

EIT Alumni

Case Study

Helping Entrepreneurs Build Power Networks

About EIT Alumni

The EIT is an independent body of the EU set up in 2008 to spur innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe to overcome some of its greatest challenges.

The EIT Alumni is an association for students and PhDs who graduated from a program offered by one of the EIT KICs, the innovation communities within the EIT ecosystem. These are the best and brightest students at the European universities who share one interest: becoming entrepreneurs.



Results

Our initiative is one of other projects which form part of a citizen-led city transformation. We continue to be engaged and recently helped develop a Manifesto Restart Badalona. We helped bring local entrepreneurs, researchers and ordinary citizens to unite around a shared purpose and work effectively as a network of committed citizens.

The Challenge

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology has a mission to build entrepreneurial Europe by investing in KICs – the innovation communities of partners from business, research and universities. While a lot has been achieved since the first KICs were launched in 2010, so far the impact of EIT alumni has not triggered exponential growth.

Our Solution

We sponsored the EIT Alumni Startup Days in Barcelona. During one day hackathon, over 40 bright Master and Ph.D. students worked on a challenge “Reinvent Badalona”.

The ideas developed by the EIT Alumni were groundbreaking: a carbon-neutral micro-city as an experiment for new technologies; new AI Research Infrastructure in an abandoned power plant, a business zone for tech and science innovation sponsored by Europe-China partnership. Finally, we organized a pitching event with the city Mayor to present top ideas.