

EIT ALUMNI

# IMPACT REPORT 2023

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## EIT ALUMNI

EIT Alumni is an interdisciplinary and multicultural network of change agents who share a vision of a more sustainable Europe.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



With the purpose of establishing a stronger post-pandemic, physical presence for its members in innovative communities, connecting EIT alumni with local I&E ecosystems, strengthening the collaboration with the EIT Co-Location Centres (CLCs), and setting the ground for several monetisation models, the EIT Alumni pursues, in 2023 – 2025, the rollout of several EIT Alumni European Nodes with the potential to scale and develop a global presence in alignment with EIT's vision.

In 2023, the first EIT Alumni labelled White Papers was launched, entitled "Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Public Good and Social Impact" and with its first edition under the sub-topic "Ensuring and equitable future of healthcare through fit-for-purpose digital health systems".

Through cross-community events, career development opportunities, and the chance to represent the EIT Community with high-level stakeholders and decision-makers, the EIT Alumni members build and sustain an engaged and active community that offers unique opportunities for its members to connect and form alliances that shape the future of Europe.

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*THE EIT ALUMNI NETWORK EXEMPLIFIES THE POWER OF COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION. THESE TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DRIVING TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS AND MAKING REAL-WORLD IMPACT, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME FOSTERING A DYNAMIC AND ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITY AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE. THEIR ENTHUSIASM AND HARD WORK ARE INSPIRING. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVEN MORE POSITIVE CHANGE THAT THEY CONTINUE TO BRING TO OUR SOCIETY.*

### **Iliana Ivanova**

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

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With the aim of extending the EIT Alumni Community, EIT Alumni is taking actions to engage talents, professionals, students from similar EIT initiatives such as Girls Go Circular, Deep Tech Talent Initiative and develop an EIT Alumni membership policy to strengthen the value proposition of the Community.

The Deep Tech Talent Initiative plays a pivotal role in consolidating the EIT Alumni platform of members, complementing the skills of the Alumni members for the next two years and become a key support element for bilateral outreach.

We are looking forward to continuing the work with all EIT Alumni members to further build an impact-oriented, sustainable and future-proofed community!

# FOREWORD

Reflecting on the conclusions of 2023, I am proud to acknowledge numerous noteworthy moments for the EIT Alumni Community.

At the EIT we encourage alumni to innovate and find solutions that drive positive change. The dedication and commitment of the EIT Alumni members allow us to present a number of activities of the EIT Alumni Community in this Impact Report varying from EIT Alumni Database (called EIT Alumni DealBox; see button on the right), the EIT Alumni CONNECT flagship event, to joint activities, supporting launch and growth of alumni ventures and nourishing their entrepreneurial ideas. The EIT Alumni organised several events with the ultimate goal to strengthen collaboration and connect EIT Alumni with the EIT Community ecosystems to elevate the EIT Community impact. Through EIT Community events, career development opportunities, and the chance to represent the EIT Community at various European conferences, the EIT Alumni members managed to build and sustain an engaged and active network that offers unique opportunities for its members to connect and form alliances that shape the future of Europe.

Looking ahead and building on the achievements featured in this report, the EIT Alumni Community has a significant potential to further thrive through innovation from ideas to markets and from students to entrepreneurs in order to create a more sustainable future and to contribute to Europe's competitiveness.

[EIT Alumni DealBox](#)



## Stefan Dobrev

EIT Governing Board Chairperson

For example, the EIT Alumni CONNECT 2023, the annual flagship event, brought together over 200 alumni from various EIT KICs in Barcelona. It also gathered emerging alumni communities from other activity streams or initiatives, such as the Higher Education Initiative. This annual event, saluting the Spanish Presidency of the European Council, marked with opening of the first EIT Alumni European Node with the purpose of establishing a stronger physical presence for EIT Alumni members and connecting them with local Innovation and Entrepreneurship ecosystems, but also put a ground for scaling and developing a global presence of the EIT Alumni network.

EIT Alumni is the perfect initiative through which EIT can pursue meeting the EIT's talent needs and unleash the innovation potential of all member states. Leveraging the EIT's expertise, that is integral part of the EIT Alumni Community, has high importance on the EIT's next strategic agenda. Together with my Board members, the EIT Governing Board is dedicated to further support the development of the EIT Alumni Community and to meet the rising demand for skilled talents who are core players in Europe's sustainable economic growth and job creation. Enjoy reading the EIT Alumni Impact Report 2023!

**Achievements featured in this report demonstrate the real value of the EIT Alumni Community that can foster a true pan-European Innovation Ecosystem, one that transcends borders and propels us towards a brighter future.**

# INTRODUCTION

## MISSION

The mission of the EIT is to drive innovation forward, as innovation is key to solving pressing global challenges, ensuring a green and sustainable future for Europe. We put the innovators in the centre and mobilise our ecosystem to provide resources, support, and opportunities for them to thrive. By fostering collaboration, nurturing talent, and facilitating access to funding and expertise, we empower innovators to turn their ideas into impactful solutions that benefit society and drive economic growth.

## VISION

It is our job to strengthen the European innovation landscape and invest in Europe's future through EIT Alumni. With great thanks to the members of the EIT Alumni Community, this is what we did in 2023 and this is what we shall continue to do in the years to come. Together, we will build a vibrant ecosystem where creativity flourishes, knowledge is shared freely, and barriers to innovation are dismantled. Our vision is of a Europe that leads the world in innovation, driving positive change and prosperity for all.



## EIT ALUMNI PRESIDENT

The EIT Alumni President, appointed by the EIT Director represents over 19,000 alumni from all EIT Alumni KICs and leads the EIT Alumni Board. The role of the EIT Alumni President is to ensure accurate strategic planning and forecasting for the EIT Alumni, and provide effective representation of the entire network and vis-à-vis the EIT, the KICs and relevant, external stakeholders. The President also coordinates the operations of the EIT Alumni Board members.

## EIT ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

The EIT Alumni Board is the overarching body of the EIT Alumni and sits at the intersection of all EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). Led by the EIT Alumni President, the EIT Alumni Board composed of representatives of the eligible individual EIT KICs alumni, external board member(s) and a representative of the EIT, is responsible for the strategic steering and development of the EIT Alumni Community and the promotion of an active exchange between its members and their representation in the broader Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) ecosystem.

## EIT ALUMNI COMMUNITY INITIATIVE - CROSS SECTORAL EIT ALUMNI

The EIT Alumni Board is working hands in hands with dedicated colleagues from around the Knowledge and Innovation Communities, forming a cross-community consortium that provides cooperation to implement the EIT Alumni work programme under the overall direction of the EIT Alumni Board. The consortium is consolidating the EIT Alumni Community by ensuring alignment with other EIT initiatives and ensuring that information and opportunities are exchanged between KIC Alumni communities.





