European Institute of Innovation & Technology

A body of the European Union

EIT Urban Mobility

EIT Urban Mobility is a Knowledge and Innovation Community established by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) in 2019. The EIT is Europe's largest innovation ecosystem, offering education, innovation and business creation services to solve global challenges.

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Smart, green and integrated transport

EIT Urban Mobility was launched to power smart, green and integrated transport. Through tailored **business creation and acceleration programmes**, it helps startups scale by providing access to funding, coaching and a network. It equips entrepreneurs, urban mobility professionals and future change-makers with the skills to tackle challenges in urban mobility through its **entrepreneurial education** programmes including international master's degrees and shorter courses. Additionally, EIT Urban Mobility commercialises innovative ideas by supporting **innovation-driven research**.

The power of EIT Urban Mobility's network

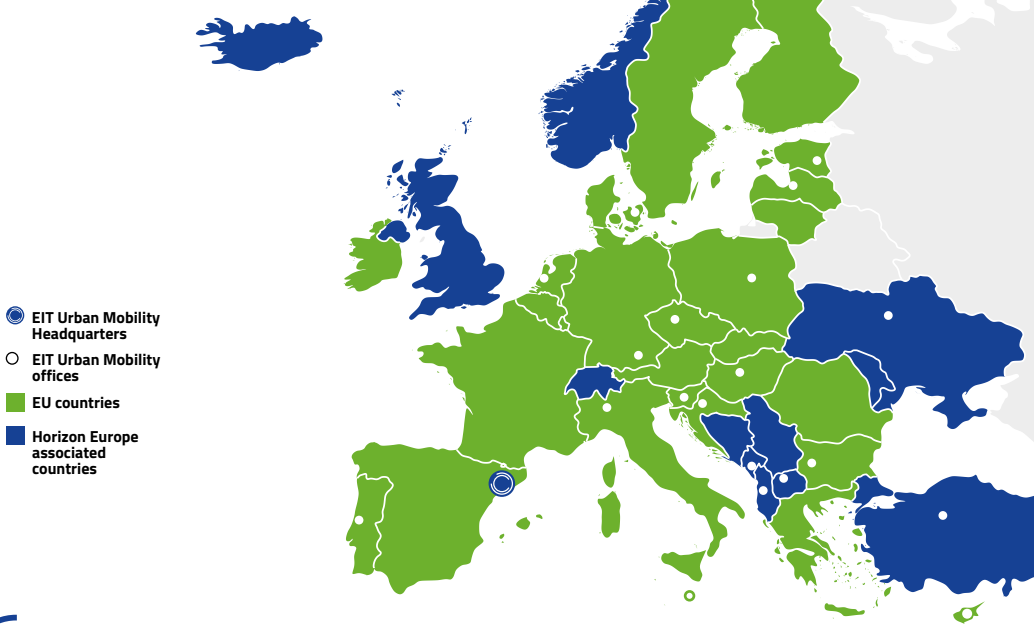
EIT Urban Mobility's network comprised 360 partners and had 22 offices established across Europe at the end of 2024. Its partners include businesses like Wolt, universities such as Technical University of Munich, municipalities like the Municipality of Braga and Strasbourg.

A proven engine of innovation in urban transportation

Since 2016, the innovation, business creation and acceleration programmes of EIT Urban Mobility have created or supported **over 1030 startups**. Entrepreneurs and ventures backed by the KIC have brought a total of **113 new innovations** to market. Additionally, 128 students have graduated from its EIT-labelled degree programmes and more than 25 700 learners have participated in its courses.

The city of Munich was very interested in the solutions presented. We are happy about the supportive side of the project management. It was easy and fast.

Pia Schauz, Leading a project in autonomous driving at SWM - Stadtwerke München (Munich City Utilities)



We appreciate the quality of the partnership between the French Transport Innovation Agency and EIT Urban Mobility. (...) It helps the agency to identify the most promising solutions in terms of business models and ecosystemic potential.

Estelle STURTZER, Head of Department, French Ministry of Ecological Transition

Figure 1. EIT Urban Mobility's key achievements in numbers (2020-2023)

The support of EIT Urban Mobility is of huge value to us because of three important aspects: capital, the connection to other entities in general and the funding of specific projects which connected us with larger public entities.

Hugo Furtado, Founder and CEO of Dreamwaves

Impact story: Entrepreneurial education

Axel Rimbaud enrolled in EIT Urban Mobility's **'Sustainable Urban Mobility Transitions'** master programme with the goal of honing his skills to achieve a wider societal impact with his Chilean-based NGO, Movimiento contra el Exceso de velocidad Letal (MEL), promoting road safety. After his graduation, he was able to develop solutions inspired by European transport systems. His proposals have since been presented to the Chilean Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Public Works, and several pilots will be implemented in the country over the next few years.

