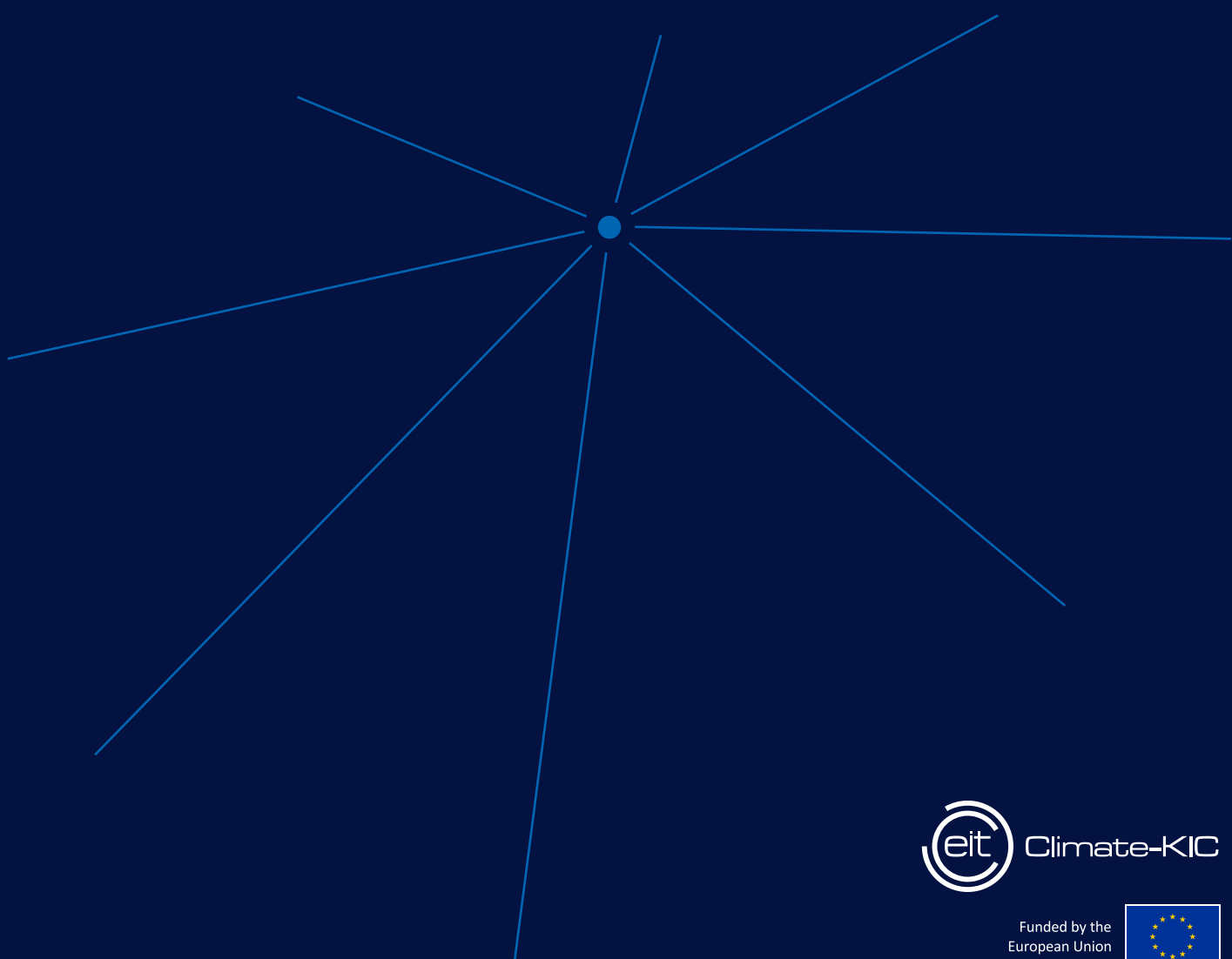


EIT CLIMATE-KIC IMPACT REPORT

March 2021



Funded by the
European Union



EIT CLIMATE-KIC IMPACT REPORT

March 2021

EIT Climate-KIC is a knowledge and innovation community established and funded by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) in 2010. Our mission is to catalyse systemic change through innovation to mitigate climate change and to adapt to its unavoidable consequences. Our strategy, *Transformation, in Time*, responds to the need for a 1.5° aligned, systemic approach to reversing global warming and developing climate resilience, commensurate with the complexity, scale and requisite pace of response to the climate challenge.

EIT Climate-KIC's focus on systems transformation is borne of our experience of innovating in the climate change space for over a decade. We have experimented, learned and evolved from our beginnings by building the field of climate entrepreneurship, supporting the development of climate solutions in industry and with leading research institutions, and educating innovators through innovation projects and project-level finance models. Over the last ten years the KIC has supported more than 4,500 businesses, in over 50 countries, that have gone on to attract over €1.5 bln of capital and featured regularly in the Forbes 30 under 30 European list. Education programmes have influenced the lives of over 50,000 people who have launched a movement-building alumni community.

Our work over these years has produced three overarching outcomes, essential to the impact proposition of the EIT Climate-KIC community:

- It has enabled us to build up an innovation community that brings together over 400 partners from across 25 countries, including large and small companies, scientific institutions and universities, city authorities and other public bodies, start-ups and students.
- It has led us to create world-leading programmes

of support for climate innovation, entrepreneurship and education, which are important ways in which we intervene in systems.

- It has shown us that backing individual interventions and relying solely on markets to bring them to scale, is not enough. We need to direct innovation at systems, not at their isolated parts, and help to develop markets which for climate are still diffuse and immature. We believe systems innovation holds the key to a low-carbon, climate-resilient, just, and inclusive future that offers jobs and wellbeing within planetary boundaries.

As a consequence, we have introduced a portfolio approach for developing and deploying a range of interventions including innovation, entrepreneurship, education, community mobilisation and transformational capital to unlock structural change. Our attention is focused on systems where emissions are tough to reduce – cities, land-use, industry, and finance.

This is achieved by combining activities and innovation outputs from applied research, learning and reskilling, start-up incubation, movement building and innovation ecosystem building – and applying them in real places with real people. Since 2019, we have been doing this foremostly through our Deep Demonstrations, our demand-led and place-based approach to creating innovation portfolios across technology, policy, finance, social change, citizen engagement, and other relevant levers we can use to intervene in systems and drive change.

This report presents a sample of the ways in which EIT Climate-KIC is having a direct impact in helping the EU reach net zero emissions by 2050 and achieve a 55% reduction in emissions by 2030. These objectives are at the heart of the EU Green Deal and the 2015 Paris Agreement.

OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE:

1. EIT Climate-KIC has launched 469 new products and services in the market, avoiding an estimated 13 Million Tonnes (MT) of CO₂e per year.
2. Businesses created and accelerated with help from EIT Climate-KIC have raised more than €1.5bn in follow-on investment, created over 10,000 jobs, and are reinventing the way we tackle climate change.
3. EIT Climate-KIC has tackled critical market failures that characterise the climate challenge, helping create markets in several tough-to-shift sectors.
4. EIT Climate-KIC is a hotbed for producing a new generation of talented climate entrepreneurs and innovators.
5. EIT Climate-KIC is working with Member States, cities, and regions across Europe in their efforts to transform their emissions, resilience, and economic performance.
6. With the Regional Innovation Scheme, EIT Climate-KIC has built dynamic climate innovation ecosystems to amplify innovation impact in the last 5 years in 'modest and moderate' innovator countries, where only limited activity existed before.
7. EIT Climate-KIC's Transformation Capital initiative, has seeded a conversation about the way investment capital is programmed and deployed in service of Europe's climate strategy
8. EIT Climate-KIC's Community Activation work is drawing diverse voices into climate action and building widespread citizen engagement through 'moments that matter'
9. Over 450 formal partners form the EIT Climate-KIC Community of innovation actors in 39 countries, in addition to 6000 active alumni and more than 4500 start-ups, forming a powerful ecosystem for climate action.
10. On Outreach, EIT Climate-KIC has been featured in news around the world.