# WORDS BY EIT ALUMNI PRESIDENT

Reflecting on 2023, the EIT Alumni Community has shown an unwavering dedication to innovation, collaboration, and sustainable progress, strengthening its pivotal role in Europe's development. Throughout the year, we achieved significant milestones and launched initiatives that not only demonstrated our growth but also our collective impact on society.

Guided by the EIT Alumni Board, our community thrived through a series of events, local meet-ups, and strategic partnerships. A standout moment was CONNECT 2023 in Barcelona, which brought together alumni from all Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) to explore the potential of deep tech. The launch of the Nodes further showcased our commitment to fostering global collaboration and innovation.

Participation in prominent events like the Web Summit 2023 and the HIMSS European Conference & Exhibition allowed us to highlight Europe's leadership in deep tech and healthcare innovation. Additionally, our involvement in the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative stakeholder meeting in Stockholm underscored our dedication to addressing skill gaps and promoting sustainability.

The success stories from our community in 2023 are truly inspiring, encompassing groundbreaking technological advancements and impactful social initiatives. These stories reflect the creativity, resilience, and determination of our community members.

Looking ahead to 2024, our commitment to fostering collaboration, supporting alumni-driven projects, and advancing innovation across Europe remains strong. We invite corporate sponsors to join us in our mission, and we are enthusiastic about the potential of cross-alumni community projects to further our goals.



*TOGETHER, WE ARE  
POISED TO CREATE A  
MORE SUSTAINABLE AND  
PROSPEROUS FUTURE  
FOR ALL.*

**Jeroen van Lent**

Interim EIT Alumni President

# 2023 IN REVIEW

8

YEARS OF  
EXISTENCE

NOW OVER

**19,000**  
MEMBERS

## ALUMNI'S LOCAL EVENTS

The EIT Alumni Community is composed of professionals, academics, entrepreneurs, and leaders from various sectors. One way the Community has bridged the gap between alumni, regions, and the EIT is by organising local events across Europe. Between June 2023 and March 2024, the Community has held seven events in major European cities.

Local events, whenever possible, were organised close to other events, such as community weeks, EIT Alumni CONNECT 2023, and conferences, and will continue to be organised through 2024. Local events are particularly appreciated by alumni because they provide the opportunity not only to reconnect with other former students but also to meet EIT and KICs representatives, fostering important and valuable connections.

## BERLIN, 7 JUNE

### Venue: betahaus, Berlin, Germany

EIT Alumni were invited to a cocktail and dinner party in Berlin. The sentiment of the attendees was overwhelmingly positive, and they had several questions for the staff, such as whether there would be more events like this and about the future of the KICs' programs.

The local events were open to all Alumni from all KICs and they were very successful both in terms of participation and of interest, and they involved high level speakers and participants.



## DUBLIN, 27 SEPTEMBER

**Venue: The Robing Room, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland**

The event was organised on Climate KIC's Community week in Ireland to attract a big network. Alumni were also invited to participate in Climate-KIC's conference, which are usually restricted to members of the community.

Despite facing unexpected challenges due to storm Agnes in Ireland that impacted attendance and caused delays, the event can be considered a success. We have received extremely positive feedback from the attendees, that thanked us for organising and then attended the general conference on 28 September. During the event, the EIT Alumni Community had the opportunity to present their work and activities. A coaching session by Luise Heidenreich was planned, but the more intimate dimension led to a softer coaching through sharing of experiences. The participants actively engaged with the event's content and activities and had the opportunity to network among themselves as well as with the participants of the other learning sessions that were going on at the same time.

Their enthusiasm and involvement contributed to a vibrant and dynamic atmosphere, making the event a memorable experience for everyone involved. The smaller, more intimate setting allowed for meaningful connections to be established. These connections can lead to future collaborations, partnerships, and knowledge-sharing.

In conclusion, the Alumni that participated really liked the event and its organisation and were grateful to be able to connect with industry representatives. The experience highlights the resilience and adaptability of the team and provides valuable insights for future event planning within the organisation.

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**8**  
YEARS OF  
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## EIT ALUMNI NODE LAUNCH

In 2023, our community celebrated the launch of the first EIT Alumni Node, a significant milestone led by Francisco Veiga Simão and eight executive alumni members. The Nodes embody our commitment to fostering stronger connections within local Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) hubs worldwide, providing dedicated spaces for collaboration, networking events, and knowledge sharing.

Even in its early stages, the Nodes reflect our collaborative spirit and innovative drive, offering alumni a platform to explore new ventures, forge meaningful connections, and contribute to positive change in their industries. It stands out as a significant step forward for our community, serving as a beacon of opportunity and a catalyst for growth and innovation.

**The launch of the Nodes marks our dedication to empowering alumni, enabling them to tap into collective expertise and resources to accelerate their entrepreneurial endeavours and drive innovation.**





## NODE LAUNCH RECEPTION, 23 NOVEMBER

**Venue: AmoVino, Barcelona, Spain**

The event was the reception for the launch of the first European Alumni Node, which had been established earlier the same day at the Urban Mobility headquarters in Barcelona. The prior event was accessible only to a limited number of people, so the reception was organised to welcome those who were already in Barcelona the day before EIT Alumni CONNECT 2023 and to celebrate the node launch. The event featured food and wine and was attended by over 50 people. It was well-received, providing attendees the opportunity to connect before the main event the following day.



