

EIT ALUMNI

# IMPACT REPORT 2024

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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



In 2024, the EIT Alumni Community continued to expand its impact through strategic collaborations, high-profile event participation, and the transition to a new EIT Alumni Board. This year marked a shift in leadership, reinforcing the network's commitment to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and cross-community engagement.

Throughout the year, the EIT Alumni Community actively represented the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) at major global summits, including INNOVEIT, Greentech Festival, Slush, Hello Tomorrow Global Summit, and the Women and Girls in STEM Forum. These events provided a platform for knowledge exchange, showcasing the latest advancements in deep tech, green innovation, digital health, and gender diversity in STEM.

Additionally, EIT InnoEnergy's partnership with the POWR Earth Summit and EIT Health's role in the HIMSS European Health Conference further emphasized the Alumni Community's involvement in shaping the future of sustainability and healthcare innovation.

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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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The EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative and its Deep Tech Skills Days underscored EIT's commitment to developing Europe's talent pipeline in emerging technology fields. Meanwhile, the EIT Alumni Community also played a role in the Green Cities Forum Brasov and the Marie Curie Alumni Association Conference, reinforcing its influence in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and societal impact.

As the EIT Alumni Board transitions, the focus remains on strengthening connections across the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), increasing visibility, and supporting the next generation of innovators. With a dynamic lineup of events, partnerships, and initiatives, 2024 marks another year of growth and strategic evolution for the EIT Alumni Community.

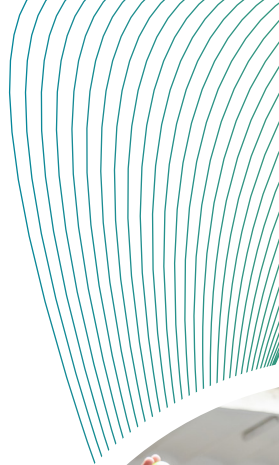


# FOREWORD

The EIT Alumni Community continues to exemplify the value of long-term investment in people, collaboration, and shared purpose. What began as a collection of individuals from EIT's education programmes has grown into a vibrant, cross-disciplinary network that supports innovation, builds lasting connections, and contributes meaningfully to the future of Europe.

This year's Impact Report captures a period of transition and momentum. With the formation of a new Alumni Board, the community has embraced change while maintaining its commitment to collaboration across the Knowledge and Innovation Communities. Whether engaging in policy discussions, participating in global summits, or strengthening ties between sectors, EIT Alumni have remained at the forefront of conversations that matter.

The pages that follow highlight not only achievements, but also the spirit of a community that learns, adapts, and acts together. The EIT Alumni Community continues to grow as a platform for opportunity, a space for shared ambition, and a source of lasting impact.







# INTRODUCTION



Welcome to the world of EIT Alumni, a vibrant network of pioneers and innovators committed to building a long-lasting and meaningful future. Our diverse network unites people with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds who are committed to using innovation and entrepreneurship to address societal issues. As alumni of every Knowledge Innovation Community (KIC) at EIT, we are in a unique position to take advantage of our extensive network and develop the next wave of leaders.

## 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 2024 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 20.000 alumni from all EIT Alumni Communities 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 BOARD CHAIR

With the successful implementation of the EIT Alumni governance reform in 2024, we have embarked on an exciting new chapter of growth and collaboration. This year, the governance structure has evolved, with the newly established board now consisting of three elected EIT Alumni representatives and three appointed EIT KICs representatives, further strengthening the partnership between the Alumni and Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs).

The incredible efforts of the former board have laid a solid foundation for our success. The newly appointed board, which began its work in September 2024, is now building upon this foundation to increase the EIT Alumni Community's impact even further. This new governance structure has intensified the alignment and collaboration between EIT Alumni representatives and EIT KICs, driving forward impactful initiatives that amplify the voice of our community. Our vision remains steadfast: to create a dynamic, inclusive, and self-sustaining community that empowers individuals, fuels innovation, and drives entrepreneurship across Europe, while creating positive societal and economic change.

At the heart of our growing community is a membership base rich in diverse experiences, from graduates of master's and PhD programs to professionals in research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Together, we are stronger. The complex societal challenges we face today can only be addressed through interdisciplinary, cross-functional collaboration. As a marketplace of talent, the EIT Alumni Community is uniquely positioned to drive meaningful connections and foster groundbreaking innovation.

Looking ahead, we are excited to deepen these connections through initiatives such as the EIT Alumni online platform, flagship events like EIT Connect, the continued growth of the EIT Alumni Business Nodes, and local networking events. In these challenging times, the need for a sense of belonging and collective action has never been more important. We are committed to nurturing this sense of belonging and fostering a positive impact within our EIT Alumni Community.

Together, we can build a sustainable, resilient, and shared future for Europe and beyond.





*TOGETHER, WE CAN  
BUILD A SUSTAINABLE,  
RESILIENT, AND SHARED  
FUTURE FOR EUROPE AND  
BEYOND.*

**Catherine Schreiber**

EIT Alumni Board Chair

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



## OUTGOING EIT ALUMNI BOARD

As our time on the EIT Alumni Board comes to an end, we want to take a moment to reflect on the journey we've shared over the past few years. Being part of this board has been a meaningful experience, not only because of the projects we've worked on, but because of the people we've met, the connections we've built, and the shared belief in the power of community.

