



# IMPACT REPORT 2021

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## What is the EIT Alumni Community?

The EIT Alumni community brings together an interdisciplinary and multicultural community of change agents who share a common vision for tackling societal challenges and creating positive impact through innovation and entrepreneurship. The EIT Alumni Community consists of members of the Alumni Communities of the EIT's Knowledge Innovation Communities (KICs), stemming both from their Education, Business creation and Innovation programmes. With a strong and organised community, its strengths lay in network effects, and in the strong societal impact that EIT Alumni Community members can have.



**CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy**



**EIT RawMaterials Alumni**



**EIT Digital Alumni**



**EIT Climate-KIC Alumni**



**EIT Health Alumni**



**EIT Food**



**Mariya Gabriel,**  
*European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth*

"I am delighted to see the EIT Alumni grow into an ever more dynamic, entrepreneurial and inclusive community, which spans across sectors, disciplines and crosses borders. These bright, young people have an important contribution to build a true pan-European Innovation Ecosystem. Their innovative minds will help Europe lead in the new wave of innovation around deep tech startups. 2022 is the European Year of Youth and the EIT Alumni are a very good example of how young people are engaging and contribute to shaping the world they live in."



**Nektarios Tavernarakis,**  
*Chairperson of the EIT Governing Board<sup>1</sup>*

Thank you for visiting the Impact Report of our EIT Alumni Community!

The year 2021 passed with reeling from the severity of a global pandemic that hit the entire world in 2020 and finding new ways to join efforts to focus on moving into a new phase. The 2021 Impact Report is a glimpse into examples of great collaboration of the EIT Alumni Community in action, and how members of the Community managed not only to tackle the challenges of the pandemic but deliver results in the spirit of fostering innovation and cooperate for measurable impact.

It is my great pleasure to present this report, that highlights the results of the Alumni Community in meeting and even exceeding expectations in several measures of performance in 2021, through more than 2000 professional events organized and attended, the "challenge solver" concept further exploited, over 100 professional opportunities attracted, and new ways of cooperation formed across the EIT community. In 2021, the EIT Alumni Community further strengthened its operational capacity and the collaboration within the EIT community, especially with the newest KIC Alumni organizations, by sharing good practices including sustainability plans. A significant milestone of the Community in 2021 was the appointment of a new EIT Alumni President following an open call to candidates from the EIT Alumni network. This empowered Board successfully continued to drive collaboration initiatives, harness the potential of all EIT Alumni, and provide effective representation for the entire community.

The growing number of success stories emerging from the EIT Alumni Community demonstrates movement in the efforts of the EIT over time, its value and impact. The success stories serve as a vehicle for engaging members of the EIT Alumni Community to shape the picture of the future world aligned with the vision of the EIT to become the leading European initiative that empowers innovators and entrepreneurs who develop world-class solutions to societal challenges and create growth and skilled jobs.

<sup>1</sup> As of 1 July 2022

# FOREWORD

The 2021 Impact Report illustrates the commitment and hard work of our future leaders, entrepreneurs and agents of change. Results and achievements embedded in this report are truly demonstrating the purpose of the EIT Alumni Community, for which the EIT Governing Board, in cooperation with the EIT Director, remain fully committed with continued support and guidance. The values of the EIT Alumni Community, which allows students and start-ups to stay connected and benefit from the EIT offer while strengthening the EIT community, remains to be nurtured and fostered through the EIT activities with high importance.

Being a researcher myself and working with the European Research Council as well, I am aware first-hand of the difficulties researchers face in turning their research into innovation. Therefore, having entrepreneurial skills developed, as part of the studies of EIT Alumni members, is tackling a key gap. I would therefore encourage each member of the EIT Alumni Community to turn their ideas into innovations.

With great thanks to the members of the EIT Alumni Community who contributed to building a sustainable and impact oriented EIT Alumni in its sixth year of existence in 2021, I am convinced that the Community is on a right path in driving change and demonstrate even more impact in the next years ahead of the EIT and its KICs under Horizon Europe.

**Enjoy reading the Impact Report 2021 of the EIT Alumni Community!**

# NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT



Anca del Río was selected from a large pool of highly accomplished candidates and following a rigorous selection and evaluation process. Following lengthy applications, motivational videos, letters of support from respective Alumni Communities, interviews, and a final decision by the EIT’s Director, the EIT Health Alumna was appointed as the new President.

Anca del Río is an experienced professional in health and innovation governance, digital capacity building and strategic development, and a leading innovator with entrepreneurial drive for digital transformation and progress.

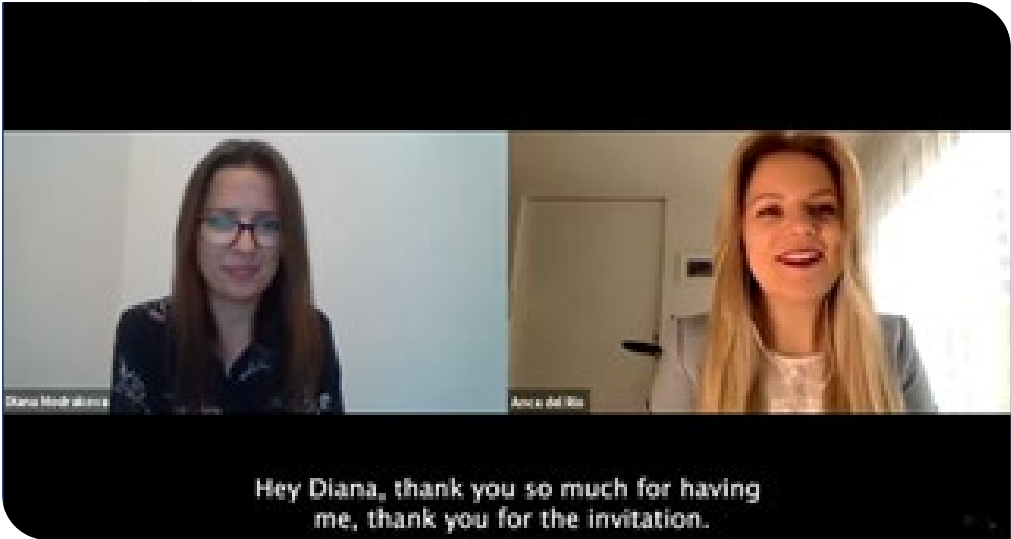
Anca is passionate about the Global Megatrends and multi-stakeholder engagement for sustainable development. She holds an international Masters of Science in Public Health and is pursuing a Doctoral Degree in the same field (DrPH). Her journey with the EIT, started through EIT Health as a Hackathon Winner (2018), then EIT Health Alumni Representative (Austria, Switzerland), Graduate and then Mentor of the EIT Health Starship Fellowship in Biodesign. Anca’s global experience in health systems innovation, value-based healthcare and procurement and quality systems provided her with the right tools to support scale-ups enter new markets and make evidence-based decisions for future investment rounds.

In March 2020, Anca founded the [The Digital Aid Project](#), a global COVID-19 Resilience and Response Think Tank aiming to bring need-led innovation to the most vulnerable and to #LeaveNoOneBehind. The DAP provides strategic, capacity building support for the identification and meaningful adoption of digital health solutions in mental health facilities, rehabilitation centres and nursing homes, during and beyond public health crises.