# THE COMMUNITY IN FIGURES

## KEY NUMBERS FOR 2023

### SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

FACEBOOK **2,300**

LINKEDIN **3,665**

INSTAGRAM **1,084**

TWITTER **2,108**

**22** EXTERNAL EVENTS  
ATTENDED BY ALUMNI

ALUMNI PARTICIPANTS: **116**

**7** CROSS-COMMUNITY  
EVENTS

**82** ALUMNI COMMUNITY  
EVENTS

ALUMNI PARTICIPANTS: **2,706**

**160** NUMBER OF JOBS SHARED/CREATED IN THE EIT  
ALUMNI COMMUNITY

## COMPOSITION OF THE EIT ALUMNI COMMUNITY (\*)

TOTAL: **19,255 members**



EIT Manufacturing Alumni: **42 members**



EIT Food Alumni: **3,800 members**



EIT RawMaterials Alumni: **1,168 members**



EIT Climate-KIC Alumni: **6,133 members**



EIT Digital Alumni: **2,221 members**



EIT Urban Mobility Alumni: **37 members**



EIT Health Innovators Community: **4,166 members**



CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy: **1,821 members**

**31,16%**

**21,63%**

START-UPS CREATED OF EIT LABELLED MSC/PHD PROGRAMMES



GRADUATES FROM EIT LABELLED MSC/PHD PROGRAMMES



STUDENTS ENROLLED IN EIT LABELLED MSC/PHD PROGRAMMES



EIT RIS START-UPS CREATED OF EIT LABELLED MSC/PHD PROGRAMMES



EIT RIS STUDENTS AND GRADUATES FROM EIT LABELLED MSC/PHD PROGRAMMES



EIT RIS EIT LABELLED MSC/PHD STUDENTS AND GRADUATES WHO JOINED START-UPS





# SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

## EIT DIGITAL ALUMNI

### Annual Meeting in Madeira

The EIT Digital Alumni Foundation's Annual Meeting 2023 in Funchal, Madeira, from 11-14 May, was a vibrant gathering. Themed "Digital for Good," it explored tech's positive societal impact. Keynote speaker Diana Tsai, a Forbes 30 Under 30 Social Impact Entrepreneur, shared insights from her startup, Upwage. Attendees enjoyed a blend of professional growth and leisure, from tech talks to city tours. The Pestana Casino Park 5\* Hotel provided a stunning backdrop, offering attendees luxurious amenities and breathtaking views of Funchal Bay. It was a memorable event fostering learning, networking, and fun.

### Welcome New Board!

This year, the EIT Digital Alumni Community elected a new board to lead from July 2023 to July 2025. The process began with candidate applications in March, followed by elections in April and May. Seven members were elected, including Tim Brinkman as President and Alessio Molinari as Treasurer. A transition period in May and June facilitated knowledge transfer between outgoing and incoming board members. The in-person handover in Brussels on 9-10 June marked the official transition. The new board expressed gratitude to the outgoing members and outlined their commitment to fostering a thriving alumni community over the next two years.

### Graduation Day

Last year's Graduation Day was a memorable event, boasting nearly 200 graduates. The ceremony was a testament to their hard work. UPM provided valuable data on programs, including insights into new offerings. Notably, the Alumni Board actively welcomed new members, with 63 profiles created on the day. It was a day filled with celebration, reflection, and a promising glimpse into the future of our community.



## EIT RAWMATERIALS ALUMNI

### Webinars

In 2023, EIT RawMaterials spearheaded three compelling webinars, each offering invaluable insights into innovation, entrepreneurship, and navigating the job market. With esteemed guests hailing from diverse sectors including industry, academia, and research, these events provided a platform for thought-provoking discussions and knowledge exchange.

Highlighted speakers included:

**Dr. Anna Vanderbruggen**, a distinguished mineral processing engineer and post-doctoral researcher at the Helmholtz Institute Freiberg Resource Technology, who was also the recipient of the prestigious EIT Change Award in 2022.

**Dr. Chiara Magrin** from the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, and Dr. Katarzyna Jagodzinska from the Green Building Council Iceland, both esteemed scholars bringing unique perspectives to the table.

**Sol Villar**, former General Director for Organisation and HR at Atlantic Copper, contributed invaluable insights from her extensive experience in organisational leadership.

These webinars featured expert presentations and engaging Q&A sessions, drawing in a diverse audience of over 50 participants keen on exploring the latest trends and innovations in the field.



## EIT HEALTH INNOVATORS COMMUNITY

### EIT Health Innovators Community reached 4000 members

The EIT Health Innovators Community celebrated a milestone at the end of 2023, reaching 4,000 members! We are proud to have such a diverse community, including start-ups, students, EIT Health partners, Healthcare professionals, mentors and many more!

### Launch of Healthcare Disruptors Podcast

A significant achievement in 2023 was the launch of our 'Healthcare Disruptors' podcast, dedicated to exploring the dynamic intersection of entrepreneurship and healthcare. Through insightful conversations with entrepreneurs, experts, and CEOs pioneering cutting-edge technologies and digital health solutions, we aim to inspire and inform our audience about the transformative potential within the healthcare sector.

[Listen on Spotify](#)

### Successful partnerships with Vivatech and Med-tech Malta

Last year saw successful collaborations with prominent events such as the Vivatech Healthcare conference in Paris and Med-tech Malta. Through these partnerships, we provided members with complimentary tickets and organised delegations to represent

our community, fostering meaningful engagement and visibility on a global scale. These partnerships will be continued in 2024.

### Launch of two community videos

To keep up with the growth of our Community and to ensure that our new members have a strong affiliation, we launched two animated videos as part of our community promotion efforts, effectively communicating the value proposition of membership (Video 1) and offering practical insights on maximising the benefits of our community platform (Video 2).

These engaging visual assets serve as powerful tools in amplifying our message and attracting new members to our vibrant community of innovators.

[Video 1](#)

[Video 2](#)



## EIT FOOD ALUMNI

### EIT Food Alumni Board and their activities

The most significant highlight of the EIT Food Alumni community in 2023 was the establishment of the EIT Food Alumni Board. Today, one year later, the Alumni Board has expanded to include 10 active members and has established a network of Country Representatives in 12 different countries facilitating local engagement within the community.

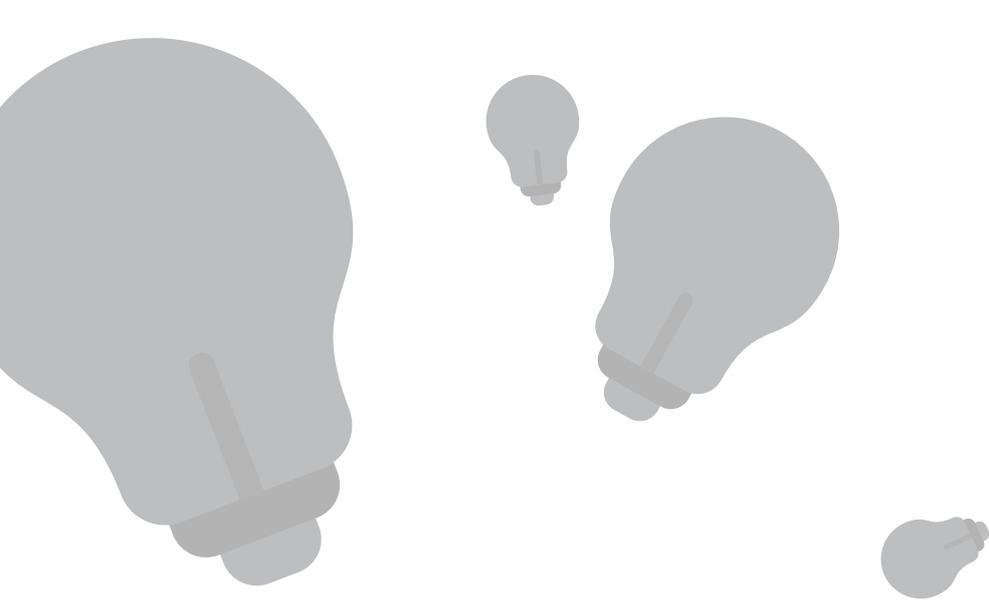
Since its establishment, the EIT Food Alumni Board has successfully organised 10+ educational and community events attracting over 300 participants, represented and promoted the community at large EIT Food events, and has been constantly developing new opportunities for EIT Food Alumni.