The EIT Alumni network brings together individuals from diverse backgrounds, fields and experiences. Through various activities, we've supported the network and encouraged collaboration.

Our time on the board involved a wide range of activities, from planning and coordination to creative problem-solving and continuous learning. It's been rewarding to see ideas take shape and to contribute to efforts that help strengthen the EIT Alumni community.

Every step along the way has deepened our appreciation for the commitment and energy that so many members bring.

We're proud of the small and big ways we've contributed, including major milestones such as the launching of the EIT Alumni Node and the successful implementation of the newsletter. Additionally, organizing and rolling out local events has been a vital part of our effort to foster community engagement and connection across the network.

We want to thank everyone in the community who supported our work, took part in activities, or stayed engaged along the way. This network is strong because of your involvement and commitment. To the future boards and members, we wish you all the best as you continue to grow the community, build connections, and explore new opportunities.

We're grateful to have been part of this chapter in the EIT Alumni journey.

**Jeroen van Lent**

**Bilal Baiju**

**Tim Brinkman**

**Agnes Molnar**

**Peter Olesen**

**Liana Shvachiy**

**Francisco Veiga Simão**

**Selene Tondini**





## NEW EIT ALUMNI BOARD

The vision of the EIT Alumni Board is to create a dynamic, inclusive, and self-sustaining community that empowers its members to drive innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe. By fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration, knowledge exchange, and strategic partnerships, the Board aims to bridge the gap between research, business, and policy, ensuring that EIT Alumni are well-equipped to tackle global challenges such as climate change, healthcare innovation, and digital transformation. Through initiatives like networking events, mentorship programs, and business support services, the Board seeks to strengthen the Alumni network as a leading force for positive societal and economic impact. A key priority is to enhance engagement and integration within the growing and diverse Alumni community, which now includes not only masters and

PhD graduates but also entrepreneurs, innovators, and researchers. The Board envisions a participatory environment where members can easily connect, collaborate, and access resources tailored to their professional and personal growth. By establishing the EIT Alumni Community as a marketplace of talents, members will have opportunities to seek mentorship, share expertise, and form interdisciplinary teams that drive innovation. Flagship events such as EIT CONNECT and local initiatives will further support meaningful interactions, ensuring that alumni can maximize their potential while contributing to Europe's broader innovation ecosystem. In the coming years, the EIT Alumni Board aspires to position the community as a recognized leader in innovation, entrepreneurship, and societal impact. By refining membership

policies, strengthening collaboration with EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), and launching new initiatives to support mental resilience, leadership development, and business scaling, the Board is committed to creating long-term value for its members. Ultimately, the vision is to make the EIT Alumni Community a powerful catalyst for innovation, fostering groundbreaking ideas and sustainable business models that shape a greener, healthier, and more digital future for Europe.

**Catherine Schreiber**  
**Ioanna Nydrioti**  
**Bilyana Nikolova**  
**Miriam Irle**  
**Lucrezia Collu**  
**Loris Valero-Leconte**  
**Agnes Molnar**

# 2024 IN REVIEW

**9**  
YEARS OF  
EXISTENCE

NOW OVER  
**20,000**  
MEMBERS

## ALUMNI'S LOCAL EVENTS

In 2024, the EIT Alumni community continued its tradition of fostering connections through local events across Europe. These events bring together professionals, academics, entrepreneurs, and leaders from various sectors to strengthen the bond between alumni, territories, and the EIT. Building on the success of previous years, local events were strategically organized in conjunction with major initiatives such as community weeks, CONNECT 2024, and cluster meetings. These gatherings offer alumni the chance to reconnect, meet EIT and KIC representatives, and forge valuable relationships. The continued success of these events highlights their importance in maintaining a vibrant and engaged alumni network throughout Europe.

The local events are 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.







## VIENNA, 14 MARCH 2024

The first EIT Alumni event of 2024 took place in Vienna, bringing together alumni, local ecosystem leaders, and members of various KICs. The evening featured inspiring talks, including a keynote by EIT's Agnes Molnar and a founder-focused session with Catherine Schreiber, highlighting resilience in entrepreneurship.

A panel discussion with Alexander Diesenreiter (Impact Hub Vienna) and Nina Hödlmayrand (Yodel.io) offered valuable insights into the local startup scene, followed by an open Q&A with alumni.

With strong turnout and active engagement, the event strengthened local connections and set the tone for a year of meaningful community building across the EIT Alumni network.

## BUDAPEST, 2 JULY 2024

In July, the EIT Alumni Community joined forces with the HEI Initiative to host a unique local event in Budapest, offering exclusive access to the ABCD Project Closing Conference. The day-long gathering explored the intersection of Generative AI and entrepreneurship, with hands-on workshops, expert talks, and opportunities for alumni to engage with local and regional innovation ecosystems.

Participants could choose from flexible attendance options — full day, afternoon sessions, or the evening FutureForge networking reception — ensuring broad accessibility for alumni with varying schedules.

Highlights included keynote speakers from European institutions, interactive workshops led by education and entrepreneurship experts, and vibrant community-building during the closing reception. The event strengthened ties between alumni, the Western Balkans innovation landscape, and the broader EIT ecosystem.

