

# EIT Climate-KIC

EIT Climate-KIC is a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) established by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) in 2010. The EIT is Europe's largest innovation ecosystem offering education, innovation and business creation services to solve global challenges.



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## Accelerating the transition to a zero-carbon economy

EIT Climate-KIC was launched with the mission of accelerating the transition toward a zero-carbon economy.

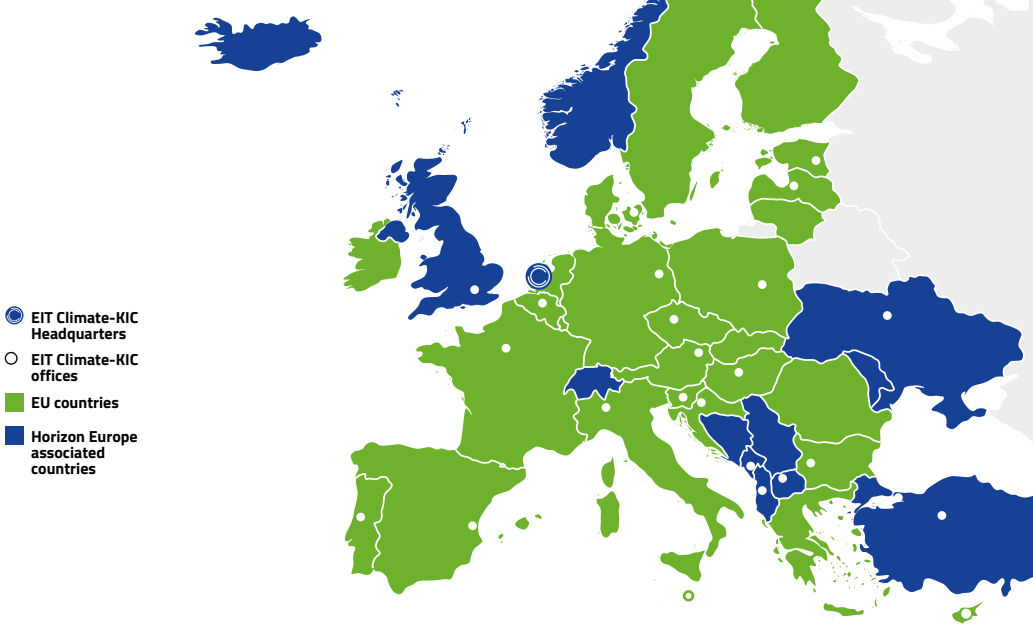
With tailored **business creation and acceleration programmes**, EIT Climate-KIC supports sustainable ventures and solutions to scale. It also collaborates with partner organisations to foster entrepreneurship activities that support local climate goals. Its **educational and upskilling programmes** equip public and private leadership with innovation capacities essential for tackling climate change. EIT Climate-KIC also helps test and implement new ideas by supporting **innovation projects** that drive decarbonisation and strengthen climate resilience.

## The power of EIT Climate-KIC's network

EIT Climate-KIC's network includes 245 partners and 26 offices across Europe at the end of 2024, featuring corporations like Engie, cities like Malmö, and universities such as TU Delft and Trinity College Dublin. Over a decade, it has worked with 400+ partners across 60 countries, driving climate goals through system innovation and local transformation.

 Supported by EIT-Climate-KIC, the Innovation Laboratories for Climate Actions (ILCA) project has strengthened European higher education collaboration by seeking concrete answers to key societal challenges.

**Mervi Vidgren,**  
President of Savonia  
University of Applied  
Sciences



## A proven engine of climate innovation in Europe

Since its launch in 2010, EIT Climate-KIC’s innovation, business creation and acceleration programmes have created or supported 2307 start-ups. Among these, three ventures achieved unicorn status (worth over USD 1 billion) and three have reached centaur status (having USD 100 million of annual recurring revenue). Entrepreneurs and ventures backed by EIT Climate-KIC have brought a total of 782 climate-friendly innovations to market. Additionally, 954 students have graduated from its EIT-labelled degree programmes and more than 14 150 learners have participated in its courses.

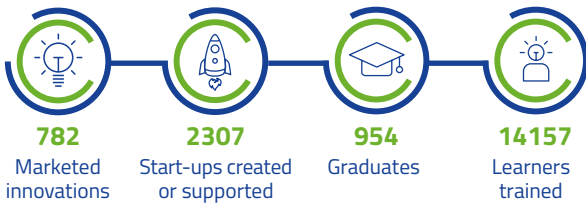


Figure 1. EIT Climate KIC’s key achievements in numbers (2011-2023)

### AWARDS

#14 – Europe’s Leading Start-up Hubs by the Financial Times (2024)

#3 – Europe’s List of Hub Networks by the Financial Times (2024)

## Impact story: Entrepreneurial education



**Innovation Laboratories for Climate Actions (ILCA)**, an EIT Higher Education Initiative project supported by EIT Climate-KIC, unites four higher education institutions and three research institutes across five countries. Each partner established a lab to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs, including start-ups and scale-ups) in green and digital transition. Additionally, a Ukrainian Aid Action was formed. Since 2022, ILCA has trained over 1 600 students and more than 1 020 staff, supported 62 start-ups and scale-ups, and attracted over EUR 530 000 in investments for nine start-ups.



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Thanks to this partnership, we improved the quality of our exhibitions, expanded our reach with educational technologies, and saw a notable increase in visitors and profitability. EIT’s contribution has been invaluable in helping us become leaders in energy efficiency education.

