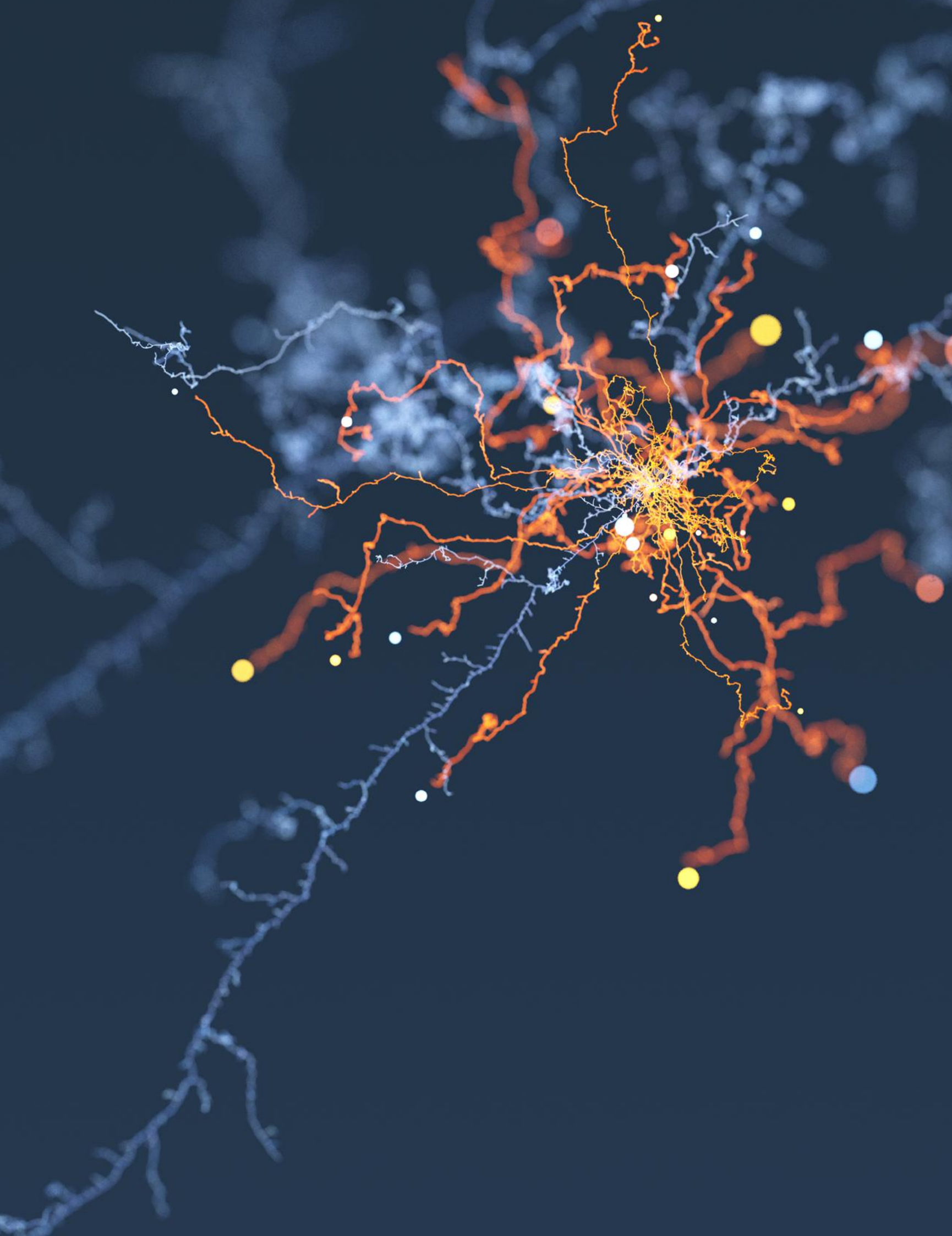


Success Stories

from the EIT Alumni
Community



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Take this opportunity to learn everything about the amazing EIT Alumni who drive impact in our community and beyond!

EIT Alumni Success Stories and inspirational journeys on the way to innovation moonshots

2021 has been a year of further success for the EIT Alumni Community, and this has been demonstrated by the increasingly exciting journeys of our members, embarking on new and fascinating innovation and entrepreneurship adventures. This booklet illustrates how the mission of EIT Alumni continues to foster progress and positive change for the new generations and the broader ecosystem and delivers a great value to our communities through purpose-driven entrepreneurship. As the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) are succeeding in their mission to deploy innovative products and services, launch new businesses, and train new generations of entrepreneurs, they effectively contribute to the action needed to tackle the Global Challenges.