**9**  
YEARS OF  
EXISTENCE

NOW OVER  
**20,000**  
MEMBERS

## EIT DEEP TECH SKILLS DAYS WARSAW

EIT Alumni were proudly represented at the EIT Deep Tech Skills Days 2024 in Warsaw, an event that brought together educators, researchers, and innovators passionate about the future of deep tech in Europe.

Alumni community members Liana Shvachiy and Arianna Bellini connected with attendees at the EIT Alumni booth, sharing insights and fostering dialogue around deep tech education and skills development. The event strengthened local engagement and highlighted the important role of alumni in advancing Europe's innovation and talent ecosystem.



## FIRST GUESTS AT THE EIT ALUMNI NODES, BARCELONA

In 2024, we were excited to welcome our first guests to the EIT Alumni Nodes location in Barcelona, a significant milestone following its launch in 2023. This new space is designed to foster collaboration,

innovation, and networking among alumni. With the arrival of our first guests, the Barcelona node is already playing a key role in strengthening connections within the EIT Alumni community. We're excited to see the

node grow and continue providing valuable opportunities for alumni to engage and collaborate across Europe.



**349**  
ON SITE  
PARTICIPANTS



## EIT ALUMNI CONNECT ALICANTE, 4 OCTOBER 2024

EIT Alumni CONNECT 2024, the flagship event of the EIT Alumni community, took place in Alicante, Spain, on 4 October. This annual event brought together innovators and entrepreneurs from across the EIT KICs to reconnect, inspire, and empower one another. With a focus on collaboration and competitiveness, the event featured high-level representatives from EIT and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

Attendees had the chance to gain insights on transformative approaches reshaping business, education, and government sectors, while also networking and sharing dinner and concluded with a lively celebration, making it a memorable gathering for all participants.

**The promotional campaign for EIT Alumni CONNECT 2024 reached thousands across the EIT Community and beyond, celebrating the event as the flagship gathering of EIT Alumni. Our strategy combined storytelling, alumni success stories, behind-the-scenes content, and dynamic visuals to build anticipation and drive engagement.**

LINKEDIN  
IMPRESSIONS **22,600**

INSTAGRAM  
REACH **5,014**

(\*) Source: EIT Alumni channels. Time range between 1 August and 5 October 2024.

# THE COMMUNITY IN FIGURES

## KEY NUMBERS FOR 2024

### SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

FACEBOOK **2,335**

LINKEDIN **4,126**

INSTAGRAM **1,177**

TWITTER **2,080**

**5**

EXTERNAL EVENTS  
ATTENDED BY ALUMNI

**5**

CROSS-COMMUNITY  
EVENTS

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: **387**

**125**

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH COMMUNICATION  
ACTIVITIES

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

TOTAL: **21,146 members**



EIT Manufacturing Alumni: **53 members**



EIT RawMaterials Alumni: **1,285 members**



EIT Digital Alumni: **2,418 members**



EIT Health Innovators Community: **4,400 members**



EIT Food Alumni: **4,000 members**



EIT Climate-KIC Alumni: **6,500 members**



EIT Urban Mobility Alumni: **90 members**



CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy: **1,900 members**

**31,48%**

**21,31%**



#### 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



#### NUMBER OF MSC AND PHD GRADUATES





# SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

## EIT DIGITAL ALUMNI

### Annual Meeting in Málaga

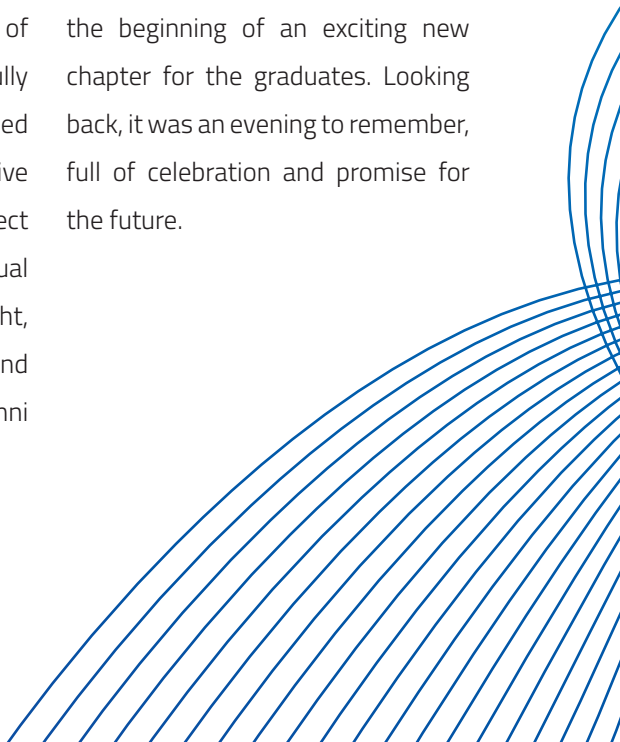
Looking back on the Annual Meeting 2024, this signature event brought together over 50 EIT Digital Alumni in Málaga, Spain, for an unforgettable weekend. Held from September 26th to 29th, the event combined professional activities, insightful talks, and social gatherings in a vibrant atmosphere. Alumni had the chance to network, share knowledge, and create lasting connections while enjoying the lively surroundings of Málaga. Hosted at the TOC Hostel Malaga, the event was a true highlight of the year, offering both professional growth and memorable experiences that strengthened the EIT Digital Alumni community.

