



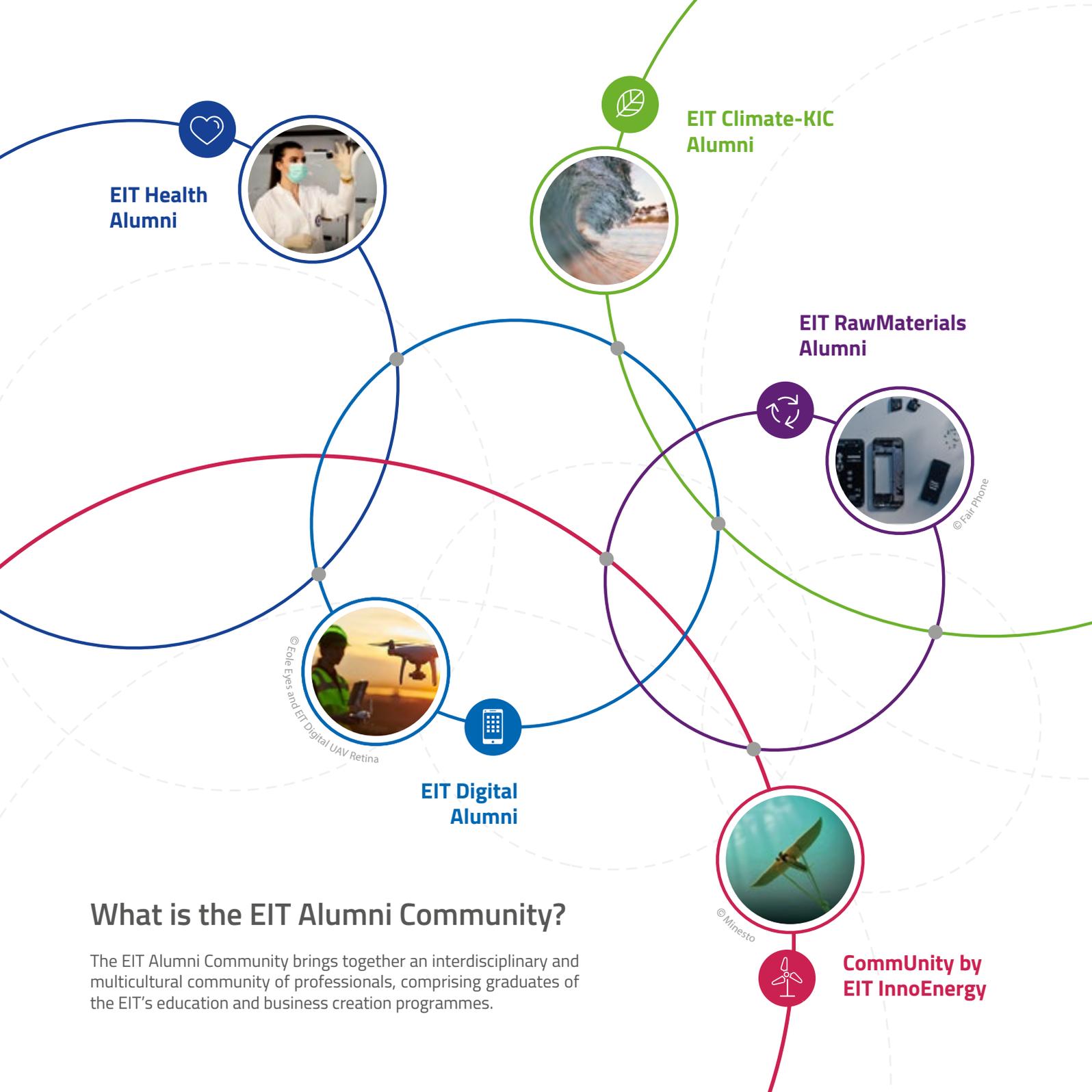
# IMPACT REPORT 2019

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



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**EIT Health Alumni**

**EIT Climate-KIC Alumni**

**EIT RawMaterials Alumni**

**EIT Digital Alumni**

**Community by EIT InnoEnergy**

## 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.



**Martin Kern,**  
*EIT Director*

As the EIT continues to strengthen and deliver results and impact from its different Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) across Europe, I am also pleased to report the continued growth, diversity, and professionalisation of the EIT Alumni who represent our future. This positive trend is fully aligned with the vision of having the EIT Alumni as important drivers of the European innovations needed to solve our major societal challenges, ensure Europe remains competitive, and ultimately increase our EU citizen's quality of life, safety and health.

All of you that participated in the 2019 EIT Alumni activities can once again be proud of the results and impact you produced, through professional events organisation and participation, further development of your respective innovations and ventures, additional external funding raised. I am especially glad to see that so many professional opportunities were attracted and shared, new cooperation formed across the EIT community, and ultimately we could see many success stories of EIT Alumni members in 2019.