### Integral Members of the Young Professionals Platform

In 2024, EIT Food Alumni Board was selected participants in the Young Professionals Platform call by EIT Food. Together with other youth-led organisations, EIT Food Alumni will be representing the voice of young professionals in the agrifood sector and supporting EIT Food by contributing positive, disruptive insights and action to help realise the vision of a healthy, sustainable, and resilient food system for all.

### EIT Food Alumni Community is Growing

Our Alumni Community is growing every year and is now welcoming over 3,800 members from 70+ countries who participated in EIT Food Education, Innovation, or Business Creation Programmes.



## EIT URBAN MOBILITY ALUMNI

### Successful Sustainable Mobility Transition Meeting

EIT Urban Mobility hosted the “Sustainable Mobility Transition Meeting in Ireland” on 19 September 2023 at Tangent, Trinity College University in Dublin. This event brought together key stakeholders from public and private sectors to discuss sustainable mobility. Representatives from national and local authorities, academia, and the private sector covered topics like Active Mobility, Public Transport, Decarbonisation, and Urban Air Mobility. The meeting emphasised collaboration to reduce Ireland’s transport emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050. This event marks the start of a series of engagements planned for 2023 and 2024.

### #ChallengeMyCity Drives Innovation in Madrid

In 2023, EIT Urban Mobility’s **#ChallengeMyCity** programme successfully implemented five innovative urban mobility solutions in Madrid. Following successful pilots in Toulouse and Milano, this initiative promotes sustainable transportation by encouraging public transport, cycling, and walking. Five start-ups — Vadebike, Solum, SmartPoint, Dashfactor, and Vianova — executed seven projects to reduce car usage and emissions while collecting data on their impacts. Building on Madrid’s success, **#ChallengeMyCity** will expand to Braga, Vitoria, and Greece in 2023, further advancing urban mobility across Europe.



## EIT ALUMNI CLIMATE-KIC

### Capacity Building for Climate Innovation in LAC

In November 2023, EIT Climate KIC and IDB Lab collaborated to select 26 Entrepreneurship Support Organisations (ESOs) from 11 Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries for a climate innovation capacity-building programme. The goal is to equip these ESOs with the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to accelerate climate technology solutions.

### EIT Climate-KIC Driving Climate Action

At the forefront of global climate action, EIT Climate-KIC bridges the gap between ambition and implementation. Through initiatives like the EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, they pioneer place-based innovation, driving sustainable practices in urban environments. Partnering with institutions such as Ireland's Department of Agriculture, EIT Climate-KIC supports systemic transformations across sectors. Their emphasis on complex learning and systems thinking aligns with OECD's call for comprehensive climate strategies. By advocating for ecosystem-focused approaches, EIT Climate-KIC accelerates the transition to a low-carbon future, emphasising practical implementation and measurable impact.

### EIT Climate-KIC at COP28

EIT Climate-KIC actively contributes to COP28 in Dubai, focusing on bridging the gap between climate commitments and action. Engaging in discussions at the UNFCCC Global Innovation Hub, we highlight the role of creative industries and the power of narratives in driving climate action. Our participation extends to addressing systemic challenges in green employment, private sector innovations, and integrated landscape finance. These efforts underline our commitment to catalysing transformative action across sectors. Stay tuned for updates as we continue to accelerate climate action and innovation at COP28.

## EIT INNOENERGY COMMUNITY

### EIT InnoEnergy CommUnity Hackathon in Barcelona

The EIT InnoEnergy CommUnity Hackathon in November 2023, sponsored by two companies, was a 12-hour event that gathered 60 students from various InnoEnergy Master programmes and epitomised innovation through intense collaboration. The event was designed to enable budding entrepreneurs to turn innovative ideas into practical solutions. This dynamic setting provided fertile

-solving, driving students towards practical outcomes and entrepreneurial thinking. Beyond mere competition, the hackathon emphasised significant personal and professional growth. Participants developed innovative solutions while engaging in valuable networking with peers, mentors, and industry leaders. The event included practical workshops and hands-on experiences that refined

participants' skills. This nurturing environment allowed participants to showcase their capabilities to potential employers and partners, supported by experienced mentors.

### InnoStation Podcast

The InnoStation podcast, spearheaded by EIT InnoEnergy students and alumni, exemplifies the transformative impact of innovative startups within the energy sector. Each episode, hosted by Alessandro Armenia (RENE '20), explores the narratives of startups driving the energy transition, centred around the themes of Decentralisation, Decarbonisation, Digitalisation, and Democratisation. The podcast provides a deep dive into the

motivations, challenges, and visions of pioneering entrepreneurs, enriching listeners with a nuanced understanding of the sector's complexities. InnoStation aims to foster a human-centric narrative that addresses critical topics such as energy, sustainability, and policy innovation. Available on major platforms like Spotify and Apple Podcasts, InnoStation ensures global accessibility, significantly extending its reach and impact as an

educational resource in sustainable energy. Through engaging discussions and insightful content, the podcast continues to be a vital tool in the discourse surrounding energy transition, making it an indispensable resource for those engaged in or interested in this dynamic field.

[Listen on Apple Podcast](#)

[Listen on Spotify](#)

## EIT MANUFACTURING ALUMNI [NEW]

### EIT Manufacturing Alumni Community Launch Event

The EIT Manufacturing Alumni Community Launch event in January 2024 was a resounding success, marking a significant milestone for the community. The event kicked off with a warm welcome from Diogo Rocha, representing the community board and setting an engaging tone. Francisco Veiga Simao eloquently introduced the essence of EIT Alumni, paving the way for Natalie Cernecka to illuminate the vast