### Coliving in Sardinia

Looking back on Coliving 2024, this year's event in Olbia, Sardinia, was a fantastic experience organized by EIT Digital Alumni. Set in a beautiful location with stunning sea views, it offered a perfect blend of work and relaxation. Participants had the opportunity to network, attend workshops, and enjoy exciting excursions, all while being surrounded by the stunning landscapes of Costa Smeralda. The thoughtfully designed accommodations provided a comfortable and productive environment for alumni to connect and collaborate. This annual event continues to be a highlight, creating valuable experiences and strengthening the EIT Digital Alumni community.

### Graduation Day

Last year's graduation boat party for the Class of 2024 was a memorable celebration. Set on a unique boat venue in Budapest, the event offered a chance for graduates to connect with the EIT Digital Alumni community in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. It was a night filled with laughter, great conversations, and a fantastic local experience, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the graduates. Looking back, it was an evening to remember, full of celebration and promise for the future.



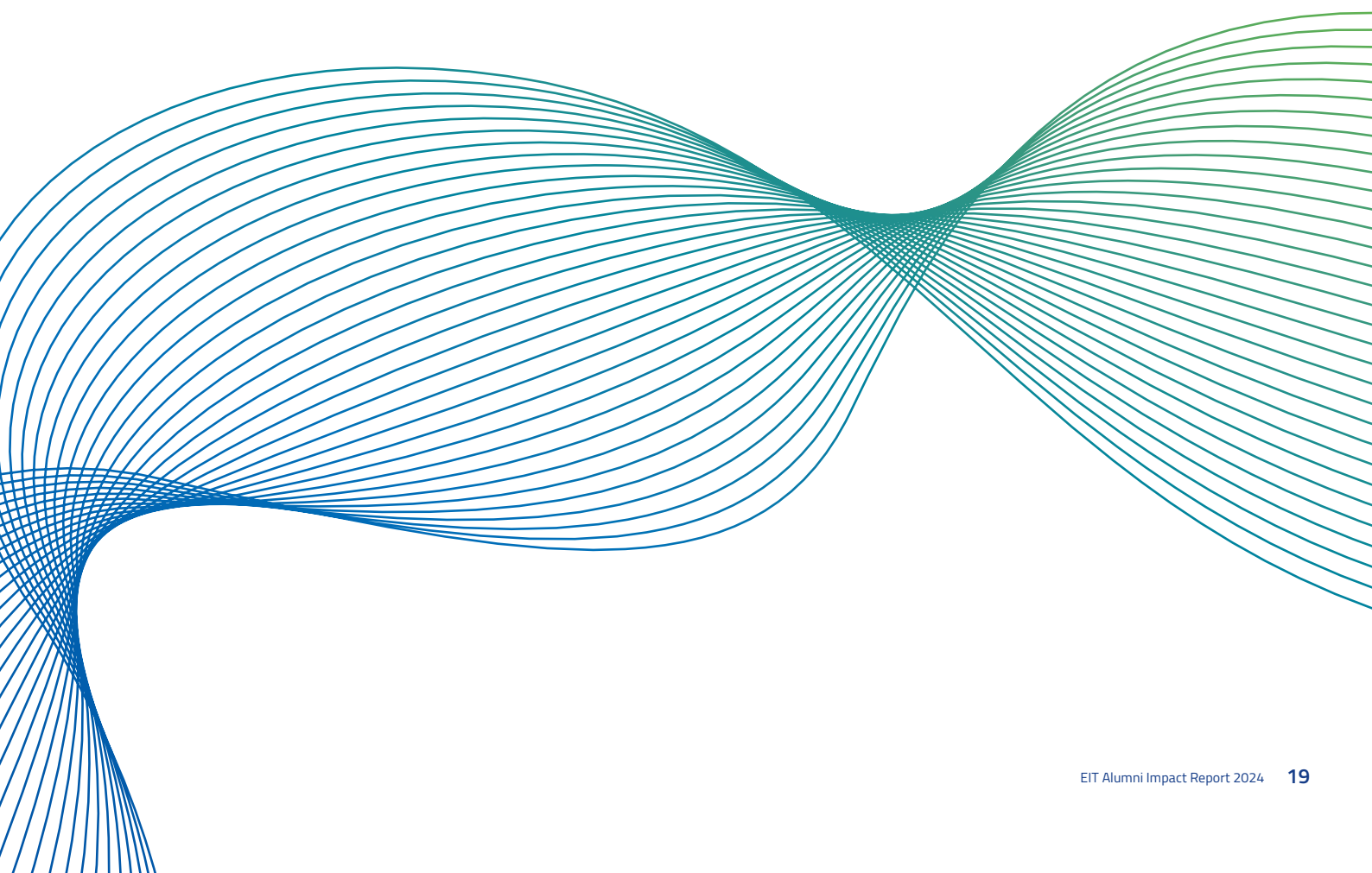




## EIT RAWMATERIALS ALUMNI

### Drive Innovation in Europe's Raw Materials

Looking back at 2024, EIT RawMaterials has continued to build a dynamic alumni community dedicated to sustainable innovation. Through exclusive job opportunities, collaboration on circular economy projects, and continuous learning, alumni have been empowered to lead the green transition and shape the future of materials science, driving meaningful change for a more sustainable Europe.