I remain committed to providing further support and guidance to the EIT Alumni for the years to come. Thank you again for continuing to build a sustainable and impact oriented EIT Alumni, that I am convinced will provide significant additional return on investment on all the activities supported by the EIT and its KICs across Europe for the last ten years, and going into Horizon Europe.



**Miguel Amador,**  
*EIT Alumni Interim President (as of January 2020)*

Since 2008, the EIT has created a new Alumni generation of global innovators, in the leadership of the actions our society needs for a sustainable future. A cross-border community, ready to act and promote change, to collaborate and eager to learn and grow.

It's key at the EIT Alumni to continue to ignite and enhance the impact of the different EIT individual communities on their work and create the synergies so we can together act as the unique, talented and diverse community. For this, we need to allocate the adequate resources at EIT Alumni and EIT KICs' level, and nurture the role of many of the volunteers and staff leading these communities. Even more, as we continuously grow as a community, namely with forthcoming new KICs.

This year, we increased our collaborations with similar European organisations, such as ESN, JRC and Marie Curie Alumni Association to grow also as organisations and communities. We now aim to embrace our financial sustainability, both of each KIC Alumni Community and EIT Alumni, attracting sponsors for activities and leveraging our community to solve corporate challenges.

# FOREWORD



**Peter Olesen,**

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

Since my nomination in 2019 for the coming two years as an external advisor to the EIT Alumni Board, I have had the chance to work closely with the EIT Alumni Board members, and also meet the EIT Alumni Community as a whole during EIT Alumni Connect and INNOVEIT 2019.

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 as a whole, with access to a broad network of schools, universities, businesses and like-minded innovators and entrepreneurs.

Evidently, being part of a strong EIT Alumni network can only be beneficial to them for career and funding opportunities for their ventures.

I am pleased to bring my professional and entrepreneurial experience and expertise to the EIT Alumni Board members, as well as some perspective regarding their strategy to expand the EIT Alumni Community and increase its sustainability, value-proposition to its members, and ensure it remains aligned with the EIT's mission and vision.

I can only also encourage my fellow EIT GB members to eventually come help the EIT Alumni Board members in 2021.



**Viviane Hoffmann,**

*Deputy Director General DG EAC*

I have had the opportunity to meet with the EIT Alumni Board members during INNOVEIT 2019. From the discussions we had then on the activities and results of the EIT Alumni Community, I could clearly see the added-value of their participation in EIT Education programmes and how they can change the students' perspectives and boost their ambitions. The EIT Alumni Community is the proof, if need be, that investing in people, in our innovators, always pays off. It is a source of inspiration for its members, which includes increasingly business Alumni members across Europe.

I was also particularly impressed by their readiness to reflect on the social implications of the change and innovations which they work on. That is to many extents what the EIT Alumni Community has been doing again in 2019 with success throughout many events, remarkable Alumni's journeys, and structuring achievements.

Looking forward, as the EIT Education offerings and EIT Label evolve, there lies also the opportunity for the EIT Alumni members to be more involved in the elaboration and delivery of some of the education activities and entrepreneurial and innovation courses, building on their own experience with EIT programmes, their respective industries, and business ventures.

# 2019 IN REVIEW

The EIT Alumni Community celebrated **its fourth year in 2019**, which saw quite a few evolutions and shifts throughout the community's activities and structure, aiming at further outreach, impact and strengthening.

In terms of governance, the representatives of the EIT and each EIT KIC Alumni Community welcomed on board an external observer and advisory member, in Peter Olesen, previously EIT Governing Board Chairman.

The EIT Alumni **Board's composition also changed**. Most of new selected Board members are now able to commit for a two-year mandate, providing some stability and continuity in the activities of the EIT Alumni Board.

Another novelty this year concerned the organisation of the EIT Alumni Startup Days, by the Women@EIT team in September, who took the lead to put their own spin on it.

The Community was also willing to push further the "challenge solver" concept through various experimentations meant to be amplified in 2020 and potentially providing career opportunities for participating EIT Alumni members.

The **EIT Alumni Connect**, marked the ultimate Community gathering of the year, welcoming even more EIT Alumni members than ever before from the different EIT KIC Alumni communities, and for the second year, it was fully managed by the EIT Alumni members themselves, and held independently from EIT's INNOVEIT annual event.

**Major collaborations were established** this year with Marie Curie Alumni Association, starting with mutual invitations to our key respective events as well as for example with Tech Open Air in Berlin that most of the individual EIT KIC Alumni communities attended.

Furthermore, the EIT Alumni Board continued working on adapting its governance and operational structure, to ensure **alignment with the management of the growing various individual communities and integration of future ones**, such as EIT Food, EIT Urban Mobility and EIT Manufacturing, which were already invited in 2019 as observers to help them access best practice from the existing EIT KIC Alumni associations/communities.