Alongside her diverse executive, advisory and technical roles in health innovation and entrepreneurship, Anca is also engaged in various activities to advance effective innovations towards Sustainable Development Goals, and is involved with several international organisations holding honorary positions ie.: International Advisory Board Member at the Newcastle Business School Australia, Network Member OECD, European Health Union Champion, Regional Network Chair at Patient Safety Movement Foundation, Young Forum Gastein Alumna.

Her passion for societal change is evident through her involvement in events and programmes like the MIT COVID-19 Challenge, EU vs. VIRUS, Web Summit.

*Please click on the image to watch an interview with the EIT Alumni President:*



# 2021 IN REVIEW

The EIT Alumni Community celebrated its sixth year of existence in 2021. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, this year saw the community broaden its outreach, impact and swiftly respond to societal challenges.

Throughout the year, EIT Alumni Board continued aligning its governance model with the management of the growing individual EIT KIC Alumni communities and the integration of future ones (EIT Food, EIT Manufacturing and EIT Urban Mobility), with an ultimate goal of exploring synergies, sharing good practices from the existing EIT KICs Alumni communities, improving the offer for all members and jointly building an engaged and sustainable network. The EIT Alumni Board composition has changed, welcoming the newly appointed EIT Alumni President in September 2021 and new representatives from EIT RawMaterials Alumni, EIT Climate-KIC Alumni, CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy and EIT. An external observer, Peter Olesen, previously Chair of the EIT Governing Board, continued to provide his advisory support to the functioning of the EIT Alumni Board.

The Community also amplified the efforts of Women@EIT, the community that brings together women students and alumni, registering a growth of 100% and 120% in the number of followers on LinkedIn and newsletter registration. Female Leadership Series had its last edition in May 2021 with the topic "Take the Mic!". This was the last event of this incredible series and featured a wrap-up session to demonstrate the strength of the network that had been formed over the months.

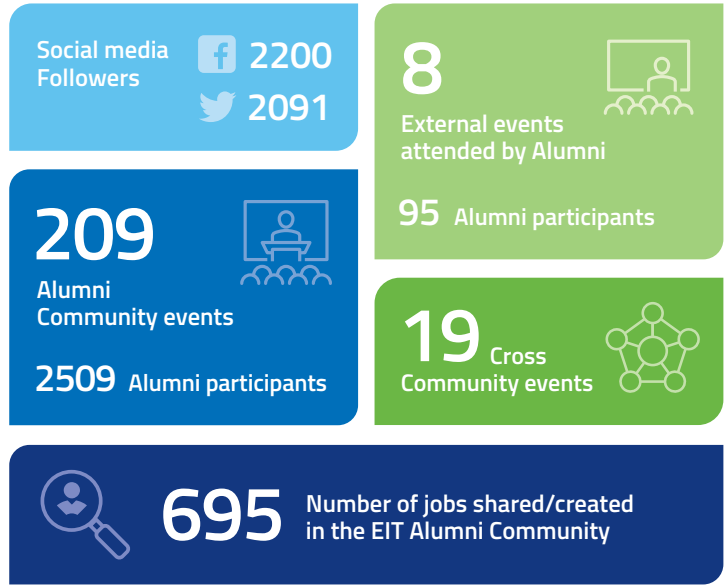
Just like in 2020, the EIT Alumni CONNECT, the annual meetup of the wider community, was organised fully virtual. "Innovation for Impact and Positive Change: Moving from Words to Action" was the topic for 2021, intending to inspire, connect, and engaging EIT Alumni. The event served as a yearly wrap-up, including highlights from each EIT Alumni KIC, ranging from lessons learned to future plans. For the fourth year, its organisation was managed by the EIT Alumni members and supported by the EIT.

The EIT Alumni Community continued implementation of joint activities in 2021. Among the most successful activities of the collaboration training event with the EIT Hub Israel, the hackathon organised together with European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) could be highlighted. The Community amplified experimentations towards the "challenge solver" concept by the organisation of the second Hackathon challenge for the Design of an Artificial Intelligence solution to identify fake news, as a result of collaboration with the EFSA. The EIT Alumni Community, despite the pandemic, was represented at several events including the Maria Curie Skłodowska Alumni Association Annual Conference, Research and Innovation Days, Women and Girls in STEM Forum or the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda Launch Event.

Looking back at 2021, our community with over 12,000 members has achieved a lot and we are pleased to tell you about the highlights!

# THE COMMUNITY IN FIGURES

## Key numbers for 2021

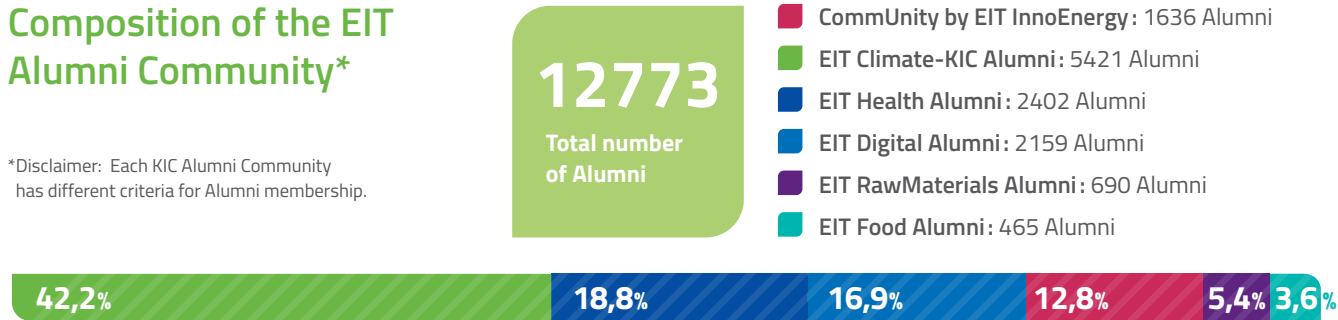


## EIT Alumni Community Events 2021

- EIT ALLUMNI CONNECT 2022 -**  
*"Innovation for Impact and Positive Change: Moving from Words to Action"*
- EIT ALUMNI - EFSA HACKATHON**  
*"Fake news detection"*
- EIT FOOD ALUMNI KICK-OFF EVENT**
- ISRAELI BITES:**  
*Spice your venture with Israeli secret sauce*
- INSPIRING WOMEN IN THE RAW MATERIALS SECTOR**
- JOURNEY SUMMIT**