## EIT HEALTH INNOVATORS COMMUNITY

### Green Transition Event, Alicante

For those attending EIT CONNECT in October, the Innovators Community offered a networking event focused on the challenge of achieving sustainable healthcare. There was a keynote address highlighting the need for greener health systems followed by an engaging panel discussion with innovators and experts exploring challenges and solutions in this area.

The scope of the event was broad, covering supply chain management, procurement, AI advances and workforce training. A lively networking lunch break and a dynamic, collaborative afternoon discussion ensured that members came away with actionable ideas and an amplified determination to drive the green transition in healthcare.

### Launch of Scaling Scientific Start-ups Webinar Series

The 'Scaling Scientific Start-ups' webinar series launched as a collaboration between EIT Health Innovators Community and Creative Destruction Lab to support entrepreneurs and innovators looking to scale successfully. The series delivers practical advice and invaluable insights from experts on themes such as raising funding and running clinical research studies. Experts have shared learnings on issues around quality management systems, regulatory challenges and building a remote workforce. With a clear focus on growth and acceleration, these webinars equip researchers, innovators, investors and founders with the expertise and skillset to have a tangible impact in the healthcare industry.

### Presence and Engagement at the EIT Health Summit and health.tech Munich

The Innovators Community was presented on the main stage of the EIT Health Summit, demonstrating the benefits and value of the network. A hands-on workshop led by Catherine Schreiber, who is now the EIT Alumni Board Chair followed, exploring how to manage organisational change, through culture, communication and leadership. A gamified approach taught participants to use insight, influence and planning to effectively promote change. The health.tech Munich event also shone a light on the Innovators Community with a prominent community member leading a session on scaling start-ups. This presentation provided perfect examples of the tangible successes and opportunities that arise from being an active member of the Innovators Community.



## EIT FOOD ALUMNI

### Food Hackathon

The “Hack the Future of Food” hackathon, held in Tartu, Estonia, on November 29-30, 2024, brought together students, researchers, and industry professionals to tackle sustainability challenges in the food and agriculture sectors. Over two days, participants used design thinking methods to develop innovative, real-world solutions for the food supply chain. Supported by EIT Food and local organizations, the event fostered collaboration and creativity, with the potential for new business solutions to emerge from the ideas pitched.

### Fostering Alumni Engagement: EIT Food Events Across Europe in 2024

As of 2024, EIT Food continues to prioritize alumni engagement through events like EIT Food breakfasts, webinars, and Demodays across Europe. These events offer alumni valuable opportunities to connect, share knowledge, and showcase innovations, keeping the community vibrant and active.

## EIT URBAN MOBILITY ALUMNI

### Women in Tech Breakfast

Looking back, EIT Urban Mobility’s active involvement in the Women in Tech programme 2024 was a significant step in fostering female talent in the tech and startup sectors. By joining this initiative, EIT Urban Mobility helped create valuable networking opportunities, providing mentoring, workshops, and insights from industry experts and successful female entrepreneurs. The programme empowered participants to grow their skills, expand their networks, and gain inspiration to advance their careers in tech.

## EIT ALUMNI CLIMATE-KIC

### Launch of the HIVE Group to Strengthen Alumni Community

The creation of the HIVE group within Climate-KIC Alumni has played a pivotal role in fostering a collaborative network for alumni. By bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds, the HIVE group facilitates knowledge sharing, mentorship, and collaboration on impactful projects. This initiative strengthens the sense of community among Climate-KIC Alumni and enhances engagement, providing a platform for members to contribute actively to the growth of the organization and its mission in tackling climate change.

### Engaging Alumni in Climate-KIC Activities and Opportunities

By integrating Climate-KIC Alumni into a wide range of activities, we ensured they were not only involved but also had the opportunity to contribute to key initiatives. Whether it was through participation in events, workshops, or new program developments, alumni played an active role in the organization's growth. Moreover, several targeted programs were introduced to create tangible opportunities for alumni to further their professional development, network with like-minded individuals, and drive the climate innovation agenda.

## EIT MANUFACTURING ALUMNI

### EITL Manufacturing Alumni – 2024 Overview

Launched in 2023, the EITL Manufacturing Alumni community focuses on growth, with 53 members and a goal of 70 by 2025. Key objectives include supporting EIT Manufacturing's mission and promoting women in manufacturing. The community is governed by a steering committee and collaborates with EITM staff. Communication is managed via LinkedIn, Agora, and newsletters. Challenges include reactivating engagement and selecting a new board in 2025. Despite limited funding, the community is committed to its goals and progress tracking.

## EIT INNOENERGY COMMUNITY

### EIT Welcome Events

The EIT InnoEnergy Welcome Events mark the exciting beginning of the academic year, with each location hosting its own gathering to welcome new students. These events offer new students a chance to connect with peers from various Masters+ programmes and become part of the vibrant EIT InnoEnergy CommUnity+. More than just a social occasion, the Welcome Events serve as a crucial introduction to the

wealth of opportunities available through Careers+ Services, equipping students with tools and resources to navigate their professional journeys. A key highlight of these events is the introduction to the EIT InnoEnergy Local Ecosystem. Representatives from portfolio companies and industry leaders are invited as guest speakers, sharing valuable insights into the energy sector and sparking engaging conversations.

By fostering connections and providing early access to career resources, the Welcome Events empower students to make the most of their EIT InnoEnergy journey, setting the stage for a rich academic experience and a thriving future in sustainable energy.