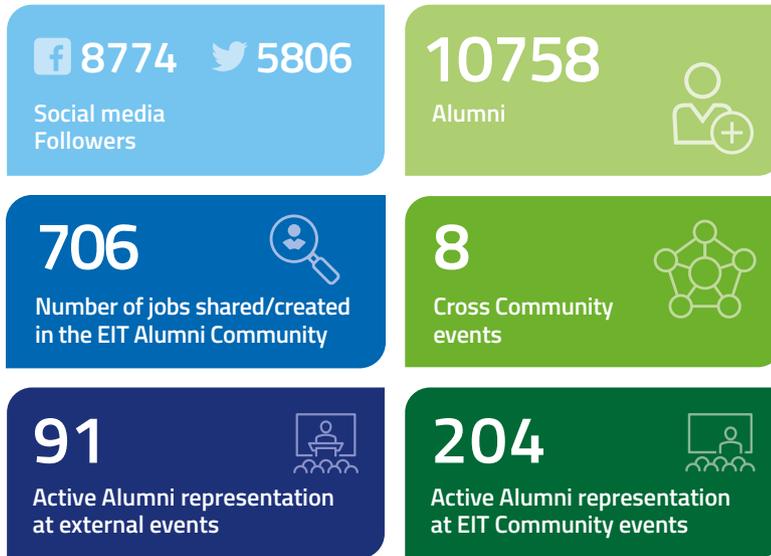
Year after year, the EIT Alumni members are increasingly involved in their respective KIC's activities, attending annual events, participating in innovation and business creation related events such as HEInnovate or the EIT Festival.

Looking back to 2019, all the emulation created through all these happenings, opportunities and encounters, enabled the Community to reach and federate **more than 2000 new EIT Alumni members** that we are pleased to tell you about in this report.



# THE COMMUNITY IN FIGURES

## Key numbers for 2019



## EIT Alumni Community Annual Events 2019

### EIT ALUMNI CONNECT

October 13-14th, *Hungary (Budapest)*

### COMPANY CHALLENGE

September 3-4th, *Spain (Huelva)*

### EIT INNOENERGY COMMUNITY DAYS

October 25-27th, *Germany (Potsdam)*

### EIT HEALTH ALUMNI SUMMIT

December 1st, *France (Paris)*

### LIGHTS...CLIMATE...ACTION

December 13-15th, *France (Paris)*

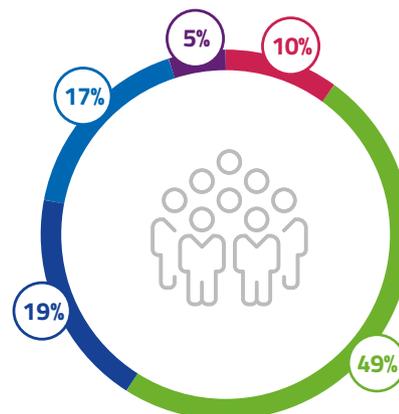
### EIT DIGITAL ALUMNI MEETING

May 2-5th, *Portugal (Porto)*

## Composition of the EIT Alumni Community\*

- Community by EIT InnoEnergy: 1041 Alumni
- EIT Climate-KIC Alumni: 5285 Alumni
- EIT Health Alumni: 2000 Alumni
- EIT Digital Alumni: 1828 Alumni
- EIT RawMaterials Alumni: 604 Alumni