1

EIT Climate-KIC has launched 469² new products and services on the market, avoiding an estimated 13 Million Tonnes (MT) of CO₂e³ per year.

EIT Climate-KIC supports innovation projects to tackle some of the toughest climate challenges. We create portfolios of innovation, entrepreneurship and education actions to unlock large-scale change in systems where emissions are tough to reduce – cities, land-use, industry, finance (Table 1).

We establish climate impact estimates at the stage of innovation portfolio selection, and sample innovation projects for assessing climate impact potential. Our methodological approach is being piloted by DG RTD and has been stress-tested with third parties. Estimated avoided emissions of our innovation portfolio is ~13 MT eCO₂ annually. This broadly equates to removing almost 3 million passenger vehicles from the road across Europe for one year or recycling 4.5 million tonnes of waste rather than sending them to a landfill³. It is also close to the annual greenhouse gas emissions of Slovenia. This estimate excludes the avoided emissions potential of our start-up portfolio, where we intend to create a comprehensive view in 2021 or indeed any assessment of Scope 3 or indirect impacts⁴.

Portfolio Area	CIP [kgCO ₂ /year]
Cities	372'075'000
Land Use	350'153'486
Industry	51'138'164
Finance	372'075'000

Table 1: Aggregation of Climate Impact Assessment for each portfolio area. CA Framework, 2017.

The following are examples of impactful innovation products/services/processes supported by EIT Climate-KIC related to each system:

CITIES:

- The **SaferPlaces** project, supported by EIT Climate-KIC, has created a climate service that

provides flood-prone cities with the climate, economic, and infrastructural information they need to increase their resilience against increasingly frequent extreme weather events. The results make it possible to examine the extent to which flood events impact affected areas by flooding and estimated economic damage. Currently being deployed across three test cities, it helps places identify new opportunities to protect urban areas from flooding.

- The **CoSuDS** project (Collaborative transition towards sustainable urban drainage: Making it happen at district scale) focused on developing tools to support the transition towards sustainable and efficient storm water management in cities and promoting solutions based on sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). The innovation was deployed to cities in Poland, UK, Croatia, China, France, Italy, and Spain through €11m additional finance and with the help of Climathon.
- Launched in 2017, EIT Climate-KIC worked with C40 to launch and deliver **Reinventing Cities**. Championed by the Mayor of Paris, it is 711ha of resilient, low emissions urban development in 49 spaces across 19 cities through a land-value increase innovation approach. After issuing a call for participation, C40 received more than 230 Expressions of Interest from 1,200 companies and organisations, including some of the biggest names in architecture and engineering. The winners are transforming their project sites into innovative urban spaces that actively contribute to community health and well-being.
- Developed by Suez, LSCE and the World Meteorological Organization with support from EIT Climate-KIC, **Origins.earth** offers a service designed to support cities in the implementation and

¹ This is based on formal approval of EIT Climate-KIC KPIs by EIT up to and including 2019 results.

² *Estimating the ex-ante or ongoing climate impact of innovation projects is methodologically challenging. EIT Climate-KIC has taken a sampling approach, involving experienced third parties (Quantis and Climate Impact) to develop, test and conduct climate impact assessments of innovation projects. The methodological approach developed by EIT Climate-KIC is doing being used by DG RTD to support the assessment of the current Green Deal call and was part of a communication to Commissioners on preferred methodologies in 2020.*

³ <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>

⁴ <https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/briefing-what-are-scope-3-emissions>

evaluation of their climate plans by measuring city CO2 emissions, mapping low carbon opportunities and easing access to climate finance. The Origins.earth start-up and service were launched in 2019 with the City of Paris as its first customer and pilot territory. Since 2019, 10 Origins.earth sensors have been set up around Paris to analyse city emissions and accelerate climate action.

- Our cutting-edge Healthy, Clean Cities Deep Demonstration programme (see section 5 below) has enabled 8 cities to develop innovation project portfolios, which are now moving to implementation, representing €50 million of combined investment in programmes and projects with direct impacts on each city's emissions profile. **Material Economics** has undertaken modelling to show the total ecological, social and economic impacts of individual projects and the entirety of a city's decarbonisation efforts into the future. In 2020 alone in **Krakow** the Healthy Clean City work has resulted in the 2021 launch of a Climate-centric Citizens Assembly and a transformed administration which now puts foci like Krakow's Climate Quarter at the centre of the agenda. Work in **Leuven** catalysed willingness and capability, increasing the ambition, creativity and accelerating the transformation process. Our work showed Leuven's net economic benefit for its carbon neutral strategy would deliver a net economic benefit in excess of €300 million between 2020 and 2050.

LAND-USE:

- **WINnERS**, a financial innovation for strengthening resilience at farm level, has directly helped increase the resilience of 250,000 farmers after starting with EIT Climate-KIC's help in 2016. It is now being scaled to four further countries enabled by funding secured by EIT Climate-KIC including from the African Development Bank, and with impact evaluation supported by the World Bank.
- **OpenSurface.io**, with support from Climate-KIC and the Inter-American Development Bank, is an innovative AI tool to predict deforestation and land-use

change. Launched at COP25 in Madrid, it is being used by the Government of Chile to help prioritise where the government places effort to stop deforestation. A goal is to support results-based payments and channel money to forest protectors.

- **Project-X**, an innovative procurement and financing platform for driving decarbonisation of food supply chains, is transforming the sustainability performance of 10 industry value chains most responsible for biodiversity decline and climate change impacts. The goal of every programme is to get 10% of global industry to procure alternative sustainable solutions at scale. As an example, working with Ikea, Nutreco and Skrettings, the FEED-X programme aims to ensure the global animal feed industry can produce enough food to support the growing world population by shifting 10% of global feed production to sustainable sourcing from novel alternative solutions (insects).
- EIT Climate-KIC supported project **Friendly Fruit** (2018-2020) focused on defining and systematising sustainable agricultural practices in strawberry and apple production, and empowering farmers with key knowledge on implementing these practices. Numerous innovations were tested, and some of the trials have shown very promising results. For example, one apple orchard saw a 30% reduction in water use in 2018, thanks to the monitoring equipment installed to control water supply. A method for monitoring soil water to optimise crop irrigation in strawberry fields showed between 40-60% reduction in water use.

INDUSTRY:

- **Novozymes**, supported by EIT Climate-KIC from 2014 onwards, developed enzyme-based detergents that could work at lower temperatures than current mass market detergents, cutting energy costs and emissions. When assessed in 2017, this innovation raised €6m of investment and saved 1.5MT eCO2.
- **Blackbear Carbon**, accelerated with help from

EIT Climate-KIC from 2017, has introduced new recycling technology for tyres. It has raised €16m to develop plants that avoid production emissions equivalent to 1 million trees each, has been consistently listed in the Global Cleantech 100 and has been featured at the World Economic Forum.