## Composition of the EIT Alumni Community\*

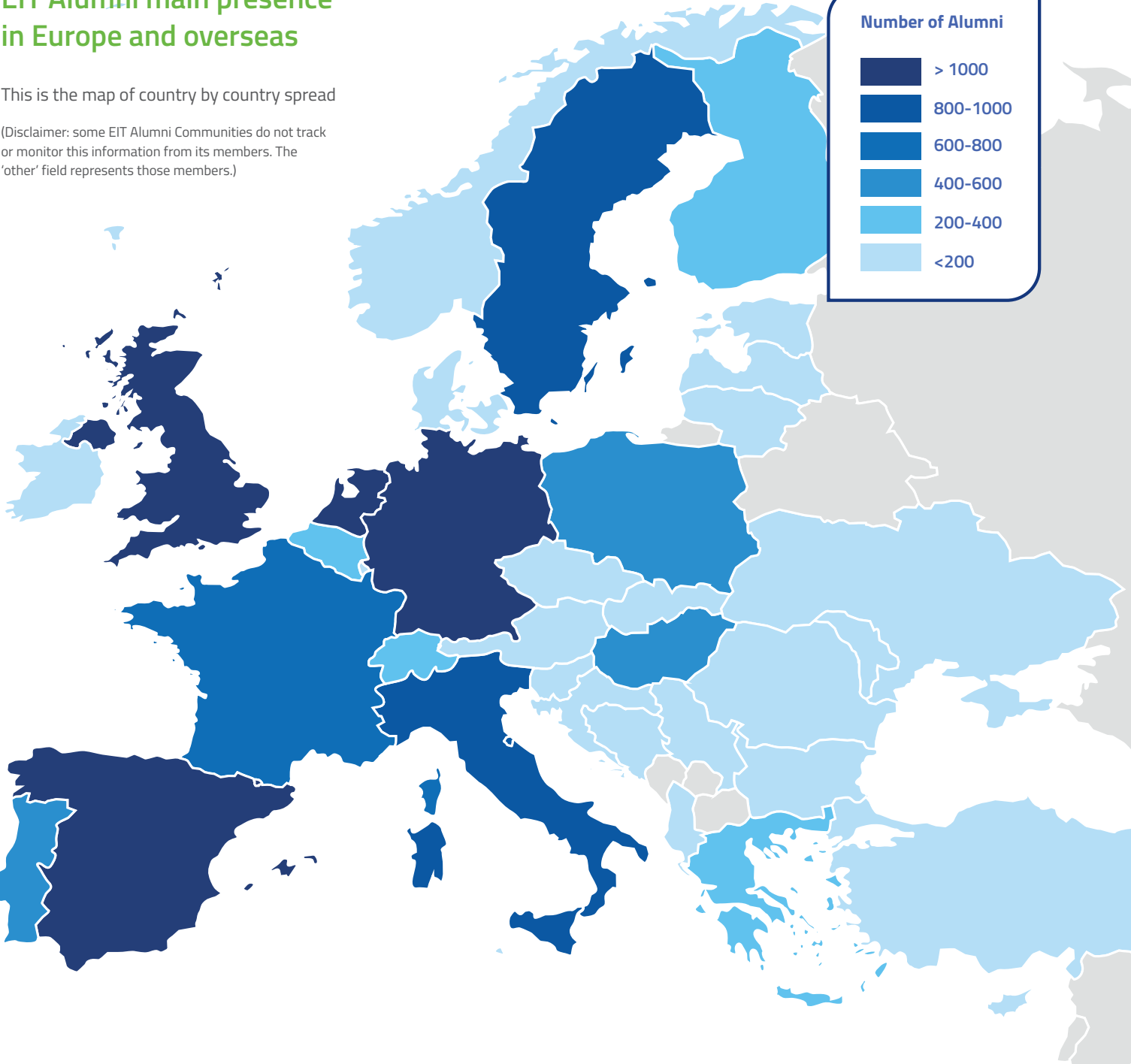
\*Disclaimer: Each KIC Alumni Community has different criteria for Alumni membership.



EIT Alumni main presence in Europe and overseas

This is the map of country by country spread

(Disclaimer: some EIT Alumni Communities do not track or monitor this information from its members. The 'other' field represents those members.)



COUNTRY	CLIMATE-KIC	DIGITAL	HEALTH	INNOENERGY	FOOD	RAWMATERIALS
Austria		11	1	29	7	9
Belgium		19	4	53	48	94
Bulgaria		7	1	6	5	1
Croatia		9	3	42	2	2
Cyprus		3	1	2	3	0
Czech Republic		10	3	29	1	2
Denmark	97	14	13	51	2	5
Estonia		4	3	36	7	6
Finland		196	9	11	4	37
France	114	196	2	78	44	72
Germany	458	368	34	322	89	112
Greece		25	6	92	41	27
Hungary	255	87	7	57	16	23
Ireland		9	4	41	4	7
Italy	495	178	32	128	170	81
Latvia		1	2	76	2	1
Lithuania		3	4	69	3	1
Luxembourg		7	2	2	1	0
Malta		0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	574	261	5	147	13	19
Poland	190	11	19	90	146	7
Portugal		12	6	187	81	16
Romania		10	7	60	9	1
Slovakia		0	1	3	2	3
Slovenia		4	2	34	1	0
Spain	483	117	24	350	166	13
Sweden		395	10	120	14	41
Europe	3308		2	2316	1177	626
Africa	11	7	2	13	64	6
Albania		1	1	0	0	2
Asia	67	71	0	30	275	31
Belarus		0	0	0	1	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		2	0	3	1	3
Iceland		2	0	0	1	1
Moldova		1	0	0		0
Montenegro		0	0	0	0	0
North America (incl. Mexico)	17	29	3	27	93	6
North Macedonia		1	0	1	3	0
Norway		5	1	8	3	5
Oceania	2	2	0	3		3
Serbia		3	4	3	2	3
South America	165	9	2	7	27	10
Switzerland	138	24	5	52	1	10
Turkey		0	5	3	27	1
UK	766	45	63	129	12	11
Ukraine		0	1	2	12	3
Other*	1851	41	171			8
Total	5421	2159	465	2402	1636	690



# JOURNEY OF AN EIT ALUMNI ENTREPRENEUR



**Diana Born**

**MARCH 2020**

Diana returned to Germany after a year of marine conservation in Southeast Asia. It was evident to her that climate protection was the only way to keep coral reefs alive. Therefore, she applied to EIT Climate-KIC's System Innovation Programme 'Pioneers into Practice'.



The 'Pioneers into Practice' programme gave me the great opportunity to try out system innovation in practical challenges. One of my key learnings: the system innovation toolbox really helps to quickly make sense in complex systems and is fun to use in groups.

**JUNE – DECEMBER 2020**

Diana got accepted into the 'Pioneers into Practice' programme. She got trained in systems thinking and system innovation tools, which she used to support WWF Germany in a biodiversity project and the Finnish startup MaaS Global in shaping sustainable mobility of the future.

**JUNE 2021**

Diana won an EIT Climate-KIC Alumni Micro-Award together with Guido Martinolli and Antonio Arce Romero to roll out the #TalkingClimate project in collaboration with the Erasmus Mundus Association. The project's new train the trainer format reached more than 167 participants on 4 continents and inspired new collaborations at EURAXESS ASEAN's European Research and Innovation Days ASEAN 2021.



The supportive EIT Climate-KIC Alumni community together with the #TalkingClimate project have hugely empowered my passion for coaching in the climate context. Thanks to the Alumni Micro-Award and the Network of Climate Coaches I could improve my coaching skills while creating impact through workshop programmes.

**APRIL 2021**

Diana joined the Network of Climate Coaches from EIT Climate-KIC. The network provides capacity building services to enable people and organisations to tackle climate change using system innovation approaches.