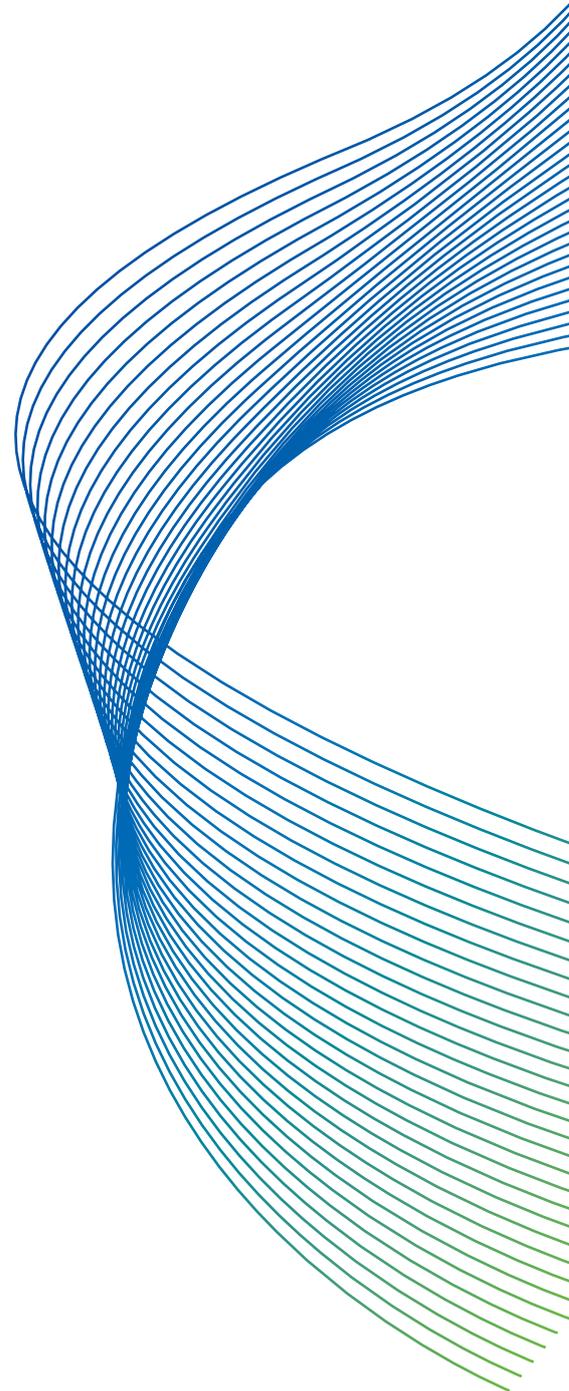
opportunities within Deep Tech Talent Initiative - DTTI. The event was held on AGORA, and also served as the opening of the EIT Manufacturing Alumni Sphere on the platform, thus fostering a sense of belonging within the community. The event reached its zenith with inspiring showcases from DiMAT by Ellie Shtereva and Enova H2O by Hyusein Yemendzhiev, businesses linked to the alumni community

board members. The event left alumni brimming with enthusiasm and inspiration for future endeavours.

### The EITM Alumni Reconnect Building Opportunities Event

The **EITM Alumni Reconnect Building Opportunities** event in March 2024 was a dynamic gathering that resonated with the vibrant spirit of the alumni community. Asya Syvolob, a board member of the community, welcomed participants and guided the event. Melinda Osias then steered the session towards valuable networking opportunities within the EITM platform AGORA, emphasising the power of connection. Aristeidis Katsiorch unveiled the exciting prospects with the Innovation department, setting the stage for Krishna Reddy to illuminate the path of upskilling in

Deep Tech fields through DTTI's courses. Loris Valero-Leconte shed light on RIS opportunities, while Tamar Chapidze unveiled the transformative world of Teaching Factories. The event was structured as a showcase of ways for alumni to be involved with the EIT Manufacturing programs and was a general call to action for growth and collaboration. This online event was an inspiration for the EIT Manufacturing Alumni, and showcased a multitude of avenues for personal and professional development within the EIT manufacturing ecosystem.



# JOINT MESSAGE FROM THE EIT ALUMNI BOARD

## DEAR MEMBERS OF THE EIT ALUMNI COMMUNITY,

As members of the EIT Alumni Board, we stood united in our commitment to innovation, progress, and positive change in 2023. Guided by the spirit of collaboration and resilience, we strive to create a powerful platform for the EIT Alumni for impact and cross-sectoral engagement and cooperation.

Throughout the year 2023, we stayed committed to harness the massive potential of all EIT Alumni members by encouraging proactive exchanges between its members who has the potential to drive a more sustainable European life. All our activities, such as CONNECT, local events, our attendance at international conferences, EIT Alumni Node opening, launch of the EIT Alumni newsletter, that we all completed with the great collaboration of the colleagues of the EIT Community Alumni Initiative, are great examples for the unique collaboration our community can offer.

Welcome to the world of EIT Alumni – a powerful community of change-makers and innovators who are dedicated to creating a sustainable and impactful future. Our diverse network brings together individuals from different backgrounds and cultures who share a common vision for tackling societal challenges through innovation and entrepreneurship.





As we reflect on our achievements, we recognise the importance of young leaders in shaping our collective impact. We challenge the status quo, embrace diversity, and work tirelessly and many times voluntarily to transform society. Whether through digital transformation, global health initiatives, or entrepreneurial endeavors, we are committed to making a difference together with and for all of our members.

As graduates from all of EIT's Knowledge Innovation Communities (KICs), we are uniquely positioned to leverage our multifaceted network and empower the next generation of leaders.

- Jeroen van Lent
- Anca del Rio
- Bilal Baiju
- Tim Brinkman
- Agnes Molnar
- Peter Olesen
- Liana Shvachiy
- Francisco Veiga Simão
- Selene Tondini



# INSIDE THE COMMUNITY

**349**  
ON SITE  
PARTICIPANTS



## EIT ALUMNI CONNECT 2023

In 2023, our community witnessed the inauguration of CONNECT 2023, a pivotal event uniting alumni from all EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). Hosted in Barcelona, this gathering emphasised the importance of deep tech expertise to strengthen talent in Europe.

Spearheaded by EIT Digital and the EIT Alumni Board, CONNECT 2023 marked a collaborative effort involving all KICs, aiming to foster collaborations and fortify the EIT ecosystem. By opening its doors to external participants for the first time, CONNECT 2023 extended its reach and impact beyond traditional boundaries. The chosen theme, "Deep Tech Unleashed: The Power of Emerging Technologies," underscored the transformative potential of deep tech in driving innovation and shaping a sustainable future.

The hybrid program offered a roadmap for gaining access to funding and empowered the next generation of leaders to pursue social good and sustainability through innovation and entrepreneurship.