- **Bauhütte 4.0**, an EIT Climate-KIC funded pathfinder (2019), developed the concept for a digital supply chain using industry 4.0 technology to mass-produce wooden building units. This has gone on to form the basis for a cluster on innovative timber construction at Berlin TXL - Urban Tech Republic. Results are being directly applied at nearby Schumacher Quartier, a model district for wood in construction with 5,000 housing units.
- **BE CIRCLE** set out to create a web platform to facilitate collaboration between industrial plants to exchange streams of materials, water and energy. Intervening in this materials system builds the ability of Europe's industries to transition towards a more circular economy. Based on what has been learned through BE CIRCLE, new areas are being explored for the application of a platform for the development of circular value chains in both urban settings and at ports and associated waterways in both the French and Chinese markets. The climate impact potential of BE CIRCLE is ~9 MT eCO₂ annually.
- Together with the Irish Government, Irish Manufacturing Research and 25 industry members, EIT Climate-KIC is one of the founding partners of the **CIRCULEIRE** – the National Platform for Circular Manufacturing in Ireland. The platform aims for at least a 20% absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) and waste production across the network by 2022.
- **EnCO₂re** is a flagship programme within EIT Climate-KIC's Sustainable Production Systems theme. Its vision is to activate a market in re-used CO₂ by establishing a CO₂ value chain, with the eventual aim of establishing large-scale CO₂ re-use that will contribute to Europe's industrial circular economy. The re-use of CO₂ is one of Europe's most promising industrial innovation areas and can boost

Europe's innovation capacity. In June 2016, Covestro opened a plant producing re-used CO₂ foam made with 20 per cent CO₂ at its Dormagen site near Cologne, Germany. The plant has an annual production capacity of 5,000 metric tonnes.

FINANCE:

- **Icebreaker One**, founded with the help of EIT Climate-KIC in 2019, is a digital data enablement catalyst focusing on rapidly evolving the financial system to embed net-zero target in products and decisions. In just 18 months, Icebreaker One secured €5m of investment, has created 100 jobs, and has been listed by UNEP as among the 20 most important digital sustainability tools. Its direct impact is to introduce open environmental data sharing standards and protocols across financial institutions.
- **Climetrics** was established by EIT Climate-KIC and partners as the world's first independent fund-rating scheme to enable investors to integrate climate impact into their investment decisions. Climetrics has a holistic, rules-based, transparent approach to rating more than 5,000 equity funds worldwide, representing more than €2.5 trillion in assets.
- EIT Climate-KIC founded the **Financial Centres for Sustainability** – Europe (FC4S – Europe) network to directly support the implementation of the EU's Sustainable Finance Action Plan. Its membership has grown to include 14 financial centres across Europe. It runs its own open innovation platform for the investor community and develops industry skills for sustainable finance. It has also been a leading architect of the EU's **Sustainable Finance Taxonomy**, as launched in 2020.
- The Climate Bonds Initiative, supported by EIT Climate-KIC in 2018, led the design of resilience standards which underpin the world-first Climate Resilience Bond issued by EBRD in 2019 raising \$700M from eager investors, and feature in the EU Sustainable Finance Taxonomy.

In 2019, 13 EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator start-ups and four EIT Climate-KIC projects were announced as part of Mission Innovation's 100 Global High Impact Solutions. Each of the solutions is selected for having a climate mitigation potential of over 10 MT eCO₂ or having strategic importance for 1.5C compatible strategies. Mission Innovation is a global initiative supported by 24 governments dedicated to accelerating clean energy innovation.

Note: In 2018, EIT Climate-KIC conducted detailed innovation portfolio analysis (dossiers) in each impact goal and made the results available publicly. Dossiers for Forests, Materials, and Cities and Finance as examples, highlight results, impacts, portfolio across levers of change, learning, theory of change, power analysis and next steps. EIT Climate-KIC makes all our innovation projects accessible to everyone through our Exaptive platform, including learnings, partner-involved and intent. In December 2020, we published a summary of our current innovation portfolio aligned with our impact goals.



2

Businesses created and accelerated with help from EIT Climate-KIC have raised more than €1.5bn in follow-on investment, created over 10,000 jobs, and are reinventing the way we tackle climate change.

EIT Climate-KIC helps found and grow start-ups that offer breakthrough possibilities in the fight against climate change. We have created one of the world's most extensive and best performing climate ideation, incubation, and acceleration support ecosystems. Over the past 10 years, the two flagship programmes, ClimateLaunchpad and the Accelerator, have supported more than 4,500 businesses in over 50 countries.

The Accelerator, an incubation and acceleration programme to support early-stage climate positive ventures in 32 locations in Europe together with 33 of our community members, has supported over 1,800 start-ups going through the technological and commercial valleys of death and maturing them into scalable and impactful businesses.

These start-ups have then attracted and secured over €1.5bn of capital. The programme itself has achieved a leverage ratio of 1:17 (operating costs: investment attracted). This compares favorably to international benchmarks. EIT Climate-KIC supported start-ups have raised €1.5bn in follow-on investment, an impressive result given EIT Climate-KIC's focus on early stage, market-making innovation and the diffuse climate market. This success and scale have attracted corporate partners such as Google, Munich Re, ERGO, Facebook and Bank of America to collaborate with EIT Climate-KIC in accelerating climate-positive technology companies. The EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator programmes sit at the heart of major climate tech innovation ecosystems/clusters in cities across Europe. In 2021, EIT Climate-KIC intends to publish a full review of the estimated 'avoided emissions' of its start-up portfolio after introducing ex-ante climate impact estimates across the Accelerator programme in 2019/2020.

ClimateLaunchpad, a global start-up and business idea competition run by EIT Climate-KIC is another way of nurturing a new generation of talent and is gaining momentum year after year. It has already become one of the world's leading green business ideas competitions sourcing more than 3,000 ideas in 2020 and 10,000 ideas submitted since its launch in 2014. 168 start-ups created and supported through ClimateLaunchpad secured revenue in the past 12 months, reporting 33% employment growth and 228%

investment growth. In real terms, the ClimateLaunchpad helped to create 1272 jobs in surveyed companies, the majority of whom (>80%) joined the programme in 2019/20. ClimateLaunchpad was active in 56 countries in 2020, with local sponsors from the public and private sector.

EIT Climate-KIC also hosts one of the biggest investor-start-up matchmaking platforms through its 'market-place', with hundreds of EIT Climate-KIC supported start-ups being matched to climate tech investors.

Between 2016 and 2020, 38 EIT Climate-KIC entrepreneurs and innovators have been featured in the Forbes 30 under 30 European list. In 2020, the list featured EIT Climate-KIC Dutch start-up Lightyear One, which has hit headlines globally in early 2021 with its grid independent solar car.

At least 8 start-ups awarded under the competitive EIC Accelerator Green Deal programme have been initially incubated and accelerated via the EIT Climate-KIC entrepreneurship programmes.

In a similar way to innovation projects, start-up successes contribute to the overall portfolio of innovation actions to support change in hard-to-abate systems and build markets. Some key examples include:

CITIES:

- **Naked Energy**, in which EIT Climate-KIC has an equity stake, has secured €6m in its latest funding round to scale up its Virtu technology, which reduces the space needed to generate electricity and heat from solar power by 60%, potentially speeding up replacement of high-carbon heating.
- **Tado°**, an EIT Climate-KIC accelerator graduate and smart thermostat maker, raised c. US\$50m (£39m) in a recent investment round, making its total investment \$102m. Tado° is an intelligent climate control for private households, small businesses, and shops, cutting household energy use and emissions by up to 31%. By February 2020, it had sold 1m units globally.

LAND-USE:

- **Ynsect**, the French vertical insect farming company, has in 2020 raised the largest funding ever by a non-American business in the agriculture sector – US\$425m. It has won many international awards for innovation, while participating directly in Climate-KIC's accelerator programme. Its team of over 100 employees are planning to cut the amount of land needed to grow animal feed by 90%, radically reducing emissions at the same time. Ynsect will use the funding to construct what it says will be the largest insect farm in the world, based in Amiens in northern France with the first phase able to produce 20,000 tonnes of insect protein a year.