This booklet contains EIT Alumni Success Stories, including the entrepreneurial journeys of EIT Accelerator and Education programs alumni who succeeded in their field of expertise, putting their dreams and ideas into action, by Founding a business venture, attracting investment and raising financing rounds, winning awards at prestigious competitions, being named on recognised lists such as Forbes 30 under 30, speaking at high-level events, and many more.

The EIT Alumni Success Stories are a humble way of recognising our members' contribution to the development of the community and the importance of their work on the innovation and

entrepreneurship scene. By showcasing these Success Stories, EIT Alumni would like to create more awareness around the efforts behind every great achievement and acknowledge that our community only grows stronger and prouder with such talented and passionate members.

I trust that this Success Stories Booklet will inspire and cultivate a culture of pursuing (big!) dreams, taking risks and stopping at nothing on the way to achieving innovation moonshots. By providing concrete and detailed examples of how the EIT Alumni can become thought leaders by developing and diversifying their careers, this Booklet emphasises the importance of the activities performed and commitments undertaken by the EIT Alumni, as well as the true benefits of being part of this one of a kind, leading community.



Anca del Río
EIT Alumni President

Foreword

¹ For broader communication, these stories are also posted on the EIT and EIT Alumni social media and communication channels, i.e EIT website (www.eit.europea.eu)

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Carolina Paes



Graduate of EIT RawMaterials International Master of Science in Sustainable and Innovative Natural Resource Management (SINReM)



KIC



Carolina, always passionate about innovation and technology, especially when they are aligned to meet social and environmental needs, desired to work in this area and looked for academic opportunities that would bring her closer to her professional goal.

The [SINReM](#) multidisciplinary programme by [EIT RawMaterials](#) allowed Carolina to get closer to innovate recycling technologies that contribute to the circular economy transition and to learn how to secure raw materials for future generations.

She is co-author of an article [Green Recovery Policies for the COVID-19 Crisis: Modelling the Impact on the Economy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#), published during the summer internship at VITO, one of SINReM's partners and was selected through a competitive process for an internship at Anheuser-Busch InBev, multinational drink and brewing company based in Leuven.

'My experience with the EIT Alumni Community was enriching and allowed me to meet incredible people around the world who have life goals like mine: using innovation and technology to solve social and environmental problems, reducing socioeconomic discrepancies with a circular approach!'

Carolina participated in [EIT Alumni COVID-19 Challenge](#) and with three ideas out of the five winning ones.

She is also part of Women@EIT Local Representative focused on spreading and empowering other women in the Raw Materials sector.

'Being part of the EIT Community offers many advantages such as access to online courses which was extremely important for me to keep growing during the pandemic. And above all, it helps you meet inspiring people and build a support network for your professional career.'

More about results of EIT Alumni COVID-19 Challenge: [here](#)

Farhan Furrukh



Graduate of EIT InnoEnergy's Energy for Smart Cities program and COO of ChargeBnB



KIC



In 2017, Farhan Farrukh enrolled in the EIT – InnoEnergy's Energy for Smart Cities program and traveled to Belgium to pursue his first Master's degree in Energy Engineering at KU Leuven. There, he was introduced to [CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy](#), through which he learned about the other [EIT communities](#), and started the job as CommUnity manager during his second year at Grenoble-INP, organizing various activities with the local team.

During the following two years, throughout Europe, he attended numerous workshops, competitions, tested one startup, and engaged in a variety of other activities. This allowed him to build a large professional network of Energy experts and learn a variety of skills not covered in the academic program. He highly recommends the program for everyone who wants to work hard and succeed in the field of renewable energy.

It has been wonderful experience so far and look forward to creating more sustainable solutions together with EIT Alumni. The pandemic has prevented the EIT Alumni from meeting each other in person but it has certainly not stopped us from achieving our mission of developing sustainable solutions to help save the planet!

He believes that any sustainable energy initiative in which he had been involved in the past four years is an accomplishment for him, especially the failure of his first crowd funding Renewable Energy technology startup. He was able to gain

firsthand knowledge of what not to do when starting a new business, product, or service.