## POST REACH

[#EITALUMNICONNECT](#)

(\*) Source: EIT Alumni channels

INSTAGRAM  
REACH **2,942**

LINKEDIN  
IMPRESSIONS **41,991**



# WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY ABOUT US

## Lisbet Doris Casavilca Ortega

Alumna in Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Biomedical Engineering | EIT Health

*"I have my best memories from when I'd been doing international mobility. It comes from the partnership that EIT Health has with Sorbonne University. In this experience, when I did international mobility, I learned a lot from the network and how to be in contact with the entrepreneurship system and environment. I would really recommend this programme because it provided me a new, different area that I never saw before."*

[Watch Lisbet's full story](#)

## Daniele Montesi

Alumnus in Data Science | EIT Digital

*"The EIT Label programme was better than any of the others I was offered so far because it was a real combination between tech skills – around 70% of the entire programme – and 30% business topics. And especially with the second, I was really able to understand the big picture of the industry and therefore be able to understand how to better address the needs of the market and got a satisfying job."*

[Watch Daniele's full story](#)

Join us on a journey through the experiences and insights of our exceptional graduates as they share their stories of growth, achievement, and impact within the diverse communities of EIT Alumni. From groundbreaking research to transformative projects, our graduates stand as beacons of innovation and inspiration. Discover firsthand how EIT Alumni has shaped their academic journeys, enriched their professional lives, and fostered lasting connections within our dynamic network. Through their voices, we celebrate the remarkable contributions of our members and the enduring legacy of EIT Alumni.

## Elvira Sánchez

Alumna in Cyber Security | EIT Digital

*"Meeting so many people that motivate you to be better – and they're so smart so you can pick their brains – that's been a huge learning experience. Doing the Master's in Cyber Security led me to my job right now. I would recommend the programme to others because it is very interdisciplinary; you can choose some of the best universities in Europe."*

[Watch Elvira's full story](#)

## Markus Liski

Alumnus in Sustainable Energy Systems | EIT InnoEnergy

*"I studied sustainable energy systems, and I'm very interested in energy and climate transition on a system level. I think all my lessons from that degree are directly relevant to my current job at Tesla, where I'm responsible for business, intelligence, and data analysis in their circular solutions. So, for instance, battery recycling and the strategy behind that and the data analysis."*

[Watch Markus' full story](#)

## Inara Kalina

Alumna in Sustainable and Innovative Natural Resource Management | EIT Raw Materials

*"We look at the entire value chain, from geo resource exploration till the end of life, recycling and reusing of this product."*

[Watch Inara's full story](#)

# COLLABORATIONS & REPRESENTATIONS AT EXTERNAL EVENTS

## WEB SUMMIT 2023

At the 2023 Web Summit in Lisbon, EIT Digital showcased Europe's deep tech leadership in collaboration with the European Innovation Council (EIC). During the "Building deep tech unicorns" session, held on 15 November, CEO Federico Menna shared insights on strategies for global expansion, underscoring the importance of supporting Europe's

Europe's innovative startups. This collaboration, which extends from the successful EIC-EIT Digital Venture Acceleration Programme, aims to empower deep tech companies with access to EIT Digital's Growth Services Programme. With startups like Mitiga and Sensoneo already benefitting from this partnership, CEO Menna highlighted the ongoing

commitment to fostering innovation and supporting Europe's deep tech ecosystem. Additionally, EIT Digital promoted the EIT AI Community and CEO Menna participated in a panel discussion on strategies for globalised growth alongside industry leaders.

## EIT DEEP TECH TALENT INITIATIVE STAKEHOLDER MEETING STOCKHOLM

In 2023, the EIT Community actively participated in the momentous event "Closing the Skills Gap in Deep Tech for a Sustainable Europe," held on 31 May. Embracing the theme of sustainability under the Swedish Presidency's patronage, the EIT Community engaged policymakers, companies, and educational and research organisations. Representatives from the EIT Community contributed expertise

and insights alongside industry leaders and education providers from the Nordics. This event, highlighting the Deep Tech Talent Initiative, showcased the EIT's commitment to addressing skill gaps and fostering collaboration in advancing sustainability across Europe. It exemplified the EIT's role in driving innovation and shaping the future landscape of deep tech.



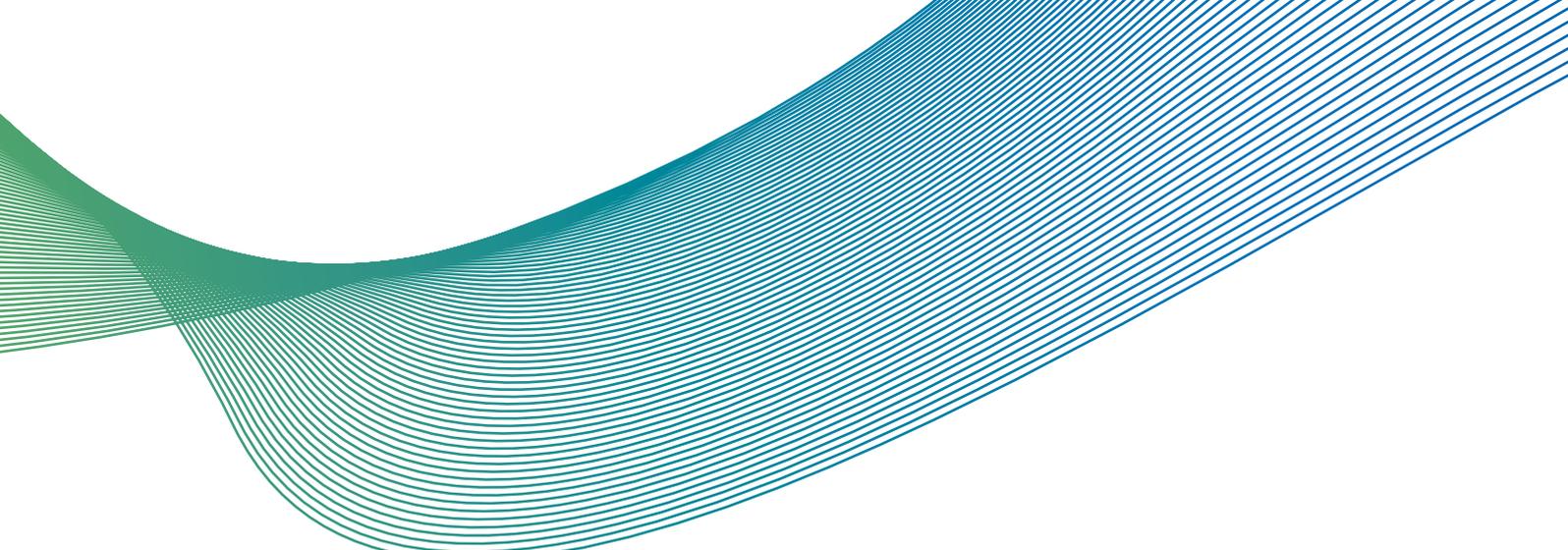
## HIMSS EUROPEAN CONFERENCE & EXHIBITIONS

EIT Alumni made a significant impact at the 2023 HIMSS European Conference & Exhibition in Lisbon. Outgoing President, Anca del Rio, chaired the Innovation Forum, sharing insights on health tech entrepreneurship alongside EIT Health Innovation Director Cristina Bescos. EIT Health showcased startup pitches, with President del

Rio as head judge for “Most Likely to Scale.” Winners included Doctomatic for “Most Promising Startup,” Direct Diagnostic for “Most Likely to Scale,” and CLYNX, recipient of the People’s Choice award. These innovative solutions, ranging from remote patient monitoring to personalised e-health platforms, exemplify the future of healthcare technology.