INDUSTRY:

- **ClimeWorks**, a member of EIT Climate-KIC's Swiss Accelerator in 2012/2013, is a world leader in direct air capture of CO₂. It has raised €111m in private equity and was recognised by Bill Gates and MIT in 2019 as one of 10 Breakthrough Technologies in efforts to tackle climate change. ClimeWorks' mission is to filter 1% of atmospheric CO₂ by 2025.
- **Lilium**, supported by EIT Climate-KIC in 2015, has become a leader in electric flying mobility. It has now raised €372m, has 500 employees and intends to replace climate damaging aircraft over short ranges by 2025.
- In 2020, EIT Climate Austrian startup **Refurbed** tripled its external sales to €100m, becoming one of the most important marketplaces in Europe for refurbished electronics, supporting home schooling during COVID-19. This equals the reduction of 13KT CO₂e, preventing 77 tons of electronic waste.
- In November 2020, EIT Climate-KIC aided start-up **Unisieve**, raised €3.9m to help the chemicals sector reduce waste through its membrane technology. Unisieve was also successful in attracting funding from the European Innovation Council.

- **Zeleros** Hyperloop is developing a hyperloop-inspired transportation system where capsules travel at 1 000 km/h inside low-pressure tubes. By minimising the use of linear motors with in-vehicle technologies, Zeleros reduces infrastructure costs. In June 2020, Zeleros Hyperloop completed a financing round worth over €7 million and is starting a new and important phase in the development of its unique version of hyperloop—“the fifth mode of transport”—a zero-carbon alternative for the future.

FINANCE:

- **Matter** offers sustainable pension plans for individuals and companies. Matter was part of EIT Climate-KIC's Accelerator in 2018. Matter has now partnered with one of the largest pension providers in the Nordics to create a 100% sustainable pension plan facilitated by a digital platform. Customers can track the environmental impact of their investments through the digital platform.
- **Carbon Delta**, supported by EIT Climate-KIC in 2014, has developed data services to assess the climate risk to 25,000 companies. Several large global companies have reported their total value-at-risk from climate change through a method developed with Carbon Delta, PIK and EIT Climate-KIC. Carbon Delta was acquired by MSCI for an undisclosed amount in October 2019. The climate impact potential is ~13 MT eCO₂ annually.
- EIT-Climate KIC supported **Beyond Ratings** in 2018/2019, an independent financial services provider specialised in the macro-financial assessment of sovereign risks, to launch a new credit ratings agency that incorporates physical climate change impacts into the financial ratings of 146 countries. EIT Climate-KIC support in acceleration phase led to several awards and allowed for support from development banks (€4.5m from AFD) to flow in. It was subsequently purchased by the London Stock Exchange Group in 2019 for an undisclosed amount.

- EIT Climate-KIC supported the City of Milan to create and launch the **Milan Zero Carbon Fund** in 2019, an innovative financing mechanism to help the City organize capital for their climate mitigation efforts. This initiative will mobilize €10-15 million to deliver retrofits to a first wave of 250 buildings, reducing building energy emissions between 30-50% and enabling fuel switching to advance toward net-zero performance. The City will extend the mechanism to establish a Milan 2026 transition fund. The concept was generated in EIT Climate-KIC's Low Carbon City Lab initiative in late-2018 in partnership with Bankers without Boundaries, one of EIT Climate-KIC's community members.



3

EIT Climate-KIC has tackled critical market failures that characterise the climate challenge, helping create markets in several tough-to-shift sectors.

For much of the last decade EIT Climate-KIC has focused on building markets for climate action-related products and services to overcome existing market failures. This market-building challenge still exists; a sector-by-sector analysis from December 2020⁵ highlights that only clean energy and power generation has reached the mass market and many of the tough-to-shift sectors, where EIT Climate-KIC's efforts are concentrated, are still 'niche markets' or in 'solutions development' (e.g., land use, agriculture, buildings, materials). While the estimated avoided CO₂e figures from EIT Climate-KIC activity represent only a proportion of the change that is needed in global emissions, putting our work in the context of forging new markets for innovation in Europe's 'hard to abate' sectors (where limited progress or increases in emissions have been seen over the last decade⁷) makes them more impressive and shows that our systems innovation approach has potential for market scale change.

Based on the sector-by-sector market failure/market development analysis by Systemiq¹, it is precisely the sectors that EIT Climate-KIC has focused on that have seen a level of market maturation in the last five years – notably in agriculture and land-use change.

Two concrete examples of market-building impact by EIT Climate-KIC include:

LAND USE:

Activities in this area are particularly subject to market failures, given their strong relations and dependence on public intervention. They are also widespread and difficult to track. Our focus has been on developing instruments that increase transparency of the intervention of multiple actors starting with those exploiting the resources on the ground. Getting the right data, ensuring they are available, using them for new products that structure and enhance the resilience of value chains are essential to create the required market infrastructure. In the land use domain, several

products and initiatives have been developed and supported by EIT Climate-KIC with this aim.

These include: (i) the Geofootprint global portal which provides LCA for critical crops and associated supply chains, (ii) the Open Surface platform that provides tools for the traceability of land-based products based on remote sensing and blockchain tools, (iii) the WInNERS parametric insurance products connected to financial instruments that make smallholder farmers creditworthy, (iv) instruments supporting investors and investment funds in the agriculture sector such as those developed by the start-up Clarmondial.

INSURANCE:

Our focus has been on addressing the market failure of risk data availability, modelling opacity and asymmetry in the insurance sector.

By making available transparent and standardised data, tools and services in an open marketplace, the OASIS Hub helps key societal stakeholders understand the uncertainty and risks related to climate change. By enabling the publishing and purchasing of environmental data, adaptation planning tools, models and services, the OASIS Hub significantly increases the availability of information on catastrophes and climate change risks. Several thousands of free and commercial datasets and over 400 models have been made available through the marketplace and are in use in 120 countries by catastrophe modellers, re/insurers, civic and humanitarian actors. EIT Climate-KIC supported the full development of the OASIS Hub entity, from branding and market development to IP protection and investment advisor. Through our support and promotion, additional funding from H2020, GIZ and InnovateUK enabled OASIS Hub to reach its current stage of self-sustainable revenue.

Additionally, Climate-KIC supported Beyond Ratings to introduce climate risk data into their next generation

⁵ <https://www.systemiq.earth/paris-effect/>, accessed 04/01/21

⁶ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/greenhouse-gas-emission-trends-6/assessment-2>, accessed 04/01/21

financial ratings tools in 2017, with Beyond Ratings going on to be acquired by the London Stock Exchange as detailed above. Similarly, EIT Climate-KIC Partner Acclimatise was acquired by a major Global Insurer in 2020, and Climate-KIC start-up Carbon Delta was acquired by MSCI. Our MARCO project, supported by DG RTD, has created a market observatory, highlighting the expanding market across European countries.

Relevant to the New European Bauhaus, EIT Climate-KIC community has been an innovation leader in 'wood in construction,' supporting multiple initiatives and hosting the Nordic 'Wood in Construction' Secretariat. In 2021, EIT Climate-KIC will be deploying wood-based construction and retrofit in Milan and Madrid with support from the Laudes Foundation.



4

EIT Climate-KIC is a hotbed for producing a new generation of talented climate entrepreneurs and innovators.

Since 2012, EIT Climate-KIC has been educating a new generation of entrepreneurs and innovators in Europe with an entrepreneurial and systems innovation mindset.