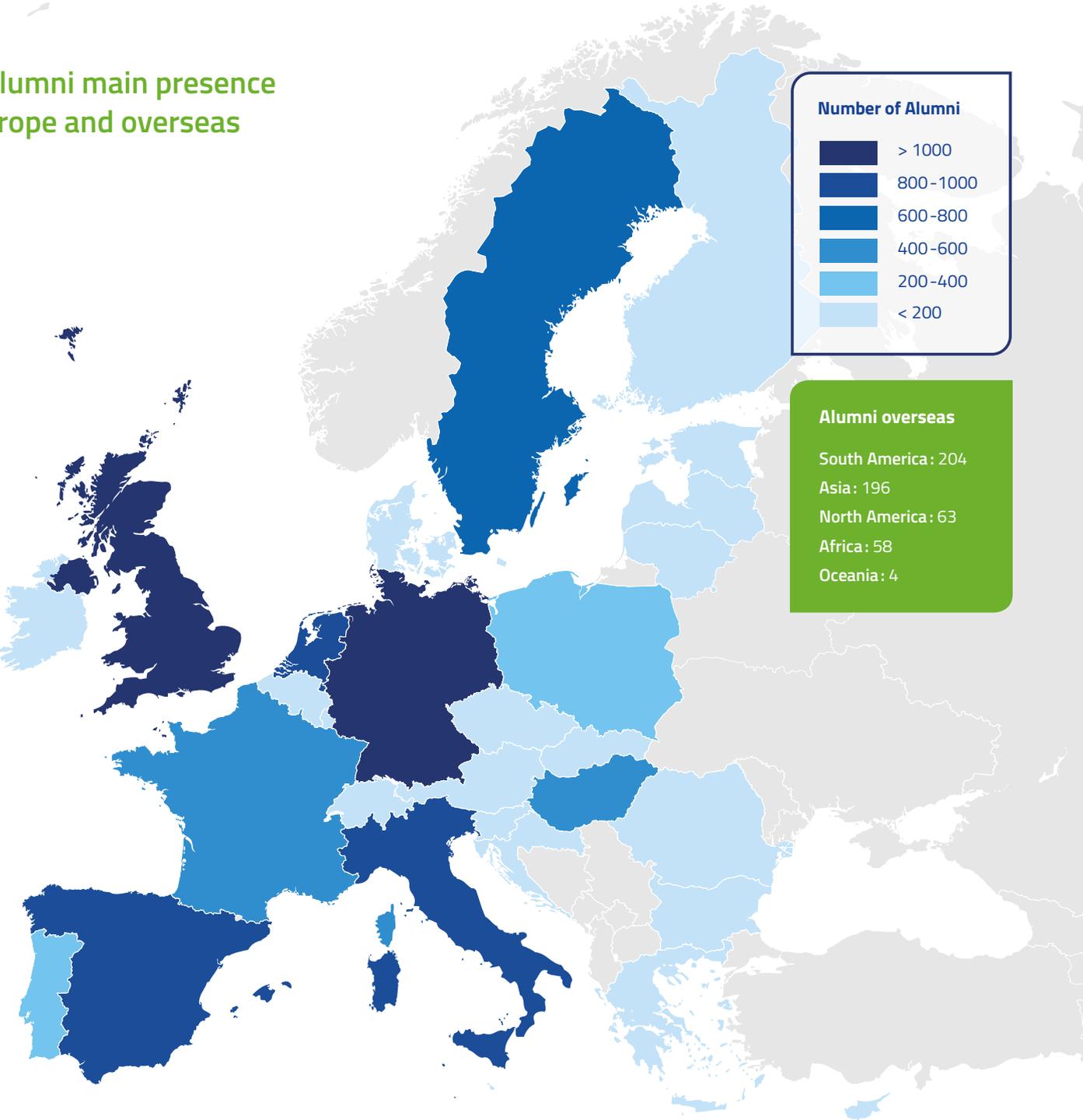
**Total number of Alumni: 10758 Alumni**



\*Numbers as of December 2019

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

EIT Alumni main presence  
in Europe and overseas



# Journey of an EIT Alumni entrepreneur

**Timo Uustal**

from Estonia

**2016, SUMMER**

Joined EIT Climate-KIC Pioneers into Practise programme, had a placement at EIT Climate-KIC Office in Frankfurt



**2016, AUTUMN**

Created start-up Energy Cloud / Renofy, with fellow team members of Climate-KIC Pioneers programme

**2019, SPRING**

Joined EIT Health Alumni, participated in EIT Health Alumni workshop in Copenhagen on pitching, joined EIT Health Digital Health Validator with Nursebeam



**2019, SPRING**

Joined in EIT Health Innostars Jumpstarter in Riga with Nursebeam

**2019, AUTUMN**

Co-organised EIT Health Alumni seminar in Riga, EIT Alumni Connect took place in Budapest

**2019, SUMMER**

Joined EIT Alumni Connect volunteering organising team





carbonific

2017, SPRING

Created start-up  
Carbonific with  
ex-colleagues

2018, AUTUMN

Started working on  
Nursebeam

Nursebeam:))

2017, SUMMER/AUTUMN

Secured spot on EIT  
Climate-KIC RIS Accelerator  
programme with Carbonific

2019, WINTER

EIT Health Summit,  
Alumni annual meeting

2020

Joined EIT Health Alumni  
Board, covering Nordics



# SPOTLIGHT ON SOME COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

## Deeper integration of the EIT Alumni community into each KIC's activities

### Stronger bonds with EIT Digital Education activities

The EIT Digital Alumni Community put a clear emphasis this year on keeping close and high-quality relationships with the EIT Digital ecosystem, which led to increased outreach and communication around their activities towards students and graduates. Here are some illustrative examples:

- A dedicated booth to inform and connect with the students at the EIT Digital Doctoral graduation ceremony.
- The President of the EIT Digital Alumni Community designated Master of ceremony at the EIT Digital Master School Graduation ceremony
- 25 Alumni mentored students to help them complete the kick-off Business challenge of the EIT Digital Master School.

90%

of the EIT Digital graduates are now part of the EIT Digital Alumni Community

### An Alumni Ambassador programme to increase collaborations with EIT Health

The EIT Health Alumni Ambassador programme was launched in 2017 to foster more collaborations with EIT Health's activities, and expand the reach and visibility of EIT Health at external conferences and events. In 2019, the programme was expanded to include EIT Health's Innovation Days and E-Labs, two pan-European programmes which now have strong ties to the EIT Health Alumni Network. By sharing their success story, Alumni ambassadors showcase how EIT Health can be a stepping stone on this journey.