**JULY 2020**

Diana became part of the #TalkingClimate project as trainer to pilot a new workshop format. This collaboration project of EIT Climate-KIC and Climate Outreach supports people to talk more effectively about climate change in their daily life.



**OCTOBER 2021**

Diana started as partner for sustainability at the strategy consultancy K'UP. Our RAMP performance index and CORING strategy process synchronise organisation, brand, business and sustainability to help companies during a systemic transformation. We create long term strategies and enable system innovation through our holistic understanding of companies in the complex societal, economic and planetary context.

**NOVEMBER 2021**

Diana became ambassador for the startup The Seventeen that offers basic products and consulting services. It is based on a holistic sustainability approach, inspired by the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, and uses an innovative ambassador concept to reach its sustainability goals.



EIT Climate-KIC enabled me to see the world using systems thinking and create impact through diverse involvements in both companies and the EIT Climate-KIC communities. I am thrilled to inspire people with system innovation and contribute to a fully circular, net zero emission economy within a sustainable society.

# JOURNEY OF AN EIT ALUMNI ENTREPRENEUR



**Maria Fernanda Marques Todeschini**

**JULY 2017**

Participated in the EIT Climate-KIC Journey Programme in 2017. She discovered the programme in 2016 while she was enrolled in a Master's program in sustainable resource management at the Technical University of Munich. One of the most enjoyable aspects of the EIT Journey Programme was exchanging ideas with the rest of the cohort and mentors. The program's hard and enjoyable schedule, combined with diversity, resulted in an outpouring of creativity.



It was an amazing learning and cross-cultural experience. It was so fulfilling to learn new content, to discover skills that we didn't know that we had, and to exercise our critical thinking to build solutions to tackle climate challenges!"



**JUNE 2021**

Elected member of EIT Climate-KIC Alumni board. I've been working together with my fellow board members to improve synergies between KICs and leverage the potential of this amazing network of alumni

**OCTOBER 2020**

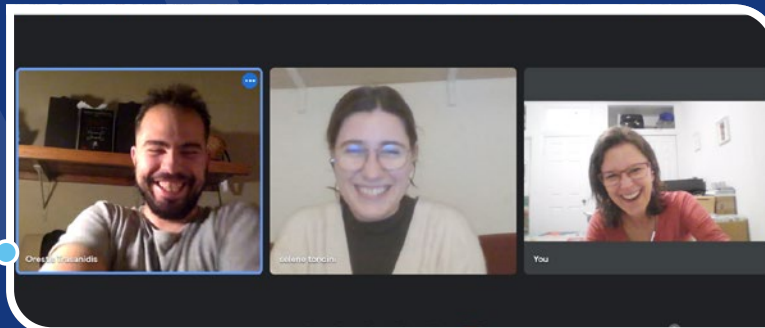
Joined the team of panelists of EIT Climate-KIC's Participatory Grantmaking Panel (I wrote about this experience, you can read it [here](#))

**JULY 2020**

Joined an interactive session organized by Climate-KIC with its Alumni to co-create a new format for the Journey, the program that was my entrance door to EIT. Same month: approached EIT Silicon Valley Hub (attended their virtual events, spread the word about their events in my network, discussed ideas to improve the exchange of knowledge between the EU and US innovation and entrepreneurship systems).

**MARCH 2019**

In 2019, when she just moved from Munich to New York City, she started to build her contacts network and kept in contact with people she knew from Brazil and Europe. Even before the pandemic, she had a vision of working with international clients as a consultant and that became easier when suddenly videoconferences became part of everybody's work life.



**MARCH 2022**



I am now a happy solopreneur who helps sustainability oriented clients to plan strategies, manage stakeholders and build communities. It takes a lot of effort to design a business on my own, but I'm glad I can rely on like-minded people from different communities (like Climate-KIC) who I can count on to exchange ideas or partner with to deliver solutions for my clients



# JOURNEY OF AN EIT ALUMNI ENTREPRENEUR



ImpactPCB  
Company

MAY 2018

Artur Sagarov (Estonia, Tallinn) - MSc Student in Chalmers University of Technology (Gothenburg, Sweden).

JANUARY 2019

Work on the thesis titled "Sustainable recycling of Printed Circuit boards"[1] begins. Thesis provided study for the process that allowed efficiently (cost-quality) break down printed circuit boards into their basics: metals and non-metals. Supervised by PhD. Göran Gustafsson, PhD Ali Davoodi and PhD Dmitri Goljandin.

APRIL 2021

ImpactPCB was invited to participate in KAVA-8 (KIC Added Value Activities) upscaling project "RENEW: re-cycling of epoxy from non-ferrous e-waste". ImpactPCB (currently only Artur Sagarov) agrees to participate through Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech).

DECEMBER 2020

Atlantic Copper S.L.U. (an organisation that provides ImpactPCB with the challenge in EIT Global Digital Race 2020) have taken interest in contacting the ImpactPCB team with assistance from EIT Lorena Jurado and Anna Donczew-Salawa.

NOVEMBER 2020

April 2021 EIT RawMaterials supports the winning teams 1st to 3rd (ImpactPCB, NorthernLights...) places by providing coaching sessions and encourages/prepares them to take part in their next step - EIT Jumpstarter 2021. Such great coaches were training us intensively as: Nora Groth, Hans Westerhof, Lorena Jurado and others. Also, great kudos to Anna Donczew-Salawa who organised and moved ImpactPCB greatly forward.

NOVEMBER 2020

"ImpactPCB" team forms (Artur Sagarov, Rasmus Blom, Bermet Kyzzy Kerim, Tim Meijer, Devy Karthika Ratnasari) and wins EIT Global Digital Race 2020.

JUNE - DECEMBER 2021

ImpactPCB participated in the EIT RawMaterials Jumpstarter 2021 and reached the Grand Final.

JANUARY 2022

Today: ImpactPCB (Artur Sagarov) is participating in the "RENEW: re-cycling of epoxy from non-ferrous e-waste" project, developing technology with TalTech for separation of metal fraction and non-metal fraction, enrichment of metal fraction and preservation of non-metal fraction for further recycling/down-cycling. ImpactPCB is open for new members and hosts a master's thesis in 2023 with currently open positions.

# SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS



## Startup Contest 2021

The [Startup Contest](#) offers one-of-a-kind chances and assistance to the EIT Alumni community's burgeoning businesses. The 2021 edition was held entirely online, received 10 submissions from 9 participants, with participants having the option to present their ideas to a panel of external jurors. Greenele Oy, the winner, earned fully financed participation at some of Europe's most prominent tech conferences.

## Annual Meeting in Stockholm

The topic of the Annual EIT Digital Meeting 2021 in Stockholm was "[Social Responsibility in Tech](#)". The EIT Digital alumni members had a long weekend filled with events to help them improve personally and professionally, meet inspiring people, listen to presentations, and be surrounded by a community of digital specialists. The event was held at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology's EIT Digital CLC and was organized with the support of several local volunteers. This event drew a total of approximately 70 participants from all around Europe.

## Local Reps Meeting in Amsterdam

The Local Reps Meeting 2021 took place in Amsterdam at the end of November, with ten attendees (4 of them joined online as it was a hybrid event). The KIC reviewed what may be improved within the EIT Digital Alumni community during brainstorming meetings and came up with a lot of interesting ideas for the future, concentrating on giving value to their members, professional growth, and fostering collaboration across local networks.



