

Budapest, 15 October 2019

Innovation made in Europe: winners of the EIT Awards 2019 announced

Budapest, Hungary, 15 October 2019 – The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) has announced this year's winners of the prestigious EIT Awards. Michael Dittel, LeafTech (Germany), Marc Julien, Diabeloop (France), Matthew Dickson, CorPower Ocean (Sweden/United Kingdom), Sara Guimarães Gonçalves, Trigger.Systems (Portugal), and David Pistoni Perez, Zeleros (Spain), received the top prizes for innovations in the fields of climate, energy and health.

Celebrating outstanding innovations, the EIT Awards winners were chosen by an international jury and featured 19 nominees from across Europe, competing in categories recognising excellence in innovation in the fields of climate, energy, digitisation, food, health, and raw materials.

Almost 400 leading entrepreneurs, cutting-edge innovators, and policymakers gathered at the EIT Awards ceremony in Budapest. The winners were presented with their awards by **Tibor Navracsics**, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport; **László Palkovics**, Hungarian Minister for Innovation and Technology; **Sanja Damjanović**, Montenegrin Minister of Science; **Laima Kaušpadiene**, Member of the EIT Governing Board; and, **Professor Werner Weidenfeld**, Rector of the Alma Mater Europaea.

Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport responsible for the EIT commented: *'My congratulations to the EIT Award winners 2019, and to all the nominees. They are an inspiration to innovators across Europe, and proof that the EIT, Europe's largest innovation network, increasingly succeeds in supporting ambitious entrepreneurs, job creation and solutions to the challenges facing our societies. I look forward to seeing this innovation community continue to go from strength to strength in the coming years.'*

Dirk Jan van den Berg, Chair of the EIT Governing Board added: *'Congratulations to all of today's EIT Awards winners! It has been impressive to watch the talented innovators pitch here in Budapest and discover their ground-breaking innovations made in Europe. Impressively, ventures supported by the EIT Community have already raised EUR 1.5 billion in external investment. Powering entrepreneurs to turn their best ideas into solutions for a greener, healthier and more sustainable planet is at the heart of the EIT, Europe's most experienced innovation engine.'*

2019 EIT Awards Winners

The EIT Awards, unveiled yesterday, celebrates the best of Europe's talented entrepreneurs who power solutions to pressing challenges facing Europe in climate, energy, digitisation, food, health, and raw materials. The Awards encourage entrepreneurs and promote innovation made in Europe.

Michael Dittel, LeafTech (Germany) and supported by EIT Climate-KIC won the **EIT CHANGE Award**. This award recognises top graduates from EIT education programmes and the winner is awarded EUR 20 000.

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The EIT is a body of the European Union

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'As a creative person with a passion for engineering and innovation, I never knew where to put my ideas and energy. The EIT Climate-KIC Master label degree showed me the right path' said Michael Dittel.

Marc Julien, Diabeloop (France), and supported by EIT Health won the **EIT Innovators Award**. This award recognises teams with high impact products and services and is awarded EUR 50 000.

'Partners are essential as nobody has the skills to face all the challenges of building innovative products and entering the market on their own. The EIT Community has helped us foster cross-border cooperation in a major way.' said Marc Julien.

Matthew Dickson CorPower Ocean based in Sweden and supported by EIT InnoEnergy won the **EIT Venture Award**. This award recognises successful entrepreneurial start-ups and scale-ups and the winner is awarded EUR 50 000.

'People from EIT InnoEnergy were the ones who first believed in our product and were ready to actually put money into it, thus attracting other investors.' said Matthew Dickson.

Sara Guimarães Gonçalves, Trigger.Systems (Portugal) and supported by (EIT InnoEnergy) won the **EIT Woman Award**. This award recognises outstanding women innovators and is awarded EUR 20 000.

'There is a lot of gender bias in our sector but EIT InnoEnergy provided me with the necessary empowerment tools to make it' said Sara Guimarães Gonçalves.

David Pistoni Perez, Zeleros (Spain) and supported by EIT Climate-KIC won the **EIT PUBLIC Award**. This award recognises the public's top innovation with thousands of votes cast across Europe.

'The EIT is the perfect bridge to scale our disruptive innovation project at European level' said David Pistoni Perez.

Watch the first interviews with the EIT Awards winners [here] and find photos [here].

Full list of EIT Awards winners and finalists:

EIT CHANGE Award: Michael Dittel (Germany), Kristapps Krafte (Latvia), Eirik Eide Pettersen (Denmark/ Norway).

EIT Woman Award: Sara Guimares Goncalves (Portugal), Karoline Beronius (Sweden), Maria Sievert (Germany).

EIT Venture Award: Matthew Dickson, CorPower Ocean (Sweden/United Kingdom), Max Sieghold, Sleepiz (Switzerland/Germany), David Pistoni Perez, Zeleros (Spain).

EIT Innovators Award: Marc Julien, Diabeloop (France), Rudolf Sollacher, Digital Twin Management (Germany), Tim Houter, Hardt Hyperloop (Netherlands).

EIT Public Award: David Pistoni Perez (Spain), Luca Giovannini (Italy), Lynette Kucsma (Spain/US).

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BACKGROUND: EIT- MAKING INNOVATION HAPPEN!**What is the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)?**

The EIT was created in 2008 to power Europe's ability to innovate. The EIT is the only EU initiative to fully integrate business, education and research. We are Europe's largest innovation network with more than 1500 partners and 50 innovation hubs across Europe.

More information: [EIT in a nutshell Infographic](#)

What challenges do the EIT's Knowledge and Innovation Communities focus on?

The EIT's eight Knowledge and Innovation Communities work to:

- accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy ([EIT Climate-KIC](#))
- drive Europe's digital transformation ([EIT Digital](#))
- lead the global revolution in food innovation and production ([EIT Food](#))
- give EU citizens greater opportunities to enjoy a healthy life ([EIT Health](#))
- achieve a sustainable energy future for Europe ([EIT InnoEnergy](#))
- strengthen and increase the competitiveness of Europe's manufacturing industry ([EIT Manufacturing](#))
- develop raw materials into a major strength for Europe ([EIT RawMaterials](#))
- solve mobility challenges of our cities ([EIT Urban Mobility](#))

Together with their leading partners, they offer a wide range of innovation and entrepreneurship activities. This includes education courses that combine technical and entrepreneurial skills, business creation and acceleration services and innovation driven research projects.

What has the EIT achieved?

*figures September 2019

Meet talented EIT Community innovators and entrepreneurs: [EIT Community Success Stories](#)

For more information visit eit.europa.eu & follow the EIT on Twitter @EITeu #EIT Awards #INNOVEIT

For photos from the event: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/eiteu/albums>.

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