EIT Climate-KIC and 9 leading universities in 6 countries delivered 41 Master programmes in Europe during 2020. During the past 8 years, 712 students graduated from our **Master and PhD EIT-labelled programmes**. Thanks to specific attention towards supporting female students, the gender balance of our graduates is 46% female / 54% male compared with only 32% on average for female graduates in STEM programmes in Europe.

EIT Climate-KIC's summer school for climate innovators and entrepreneurs, known as the '**Journey**' – has hosted 60 summer schools across Europe and generated over 400 projects and business ideas. The Journey takes Europe's top graduates on a four-week programme spanning three countries and hosted by top global universities. Its desired impact is 'a skilled and empowered youth that drives an inclusive, climate-resilient European society with a circular, zero-carbon economy'. In 2019, over 60 nationalities were represented, with the Journey involving over 400 participants, a level repeated in 2020, despite COVID-19. A commissioned impact assessment of the Journey in 2019, conducted by Technopolis, found that it is a positive catalyst affecting career paths linked to climate challenges, including through being inspirational, developing entrepreneurial skills, enhancing networks and guiding career choices. In 2020 we collected stories from our participants and alumni to share examples of how the Journey has impacted their lives and careers, and will publish in early 2021 an impact report on the impact of the COVID-version of the programme.

The **Young Innovators Programme** aims to change behaviour and embrace sustainable lifestyles. Through the understanding of complexity and interrelations, students use creativity and problem-solving skills to generate innovative ideas.

In 2020, we trained more than 1000 teachers in 10 countries and worked with about 5000 students in a

challenge-based and experiential learning setting to empower them to become climate change-makers and develop solutions tackling climate change challenges. Together with our partners we have run 25 **Young Climathons** on and offline and we have managed to design a programme that could also be run fully online.

EIT Climate-KIC's programmes have been regularly cited by third parties for their cutting-edge approach and have won several awards. DG EAC's Higher Education Innovation platform has EIT Climate-KIC as a case example of best practice. EIT Interim Evaluation quotes an expert report that concludes: "EIT Climate-KIC education has produced several unique and arguably, outstanding achievements that demonstrate good practice."

A 2020 impact assessment of EIT Climate-KIC's professional development programme, known as '**Pioneers into Practice**', conducted by Technopolis, found that participants brought 'out of the box' solutions to climate challenges, enhanced ecosystem development in RIS countries and were embedded in other EIT Climate-KIC programmes that helped to improve their career development.

On a summary from LinkedIn, about 6800 people active as climate and innovation professions refer to experience with EIT Climate-KIC in their profiles. A 2017/18 survey of education programme participants found that more than 60% cited that engagement with EIT Climate-KIC education programmes had advanced their careers in climate action.



5

EIT Climate-KIC is working with the most ambitious Member States, cities, and regions across Europe in their efforts to transform their emissions, resilience, and economic performance.

In 2019, EIT Climate-KIC launched ‘**Deep Demonstrations** of a net-zero, resilient future’ to place the full power of the EIT Climate-KIC community in the hands of Europe’s most ambitious local and national climate action leaders. Since then, EIT Climate-KIC has signed long-term collaboration agreements with 25 cities, regions and member states including Madrid, Milan, Silesia/Rybnik, Nouvelle Aquitaine, Andalusia, Krakow, Valencia Port, and Vienna. These collaborations focus on intent to change the futures of over 40m Europeans by 2030, accelerating climate action among the cities to pursue climate neutrality by 2030 consistent with the European Commission’s Mission for Climate Neutral and Smart Cities. Current targets range from 30 to 50 percent reductions by 2030, so this work is radically increasing ambition among participating cities.

Despite being just two years old, the Deep Demonstrations programme is already gaining traction:

- In **Spain**, the mayors of 22 cities endorsed EIT Climate-KIC’s Healthy, Clean Cities Deep Demonstrations programme as their chosen path to transformation, based on the experience of Madrid.
- In **Madrid**, key aspects of the portfolio of innovation designed together with EIT Climate-KIC were included in the City’s €500 million COVID-19 response plan (published July 2020) and EIT Climate-KIC is a key shaper of the city’s Decarbonisation Road Map, which has enabled Madrid to commit to an accelerated decarbonization schedule of 50% direct emissions reductions planned by 2030 and a goal to achieve greater reductions in that time. The City and **University Polytechnic of Madrid** (UPM) have shaped a comprehensive new governance approach, bringing key stakeholders from business and Civil Society, to support deeper collaboration in their commitment to carbon neutrality by 2030.
 - The City is working with several partners to develop a transformational approach to urban reforestation and green infrastructure, using AI technology and an innovation approach to nature-based solutions to support planting at least 300,000 trees in the coming decade, with associated mitigation and adaptation benefits, as well as public health benefits due to improved air quality and access to nature.
 - One of Europe’s largest urban regeneration projects, Madrid Nuevo Norte, is exploring leading-edge best practices in policy innovation, through a regulatory sandbox, that unlock zero carbon development pathways, and to explore options (along with the City of Milan) for reducing embodied emissions in construction through supply chain interventions.
 - EIT Climate-KIC innovation project – **BlueBloqs**, a decentralized water-management technology – is now scaling up in Madrid.
- In **Glasgow**, the host city of the next global climate change negotiation in November 2021, the EIT Climate-KIC Community was the key architect of the City-Region’s Resilience Strategy – one of the world’s most forward-thinking.
- In **Edinburgh**, as part of the Deep Demonstration programme, the EIT Climate-KIC Community is key in co-creating a new urban transformation strategy for the City Council to reach net-zero emissions by 2030. This effort will require a step-change to reduce annual emissions (current rate of annual reduction is 88 ktCO₂e, required linear annual rate of reduction to reach net-zero by 2030 is 245 ktCO₂e). Priorities include the development of whole community retrofit schemes across the city (e.g. retrofitting 20,000 Council-owned homes in the next 7 years), reframing and co-designing the development and implementation of the £1.3 billion Granton Waterfront neighborhood redevelopment (e.g. land value economics and local ‘Village Development Companies’ rooted in a Community Wealth Building approach). EIT Climate-KIC’s Cities team is also helping Edinburgh develop sustainable, long-term solutions to improve its EV charging infrastructure, within the context of a wider sustainable transport strategy in which walking, cycling and public transport are key.