### EIT InnoEnergy CommUnity+ & Schneider Electric Hackathon

The EIT InnoEnergy CommUnity+ & Schneider Electric Hackathon was a dynamic 9-hour event that brought together 40 students from diverse InnoEnergy Master programmes, showcasing innovation through collaboration.

The vibrant atmosphere fostered creativity and problem-solving, pushing students to embrace entrepreneurial thinking and produce tangible outcomes. More than a competition, the event

promoted personal and professional development. Attendees not only crafted innovative projects but also expanded their networks by connecting with peers, mentors, and industry leaders. The nurturing environment allowed participants to showcase their capabilities to potential employers and partners, supported by experienced mentors.



# WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY ABOUT US

At the heart of the EIT Community are its people — a diverse, driven, and innovative group whose journeys continue to shape and reflect the impact of our network. In this chapter, we hear directly from our alumni. Discover how being part of the EIT Community has influenced their careers, expanded their horizons, and empowered them to lead with purpose. Their voices offer a powerful glimpse into the transformative impact of connection, collaboration, and lifelong learning.

## Markus Liski

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

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](#)

## Ismael Ávila

EIT Health

*"Being part of the EIT Community has been a turning point in my professional journey. It is about the knowledge and resources and also about being connected to a truly international network of innovators. Engaging with peers from across Europe has opened my eyes to ideas and perspectives far beyond my own region. It's helped me grow as a mentor, a collaborator, and a leader, and continually inspires me to think*

*bigger and act with purpose. The EIT Community is where local impact meets global vision."*

## Daniele Montesi

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](#)

## Pamfile Teodora

EIT Health

*"After finishing my studies, I struggled to find my place in the field. Like many women in STEM, I had the skills—but lacked the network and visibility. Volunteering with the EIT Health Innovators Community was my first step to reconnect. That small action led to meaningful collaborations, a new career in health innovation, and the chance to serve as a local representative in Romania. If we want more women in leadership, we need spaces where they are seen, heard, and supported. That is what the EIT Community gave me — and now, it is what I try to give back."*

## Lisbet Ortega

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](#)

## Elvira Sánchez

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](#)

# COLLABORATIONS & REPRESENTATIONS AT EXTERNAL EVENTS



## EIT SUMMIT 2024

We kicked off INNOVEIT with the 2024 EIT Summit, featuring a diverse lineup of inspiring, high-level speakers from the worlds of policy, business, and innovation. Attendees had the opportunity to explore some of the most cutting-edge technology and innovations emerging within the EIT Community, highlighted through the 2024 EIT Awards. A major highlight of the event was the first-ever announcement of the finalists for the EIT & EIC's joint European Prize for Women Innovators, marking a significant moment in recognizing female leadership in innovation. The summit was organized under the auspices of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

[Event on YouTube](#)

## EVENT AT HELLO TOMORROW GLOBAL SUMMIT

At the Hello Tomorrow Global Summit in Paris, EIT representatives shared insights on boosting deep tech in Europe, with discussions centered on AI, talent development, and bridging the skills gap. Natalie Cernecka from EIT Manufacturing moderated a panel focused on the Deep Tech Talent Initiative, aimed at training one million people in deep tech by 2025. Additionally, industry leaders like Michał Dżoga from Intel and Mark Boris Andrijanič from Kumo. AI provided valuable perspectives on the role of deep tech in driving Europe's innovation agenda. This event highlighted the importance of collaboration between academia, corporations, and startups, emphasizing the EIT's role in fostering European competitiveness through transformative approaches in deep tech.

## SLUSH

At the 2024 Slush event in Helsinki, the EIT Community showcased its commitment to fostering innovation and diversity. Kicking off on November 19, the INNOVEIT Conference highlighted the influence of women-led innovators and investors in shaping the future of deep tech. Entrepreneurs, investors, and industry leaders gathered to explore how diversity and technological advancements are driving tomorrow's tech landscape. On November 20-21, the EIT Community participated in SLUSH, where attendees were able to explore cutting-edge innovations at the EIT booth in Hall 6, Network with initiatives like the AI Community and Supernovas, and engage with representatives from various EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities. It was a dynamic two-day event filled with presentations, networking opportunities, and insightful discussions on AI, deep tech, and sustainable innovation.





## GREENTECH FESTIVAL IN BERLIN

At the 2024 Greentech Festival in Berlin, the EIT Community played a prominent role in driving the conversation around green innovation and sustainability. From May 15 to 17, the EIT brought together experts, entrepreneurs, and changemakers for the INNOVEIT conference, held on May 15, which focused on the theme “Road to Net Zero with Europe’s Largest Innovation Ecosystem.”

The event featured insightful keynote speeches, engaging panels, and networking sessions, offering valuable insights into the EIT’s impact on green technology and the role it plays in advancing sustainability across Europe. Speakers from leading organizations, including Stefan Dobrev from Emmi Group and Maria Tsavachidis from EIT Urban Mobility, shared their expertise and perspectives.

The EIT Community also hosted side events, including a booth and a fireside chat, providing additional opportunities for attendees to explore the latest innovations and connect with like-minded individuals passionate about driving change in the green tech sector.