**Sergiy Maksymyuk, CEO of New Energy LLC, start-up supported by EIT Climate-KIC**

## Impact story: Business creation



Founded in 2009, **Climeworks**, a leader in carbon removal, built the first direct air capture facility prototype. Supported by EIT Climate-KIC’s accelerator (2011–2013) with EUR 40 000, coaching, and networking, it now **operates the largest direct air capture plants**. Customers include Microsoft and SWISS. In 2022, it secured EUR 631M to scale CO<sub>2</sub> removal to megatons by 2030.



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## Impact story: Innovation-driven research



Through its ‘deep demonstration’ methodology designed to help cities transform on a large scale, EIT Climate-KIC and the **Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFAM)** have partnered to reduce emissions in Ireland’s agri-food sector. The partnership established the country’s first carbon farming framework, encouraging farmers to enhance carbon removal and emissions reductions. With 530+ value-chain actors, 24 core partners, and 127 trained in systems innovation, EIT Climate-KIC is recognized in Ireland’s 2024 Climate Action Plan as a model for innovation-driven partnerships.



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## Contribution to EU priorities and policy areas

EIT Climate-KIC plays a key role in the EU’s green transition. It currently is the lead coordinator of the EU Mission **NetZeroCities**, working with 100 cities to reach climate neutrality by 2030 and inspire other cities to follow suit by 2050. It is also a core partner in delivering the **EU Missions on Adaptation to Climate Change** and **A Soil Deal for Europe**.

## On the path of financial sustainability: Key financial data

According to the EIT model, EIT KICs are expected to generate their own revenue to become financially sustainable within 15 years. EIT Climate-KIC, as one of the oldest KICs, is currently in the phasing-out period of EIT funding.

EIT KICs have been very successful in attracting external investments. As confirmed by the **Biannual Monitoring Report on European Partnerships (EP)**, on average, EIT KICs have a **high leverage effect of 5.6**. This is compared to the EP average of 2.83, meaning that for each euro invested, EIT KICs raised an additional 5.6 euros from external funding.

Figure 2. (distribution of costs per area of activity for the partnership) shows that **EIT Climate KIC's budget is spent efficiently**. 92% of its budget between 2021-22 was spent on operational activities to support innovation, entrepreneurial education and business creation, with a share of 8% for administrative costs.

Examining these areas more closely, 41% of the budget was allocated to innovation activities and 20% to the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme and the EIT Community Initiatives, which include innovation activities jointly implemented with other KICs. 16% contributed to ecosystem development (operating the pan-European network supporting place-based innovation across EU Member States), 8% to business creation and 7% to education.

Achieving financial sustainability is a unique feature of the EIT innovation model to be implemented by the KIC legal entity managing the partnership.

Looking at EIT Climate-KIC's own income, the KIC is **showing a positive trend and has made progress in diversifying the composition of its own revenues**, including return on investment & equity and income from membership fees. As a trusted delivery partner of key Horizon Europe programmes, including EU Missions, the KIC has achieved strong results in attracting 'alternative funding' (e.g. grants provided by national, other EU or international organisations, private sector funding, shareholder contributions).

By running one of the largest incubation and acceleration programmes for climate entrepreneurs, EIT Climate-KIC has significantly contributed to the growth of the start-up community in Europe and holds equity investments in 111 companies.

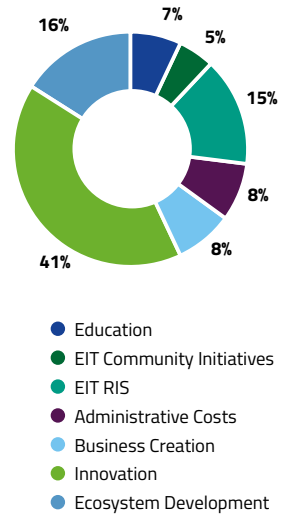


Figure 2. EIT Climate-KIC Costs 2021-2022\*

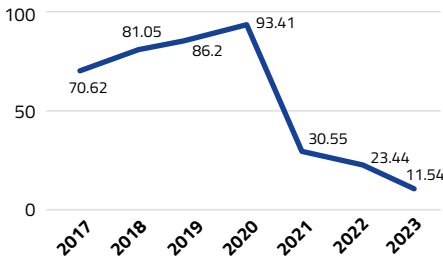


Figure 3. EIT Grant 2017-2023 (mEUR)

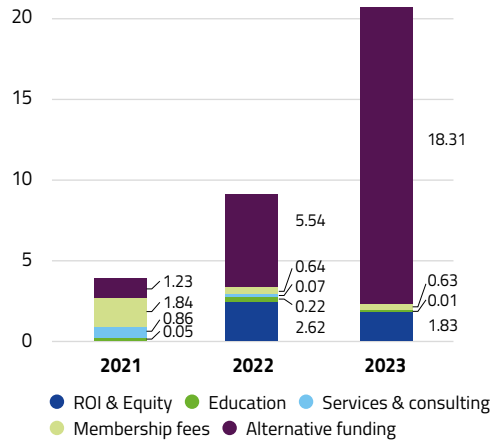


Figure 4. EIT Climate-KIC Revenues 2021-2023 (mEUR)\*\*

\* Final costs for business plan 2023-2024 are not yet available.  
\*\* Revenues are reported on an annual basis.

## Find out more!

Keep an eye out for news, events, and opportunities.



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