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We are very satisfied with the experience of the [EIT Urban Mobility Small Call for SMEs] because we have seen real support and help... I would recommend companies to participate in the Call because they have helped us a lot to develop a new project.

Julien Chemin, Project manager, Karos Mobility

Impact story: Business Creation

EIT Urban Mobility's investment portfolio startup **Dreamwaves** has created the world's first spatial audio navigation app, **waveOut**. The app offers a navigation solution for people with visual impairments or blindness to navigate through metro stations via audio cues. Piloted in Vienna with transport provider **Wiener Linien** as part of EIT Urban Mobility's Targeted Open Call, Dreamwaves' innovation provides users with greater independence.

Copyright: Dreamwaves

Impact story: Innovation-driven research

As part of **EIT Urban Mobility's SME Market Expansion Call**, assisting small and medium enterprises to partner with municipal authorities, car-pooling startup **Karos Mobility** piloted its solution in Vitoria-Gasteiz in Spain in 2023. To reduce the use of private vehicles for commuting, Karos Mobility matched drivers with riders, resulting in 11 tonnes of CO_2 saved. It is estimated that users have saved EUR 30 million in total since Karos Mobility's launch in 2014.

Copyright: Karos Mobility

Contribution to EU priorities and policy areas

EIT Urban Mobility joined the **Transition Pathway** co-creation roundtable under the updated EU Industrial Strategy, signing a pledge to support the green and digital transition. As member of the **European Commission's Expert Group on Urban Mobility**, its work has influenced recommendations on transport. It also contributed to the **ERTRAC roadmap** (European Road Transport Research Advisory Council), enhancing collaboration among road transport stakeholders for a greener, safer European mobility system.

On the path of financial sustainability: Key financial data

According to the EIT model, EIT KICs start off with limited funding, which increases gradually. Then, after a peak period, it decreases, as KICs are expected to generate their own revenue to become financially sustainable within 15 years. EIT Urban Mobility belongs to the fourth wave of KICs and has 2034 as the final year of operations under the Partnership Agreement signed with the EIT.

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 86% of its budget between 2021-2022 was spent on operational activities to support innovation, entrepreneurial education and business creation with a 14% share of administrative costs.

Examining these areas more closely, 34% of the budget was allocated to innovation activities, 18% to education and 17% to business creation. A further 11% contributed to the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme and the EIT Community Initiatives, which include innovation activities jointly implemented with other KICs, while 6% was spent on ecosystem development (operating the pan-European network supporting place-based innovation across EU Member States).

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 Urban Mobility's own income, despite its young age, the KIC progressed well with diversifying the composition of its own revenue sources, generating income beyond membership fees from education programmes, services and consulting, as well as 'alternative funding' (e.g. grants provided by national, other EU or international organisations, private sector funding, shareholder contributions).

Furthermore, it has quickly built up a portfolio of equity investments in 106 startups with a current value of approximately EUR 12 million. Future revenues from ROI and equity will depend on strategic decisions and market conditions.

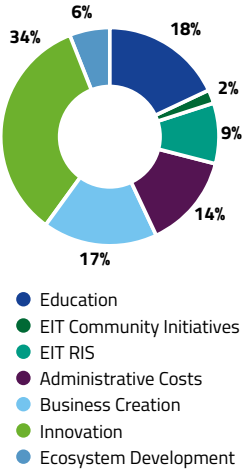

Figure 2. EIT Urban Mobility Costs 2021-2022*

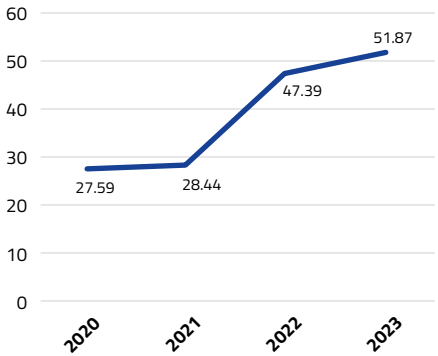

Figure 3. EIT Grant 2020-2023 (mEUR)

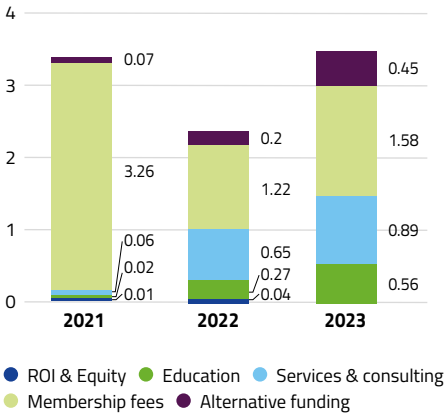

Figure 4. EIT Urban Mobility Revenues 2021-2023 (mEUR)**

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