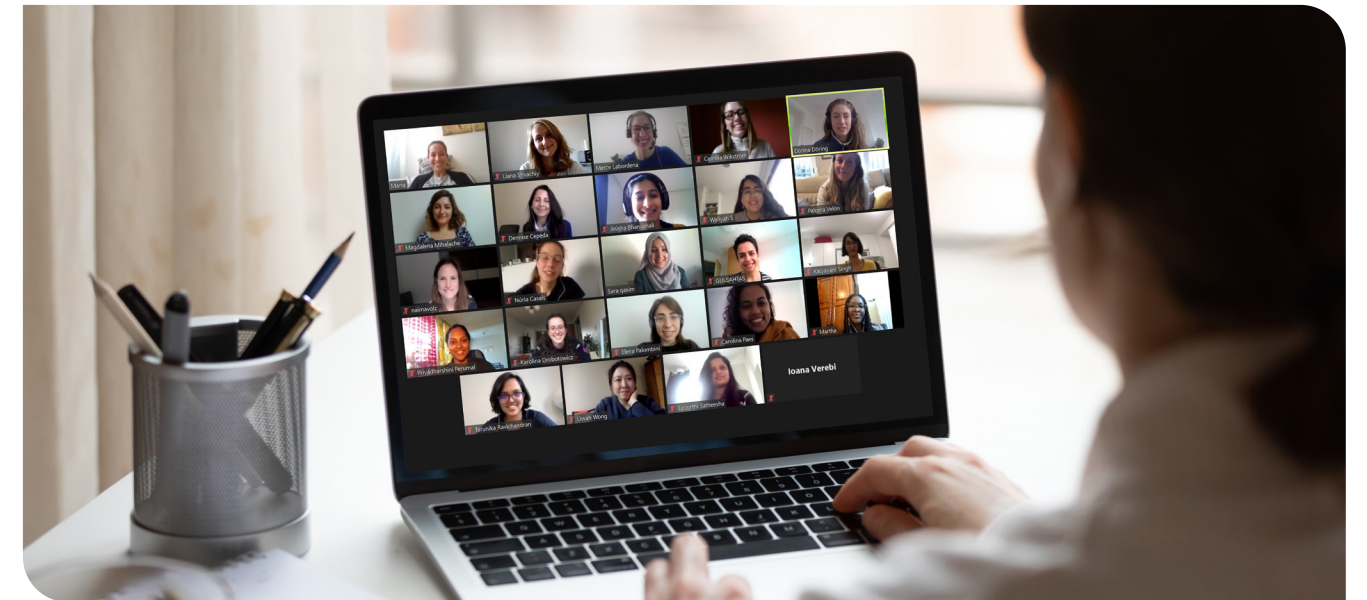
"The EIT was set up to power Europe's ability to innovate as we are concerned about our major societal challenge in areas such as health, climate change and sustainable energy. We will only achieve our mission if we mobilise women and men equally. The EIT Women network was created to support these efforts and to increase the participation of women in entrepreneurship activities across Europe. This will not only deliver more ideas and innovation but also reflects the EU's core values, ensuring equality between women and men."

**Martin Kern, EIT Director**

## 2021 targets

Women@EIT wants to become **Europe's largest women community in innovation and entrepreneurship**. To achieve this, 2021 key activities will be:

- Continued collaboration with other EIT KICs and Alumni, like in the Women Leadership series, with a focus on decision making and negotiation, and the series of Inspiring Women in the Raw Materials Sector.
- Continued collaboration with external partners like supporting women, like with Bridge – The McKinsey Mentorship Program for Women@EIT.
- Organise a hackathon focused on empowering working women and help them overcome personal challenges.
- Strengthen connections with external organisations that stand for women empowerment.
- Continue to engage around 10-20 Local Leaders per year.



*Participants connecting online at 'Leadership Intensive Event 2020'*

# COLLABORATIONS & REPRESENTATION AT EXTERNAL EVENTS

## Research and Innovation Days

The EIT Community hosted and participated in several events during the European Research & Innovation Days, the European Commission's annual flagship event, bringing together policymakers, researchers, entrepreneurs and citizens to debate and shape the future of research and innovation in Europe and beyond in a post-corona society. Alumnus, Jeroen Van Lent, Vice President of the [EIT Alumni Board](#), participated in a workshop about Career Development and Entrepreneurship with focus on developing your career path in these changing and challenging times. Speakers included Katharina Heil, President of the [Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association](#), Mostafa Moonir Shawrav, Chair of the [Marie Curie Alumni Association](#) and Claire Morel from the [DG of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture](#).



The EIT Alumni community organises hackathons so people can develop more skills. There is a need to innovate how education is teaching other skills, to push people out of their comfort zone.

**Jeroen Van Lent**, *Vice President of the EIT Alumni Board*

## Marie Curie Alumni Association Webinar

Audry Kaune, an EIT Health Alumni board member, was invited to speak at a webinar by the [Marie Curie Alumni Association \(MCAA\)](#) as part of their series on bridging the gap between science and business. The workshop 'From academia to start-up life: How to increase your impact' tackled topics including how to thrive in a business-focused environment with a technical background, changing the mindset to focusing on the user and the need and how to increase the impact of your research.





# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

In 2021, EIT Alumni Board will be selecting the **new EIT Alumni President** for the Board which will continue to drive collaboration initiatives, harness the potential of all EIT Alumni, and provide **effective representation** for the entire community.

In 2021, the EIT Alumni Community will strengthen its operational capacity and the **collaboration between communities**, especially with the newest KIC Alumni communities, by sharing good practices including **sustainability plans**.

Starting with a Hackathon contest organised in collaboration with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for the **design of an Artificial Intelligence solution to detect fake news**, the EIT will further explore **challenge driven initiatives**.

The Community will continue to support to **strengthen and expand the Women@EIT** network by facilitating the organisation of events and collaborations with KICs.

We will focus on delivering **targeted outreach activities and added-value activities** to the EIT KIC Alumni communities' members, starting with online trainings in collaboration with IPR Helpdesk, EUIPO and EPO.

Another ambition is to **involve more business members** from the different EIT KICs Alumni communities, starting with co-founders and team members of EIT KICs supported start-ups / scale-ups and past EIT Awards winners.

Finally, the EIT Alumni Board will keep **engaging with local leading entrepreneurship and innovation eco-systems** in Europe and further away, for example by collaborating with the EIT Hub in Israel.

In 2021, many EIT Alumni activities and solving challenges will continue to be organised. This offers an **opportunity for collaboration** and we want to invite all EIT Alumni members to keep participating in events, submitting ideas and solutions that can help the EIT and its partners, and our society as a whole. We can't wait to see the EIT Alumni Community continue to grow and build a **sustainable, dynamic, entrepreneurial and impact-oriented** community.





# 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 company who would like to sponsor us?

Let us know at  
[EIT-alumni@eit.europa.eu!](mailto:EIT-alumni@eit.europa.eu)

# THANK YOU

All the notable achievements made all along this year were made possible thanks to the strong commitment and hard work of our EIT Alumni board members, volunteering for making the Community thrive year after year.

**Miguel Amador,**  
*EIT Health Alumni*

**Jeroen Van Lent,**  
*EIT Digital Alumni*

**Ali Hassan,**  
*EIT RawMaterials Alumni*

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