The event provided a valuable learning experience and highlighted the impactful contributions of the EIT network to the healthcare industry.





## WOMEN AND GIRLS IN STEM FORUM 2023: ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

On 5 December 2023, the EIT Community, in collaboration with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC), hosted the third edition of the Women and Girls in STEM Forum. Live-streamed from Brussels, this hybrid event aimed at advancing gender equality in STEM education and careers in Europe, bringing together policymakers,

industry leaders, researchers, practitioners, and students. The programme featured an expert panel discussion where private and public sector leaders shared best practices and solutions for bridging the gender gap in STEM, ICT, and innovation. Additionally, a student competition saw Girls Go Circular alumnae present green robot prototypes in a Robot Design Challenge, with the

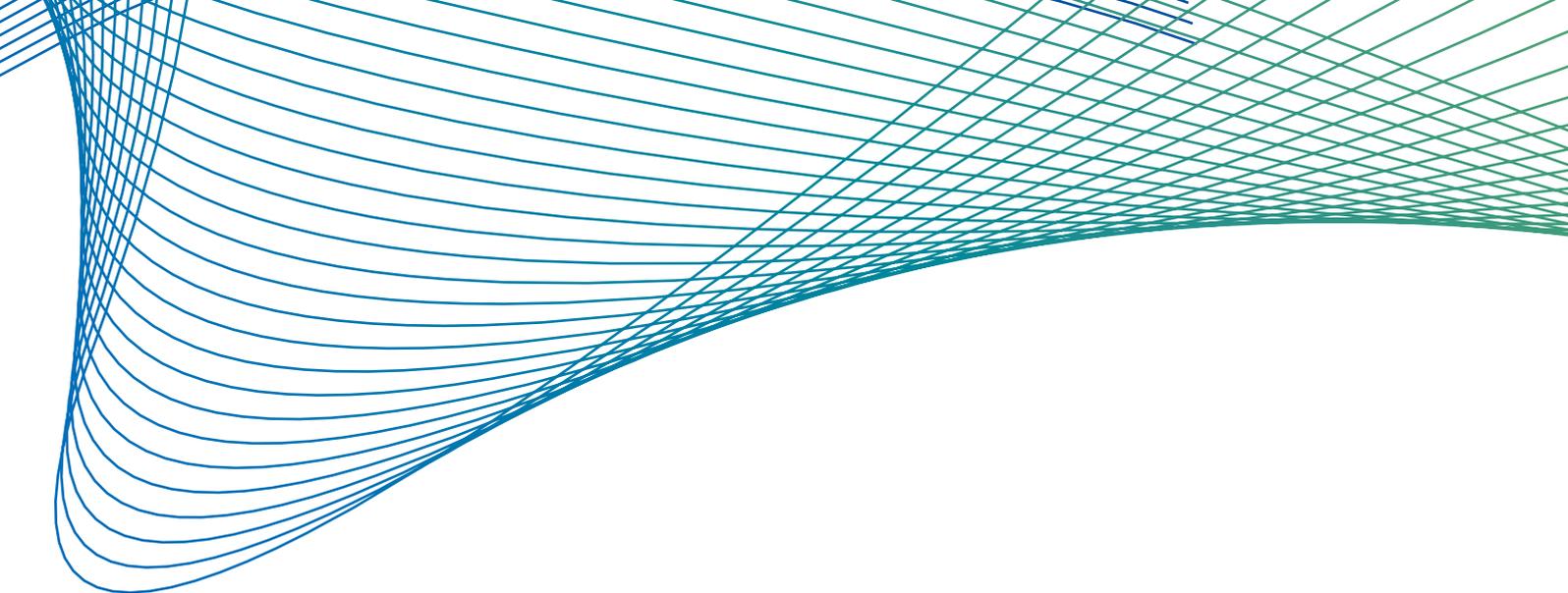
top three teams presenting to a jury of experts and the public helping to select the winning team. Hosted by EIT RawMaterials and supported by the European Commission and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), the forum highlighted ongoing efforts and innovative approaches to fostering gender equality in STEM fields.

## MCAA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

On 23–24 February 2023, the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) held its annual conference and General Assembly at the Palacio de Congresos in Córdoba, Spain, with the theme "Challenges in Science Diplomacy and Sustainable Development." The hybrid event included pre-conference satellite activities on 23 February, bringing together participants both onsite and online to ensure global accessibility

and sustainability, with a cap of 300 onsite attendees. The conference provided a platform for networking and cooperation across all career stages and scientific disciplines, fostering debate between researchers and the broader society. High-level panels discussed science diplomacy's role in addressing societal challenges and the sustainability of research culture and careers. The programme featured

training sessions, networking opportunities, and showcases of MCAA members' engagement and excellence. Highlighting the event, the gala dinner included the 2022 MCAA Awards, recognising outstanding achievements by members in various categories. Registration for the event was open to all interested parties.



## IRTC CONFERENCE 2023 - RAW MATERIALS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

From 15-17 February 2023, the EIT RawMaterials hosted the IRTC Conference 2023 at the Lilliad Learning Center Innovation in Lille, France, focusing on "Raw Materials for a Sustainable Future." This event gathered leading experts, practitioners, and participants from around the globe to discuss the critical role raw materials play in the development of renewables and the digital transition. The conference

addressed the challenges posed by precarious and unsustainable supply chains and explored various strategies to secure sustainable raw material supplies. The two-and-a-half-day conference featured sessions with keynote speakers and conference Chairs, networking activities, and opportunities for meaningful interactions among the limited 180 onsite participants, while also allowing for online participation.

The event welcomed a diverse audience from industry, academia, and policy-making, fostering dialogue on assessing and managing raw materials and criticality. The International Round Table on Materials Criticality (IRTC), funded by EIT RawMaterials, played a significant role in the discussions, bridging academic expertise and industry practice in criticality assessments.



## EIT HEALTH SCI FI 2023 PROGRAM CONCLUDES SUCCESSFULLY

On 12 December 2023, the EIT Health SCI FI (From Scientists to Innovators) 2023 program concluded with a celebratory final event, marking the successful end of a transformative course for scientists transitioning into industry. IBEC (Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia) played a significant role, co-organising the in-person launch in Barcelona with the Centre for Genomic Regulation.