### Eased access to existing EIT RawMaterials events

In 2019, EIT RawMaterials Alumni supported 17 of its members to attend 9 different kinds of events run by EIT RawMaterials and its partners (KIC annual event, International conference, training courses, expert forum).

## Strengthening the network online and offline

Most of the community worked this year on the strengthening of their network, whether it be online thanks to the building of a platform or building operating procedures with their local representatives all across Europe.

### **A platform that allows more engagement and visible services to Alumni**

The CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy set up a platform that bridges both geographical and temporal divides and unites the entire array of the CommUnity's activities into one space. They also use their platform to enable an increasing sharing of insightful and high-quality content and experiences between its Alumni members. It's also a way to give more visibility to their services such as the EIT InnoEnergy Career Centre that displays a job portal containing a notable number of job vacancy postings and matchmaking opportunities, and their CommUnity Post newspaper that can benefit a larger audience.

### **Exaptive as an innovative collaboration and match-making platform for EIT Climate-KIC Alumni**

On their side, EIT Climate KIC Alumni launched their [new Alumni website](#) integrated with EIT Climate-KIC's main website.

EIT Climate-KIC has been building an online collaboration platform Exaptive that uses digital and AI based technologies to make matchmaking suggestions to connect people with other people who want to take climate action. In 2019, they piloted key features of the platform with the Alumni community, namely enabling Alumni to connect with different people from across the community, build project teams, share ideas and challenges and see all of the projects and people that EIT Climate-KIC is working with.

Additionally, in 2019 Exaptive was successfully implemented as a tool supporting co-creation and self-organising Alumni Annual Event in 2019. The 'Explore Exaptive' session at the Alumni Annual Event in Paris received incredibly valuable feedback from the Alumni group as well as plenty of ideas for new ways that we could use the platform to support our broader Alumni community.

**460**

jobs posted

*CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy*

**122**

matches made

*CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy*



# Innovation & Responsiveness to environmental issues and news

On the whole, all the EIT KIC Alumni Communities have a red thread in their activities that relates to sustainable development. Some of them even went further this year, showing alignment with the news.

## **The CommUnity Energy Policy Programme focused on the EU Green Deal**

The EPP is a new topic team that has been set up this year and aims at providing CommUnity Alumni with the necessary skills and knowledge to enrich their understanding and participation in energy policy debates. This programme composed of 23 international CommUnity members therefore decided to focus on the EU Green deal and the Scenario Exploration System applied to energy policies, which has been actively taught during workshops.

## **Leveraging Citizen and behavioural science for Climate Action**

Through their [#TalkingClimate project](#), the EIT Climate-KIC Alumni Community was willing to foster highly constructive conversations about climate change thanks to a citizen science approach. The initiative attracted 550 people from 56 countries.

The first [#TalkingClimate webinar](#), which attracted more than 1700 participants, provided attendees with the tools to talk about the climate crisis to people surrounding them and spark action through successful connections with peers. Considering successful results, this project will convert into a major dissemination programme in 2020. [The second #TalkingClimate webinar](#) presented results and analysis of the project.

Sziget Festival in Budapest also proved the remarkable commitment from the EIT Climate-KIC Alumni to raise awareness about the pressing environmental issues and get festival-goers to take real actions in that sense.

They designed a workshop aimed at measuring the sustainable behaviours of participants through a survey. With more than 800 respondents, the insightful results became the foundations of Sziget's Long-Term Strategy and enabled the festival to be awarded a [Greener Festival Award](#) for its sustainability efforts in 2019.

Furthermore, the Alumni community at the festival organised a "[Motivation Station](#)", that empowered more than 200 participants to act by driving their attention on climate action and lifting the psychological barriers around the climate crisis. This pedagogical coaching approach is now regularly requested at youth and climate events, such as the World Banks Innovate4Climate.

More than

**2100**

views for the  
two [#TalkingClimate](#)  
webinars

**800**

Downloads of  
the [#TalkingClimate](#)  
handbook

The [#TalkingClimate Handbook](#)

HOW TO HAVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT  
CLIMATE CHANGE IN YOUR DAILY LIFE



Participants in the  
Talking Climate  
Project described  
it as 'powerful',  
'a great experience'  
and 'extremely  
important work'.



## Career-driven activities to equip EIT Alumni with the right mindset and set of skills

### Demonstrate Alumni employability by solving Corporate challenges

EIT RawMaterials Alumni held a Company Challenge in Huelva (Spain), a two-day event gathering around 20 Alumni. The participants worked on technically and economically viable and marketable solutions to answer a real life raw materials challenge.