- EIT Climate-KIC supported Second Skin in scaling up urban retrofit in **Amsterdam**. Second Skin is currently working to install energy saving technologies to achieve net-zero carbon energy performance in 4,000 apartments in Amsterdam's Zuidooost district Reigersbos. This is part of a larger district-scale renovation project, supported by a leverage investment of €10 million from the City's Climate Fund. It includes:
 - Integrated Community District Approach – having an open dialogue with the community around what liveability, affordability and sustainability means to them, and supporting their self-organisation (i.e. creation of cooperatives).
 - Organising Finance for a financial and social return – funding structure that not only applies to Reigersbos but beyond and scalable to 10,000 homes more, including value created and value captured.
 - On the urban mobility side, the focus is on redesigning relationships to achieve a fair, transparent, green and sustainable mobility marketplace where all stakeholders and interaction between them is captured or coordinated by smart contracts. The focus is on the following existing gaps: (1) Community empowerment and incentivizes to help drive large-scale shifts in behaviour and encourage residents to take part within the economy; (2) Include stakeholders such as package delivery companies, distribution hubs, routing companies; (3) Use procurement power of the city as a leverage point in coordination or at establishment of the solution space.
- In **Vienna**, EIT Climate-KIC has helped develop a participatory climate budget across the city that was signed off by the municipal council and will be implemented. This work has been integrated into the Vienna Smart City Roadmap, which is the key document of the city on how it will reach its climate ambition and also the base for future funding decisions. We have also helped implement a permanent, institutionalized cross-departmental group to work on climate action. EIT Climate-KIC has also supported the following:
 - Development of a Do-Tank for Circular Building Materials, which has been permanently installed in the city – which focuses on building the ecosystem for suppliers among others. Once the city moves to requesting circular building materials for all their buildings (220 000 flats) this will create a significant amount of jobs.
 - An understanding that solutions need to be developed with innovative actors from the outset. Workshops were organised by the Impact HUB and the Vienna Business Association with start-ups and representatives from small and large companies. The workshops were around Circular Building Materials, Vienna's Gas Exit including Energy Communities, and Supergrätzel, which is a part of the city where a whole range of solutions ranging from green infrastructure to mobility will be implemented in parallel.
 - Awareness that Vienna needs to move its energy supply from gas to renewables. EIT Climate-KIC is helping guide participation, financing and reaching scale faster through the Deep Demonstration methodology. The plans were signed off by the incoming government after the election and continue to be a priority. This will also have a significant job creation effect in the future.
 - An understanding that a physical space for climate action (for start-ups and civil servants) is needed. A physical co-working space and network is being developed with Wien Energie and Impact HUB. The location has been confirmed and building should begin in 2021.
- In **Krakow** EIT Climate-KIC's work has resulted in the first stage of transformation of the city's ways

of working and thinking. With the Deputy Mayor of the city being directly involved with the team, he now requires a more systemic and cross-sectoral approach to traditional infrastructural projects. As a result of this shift, two experiments have emerged in the portfolio - a linear-based mobility one centred around users' work-related needs and a place-based one focussing first in Kraków's new Climate Quarter, a community focused approach to district retrofit. In parallel, the city's officials opened the process to citizens, which resulted in the preparatory work for a Climate-centric Citizens Assembly planned for early 2021. The appetite of the city for a fast transformation of their governance has also increased leading to a restructuring and reinforcement of the city's leading team.

- In **Leuven**, the Healthy Clean City work has catalysed willingness and capability, increased the ambition and accelerated the transformation process with the city and Leuven 2030, a collective of 60 partners ranging from the city to citizens. The city is running seven pilot experiments in 2021; four transversal, two place-based and one on district energy transition. These experiments are rooted in learning with the aim of being scaled. Officials in Leuven talk about the way that Healthy Clean Cities has expanded their vision horizons and confidence. Our work directly contributed to Leuven being voted the **European Capital of Innovation in 2020**.
- The City of **Malmö** is advancing a programme to electrify its bus fleet, reducing GHG and NOx emissions by 75%, and noise pollution by 96% between 2020 and 2030 with a positive overall economic return projected as a result of the investments. The EIT Climate-KIC community has been supporting the city and the local utility E.ON to pilot the development of deep geothermal energy (both for thermal district heating and electricity) with the goal to replace fossil-based energy sources (sources (waste incineration, natural gas) and biofuels in order to provide 100% renewable and recovered energy in the city by 2025. The city and E.ON aim to build five deep geothermal plants (with 50MWth capacity per unit) by 2028 and E.ON has expressed interest to replicate the approach in

other cities in Europe (including some of the other cities of the Deep Demonstrations programme).

- **Policy Innovation Task Force:** In order to tackle the policy and regulatory challenges of achieving deep decarbonisation targets for cities, EIT Climate-KIC and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) collaborated to convene a global Task Force of 18 eminent experts to invent the policy innovations cities need to test and learn from. The core Task Force met monthly between August 2020 and January 2021 across a series of sub-committees to further refine the issue areas and developing a common vision and better understanding of where the most innovative opportunities exist. While the COVID-19 pandemic and climate emergency are proving to be a daunting challenge for cities, innovative opportunities are opening that previously would have been unthinkable from a policy perspective. Under these circumstances, the GCoM and EIT Climate-KIC teams identified a range of crucial policy areas relevant to cities globally, which included: mobility systems and land-use integration, economic systems, climate budgeting and finance, energy systems and buildings, and climate resilience and wellbeing. Final recommendations are intended to be subsequently taken up by Deep Demonstration partner cities for testing and piloting in 2021 and beyond.
- The **LOOP Port project**, led by Fundacion Valenciaport and funded by EIT Climate-KIC as part of the Maritime Hubs Deep Demonstration, won the International Association of ports and Harbours (IAPH) World's Port Sustainability Awards 2020 in the 'Climate and Energy' category.
- EIT Climate-KIC is named as a delivery partner in **Ireland's** Sustainable Finance strategy and just in December 2020, is cited as a collaborator in delivering Ireland's [new national strategy for decarbonization of agriculture](#).
- In **Slovenia**, a Parliament decision in 2019 established an official government mandate to work with EIT Climate-KIC and 9 Ministries to design a national circular economy strategy. The relationship

between EIT Climate-KIC and the Slovenian government has already withstood two government changes and the national commitment to the EIT Climate-KIC Deep Demonstration is enshrined in the National Energy and Climate Plan and national operational programmes 2021-2027.



6

With the EIT's Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS), EIT Climate-KIC has built dynamic climate innovation ecosystems to amplify innovation impact in the last 5 years in 'modest and moderate' innovator countries, where only limited activity existed before.

EIT Climate-KIC's RIS programme has delivered on its potential thanks to successful cooperation between EIT Climate-KIC and RIS Hubs, strengthening complementarities and enhancing synergies. Drawing on the learnings of the last 5 years, EIT Climate-KIC is now focusing on the amplification of innovation impact in the RIS programme as a starting point for 2021-2027, strengthening the role of Hubs and supporting local stakeholders to be leading organisations in driving climate innovation in the Green Deal in Southern and Central Eastern Europe countries.

In each of the 14 countries where Hubs are active, the RIS programme has been co-created with local institutions to produce:

- A vision and governance model to transform Hubs from outreach entities to catalysts of innovation;
- A selection of stakeholders committed to supporting the achievement of this vision;
- A financial plan to serve business development in 2021-2023;
- An action plan based on portfolio principles and empowerment of every single Hub to improve areas of weakness and reinforce strengths;
- Consolidated capabilities in system mapping and work on synergies with JRC, DG Regio and several EU bodies to help intensify impact.

A brand-new initiative has been created for the RIS Hub based in Central and Eastern Europe: the CEE Community Labs, which includes strengthening ties with neighbouring Poland and Hungary for support and contributing to the implementation of CEE strategy. Designed to deliver community engagement activities and to enable RIS communities in the CEE region to become changemakers in support of regional transition priorities, the Community Labs programme tackles systemic issues such as ways of financing climate emergency, low levels of trust or lack of collaboration between sectors. The mission of the programme is to create the conditions for climate action and cooperation at all levels in order to enable faster systemic

transformation, using methodologies developed by EIT Climate-KIC such as Deep Demonstrations, bridging gaps with neighbouring countries and with national and subnational actors.