## New strategy to enhance skills development for Earth Observation and Geoinformation

EIT Climate-KIC has produced a new strategy to enhance skills development for Earth Observation and Geoinformation (EO\*GI) – a key source of data information for climate change mitigation and adaptation – as part of the Horizon 2020 project EO4GEO.

Earth observation and geographic data have the ability to provide tools, indicators, and measures that may be used to better understand, forecast, mitigate, and respond to local and global climate change concerns. The vast amount of data and information collected by satellites or remote sensing devices as part of the EU Copernicus Programme can be used for a variety of climate-related applications, including monitoring forest fires, floods, and urban heat islands, as well as assisting decision-making at the local, regional, and national levels to mitigate these risks and improve our planet's livability.

## EIT Climate-KIC continues to support the sustainable transition of the European maritime sector

Through its extensive network of partners, the [Maritime ClimAccelerator](#), backed by EIT Climate-KIC, gave participating start-ups funding, training, peer-to-peer coaching, and theme-specific mentorship (both virtually and in-person). Each year, 30-40 start-ups were selected and invited to deliver new solutions for the marine industry's transition to sustainability, both locally and worldwide, as well as had the chance to showcase their ideas to investors, port authorities, and shipping firms. As a result, the Maritime ClimAccelerator presented a once-in-a-lifetime chance for start-ups to test, showcase, and evaluate their solutions.

Following an exciting first round of applications from high-caliber start-ups the Maritime ClimAccelerator (MCA) has selected its first cohort! A total of 26 start-ups have been selected from a pool of applicants from 21 countries across the globe, with innovative solutions in alternative propulsion systems, environmental measurement, monitoring and control, alternative energy, business models and low carbon logistics. All innovators and start-ups who did not get a chance to apply in our first call had a second round of the Maritime ClimAccelerator in 2021.



## A Growing community

Alumni members were onboarded throughout its first year (2021), as well as a Call for Volunteers - EIT Food for and by alumni.

### EIT Food Business Creation

At the beginning of 2021 (January to February), EIT Food Alumni launched the “[EIT Food Business Creation](#)” to all students, startups and scaleups (potential candidates & alumni) from the Education and Business Creation programmes, corporates (EIT Food partners & external, SME & industry), mentors (new & alumni), investors, multipliers, and mentors (new & alumni) from the Education and Business Creation programmes (networks & associations). All stakeholders were given information on how to get engaged with EIT Food Central at the event. To commemorate the launch, a kick-off event was held, complete with a workshop and networking opportunities.

### Master in Food Systems



The inaugural [Master of Food Systems](#) cohort graduated in October 2021. The students were welcomed into the Alumni Community after a joyful in-person ceremony. This master’s provides entrepreneurial abilities that can assist students in being a successful innovator and technical abilities that are specific to their professional goals in the industry. This master is training the leaders of the future in the food sector by selecting the best-talented students wide variety of different academic backgrounds, giving them all the tools to succeed in the future, allowing them to bring distinctive points of view along with novel solutions for tomorrow’s consumers and citizens.

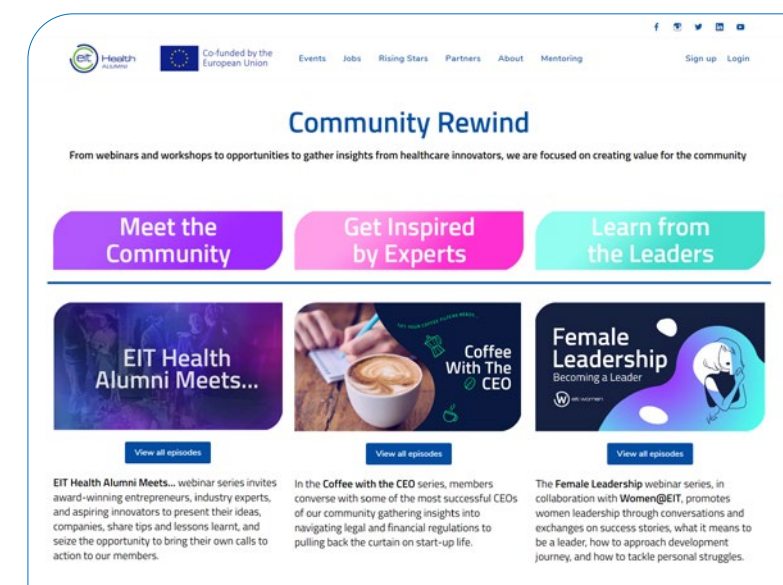


## EIT Health Work In Health Career Fair

On November 24, 2021, EIT Health’s Work In Health Foundation presented its inaugural [Health career fair](#). The event brought together recruiters, students, and graduates for a one-of-a-kind chance to discuss future recruitment opportunities, seek out new talent, and discuss the requirements of the European healthcare community.

The event was a way for the attendees to promote their internship program, graduate program, work culture, or corporate brand by showcasing their presence as a leading recruiter among the European healthcare community; interact with young talent from the European academic community, including new graduates and EIT Health Master’s and PhD students; participate in one-on-one discussions; and organize a 30-minute talk per attendee to promote their internship program, graduate program, work culture, or corporate brand.

Re-Launch of the Community Rewind, providing a [platform](#) for all the community with recorded webinars and events. It’s a well-thought-out, expansive section where all users may have access to exclusive content, as well as learning and training possibilities. On this website, users may view the most popular webinar series, such as “I don’t know how she....,” “EIT Health Alumni Meets:,” and “Coffee with the CEO”. These are also available on the community [Youtube channel](#).





### CommUnity Days in Berlin inspire EIT InnoEnergy students and alumni

EIT InnoEnergy students and alumni gathered in Berlin in early November for the [2021 CommUnity Days](#).

EIT InnoEnergy students and alumni from all around Europe gathered to the NH Alexanderplatz hotel all day Friday. The air was buzzing as embraces, fist bumps, and elbow nudges were exchanged: it had been over two years since most of the alumni had seen each other due to the pandemic period.



There was a change from working and learning from the rooms as pandemic-induced lockdowns and travel restrictions restricted to the house environment. The student community, which was a standout aspect of the EIT InnoEnergy Master's programs, was relocated to the internet. Virtual meet-ups, conferences, and events were all held. But, thanks to new legislation, it was possible to meet in person for the CommUnity Days, a signature event of the EIT InnoEnergy CommUnity.

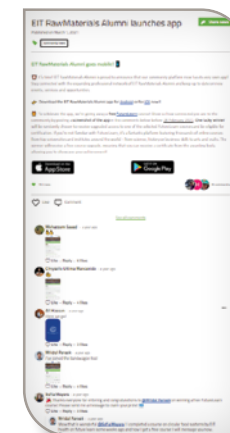
### App launch and giveaway

The RawMaterials community platform now has its [own app](#), allowing its users to keep up to date on new events, services, and opportunities by staying connected with the growing professional network of EIT RawMaterials Alumni.

To celebrate the app launch, a giveaway was organized for a free [FutureLearn](#) course. The lucky winner receive upgraded access to one of the selected FutureLearn courses and was eligible for certification.