Being equipped with background information, problem solving methodologies, visiting the plant to concretely see the problem, consulting the R&D team for questions, the Alumni were given all the tools to tackle the problem and get a real insight into industry. They also provided a dynamic talented pool with creative ideas for this industry partner. The event ended with a pitching competition awarding a cash prize to the best solution.

The CommUnity Solves are also corporate challenges organised four times a year by the CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy Alumni, to boost the CV of their members and connect them with industry and business partners and startups related to sustainable energy.



The initiative showed a great impact, benefiting from Spanish local media coverage. Atlantic Copper staff also defined the challenge as a win-win project and very motivating for their company and were grateful for the proactivity of the Alumni.

The EIT Alumni Community's mindset leads an increasing number of members to start or pursue their career in the entrepreneurial ecosystem :

Between 10% and 15% of EIT Alumni members have founded or co-led startups / scaleups / spin-offs / spin-outs.

## Raise community engagement

### **Bottom up approach, co-creation and self organisation / Truly thinking global and acting local**

EIT Digital Alumni considers its volunteering team as a cornerstone of all its achievements and has seen a steady rise in local working groups and other bottom-up initiatives, also due to the added value provided through all its activities. In order to better structure the support and funding for such bottom-up initiatives, the Board has decided to introduce a semesterly Working Group Survey.

EIT Health Alumni deeply integrated this bottom-up approach with the creation of a network of more than 30 Local Representatives. These passionate and committed volunteer members represent their community in their city or region and work in close cooperation with the Regional coordinators on the strategies to adopt to best assess and address the local needs of the healthcare environment all across Europe.

The first five events fully organised by EIT Health Alumni Local Representatives and their teams took place over the course of 2019 under the guidance of the Regional Alumni Board Coordinators.

EIT Climate-KIC Alumni decided to use co-creation and self-organising processes for the organisation of its Annual Alumni Event. It allowed community members to pitch and ultimately concretely deliver their ideas at the event. It also allowed to activate local groups and Alumni and motivate them to take concrete steps.

Its main event was organised in Paris on December 13-15, and two satellite events in Madrid and Berlin, which offered Alumni a local opportunity to connect concurrently with the global EIT Climate-KIC community meeting in Paris.



## **Movement Building workshops**

In 2019, EIT Climate-KIC conducted a series of experiments with its Alumni Community, resorting to ideation workshops, matchmaking events, in order to foster ownership of the Community in carrying out highly collaborative and non-obvious initiatives.

They also launched, together with the Social Change Agency (SCA) a community wide consultation process to seize the community's aspirations, values and purpose through movement building workshops and interviews, to build an active and purpose-driven community.

## **Concrete added-value opportunities for the Alumni**

EIT Health clearly stated their added-value proposition to their members, right from the start, that range from job and networking opportunities within an international community of like-minded individuals, to training and workshops, attending renowned Health summit in Europe, designing and leading, and communicating on their own initiatives, hence developing their self-development and technical skills.

### **EIT Health Alumni joined forces with the EIT Health Accelerator's intention to teach crucial content needed on the innovation pathway**

The EIT Health Alumni organised a workshop on CE-Marking: Survival in Death Valley took place in the context of the MedTec Live Fair Trade Nürnberg. The workshop was led by two CE-Marking experts from the EIT Health Alumni Network who wanted to give back to the community they themselves had benefited from over years. Joined forces with EIT Health, enabled the workshop participants with the strongest applications to win a fully sponsored booth at this eminent health event, giving them the opportunity to showcase their product to a top-tier target audience.

## Community strengthening

Many EIT KIC Alumni communities implemented this year some actions to sustain their growth, so as to build solid foundations regarding their Board support or local network representatives.

EIT Digital Alumni, for instance worked on Board Support structures and Community Management, and introduced two new Board positions to reinforce the capacity in the field of IT and Partnership/outreach activities.

Women@EIT also worked on restructuring their whole network, with the election of their first Board, comprising five members, four EIT Digital students and alumnae as well as one EIT Climate KIC alumna. They also put in place monthly Local Leader calls to keep track of the activities and events organised by their 10 ambassadors at the local level and follow more easily the increasing number of decentralised local initiatives.



# INSIDE THE COMMUNITY

## EIT Alumni CONNECT'19

Again this year, we had the chance to organise a full day for the third edition of EIT Alumni CONNECT'19 at the creative and inspiring Brody Studios, in the very heart of Budapest, Hungary on 14 October. This annual meeting gathered **more than 130** like-minded fellow **Alumni members**, from **11 nationalities**.



We decided to build the meet up this year around UN SDG 11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", which we thought to be a trending and relevant topic that could be approached in a systemic and multi-disciplinary manner, given the diverse nature of our community, fostering therefore co-creation and confrontation of our Alumni's respective fields of expertise.