Among the achievements of this approach:

- In **Portugal**, EIT Climate-KIC has worked with the Hub to design a 2021-2023 strategy which has been presented to the Ministry of Environment, Mr. Matos Fernandes, who recognized the need for help with the forthcoming financial flow for climate action, in terms of projects (scope, what to be funded, and under what conditions) as well as funding processes. He declared the Hub as one of the champions of the country helping in this process. This is an opportunity to work directly with his cabinet, towards innovation in climate action, through a strategic partnership to be established between the Ministry and the Hub.
- In **Cyprus**, the Global Maritime Accelerator initiative was designed under the EIT Climate-KIC umbrella, gathering support from all knowledge triangle actors including research institutions, private businesses and ministries keen to position Cyprus at the centre of decarbonization in the maritime sector. EIT Climate-KIC activities, including conducting a System Innovation Workshop, fostered close collaboration and exchange between innovators, EIT Climate-KIC partners and policymakers, resulting in the integration of the proposed National Energy and Climate Fund into the final National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) submitted to the European Commission in December 2019 (pages 153- 154).
- In **Czech Republic**, EIT Climate-KIC is an active part of the 'Change for the better' initiative to support the Recovery and Resilience Plan and is in direct conversation with Mr. Sedlak, Governing Board member. The initiative has more than 200 partners (both public and private sectors, NGOs, agencies) acting under one umbrella, leading discussions with the Czech Prime Minister and Government representatives around Recovery and Resilience Plan implementation and orchestration.

- In **Croatia**, the Climate-KIC Hub leads an initiative to engage with policy makers for innovation and all KICs present in the country to support in the design and implementation of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. The Ministry of Science and Education and Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development have indicated support for the strengthening of the Hub position in processes of policy making, development of financing framework and other specific tasks directly connected to the governance models and business set up of the Hub. The Ministry is willing to investigate how it can financially support the work of the Hubs.

All opportunities have been identified thanks to the strong cooperation between EIT Climate-KIC and local Hubs.

RIS INPACT IN 2020

Active Partners, across
16 RIS Countries (+16 in 2020)

45 



21

Innovation Projects (of which 17
with international consortia)

Start-ups Involved with 13 RIS
Accelerator Locations attracted
+ 6 Million € investments

65 



+ € 7.4

EIT Investment
in 14 RIS Countries

Pioneers into Practice
RIS Locations with 100+ involved
Pioneers & +60 hosts

13 



9

Challenge owners engaged
through Deep Demonstrations

Participants in the Journey from RIS
(7 RIS countries hosting locations)

59 



50

Cities
engaged



7

EIT Climate-KIC's Transformation Capital initiative has seeded a conversation about the way investment capital is programmed and deployed in service of Europe's climate strategy

EIT Climate-KIC's Transformation Capital initiative, launched in 2019, is designed to catalyse change in the ways in which financial investment is programmed and deployed in service of ambitious climate strategy. It has now seeded a global conversation with the potential to materially impact EU industrial and innovation policy such as the Green Deal, InvestEU, and the "Missions" under Horizon Europe, and to inspire and enable new ways of working on climate finance in the public and multilateral spheres.

After a 12-month co-design process with our partners, we published a 25,000-word [white paper](#) that lays out a rationale and a blueprint for a systemic investment logic aligned with the needs and opportunities of systems transformation. We issued a call to action. We have attracted the interest of more than 30 organisations from the public, private, philanthropic, academic, and civic spheres to engage in the programme. Our Deep Demonstrations in Slovenia, the Basque Country, Edinburgh, and Birmingham, as well as our collaboration with UNDP in Vietnam, will serve as test beds for prototyping elements of the TransCap investment logic.

With encouragement and support from EIT, we have also begun to forge relationships with various European investment instruments (European Investment Council, European Investment Bank, and European Investment Fund) to explore how systems thinking and portfolio-based innovation could be harnessed in support of their investment mandates. This includes the exploration of a fund-of-funds investment vehicle with EIF and a mechanism for working with the EIB on mission-oriented investment strategies.

Our work on Transformation Capital has attracted significant interest from funders. Three foundations have committed to supporting the TransCap Initiative, an open innovation initiative that will host this programme going forward. The initiative will serve as the space for four streams of work: conceptual innovation work, prototyping, and field building, underpinned by a supporting work streams aimed at enabling the prior

three. We see particularly strong demand for the capital mobilization and deployment support that the TransCap Initiative can offer from the public sector at the municipal, regional, national, and multilateral scales, not least because of the enormous capital deployment challenge connected to COVID-19 recovery plans.

Concurrently, we continue to strengthen our capital facilitation offering on the supply-side of our innovation portfolio, mostly in service of the start-ups we support through our business creation programme. This offering already includes a digital matchmaking platform called "Investor Marketplace", live-streamed start-up pitching sessions on YouTube, and investor dinners. Using these activities as foundations, we are currently developing a range of novel investment mechanisms to facilitate investment capital into early-stage climate innovation, including through equity crowdfunding and a seed-stage investment fund connected to our Start-up Accelerator.



8

EIT Climate-KIC's Community Activation work is drawing diverse voices into climate action and building widespread citizen engagement through 'moments that matter'

In addition to the quantifiable carbon and place-based outcomes delivered by Climate-KIC, it is vitally important to recognise that for genuine impact on climate change we need social innovation, community activation and behavioural change. Most importantly, we need to see these types of innovation as being necessary complements to other forms of innovation.

In 2018, EIT Climate-KIC introduced a focus on Social Activation and Community Mobilisation in order to bring new voices into our community on the understanding that an open, vibrant, and diverse community is the only way to make the change we need. We are working with museums, artists, comedians, humanitarians, journalists, sports, technologists and more, to explore and bring attention to the many and varied actors and organisations in the climate action space. We are working to build a cascade of moments that matter, connected by a collective narrative of transformation, built with people who, like us, want to act to change the system. We are using the principles of movement building, social innovation and community activation. Our approach is experimental, non-violent, experiential and about creating hope (not fear).

CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH UNUSUAL ACTORS

The Social Activation and Experimentation Team designed a series of approaches and methodologies that have become primary vehicles for drawing closer and activating diverse groups and discovering novel topics. We continue to refine our understanding of 'unusual actors' and the way we operationalise the term 'thought leadership' to help us involve non-obvious expert-practitioners who can bring enriching insights and capabilities to the table.

Our Deep Dives in 2019 involved individuals and institutions who have not been on the horizon of the climate change discourse in the last decade. We believe there is value in initiating dialogue and collaboration with important actors outside the climate community because they can mobilise the missing links and bring along audiences outside our usual reach. They can also diversify our thinking and cross-pollinate our methods and networks. We ran diverse formats, which were a

result of mapping out a terrain for cultural activities that had potential to lead us to serendipitous encounters and discovery: performance art and humour; museums practice; artistic methodologies as tools for meaningful engagement; football partnerships for environmental goals and economic science fiction.

In 2020, we aimed to widen and open our horizons towards fringe disciplines and states which fall outside or defy the traditional taxonomy of knowledge production. We led a series of major events and initiatives to create **A Year of Global Climate Action**, involving circa 2000 people. These initiatives aimed to use the power of the EIT Climate-KIC Community and other communities to generate greater impact, scale, and reach. We also provided digital platforms so that people and organisations who are already taking positive action can have those actions connected and amplified:

- We delved into the **night-time economy** and governance, representing an essential segment of cultural production and precarious work, therefore a crucial yet neglected sphere of action towards a sustainable present and future.
- We convened an exploration around the **phenomenon of lapse** which we positioned as the poetic and potent new frontier in behavioral economics.
- We experimented around fostering "**other spaces**" in the digital realm. As a sensitizing practice evoking empathy and care, but also as an embodied reflection on digital reality and virtual intimacy during videoconferencing.
- We engaged in developing comprehensive new standards for a **sustainable internet**, ranging from unveiling the actual carbon footprints of websites and digital habits to providing directly applicable guidelines on challenging and greening best practices in the industry.
- We co-designed and co-delivered part of the UNTITLED festival organised by Demos Helsinki in September 2020. This festival initiated a 10-year program, seeking to reimagine our society. Details can be found at <https://untitled.community/about/>.