## HIMSS

EIT Health participated in the HIMSS European Health Conference & Exhibition, held from May 29-31, 2024, at Centro Congressi Roma La Nuvola in Rome. The conference focused on pressing healthcare issues, including the impact of climate change, artificial intelligence, and health system resilience. As part of the event, EIT Health co-organized the Start-up Pitchfest on May 29th, where innovative

companies presented emerging solutions to address critical healthcare challenges. Marc Julien, Managing Director of EIT Health France, contributed as a speaker. Additionally, Jérôme Fabiano, Deputy Managing Director of EIT Health France, moderated a panel discussion on the governance, regulation, and validation of digital health technologies. The session explored evolving reimbursement

pathways across Europe, with updates on key initiatives such as the EDiHTA project, the Digital Medical Device taskforce (DiGa), and the French “Pecan” Early Access to Reimbursement program for digital medical devices.

## EIT DEEP TECH TALENT INITIATIVE: DEEP TECH SKILLS DAYS

The EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative: Deep Tech Skills Days 2024 took place on November 12-13 in Warsaw, Poland, bringing together key stakeholders focused on skilling, up-skilling, and re-skilling talents in deep tech fields. The event was a hub for individuals eager to connect with companies, training organizations, and academia. Over two days, attendees participated in engaging keynote speeches and panel discussions on cutting-edge topics like quantum computing, cybersecurity, AI's impact on talent and training, lifelong learning, and strategies to attract and retain talent in deep tech. The event also spotlighted innovation in education, with contributions from experts across Europe.

## WOMEN AND GIRLS IN STEM FORUM 2024

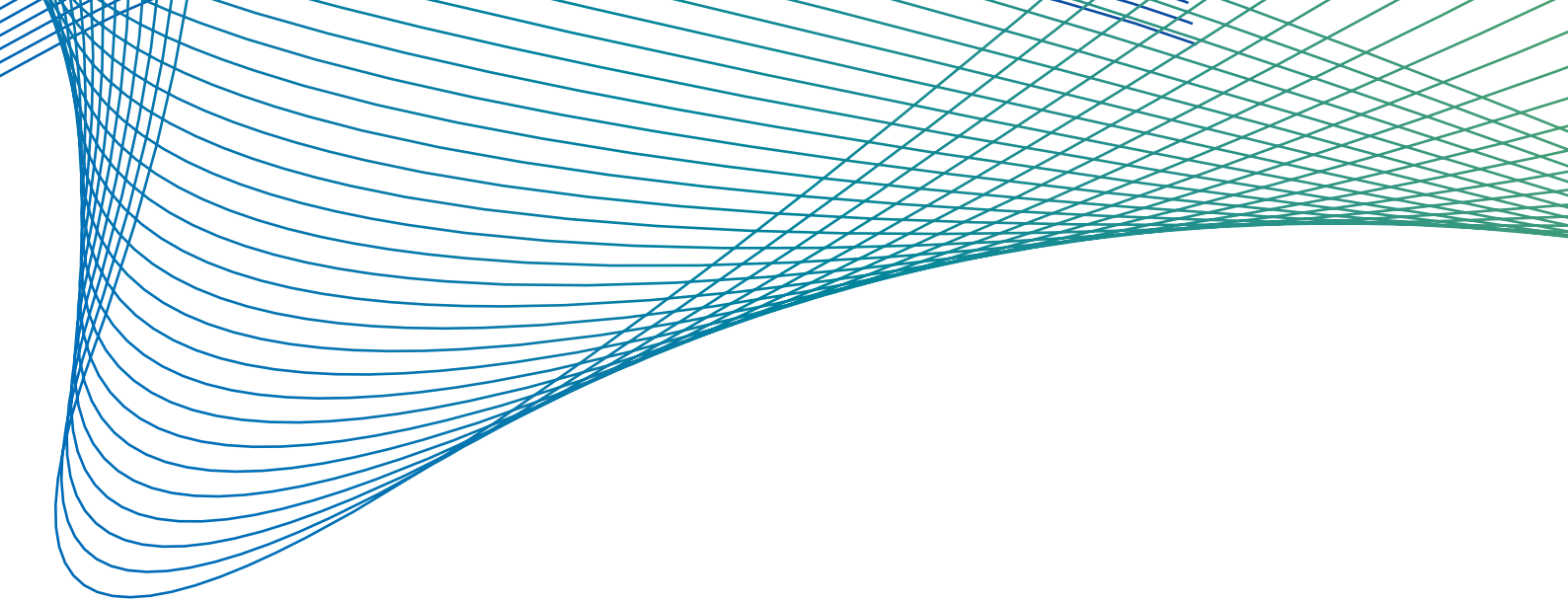
The Women and Girls in STEM Forum 2024 took place on October 10, 2024, as a dynamic half-day online event dedicated to exploring the transformative role of AI in gender equality. Over the course of three hours, tech professionals, students, teachers, and AI enthusiasts gathered virtually to discuss the impact of AI on women's empowerment. Participants had the opportunity to gain exclusive insights, explore innovative solutions, and engage in thought-provoking discussions. The event was a platform for sharing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and inspiring the next generation of women in technology.

## GREEN CITIES FORUM 2024

The EIT proudly participated in the Green Cities Forum (FOV) in Brasov, Romania, a key event focused on environmental sustainability. With the aim of transforming cities into greener, more sustainable spaces, the forum brought together political leaders, experts, and citizens. EIT contributed to discussions on urban mobility, sustainable transport, and urban planning, fostering the exchange of best practices and promoting innovative solutions. This event highlighted the EIT's commitment to driving sustainability and innovation in European cities.