His current position at [Smart Innovation Norway](#) has provided him with numerous possibilities to be directly involved in some of Europe's most innovative initiatives. During the pandemic time together with another EIT-InnoEnergy alumni fellow, he was engaged in the creation of his second startup called [ChargeBnB](#), enabling private charger sharing in cities can be termed as another achievement of the recent time that still needs a lot of work, but it will be definitely exciting times ahead. Hence, he is very fortunate to utilize the EIT eco-system to its best value.

More about Community by EIT InnoEnergy [here](#).

More about ChargeBnB [here](#).



Fernanda Todeschini



Graduate of EIT Journey Programme, Sustainability Consultant



KIC



Fernanda Todeschini participated in the EIT 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. After finishing her lectures, she had the honour to join a 3-week Journey in Cyprus and Sofia. "It was an amazing learning and cross-cultural experience", she highlights.

Fernanda's first experience with entrepreneurship was in high school in Brazil, when she assisted the establishment of a company that produced and distributed alfajores (Argentinian sweets). She has been fascinated by entrepreneurial actions ever since.

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 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!"

In addition to her EIT Climate-KIC Journey, Fernanda has pursued a Master's degree in sustainability, undertaken research projects in environmental policy, and volunteered for climate-related projects. "As I love being involved with multiple projects at the same time, as well as analysing problems holistically and designing solutions for them, I figured out that working as a consultant would be the perfect fit."

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 and that became easier when suddenly videoconferences became part of everybody's work life.

"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".

The Journey was the very beginning of a process that later made her realize that her mission would be to support climate entrepreneurs as a consultant. After that, the EIT Climate-KIC Alumni community on Slack became an interesting environment to connect with people from other KICs, and also to join collaborative initiatives like the brainstorm to redesign the Journey, as well as the Participatory Grantmaking Panel, which she enjoyed so much that she wrote an [article](#) about it.

Finally, as she nows in the USA, Fernanda was glad to discover EIT's Silicon Valley's chapter. She attended their virtual events and helps communicate them to her contacts whenever she can.



Dane Mitrev & Luca Coviello



Graduates of the EIT Digital Master School in Data Science and the minds behind ICC: Intelligent Claim Checker



KIC



When they entered the EIT Digital Master School in Data Science, both Dane and Luca were seeking a Master's program that included top-notch education, worldwide networking, and a mix of IT and business development to learn how to create IT solutions that truly mattered.

Having studied data science, they were particularly intrigued by deep learning technologies and how they may be applied to real-world challenges. Luca was also working in the agro-food industry, where he combined food quality with environmental sustainability. When they learned about the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) and EIT's collaborative Hackathon, it felt natural to form a team and attempt to tackle the problem.

They participated in EFSA EIT Alumni Hackathon and won 3rd place with the project "ICC: Intelligent Claim Checker". This Hackathon contest resulted from a collaboration between the [European Food Safety Authority](#) (EFSA) and [EIT Alumni](#), a competition organized for the Design of an Artificial Intelligence solution to detect fake news using EFSA's body of scientific opinions.

They learned how to extract value from technology during their Master's and applied their learnings to find the best solution to tackle the Hackathon challenge. These are the qualities that benefited them during the competition since they were able

to identify what they required and wanted as a result in such a short amount of time, all while maintaining a strong focus on the intended social impact.

Finally, they spoke about the support they received from the EIT Community:

The EIT Community is something that has accompanied us since we were students. To know that we are connected, even in different ways, to fellow students feels like being a part of a large family. You always know there is someone that can help you or show you the best way to accomplish something.

According to Luca and Dane, being connected implies having access to a plethora of options and staying up to date on relevant issues via virtual or in-person meetings.

Find more about the Hackathon launched by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and EIT Alumni [here](#).

Diana Born



Tackling climate challenges with the EIT Climate-KIC Program - Pioneers into Practice



KIC



Diana was returning to Germany after a year of marine conservation in Southeast Asia, and it was evident to her that climate protection was the only way to keep coral reefs alive. She reached out to acquaintances who had previously participated in [EIT Climate-KIC](#) programs and was soon connected with the [Pioneers into Practice program](#) Manager.

According to her previous experience in science research and marine conservation, it was not easy to start a career as a climate professional. She used to think it would take several years for her to create a real climate impact, but the Pioneers into Practice program showed her that she already had all of the skills she needed to make an immediate difference, such as the system innovation tools she used in the program's challenges with WWF and MaaS Global. She went on to say:

"The pioneers into practice programme did not only enable me to approach complex problems with relaxed systems thinking and playful innovation tools, but it also connected me with so many like-minded climate enthusiasts around the world that keep motivating me to keep tackling climate change every day. Many young people approach me and ask how I made the switch into climate protection in my career and I always recommend joining the pioneers into practice programme to kick-start their climate career."