Led by the Medical University of Lodz and supported by 17 European institutions, the three-month online program offered participants hands-on experience through case studies from Boehringer Ingelheim, Novartis, Roche, Deloitte, and Siemens Healthineers. Participants, including two IBEC researchers, presented solutions to industry challenges at the final event.

The program, which won second place at the Emerging Europe Awards for Future-Proof Education Initiative of the Year, concluded in Erlangen, Germany. IBEC looks forward to staying connected with participants through the alumni network. For more details on SCI FI 2023, visit the EIT Health website.

## ATUM 2023 ENERGY AND CLIMATE SUMMIT

On 19-20 April 2023, the ATUM Energy and Climate Summit convened at the Portalegre Polytechnic Campus, with a focus on advancing discussions on climate change and sustainable practices. Promoted by the Energy and Climate Forum, the Polytechnic University of

Portalegre, and the Regional Coordination and Development Commission of Alentejo, this conference cycle is part of the GUARDIÕES project, aimed at making the Alentejo region a model for carbon reduction and sustainable economic transition. The summit

featured a circular economy panel, where Francisco Veiga Simão, representing EIT, participated as a guest speaker, emphasising the institute's commitment to sustainability.

[Watch a video of the event](#)

## GREEN CITIES FORUM 2023 IN BRAȘOV, ROMANIA

From 5-7 September 2023, the Green Cities Forum (GCF) in Brașov, Romania, welcomed Francisco Veiga Simão as a guest speaker representing EIT, emphasising EIT's dedication to sustainability and urban development. Organised in collaboration with The Covenant of Mayors & The Green Cities Accord, the event convened experts, local

authorities, companies, NGOs, and citizens to accelerate the transition to sustainable cities. With the theme "Changing Perspectives. Embracing Transformation. Choosing Action. Together," the forum facilitated networking and knowledge exchange in areas like sustainable urban planning, green mobility, renewable energy, and the circular

economy. Over 300 local representatives and 20 environmental policy experts engaged in workshops, roundtable discussions, and presentations of best practice models, supported by European institutional partners.

[Watch a video of the event](#)



*THE EIT SUPPORTS  
TOMORROW'S INNOVATORS  
AND PROMOTES THE  
ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET  
OF OUR EIT ALUMNI  
COMMUNITY.*

**Martin Kern**

EIT Director

# SUCCESS STORIES

## REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Here we proudly showcase the remarkable achievements and impactful innovations emerging from the vibrant ecosystem of EIT. Join us as we delve into the inspiring journeys of individuals and teams who are shaping tomorrow's world through their ingenuity, dedication, and collaborative spirit. From groundbreaking technological advancements to transformative social initiatives, these success stories exemplify the power of innovation to address pressing global challenges and create positive change. Explore these narratives of resilience, creativity, and impact, and be inspired by the extraordinary accomplishments of our community. Let's dive into the success stories of 2023!

### Axel Rimbaud

EIT Urban Mobility Master Alumni

Axel Rimbaud, an EIT Urban Mobility Master Alumni from the 2021 Cohort, recently made significant strides in road safety advocacy at the InnovEIT summit in Brussels. As founder of Movimiento contra el Exceso de velocidad Letal (MEL), Axel and his team catalysed tangible

changes in Chile, contributing to the notification of the CATI project as a Law by the Chilean Government in 2023. Axel's work featured on EIT Urban Mobility Explained (UMX) on YouTube.

[Watch Axel's work on UMX](#)

### Skill Sync

Bridging the gaps in Europe's AI innovation space

Explore how Skill Sync, EIT's brainchild, revolutionising skill development in Europe. With personalised training recommendations, it empowers start-ups, SMEs, and academia. Join the journey!

[Read full story here](#)

## "Shaping Tomorrow" episodes

Psiconnea - Wellness Within Arms Reach

Discover how Psiconnea is revolutionising the accessibility of wellness resources with innovative technology.

[Read the full story](#)

Aquí Convivencia & Art Community Building

Explore how Aquí Convivencia is fostering community engagement and empowerment through art and collaboration.

[Read the full story](#)

Unlocking the Future of Green Energy

Learn how HSL Technologies is driving the transition to sustainable energy solutions with cutting-edge innovations.

[Read the full story](#)



### Karos Mobility - A Journey for People and Planet

Explore how, amid the daily chaos of urban commuting, a visionary company is revolutionising the way we travel to work.

[Read the full story](#)

### Ethikis Ad Civis, A Consumer-First Approach

Discover how the EIT Community witnessed a surge of innovation with 125 applications for the EIT Circular Economy Prize.

[Read the full story](#)

### Foodlie - Hungry for Change

In Liepāja, Latvia, Maija leads an EIT Community NEB project, merging sustainability and art to connect people, food, and the environment.

[Read the full story](#)

### Entropic, Nature and Design, in Perfect Harmony

Discover Entropic, led by Geoffrey Eberle, and the Himlavalvet bridge project, merging artistry and innovation to engage communities and sequester carbon.

[Read the full story](#)

### Orgavalue - an organ transplant start-up

A Portuguese start-up and EIT Jumpstarter alumni, transforming organ transplantation by recycling organs from deceased individuals using innovative technology.

[Read the full story](#)

### Agua de Sol turns air into water thanks to the sun

Discover how Agua de Sol's 'SunAir Fountain' is revolutionising clean water access and reducing plastic bottle use with EIT Community support.

[Read the full story](#)





# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

In 2024, the EIT Alumni activities continue to focus on enabling knowledge transfer and skills development within the EIT Alumni Community and beyond. The activities of EIT Alumni encourage and empower its members to push boundaries and generate solutions that drive positive change. The EIT Alumni organises and supports several pan-European activities, ranging from bottom-up, alumni-driven initiatives to the promotion of EIT Alumni Board Members who actively participate in European and

international events on behalf of the EIT Alumni. These members develop their own skills while also increasing community visibility and driving impact as outstanding young key opinion leaders. Furthermore, the EIT Alumni's annual flagship event, EIT Alumni CONNECT, integrates all communities that constitute EIT Alumni. It is the only major event that brings together alumni and representatives from all the EIT KICs, fostering collaboration, synergies, and joint ventures, and strengthening the wider EIT Ecosystem.

At EIT Alumni CONNECT, participants gather to expand their networks, build partnerships, co-create projects, and further collaborate.

## LET'S COLLABORATE

As always, the EIT Alumni Community is open to supporting 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 corporate who would like to sponsor us? Let us know!



[eit.europa.eu](https://eit.europa.eu)



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