### Pilot online Alumni Networking Event

On the day of RawMaterials SUMMIT 2021, on June 17th, a virtual networking event for our Alumni members was held. SpatialChat, a fascinating platform for video chat chats that mimic real-life social interactions, hosted the networking event.



### Workshop "Present your ideas effectively and inspiringly"



This workshop, designed exclusively for Alumni members by the Alumni Board, focused on how communication is made, the words used, and how the perception of the information we share is influenced by the way we talk.

This course taught how to present someone's work in a clear and easy-to-understand manner. In addition to theoretical knowledge, there is a hands-on component in which all of the taught information may be instantly put into practice.

Students who wish to pursue additional study, aspiring entrepreneurs with fresh company ideas, or anybody who wants to improve their public speaking skills would benefit the most from this program.



# Alumni CONNECT

**Innovation for Impact and Positive Change:**  
Moving from Words to Action  
2021



Funded by the European Union



## INSIDE THE COMMUNITY

### EIT Alumni CONNECT 2021

The annual gathering of the EIT Alumni community took place online for the second year in a row in 2021. Alumni from the EIT's Knowledge & Innovation Communities gathered to network, build partnerships, collaborate on initiatives, and help the EIT Alumni Community grow and thrive.

The theme of 2021 was "Innovation for Impact and Positive Change: Moving from Words to Action" aiming to inspire, connect & engage EIT Alumni. The event did a yearly wrap-up and provided highlights from each EIT Alumni KIC, from the lessons learned to plan for the future.

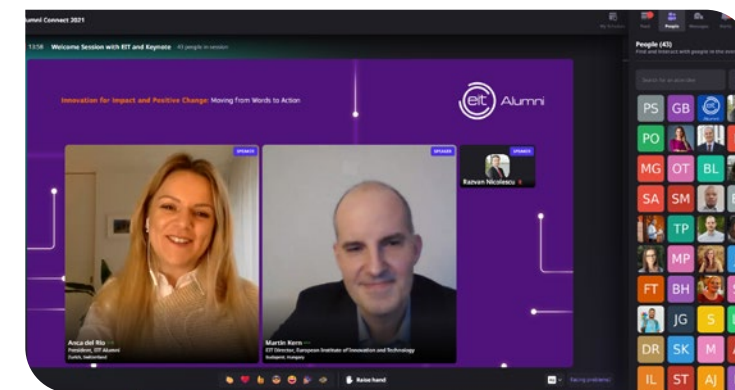


Beyond gaining valuable advice and insights from the keynote speakers, the EIT Alumni had the chance to meet the EIT Alumni Board and representatives of other Alumni Communities. The event was an opportunity to take an active part in a variety of thought-provoking and challenging dialogues, bringing together members from the eight EIT KICs - EIT Health, EIT Digital, EIT Food, EIT InnoEnergy, EIT Climate-KIC, EIT RawMaterials, EIT Urban Mobility and EIT Manufacturing.

An inspiring session was provided at the beginning of the event under the topic of renewable energy and climate action, given by Razvan Nicolescu, EIT Governing Board Member. During CONNECT 2021, two activities took place on the event theme, looking at both the current initiatives and future challenges that lie ahead. The discussion was about looking forward to improving our world, by creating synergies and addressing common issues.

Several insights were brought up from the working groups exercise performed under activity II "Cross-KIC Working Groups: Moving from words to action in 2022". The zoom fatigue that the two-year period of pandemic situation causes demands new answers from the EIT Alumni Communities. Cross-KIC activities is a recurring and pressing topic that was highlighted by many alumni, since there are many possible synergies, for instance between EIT Climate and EIT Health.

The event was concluded with an ideas & feedback generation session, where the EIT Alumni Board debated on relevant topics for the Communities such as the engagement of new members in a Digital Era.







# WOMEN@EIT ACTIVITIES

## Mission

Create a strong network of female entrepreneurs and innovators from the EIT by contributing to making gender equality a reality across Europe while addressing the women leadership gap, the gender pay gap, and the gender investment gap.

## Vision

Inspire the next generation of women leaders in innovation, business, entrepreneurship, and technology and become Europe's largest women community in innovation and entrepreneurship.

## Values

Equity, diversity, and inclusivity as fair and just drivers of innovation and prosperity. We believe that society needs to advance in this space to ultimately close the gender leadership gap, the pay gap, and the investment gap, for the benefit of present societies and next generations.



<https://womeneit.eu/>

womenatEIT

eitwomen



## Highlights from 2021

**Launching of a new board** for Women@EIT. For this, an open call was launched by Maria Kanov, the cofounder of Women@EIT and chair of this event. It provided a new possibility for organizations and members throughout Europe to get together and share ideas for making Europe more gender-equal and advancing the Women@EIT goals.

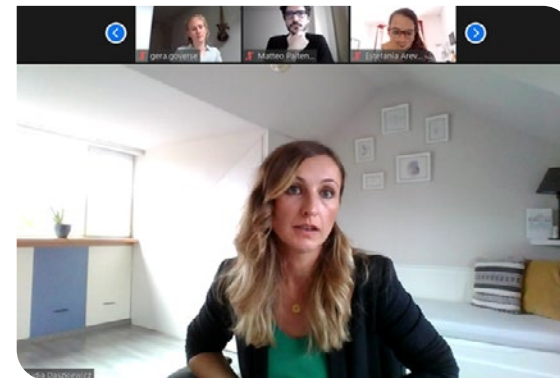
**Increased engagement of new members** is reflected in the growing number of followers on Social Media channels. LinkedIn and newsletter registration clearly stand out, with the growth of 100% and 120% respectively. These results intensify the growth trend registered in previous years and reflect the strategy and activities developed

**Hosting of a mobility talk on the topic of “Women Developing the future of mobility”.** Maria Tsavachidis, CEO of EIT Urban Mobility, Nancy Adrenberg, CEO of Allihop, and Mala Valroy, Head of Ericsson ONE, shared their travels and how they have influenced the mobility industry. These seminars are an excellent method to inspire future mobility leaders and show how the industry can be changed to be more gender-neutral. The event may still be viewed [here](#) if you want to learn more about it.

**Female Leadership Series** had its last edition in May 2021 with the topic “Take the Mic!”, where female entrepreneurs were given the opportunity to demonstrate how they have put all of the knowledge offered during the series into practice. This event brought an end to this incredible series and featured a wrap-up session to demonstrate the strength of the network that had been formed over the months.

**“Speaking about Women”** session with Lidia Daszkiewicz (Senior Director of Immuno-Oncology at Ocello) took place in September 2021. This was the first session series of interviews and talks with inspiring women from the European Technology and Innovation community, with the goal of presenting inspiring experiences and adventures from incredible women while also providing a safe platform for everyone to voice their doubts, fears, and motivations

In 2021 a total of 10 newsletters were elaborated, 10 new ambassadors were recruited (reaching a total of 20 for the Community), 2 Leadership series events were implemented and 3 Speaking of Women events were put into operation.