Diana mentioned that the Pioneers programme taught her how system innovation works in practice through complex challenges, for example, by using the system innovation toolbox from the pioneer's course, her team created an innovative ecosystem certification system for [WWF and she developed sustainability KPIs for MaaS Global](#).

The programme also brought her into a like-minded community where she met people from different backgrounds that are highly enthusiastic about climate.

Moreover, she shared that communication has always been a passion of her, and this programme allowed her to join a pilot project from the [EIT Climate-KIC](#) and Climate Outreach that needed trainers to organize the [#TakingClimate](#) workshop. These courses help people to successfully speak about climate change in their daily lives and promote social change, and Diana's love for coaching and empowering others was reignited as a result. Therefore, she continues to give workshops and has even joined the EIT Climate-KIC Network of Climate Coaches, a sustainability expert for the [Futurewoman](#) network that aims to empower women in sustainability. Currently, Diana is working on a roll-out of the [#TakingClimate](#) project among university students, together with two amazing teammates from the EIT Climate-KIC Alumni community course.

When asked how the EIT has helped her along the way, she said that she has been surrounded by open-minded, creative, playful, and climate-action-oriented people and that if anyone is looking for a teammate to help them develop their crazy climate idea, the EIT Climate-KIC community is the place to look!

In summary, it took less than five months after starting her climate career through to EIT Climate-KIC to create the climate impact she had envisioned when she decided to switch her career path and have lots of fun long this way into our net-zero and fully circular world.

Impact PCB Team

EIT Raw Materials



The [ImpactPCB](#) team learned about the [EIT RawMaterials](#) from their affiliated organizations. They are a diverse and interdisciplinary group with members from both academia and industry. They took part in the [EIT RawMaterials Global RACE 2020](#) program and would definitely suggest participation to others.

"We had an opportunity to work on the solutions for challenges from industries as well as elaborate the solution and idea out of the lab to the market. Currently, we are working further on our idea and hoping to turn it into a successful start-up".

The project was derived from the master thesis performed by one of the teammates at Chalmers University of Technology. The thesis comprehended theoretical studies and research within the university laboratory on first-stage experiments. Their technology is a novel, effective and simple solution to separate Metal Fraction (MF) & Non-Metal Fraction (NMF) from the waste Printed Circuit Boards (PCB). Further, as a team, they have also conducted market research to ensure that the idea was worth pursuing.

With [EIT RawMaterials Academy's](#) guidance, they refined their product idea while collaborating with EIT RawMaterials RACE 2020 and EIT Raw Materials partners to develop it and take it to market.

"EIT RawMaterials has provided us with mentoring, training, and networking. We have learned to validate our business model, refine our idea, find our market segment, and customer value proposition".

With the help of the EIT RawMaterials Academy, this small team was able to connect with professionals in the field of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment - WEEE management and their assistance goes beyond the RACE event. While EIT RM coordinators observed their organizational development, they also encouraged the PCB team to proceed to the next level in the EIT community, by taking on new challenges in accelerators and jump starters. Constant support from the EIT was a great leap forward in engaging with their current stakeholders.

They are delighted with the support and assistance from EIT RawMaterials. Coming from technical environments, they forge ahead with EIT RawMaterials to hone their entrepreneurial skills and to bring their idea to the market. The networking actions and events provided by the EIT Alumni community help future innovators tackle real challenges they face. Opportunities provided by the EIT Alumni Community are numerous (events, educational programs, job opportunities, and networking) and they were not able to fully experience all of them. Some of the team members have participated in a few events, also related to the start-up growth and hope to get involved in more in the future.

At the moment, the project is still active and the PCB team is looking for new partners and new members to join the project. They were accepted to KAVA 8 for Upscaling Projects within the [Horizon Europe](#) framework and they will take part in developing an innovative approach in handling the Waste Printed Circuit Board (WPCB).



Indrė Taurosevičiūtė



EIT Digital Alumni, Co-founder at SpotYet, and Project Manager at SuperHow



It all started when Indrė began exploring dual master's programs in other countries and found about EIT. She desired to combine her technical education with social components, and business was a fantastic match with her interests. Indrė recognizes that studies at EIT were beneficial not only in terms of research quality and variety but also in terms of the opportunities they offered: "Everything looks to be possible when you are a student at EIT!" she exclaimed.