The morning session was moderated by brilliant Alumni Nierika Hamaekers, and Tobias Wiens. We had the pleasure to receive **two keynote speakers**, Maria Tsavachidis, CEO of EIT Urban Mobility, and Niclas Holmberg, Nasdaq managing Director, followed by a presentation from all of our five communities.

In the afternoon, eight parallel workshops were proposed to tackle the SDG #11 in original ways: from an online challenge, to the organisation of a sustainable festival, passing by the exploration games of the transition, or designing regenerating working and learning spaces in the city.

Bolt was also our first sponsor for this event, driving home the participants at a reduced price.

These students, young professionals, entrepreneurs and innovators, from all of our **five Alumni Communities**, came to share their experience, learn from each other, connect and work together in a convivial atmosphere. They could envision the beginning or pursuit of their career path, find potential new partners and develop their personal network. That's the essence of EIT Alumni CONNECT.

They also had the chance to attend the EIT annual flagship event INNOVEIT and the EIT Awards Innovation Tour on 15 October 2019. EIT Climate-KIC Alumni Michael Dittel won the EIT CHANGE Award recognising change-makers from the Community. CorPower Ocean AB got the EIT Venture Award while Sara Guimares Goncalves received the EIT Woman Award.





## Women@EIT activities



2019

It was a very productive and thrilling year for Women@EIT in the accomplishment of their mission.

Holding several public representations at events such as the Women in Tech conference in Amsterdam, the EIT Festival in Helsinki or the Leaders' Lessons at Zalando in Berlin, enabled them to raise awareness about their mission and activities.

Their community was quite active in organising a series of events across Europe, from coding workshops for girls, to female founders' inspirational talks, aiming at increasing the number of women in the entrepreneurship and digital sectors.

New members were onboarded in the Community and a restructuring of the whole network was implemented

Other key milestones this year were the creation of the first Women@EIT Board and the launch of monthly local Leader calls.

2020

In 2020, main focus and new perspectives:

- on a strategy that includes more direct support from EIT and individual KICs.
- expansion of their partnerships and their community
- work on more sustainable funding sources.
- start building another type of activity (mentorship program or big scale annual event)

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

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

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





**10**  
Local Leaders



**12**  
events in 7 EU cities,  
involving 4 EIT KICs



**The Women @ EIT**

Our Mission: Create a strong network of female entrepreneurs and innovators related to EIT

Our Vision: Inspire the next generation of women in entrepreneurship, innovation and technology

Our Values: Diversity, gender equality, female empowerment, inclusiveness, professionalism



28 SEPTEMBER, 2019

**EIT Digital Colocation Centre (CLC)**  
in Stockholm



**START  
UP  
DAYS**

## EIT ALUMNI STARTUP DAYS POWERED BY WOMEN@EIT

This year, Women@EIT and Women@EIT Local Leader Giulia Marzetti had the pleasure to organise the event, and gave the hackathon a different twist to celebrate and empower women in tech. All the coaches, mentors and jury members were women.

### Challenges:

- Virtual Reality track: Design a VR application that will make interactive VR more interesting for the target group - non tech savvy operators aged 45+ in the manufacturing industry
- Fashion track: How can we reduce the online return rate for fashion retail ?



Thank you very much for inviting Gleechi to this event. The organisation has been very nice and professional and we had a great time to get to know each other and the students.

**Dan Song,**

*Head of Research at Gleechi, jury member*

### Impact:

Afound offered some goodies/ prizes on the day.

Gleechi was offering a mini-internship / office experience in their premises as a prize.

### Winning solutions:

#### For the Gleechi - Virtual Reality track

DiscoVR, an explorative application for VR, making VR attractive to manufacturing employers through a Virtual environment room, co-workers interaction and a personal assistant.

#### For Afound - Fashion track

Smart size shopping: Reducing customers refunds through analytics and Machine Learning, iterating on the data collected from the different purchases of a single customer.

### Partners:

- Gleechi AB, VR company, winner of EIT Digital Idea Challenge
- Afound, marketplace of H&M retail



Participants were happy to engage with professionals, in particular Gleechi, which brought in a VR headset, and everyone was pretty enthusiastic to try it and discuss about the possibilities of VR.

After the event, some participants got invited to other hackathons and some of them were also interested in getting involved with Women@EIT and followed up regarding that.

**Giulia Marzetti,**

*Women@EIT Local Leader, main organiser*

**AFOUND**



# COLLABORATIONS & REPRESENTATIONS AT EXTERNAL EVENTS

## Partner organisation's event

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In 2019, the EIT Alumni Community strengthened their ties to Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA). The goal of this partnership is to learn from each other, and exchange best practice as regards Alumni association governance, sustainability and community management. Firstly by sending five workshop leaders to their "Research meet Innovators" event in Berlin on 12 July, and secondly by inviting two of their Board members to EIT Alumni Connect'19. Another step was to plan hosting a combined challenge solving hackathon potentially at Yes!Delft incubator in Eindhoven as an EIT Alumni Startup Days. It is also considered for 2020, to attend the MCAA General Assembly.