## Ambitions for 2022

Women@EIT aspires to be Europe's largest women's innovation and entrepreneurship network. The following will be significant actions in 2022 to achieve this:

- Conduct a Leadership Intensive Event at the end of the year, aiming to better prepare the members of the Women@EIT community for the challenges ahead
- Continue to execute a monthly ambassador roundtable, as support and training activities for Ambassadors of Women@EIT
- Execute the “Speaking of Women’ Mentorship Programme”, with the implementation of rounds on the Women@EIT website, indicating what they look to mentor/be mentored upon
- A physical kick-off event for each round (for bond creation)
- Upskilling and networking events: continue the capacity building for female leaders and promote a space for informal discussions.



# JOURNEY OF AN EIT ALUMNI ENTREPRENEUR

(WOMEN@EIT FOCUSED VERSION)



**Dora Palfi**  
from Hungary

**AUGUST 2016**

began studying as part of the EIT Digital Masterschool in Human Computer Interaction at Faculty and research in Interactive Media Technology (KTH) in Sweden



As part of my coursework at KTH I had a research project together with a fellow student Sara Eriksson, to create design requirements for products that would make learning to code exciting and relevant for girls. This research later lead to starting my company.

**OCTOBER 2016**

Co-founded Women@EIT



Thanks to generous support both from the Stockholm CLC, KTH faculty and the EIT Digital Alumni, together with Maria Kanov we kickstarted a series of events for women at EIT including hands on coding workshops and hosted inspiring women entrepreneurs. This actually played a huge role in my decision and building up courage to eventually start my own business



**DECEMBER 2019**

Won the EIT Digital Startup competition and attended Tech Crunch Berlin as a prize



Being able to take the Women@EIT initiative from a local EIT Digital program in Stockholm to a Cross-KIC and international initiative was possible because it has been recognized centrally at the EIT that we need to dedicate resources and attention to educating entrepreneurs from a diverse background.

**NOVEMBER 2018**

Organized the first Women@EIT leadership summit

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

As a nominee of EIT Digital for the Woman Innovator of the Year attended the EIT Awards as part of INNOVEIT, n Budapest



**JULY 2018**

Co-Funded Imagilabs, an edtech company making products that empower girls with skills and community to create with technology.



Going to Tech Crunch was both an exciting experience and a great opportunity for exposure helping us to further develop our network of investors.

**DECEMBER 2021**

Featured in the Forbes 30 under 30 in 2021 (for Social Impact) for the building of the first mobile community focused on getting Gen Z girls to learn to code.



## COLLABORATIONS & REPRESENTATION AT EXTERNAL EVENTS

Innovation happens if you work together. If you go outside the boundaries, outside your comfort zone, if we work with people you normally would not work with and if you try new ideas.



## The EIT Director, Martin Kern

The EIT Director, Martin Kern, discussed the relevance of innovation in addressing societal challenges, as well as the importance of collaboration amongst EU agencies, which included the participation of EIT Alumni.



## Hackaton Challenge: Artificial intelligence a possible remedy for #fakenews in food sector?

A [Hackathon challenge](#) for the Design of an Artificial Intelligence solution to identify fake news utilizing EFSA's body of scientific opinions was organized as a consequence of the partnership between the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and EIT Alumni!

The hackathon's specific goal was to create a prototype of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) solution to detect fake news in the field of food and feed safety, based on the entire body of EFSA Scientific Opinions from its inception to the present.

The hackathon's goal was to bring together the brightest minds in the European Union to spark interest in the issue of fake news, while also suggesting solutions to this trend.

In the backdrop of the expanding number of EIT projects in this field and across industries, the role of artificial intelligence technology in driving innovations was highlighted.

## Israeli Bites 2021

Early-stage businesses from EIT Alumni were invited to participate in a 2-day virtual program - Israeli Bites 2021 - to improve their entrepreneurial abilities and accelerate their growth. This was owing to Israel's status as a worldwide innovation hub, providing possibilities for enterprises from all over the globe, as well as being at the forefront of global technical breakthroughs and delivering cutting-edge solutions in areas like software, medicine, and navigation.

Organised by the EIT hub Israel, the event offered an overview of the Israeli environment and entrepreneurial attitude to EIT graduates. Participants experienced the characteristics of Israeli innovation and were able to select important components to utilize and develop their own entrepreneurial path.

The event provided practical techniques and best practices from renowned Israeli entrepreneurs, access to Israeli experts, the possibility to improve the participant company's development with VCs and ecosystem stakeholders, and participation in rigorous peer learning in this one-of-a-kind workshop.

A two-day program provided the participant's real tools and best practices from top Israeli unicorns, venture capital funds, and ecosystem stakeholders to help them expand their businesses, introducing 5 topics: "Firgun" The power of community; "Yalla" Getting down to business; "Chutzpah" Disrupt the status quo; "Tachles" The Ultimate Toolkit; "Don't be a Fryer" Show me the money.



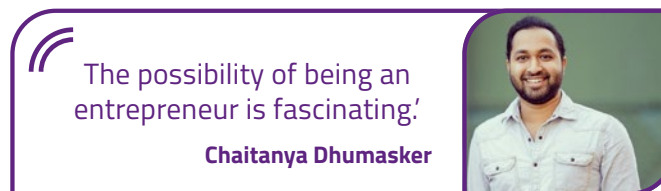


## EIT Alumni session during MCAA Annual Conference 2021

The [General Conference of the Marie Curie Alumni Association](#) was held on March 5–7, 2021. A seminar titled “Entrepreneurial Journey: How to Turn Your Idea Into Reality” was organized by EIT Alumni.

The goal of the workshop was to walk participants through the process of converting a concept into a successful project, as well as to advise them on what they’ll need along the road, what type of support to seek, and how to stay motivated. Participants got the opportunity to hear personal stories and testimonies about their entrepreneurial journeys, as well as learn about the EIT’s opportunities for prospective entrepreneurs.

Chaitanya Dhumasker (graduate from the EIT Climate-KIC label programme at the Technical University of Berlin, co-founder and CEO of MonitorFish GmbH, EIT Change Award Winner 2020) explained how his firm MonitorFish grew to focus on aspects of having an idea, seeking finance, and the benefits and drawbacks of entrepreneurship.