She opted to study Data science at two of Europe's top-ranked tech universities, Eindhoven University of Technology and KTH Royal Institute of Technology. However Indrė believes that choosing a university-based on its culture and philosophy is more important than its ranking and students should make choices based on their personal interest and commitment, since some institutions provide greater flexibility, others are more restrictive.

While studying Technology Entrepreneurship at Eindhoven University, Indrė learned how to transform an idea into a business solution, while working in teams throughout the business creation process together. Following this experience, she decided to attend a hackathon in Belgium and try her hand at a fresh business idea with her team. This was how [SpotYet](#) was born. The timing was excellent for the idea to grow since she and her team had the opportunity to put theoretical knowledge into practice and develop it alongside courses, which helped to verify the idea's acceptability, feasibility, and viability.

Indrė believes that anything is possible if you are proactive, entrepreneurial, and eager to learn. She was an active bachelor

student, for example, and when she returned to Lithuania, her university professor offered her a job opportunity. She stated: "In general, I had a chance to be part of the knowledge triangle, which is a solution for unity in the growing society. I have never heard about it while working in Lithuania, while the EIT is highly encouraging. I believe that education, business, and policies should align, and the EIT is the best place to experience it."

[EIT Digital](#) supported Indrė and her team from the start. With the EIT's help, they were able to test their products at EIT Digital Events and network with other KICs. Also, the EIT community helped greatly through promotional events that were useful to spread the word about their initiative.

Finally, Indrė has been a member of the EIT Digital Alumni from the very first year of her studies and she established close relationships with the community members, has attended alumni meetings, and has represented EIT Digital at various events. **For Indrė, being a part of the EIT community gave her a sense of belonging at every stage of her incredible journey.** On the other hand, she only met students from other KICs in her final year, and she believes that more inter-KIC meetings and sharing experiences with people from other study programs would be very valuable.



Andrew Cameron



EIT Health, CEO and Founder of FeelTec



KIC



Andrew Cameron, [EIT Health Alumni](#), is the CEO and Founder of [FeelTect](#), a start-up company developing Tight Alright technology - the first wearable, connected-health technology for measuring and monitoring sub-bandage pressure during compression therapy, primarily for the treatment of venous leg ulcers (VLUs).

Starting back in 2016/2017 [EIT Health](#) provided Andrew continuous support while enrolled in a [BioInnovate](#) Ireland fellowship that allowed the identification of the clinical need for improved VLU treatment, which then led to the development of the Tight Alright solution that would be the key-factor for the future of FeelTect.

In 2018 Andrew and his team participated in the [Digital Health Validator Bootcamp](#) a full-time two-month digital health intensive incubator hosted at [Trinity College Dublin](#), the [University of Dublin](#) in collaboration with EIT Health, to enable early-stage Digital Health start-ups to validate their business idea and find their product/market fit in Europe.

As the project team progressed from a university project to a spinout company, the [EIT Health Headstart Programme](#) provided the first injections of funds to FeelTect and in 2021 they were in the EIT Health Catapult Programme finals. In addition to the participation in all these programmes, they also received expert guidance Andrew added: "As much as our engagement with EIT Health mentors and investors has been valuable, even more valuable are the connections we've made with start-ups among the EIT Alumni community. It is inspiring for us to see their successes and insightful for us to

hear their stories. The [EIT Alumni Community](#) also provides a great source of camaraderie and reassurance, allowing us to share our challenges and seek advice from peers who are encountering or have successfully navigated those same experiences".

In September 2021 FeelTect secured €1.225 million in seed funding from a mix of value-add investors, including high-net-worth individuals, VC-affiliated funds, strategic partners, and government organisations. The funds from this equity investment have allowed the Tight Alright wearable device to advance from design to manufacture, as well as verification and validation testing. Third-party strategic partners have been engaged to expedite the remote monitoring capabilities of the system through proven backend infrastructure that meets compliance and regulatory requirements, as well as updates to the digital interfaces for improved usability.

Furthermore, the American Venous Forum recently approved funding to FeelTect's clinical colleagues to conduct clinical validation of the Tight Alright technology with VLU patients across numerous sites in the United States. These combined Seed round achievements will pave the way for Tight Alright's market introduction in 2023.

FeelTect is currently in the process of expanding their team, conducting a key clinical trial, and positioning the Tight Alright technology for scalable commercialization as part of their next investment round.

Know more about [FeelTect](#) on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

Success Stories from the EIT Alumni Community