9

Over 450 formal partners form the EIT Climate-KIC Community of innovation actors in 39 countries, in addition to 6000 active alumni and more than 4500 start-ups, forming a powerful ecosystem for climate action.

EIT Climate-KIC has a **network of over 400 formal partners** representing larger businesses, SMEs, community organisations, research groups, universities, and public bodies: currently 28% of our partners are from Higher Education and Research, 37% are SMEs, 22% are community and public bodies, and 13% are major businesses. Membership has increased 350% since 2016, with a particularly sharp increase in the number of cities, regions and NGO partners. Over the same period there has been a substantial increase in the number of partners from RIS countries (those in Eastern and Southern Europe, beyond Spain and Italy). Over 30% of the recent gain of partners since 2019 has been from RIS/CEE countries.

EIT Climate-KIC considers its partner community as its foremost asset, offering Europe a **climate innovation action force** full of the brightest minds, the most dynamic companies, the most strategic thinkers and the most forward-thinking cities and public authorities. Partners play several roles as part of EIT Climate-KIC, and the value they bring to the community is different and complementary by design. Their roles include (i) delivery of innovation, entrepreneurship, and education projects, (ii) offering the supply of new ideas, (iii) design of innovation with respect to demand, (iv) being the demand-side actor (v) building sustainable innovation ecosystems and (vi) raising investment or crowding in funding for joint climate action, among others.

EIT Climate-KIC organises or helps host over 300 events a year involving a mix of EIT Climate-KIC partners across the innovation community and organisations that are not yet formally within the community. For example, in November 2020, EIT Climate-KIC hosted a 'Green Deal Pilot Call' matchmaking event with 300 participants (of which 169 registered partners).

272 Partners received funding from EIT in 2020. The largest category by some margin is related to innovation projects/innovation ecosystems (including COVID19 call), where 147 partners were active. This excludes Deep Demonstration design partners. Currently we are also priming or contributing to 25 funded initiatives beyond EIT (where contracts have been signed), involving an estimated 60 partners. Examples

of initiatives include Cicerone (Circular Economy), where 24 organisations are acting together to deploy €2m. Others are the Wood in Construction secretariat (800k), WINnERS (agricultural de-risking €1.1m) and Forest Economy Coalition (€2m to Landscapes Deep Demonstration).

Partners are heavily involved in EIT Climate-KIC's Deep Demonstrations programme. 82 partners were involved in the design phases of Deep Demonstrations in 2020, many receiving financial support from EIT for this design work and now moving into the next phases. Fundraising efforts to deploy the portfolio in practice have been ramping up in a joint effort with partners and challenge owners.

In addition, EIT Climate-KIC has a significant and growing **Alumni Community**. Over 50,000 people have been involved in one or more EIT Climate-KIC programmes over the last ten years. In 2019 the Climate-KIC Alumni Association went through a major strategic review and self-transformation. The newly movement-based Climate-KIC alumni community now has over 6000 active members. In 2020 we launched a Participatory Grant Making (PGM) process in partnership with the Alumni Community to enable participatory decisioning at all stages, from development of the community to governance. By ceding control of funding decisions to people who benefit from or are impacted by these decisions, PGM opens up a process that has long been closed to the people closest to the ground with lived experience to bring to bear in these decisions. PGM means creating spaces, procedures, and culture that encourage community members to participate and to own decision-making processes. The Circles of Engagement framework created, offers a phased approach to incentivise shifts in mindsets and process as well as the practical transfer of power as part of an exploration of mechanisms for effective citizen empowerment.



10

On Outreach, EIT Climate-KIC has been featured in news around the world

In 2020, EIT Climate-KIC was featured in news articles such as the [Financial Times](#) (on food technology), [Reuters](#) (on cities), the [Irish Times](#) (on circular economy), [CNBC](#) (on COVID19 start-up awards), [Forbes](#) (on Balkan solar innovation), [Korean Times](#) (on partnerships), [Ghana Web](#) (on Climathon), [Malaysia Today](#) (on Climathon), and [The Times of India](#) (on ClimateLaunchpad). EIT Climate-KIC has more than 5,300 media mentions across Europe and beyond in 2020, strengthening EIT brand awareness significantly.

Additionally, we have built up strong social media channels, with a following that now tops over 200,000 (across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn). Just our central corporate communications channels created over 2m impressions on Twitter and 2.5m impression on LinkedIn in 2020.

Our communication campaigns have received recognition: EIT Climate-KIC's **Climathon** programme, for example, won the Guardian's 2016 Sustainable Business Award for sustainability communications.

Climathon has reached up to 6000+ participants, across 140+ cities from 56 countries across 6 continents. One clear indicator of the success of Climathon to date is the rapid growth in participation since 2015, which has seen an almost doubling per year (from 600 in 2015 to 6000+ participants in 2019). Following participation in the event, 66% of participants globally reported that they would like to stay engaged with the Climathon programme further.

Climathon impact was found both in its contribution to outreach in the form of awareness-raising as well as in the successful implementation of ideas. Applications for "Most Improved Idea" for the Climathon Awards in 2021 provides 35 case studies that demonstrate how Climathon ideas further develop (win further awards, secured funding, mobilising communities etc.). In 2021 the Climathon Awards had direct and in-kind support from Facebook. Partnerships with organisations such as European Covenant of Mayors, WWF, Impact Hub and the European Students Union have also benefited the outreach and quality of the programme through connecting to ongoing projects or well-established local networks.

In 2020, we worked extensively on climate literacy with the aim of improving the quality and increasing the inclusivity of climate discussion in Europe and beyond. Our goal was to enable European citizens to talk about climate, and more broadly to get people to think about and to act in response to the climate crisis. We have therefore organised and taken part in several workshops at the [UNESCO High-Level Futures Literacy Summit](#) (8,000 participants) to contribute to creating images of the future that inspire hope and foster collaboration. We have also supported a [EURACTIV debate](#) (438 viewers) on how to engage all European citizens in climate discussion. In Poland, 250 people joined an event we organised on how to communicate the climate crisis. We have also been supporting Climate Outreach #TalkingClimate Workshop, a training guide enabling people to run workshops training participants in how to have more meaningful conversations about climate change in daily life.

LOOKING FORWARD

EIT Climate-KIC's goals for 2027 are to ensure that:

- 200,000 people across Europe are equipped with enhanced climate-relevant innovation and entrepreneurial skills;
- 10 million people benefit from improved resilience to the impacts of climate change;
- 50 cities, countries, regions and large-scale businesses across Europe are achieving net-zero as a result of partnership with EIT Climate-KIC;
- 500 million tons of CO₂ eq. emissions have been avoided cumulatively (approx. 1/10 annual EU production) and
- We have succeeded in leveraging €100 bln to scale-up innovations tackling climate change.

Ultimately, we aim to become a leader in systemic innovation that contributes to a paradigm shift from a linear, industrial production system to a circular, regenerative model, leveraging the power of our unique community of innovators and inspiring change beyond it.



Funded by the
European Union



DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact us at
communitydesk@climate-kic.org

EIT Climate-KIC either owns or has the right to use or licence all intellectual property rights in this publication, and the material published on it. These works are protected by copyright laws and treaties around the world. All rights are reserved. You may print off one copy, and may use extracts, of any page(s) from this publication to which you have access, for your personal use. However, you must not use any illustrations, photographs, video or audio sequences or any graphics separately from any accompanying text. You must not use any part of the materials in this publication for commercial purposes without obtaining a licence to do so from EIT Climate-KIC or its licensors. The status of EIT Climate-KIC (and that of any identified contributors) as the authors of material in this publication must always be acknowledged.

© EIT Climate-KIC · March 2021

www.climate-kic.org