## MCAA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

The 2024 annual conference and General Assembly of the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) took place at the University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy, from 14-16 March. Celebrating 10 years of MCAA, the event brought together researchers, MSCA project managers, and stakeholders for networking, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. The conference featured high-level panels, training sessions, and a showcase of MCAA members' achievements. Highlights included the MCAA Awards gala dinner, honoring members for their excellence in various categories, including innovation, career, social impact, and contributions to the community. The event emphasized MCAA's role in fostering cooperation and dialogue between researchers and society.

## POWR EARTH SUMMIT 2024

EIT InnoEnergy proudly partnered with the POWR Earth Summit 2024, held from March 13-15 at CNIT La Défense in Paris. This inaugural event brought together over 10,000 participants, including industry leaders, policymakers, and climate experts, to tackle critical energy challenges. Key speakers included Bertrand Piccard, founder of Solar Impulse, Pierre Cazeneuve, French deputy, and Valérie Masson-Delmotte, climatologist at GIEC.

The summit focused on bridging the gap between European renewable energy goals and market capacities, aligning renewable energy development with biodiversity and agriculture, and fostering collaboration across energy stakeholders. It provided a platform for workshops, discussions, and networking to drive clean and sustainable energy solutions.





# SUCCESS STORIES

## Ana Gonzalez

Ana Gonzalez from Madrid shares her transformative journey with the EIT Digital Master School. From launching a start-up in Paris to engaging with mentors from major companies, the programme has been pivotal in shaping her entrepreneurial path. Through EIT Connections, Anna has continued to find inspiration and valuable networking opportunities, further enriching her professional and personal growth.

### Ana's Success Story

## Bilal Baiju

Bilal, an analyst based in Helsinki, shares his journey with the EIT Urban Mobility Master School. As part of the first graduating cohort, he highlights the programme's international reach and adaptability, even during COVID. Now serving as a board member of the alumni association, Bilal values how EIT

CONNECT events foster meaningful networking and continue to enrich the urban mobility community he helped build.

### Bilal's Success Story

## Dario Cottafava

Co-founder of an environmental NGO and researcher on climate change, Dario shares how participating in EIT's Climathon programme inspired his journey. His experience, from addressing urban heat islands to developing virtual reality tools for sustainability education, has been enriched by EIT's international network. He highly recommends engaging with EIT's innovation ecosystem for those interested in start-ups or learning about cutting-edge solutions for climate challenges.

### Dario's Success Story

## Mohammed Abdelmomen

Mohammed, a Private Equity Technical Advisory Analyst at Ringstone in Estonia, shares his journey with EIT Raw Materials. After participating in a two-week training programme called 'Race,' Mohammed became actively involved in the EIT community. He highlights how the EIT network supported him in building valuable connections, which ultimately led to the establishment of an Impact Hub in Estonia.

### Mohammed's Success Story

## Shivam Dhawan

Shivam, Founder and Director of GetBoarded in Aveiro, Portugal, shares his journey from concept to a thriving business. After a year of developing his idea, Shivam joined the EIT Digital Accelerator programme. With EIT's mentoring, advisors, and network, GetBoarded



## REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Here we highlight the amazing achievements and innovations from the EIT community. We share the stories of individuals and teams who are shaping the future with their creativity, hard work, and teamwork. From new technologies to social initiatives, these success stories show how innovation can solve global challenges and make a real difference. Explore these inspiring stories and celebrate the impact of our community.

has grown over the past three years, leading to valuable collaborations and continued expansion.

### Shivam's Success Story

#### Teresa Perez Ciria

Teresa, a natural catastrophes modeler based in Munich, reflects on her inspiring journey with EIT's Climathon and hackathons. From winning a Climathon and securing a second-place award at the EIT Ideation contest to joining an incubator programme, her start-up was truly ignited by these experiences. She highlights how EIT's community and events foster creativity, provide essential training, and connect like-minded innovators.

### Teresa's Success Story

#### Miguel Amador

Miguel Amador, Founder and Chief Innovation Officer of Compear

Health, reflects on his journey with EIT Health from its inception. As a participant in the first summer school and a key player in shaping the EIT Health Alumni community, Miguel has stayed deeply connected to EIT Health's mission. His entrepreneurial ventures and involvement in diverse EIT activities have enriched his perspective, enabling him to contribute to and learn from a global network of innovators.'

### Miguel's Success Story

#### Enrique Hernandez

CEO of Loop-dx in Barcelona, Spain, Enrique discusses how his company, focused on health sector innovations, benefited from joining EIT Health. EIT Health helped validate their idea and move forward, and with the industrialisation phase now completed, Loop-dx is ready for the next steps. Enrique highlights how the EIT community's connections with like-minded innovators

have been crucial in growing their company and supporting their journey.

### Enrique's Success Story

#### Giorgi Shuradze

CEO and co-founder of CinSOIL, Giorgi reflects on how their start-up's journey began in the EIT Food Innovator Fellowship Programme in 2021. The programme connected him with diverse professionals and provided essential support for transitioning from academia to entrepreneurship. As CinSOIL grows, Giorgi values the multidisciplinary EIT Community for its role in navigating early-stage development and exploring new opportunities for growth.

### Giorgi's Success Story







# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

## 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!



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