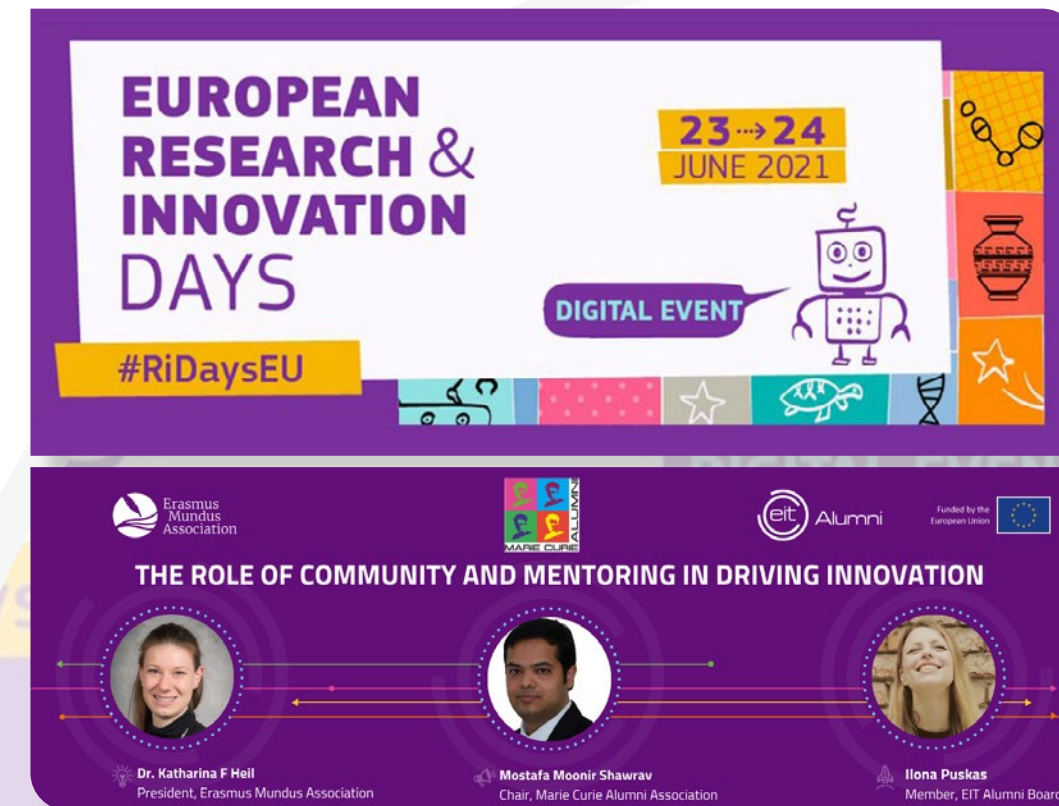


## European Research and Innovation Days 2021

The [discussion](#) took place online on 23 and 24 June 2021 with @Erasmus Mundus Association @Marie Curie Alumni Association and @EIT Alumni, to debate the Role of community and mentoring in driving innovation: examples from Marie Curie Alumni Association, Erasmus Mundus Association and EIT Alumni.

The target audience for the event were students/alumni who might interested to join programmes/activities of communities, stakeholders interested in reaching the networks (Universities, industry, future employers), other “youth”/entrepreneur organisations/networks or potential networks.

The debate centred on how student and alumni groups use community participation and mentors to push their activities toward research and innovation. In addition to contributing to a more sustainable society, invited speakers described how their local communities encourage knowledge-sharing across





## A NEW ME'2: Capturing the right track in life



In conjunction with the CommUnity by InnoEnergy, EIT Health Alumni hosted the second edition of “A NEW ME” in November and December 2021 (13 November 13 – 5 December 2021), which was available to members of all EIT Alumni Communities.

“A NEW ME” was the Health KIC’s first ever paid activity, consisting of a series of short intense workshops designed to assist individuals to reflect on their life, focusing on what is important and meaningful to them and can help with career growth.

Group talks, experience exchanges, writing activities, and reflective walking are all part of the programme. Its goal was to assist individuals to gain a better awareness of themselves and a better grasp of their inner dynamics – what makes them tick and what could be holding them back.

Participants focused on the following guiding topics as part of the process: History: What significant life events have shaped them?; Insights: What are their advantages and disadvantages? What do they represent?; Purpose: What is their calling – what is their gift to the world? What are their guiding principles?; Ambition: Where do they see themselves in the future? What are their aspirations? What are their goals for the next chapter of their lives?; Pathway: How do people sabotage themselves at times? How can people break free from their confining beliefs and write the next chapter of their lives?

## A Perfect Match

The event (11 November 2021) connected digital technology and health world. The participants could pitch their idea about how to bring together these different Alumni Communities, talk about their challenges and find a partnership or the perfect co-funder for their project. This online networking event was powered by RIS Alumni, EIT Health Alumni and EIT Digital Alumni communities, and was an opportunity for the participants to learn from mentors and peers from EIT Health & EIT Digital communities, as well as get investor representatives. The only requirement was that the topic presented in the pitch was relevant to the topic of digital health, focusing on digital health research, practical digital health solutions, or digital health business development.





## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022

In 2022, effective governance, career opportunities, partnerships and collaborations, financial sustainability, and impact measurement remain high on the EIT Alumni agenda with the main objective of further developing the Network. The EIT Alumni activities, led by the EIT Alumni Board, will aim – amongst others – at consolidating the sustainability strategy of the EIT Alumni Network as well as fostering the knowledge transfer between the EIT Alumni Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) and enabling new opportunities for cross-sectoral collaboration.

Encouragement of more joint alumni collaboration, offering added-value activities to the EIT Alumni KICs' members and delivering targeted outreach activities will, without doubt, further empower the EIT Alumni Network to become even more dynamic and entrepreneurial-driven in 2022.

In 2022, the EIT Alumni flagship event, CONNECT, will be an integrated part of the EIT's INNOVEIT conference. With the aim to make EIT Alumni CONNECT the leading innovation and entrepreneurship event, EIT Alumni is committed to engage hundreds of future leaders, entrepreneurs, scientists, KoLs, decision-makers and change agents to build partnerships, co-create and work together to build the future of the EIT Alumni Network in the spirit of the European Year of Youth.

Furthermore, the further alignment of the EIT Alumni vision and activities with the overall EIT strategic objectives, remains the cornerstone of the successful implementation of the EIT Alumni Work Programme in 2022.

**We are looking forward to continuing the work with all EIT Alumni members to further build an impact-oriented, sustainable and future-proofed community in 2022!**



# LET'S COLLABORATE!

As always, the EIT Alumni Community is open to **supporting EIT 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 at  
[EIT-alumni@eit.europa.eu](mailto:EIT-alumni@eit.europa.eu)



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# THANK YOU

All the notable achievements made all along this year were made possible thanks to the strong commitment and hard work of our EIT Alumni Board members and volunteers for making the Community thrive year after year.

**Anca del Rio,**  
*EIT Alumni President*

**Miguel Amador,**  
*EIT Health Alumni*

**Miriam Irle,**  
*EIT Health Alumni*

**Robin Maxton,**  
*EIT Health Alumni*

**Jeroen van Lent,**  
*EIT Digital Alumni*

**Julia Hermann,**  
*EIT Digital Alumni*

**Ali Hassan,**  
*EIT RawMaterials Alumni*

**Francisco Veiga Simão,**  
*EIT RawMaterials Alumni*

**Sofia Meyers,**  
*EIT RawMaterials Alumni*

**Irene Anton,**  
*Community by InnoEnergy*

**Bruno Hasa,**  
*Community by InnoEnergy*

**Noran Kamal,**  
*Community by InnoEnergy*

**Fernanda Todeschini,**  
*EIT Climate-KIC Alumni*

**Selene Tondini,**  
*EIT Climate-KIC Alumni*

**Ilona Puskas,**  
*EIT Climate-KIC Alumni*

**Linn Vande Populiere,**  
*EIT Food Alumni*

**Lydia Szantova,**  
*EIT Food Alumni*

**Peter Olesen,**  
*External Observer to  
the EIT Alumni Board*

**Michal Gorzynski,**  
*EIT*

**Diana Modrakova,**  
*EIT*

**Urszula Bogatysnka,**  
*EIT*

**Agnes Molnar,**  
*EIT*

**Jacobien Breukink,**  
*EIT*

...and many more!



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