## Leading European Innovation Tech event

Thanks to the EIT Digital Alumni Board, the EIT Alumni Board and Master School student Chin Man Yeung Tai, 100 free tickets could be negotiated and offered to our different EIT KIC Alumni Associations for their respective members, to attend "Tech Open Air Berlin", the largest multidisciplinary festival of tech, art and science in Europe, that stands for the values EIT Alumni wishes to promote amongst next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators.

EIT Digital Alumni enabled 20 of their members to join upon motivation. Due to this successful initiative, the EIT Digital Alumni Foundation was listed as one of the official Community Partners of TOA19

## European Commission's events

This year, various EIT KIC Alumni Communities participated in the Digital Education Hack (DigiEduHack), an EIT project funded by the European Commission under the Digital Education Action Plan. EIT Climate-KIC led the first edition of this initiative, coordinated by Aalto University and the EIT Digital Alumni Foundation was designated official Communication Partner of the event. The competition gathered more than 50 organisations in Europe and beyond to host 2500+ participants for a 24-hour hackathon aimed at developing innovative solutions for learning and education.

The European Commission and the EIT also organised in September 2019 a high-level event in Brussels where they presented the EIT and its past achievements. Alumna Maria Kanov moderated a panel discussion including Alumnus Borce Stojkovsk and the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor Navracsics.



My workshop was focusing on the Business Model Canvas and how it can be used for teams coming from academia and research. For me it was a very inspiring group of people to work with and I was glad other EIT Alumni were also the main speakers and facilitators. All in all, I consider we had a big impact on the participants as EIT Alumni.

**Maria Peeva,**

*EIT Climate KIC Alumna, workshop Leader*



My four-hour workshop explored what researchers can take away from Design Thinking. Through playful and practical exercises we explored the principles of the methodology and through deep reflection, we connected its applicability for researchers. We found that “insight» and “empathy» are critical elements of both qualitative research and Design Thinking.

**Nierika Hamaekers,**

*EIT Climate KIC Alumna, Workshop Leader*

## EIT Health Alumni

As an official Partner at Marie-Curie’s “Researchers meet Innovators” conference in July, EIT Health Alumni engaged as panelists and workshop leaders, decisively shaping the programme of the two-day event.



# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020

In 2020, the EIT Alumni Board will pursue its governance reform with the **election of a dedicated president**, independent of EIT KIC Alumni Communities' Board activities. An Alumni Service provider will also be contracted to **reinforce and expand the operational structure** of the EIT Alumni Community. A focus will be made on refining the EIT Alumni value proposition to the EIT Alumni members, and on developing a set of key principles for a well-functioning and sustainable community.

The Board will also keep investigating new formats for joint activities. One of the main activities in 2020 will be the pilot and larger scale implementation of EIT Alumni **corporate sponsored online challenges**, that can potentially create greater impact for the EIT and for example boost career opportunities for the EIT Alumni members.

The EIT Alumni will also keep supporting Women@EIT's activities and other cross-EIT KIC Alumni initiatives, fully aligned with what the EIT does with its own Women Leadership & Entrepreneurship activities.

Leveraging the existing partnership between EIT and the Joint Research Center will enable to **build stronger bonds with research**, giving opportunity for EIT Alumni members to attend JRC Open Awareness Day workshops and access JRC's labs.

In addition, the EIT will take advantage of its relationships with the EU IPR Helpdesk, and **online trainings on Intellectual Property** will also be offered to the EIT Alumni members.

Another ambition is to increase the **connections with recognised brands and institutions across Europe** for relevant collaborations, higher visibility and knowledge learning.

Finally, the EIT Alumni Board will **engage with local leading entrepreneurship and innovation eco-systems** in Europe and further away, starting in 2020 with the Israel EIT Hub.





THE  
STUDIOS

# THANK YOU

## Call to Action for 2020

In 2020, we renew our invitation to EIT Food, EIT Urban Mobility and EIT Manufacturing, to join the EIT Alumni Community, and attend our Board meetings as observers, in order to help them benefit from the best practice of the existing Alumni communities, as they structure and launch their own EIT KIC Alumni communities.

As always, the EIT Alumni Community is open to supporting EIT Alumni driven projects and initiatives, especially cross-community projects, and with the growing support of each of the EIT KICs, particularly in relation to Innovation activities and Acceleration of innovative startups and scaleups.

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

Many EIT Alumni online solving challenges are going to be organised in 2020, and we can only incite every EIT Alumni member to engage and give back to the EIT Alumni community, by participating and submitting ideas and solutions that can help the EIT and its partners, or society as a whole.

If you would like to propose future events or initiatives, particularly addressing the areas mentioned 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!](#)



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



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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.

## Our special thanks go particularly to:

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