

Annual Report 2024



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Letter from our CEO

2024 was a year of world shifting, marked by significant global events and profound challenges. In the largest election year in history, during which nearly half the world's population voted, the elections of Donald Trump in the U.S. and Claudia Sheinbaum in Mexico, the world's first climate scientist president, highlighted a divided geopolitical landscape. Wars continued to rage in Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan, causing immense suffering and displacement, and political polarisation. In every continent, catastrophic natural disasters have been a continual reminder of the devastating impacts and human toll of the climate crisis. We begin to sense, without fully understanding, the unrecognisable and devastating implications of careering beyond 1.5 degrees: the Valencia floods are the 'new normal'.



Despite these challenges, there were glimmers of hope: the UK closed its last coal-fired power plant, the European Union made an 8 per cent reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon dropped to a nine-year low, and renewable energy sources surged globally. The groundswell of determined climate action, commitment and persistence is evident in cities, in regions, in keystone businesses, and continues to grow notwithstanding volatility. These milestones, along with countless acts of kindness and community efforts, inspire us to continue our work towards a sustainable and compassionate future.

For EIT Climate-KIC, 2024 marked the end of our original 15-year mandate from the European Institute of Innovation & Technology, as a formal EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community, and so we look back on a year of transition and deepening action.

Our collective efforts with members, partners, and peers continued to thrive, fostering local connections and launching new initiatives.

Climate City Capital Hub

As part of our work leading the EU Cities Mission, we launched the [Climate City Capital Hub](#) to address Mission cities' financial needs. Our Pilot Cities Programme and Twinning Learning Programme have fostered shared learning and best practices, and 48 new Mission Cities were selected, driving systemic, city-wide transformation toward climate neutrality. Cities are receiving more direct support than ever, with City Finance Specialists working alongside our City Advisors and Support Group teams.

Spanish City Platform

In July, the third edition of the Summer Course brought together 147 participants from 60 organisations across 12 Spanish cities, reflecting the growing momentum of the

Spanish City Platform. Over three days, stakeholders engaged in rich discussions on political commitment, governance, and financial innovation in driving urban transformation. Municipal leaders reaffirmed the need for strategic communication and collaborative governance to implement the EU Cities Mission effectively. Looking ahead, efforts will focus on strengthening multilevel governance, expanding training initiatives, and accelerating climate-neutral urban projects.

Climate entrepreneurship

EIT Climate-KIC continued to expand its climate entrepreneurship offering, delivering 38 active programmes across 70 countries. Our SAFE portfolio grew to 113 climate start-ups, collectively targeting an annual reduction of over 257,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. We validated 35 new Impact Reports and increased our portfolio value to €7.8 million.

Building on our commitment to measurable impact, we advanced our work in both climate and social impact assessment. This included the development of two new tools: an Adaptation and Resilience Tool to help start-ups assess how their innovations support climate adaptation within their regions and customer bases, and a Circularity Tool to guide and quantify contributions to the circular economy.

Recognition of our work continued in 2024, with EIT Climate-KIC named among Europe's Top-15 Start-Up Hubs by the Financial Times and receiving a Star Award at the Start-up Ecosystem Stars Awards in Paris. Our global community celebrated another highlight as ClimateLaunchpad once again opened trading at the Euronext Stock Exchange in Amsterdam.

Climate mitigation and resilience

In March, we held the first European Carbon Farming Summit in Valencia, highlighting the importance of the EU Carbon Removal Certification Framework, and we are proud to lead the organisation of [next year's summit in Dublin](#), which will focus on transitioning from

theory to putting carbon farming into practice. Our €1.8 million partnership with the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) to support Ireland's ambitious climate commitments was renewed and recognised in the government's Climate Action Plan 2024. With key partners on the ground, we are implementing projects at the intersection of innovation, policy, industry, and research, from sustainable dairy production to circular bio-economy market creation.

We also kicked off support for 100 climate-resilient regions, helping them develop transformative and inclusive climate adaptation plans through the flagship Mission Adaptation programme Pathways2Resilience, and we [launched FoodCoP](#), a new initiative to transform rural food systems across Europe, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship to stimulate local economies.

Our Deep Demonstrations

In addition to Ireland, we have deepened our enduring partnerships with the Deep Demonstration challenge owners in Slovenia and Gipuzkoa, helping to embed systems thinking in the strategic planning of their local institutions and break down traditional silos in their government operations. The Gipuzkoa Strategy for 2024-2027 exemplifies this, as it incorporates systems thinking narratives and deliberative learning practice. In Slovenia, a policy lab, the portfolio approach used by the government, and the growing number of public innovators showcase their commitment to systems innovation.

Systems Innovation Learning Partnership

Our Systems Innovation Learning Partnership (SILP) with Sida continued to thrive in 2024, hosting the annual [Learning Festival](#), supporting innovative projects through the SILP Experimentation Fund, and redefining development funding by empowering local communities. This partnership has significantly enhanced capacities for systems innovation

and fostered a vibrant community dedicated to transformative impact.

NetZeroCities

In Ukraine, we supported [Rivne](#) in building a safer, greener future despite ongoing conflicts, both through our work with NetZeroCities and through our recently launched Climate Leadership Academy pilot.

Radical collaboration

We have built and solidified key partnerships and collaborations. In January 2024, we launched the [Systems Transformation Hub](#), together with co-founders Metabolic, Systemiq, The Club of Rome, and the World Resources Institute, to help feed in learnings ‘from the ground’ to support more systems thinking and acting in European policy-making. We published two key policy briefs to illustrate

a new way forward for the EU. In late January we brought together fellow members of the [Systemic Climate Action Collaborative](#) for a workshop to gather momentum, build out our governance model and ways of working together. The Collaborative is a collective endeavour to overcome climate inaction and fragmentation, supported by a pooled fund to change ways of working on systems change and climate innovation.

EIT Climate-KIC transition post-EIT

And lastly, with the deep commitment and faithful support of our boards and staff, EIT Climate-KIC has been building systems, processes, and structures for a brand-new chapter in our history. This year has been an incredible lift in preparation for our transition, and I am so excited for the year ahead.

In 2025, we will remain committed to driving systemic change and fostering innovation to address the climate crisis, and we look forward to doing this together in radical collaboration with our partners and community.



About EIT Climate-KIC

In 2024, EIT Climate-KIC was known as Europe's leading climate innovation agency and community, committed to helping cities, regions, countries, and industries tackle climate change to achieve a beautiful, just and climate-resilient future. Together with governments, businesses, entrepreneurs and local communities, we bridge the implementation gap between climate commitments and current reality. We do this through systems innovation and radical collaboration, orchestrating portfolios of solutions, facilitating learning by doing, and taking a long-term, locally grounded approach to enable change in the places where people live and work so that the benefits of transformation become meaningful and relevant.

EIT Climate-KIC was founded in 2010 as one of the first Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) created and supported by the **European Institute of Innovation & Technology** (EIT). Over 15 years, we received EUR 720 million in funding and strategic guidance from EIT.

Headquartered in Amsterdam, with approximately 200 staff members across Europe, EIT Climate-KIC has enabled change in over 60 countries globally in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America, through a wide range of partnerships and alliances, and a membership community of 346 organisations comprised of businesses large and small, start-ups, universities, research and technology entities, local community and entrepreneurial support organisations, and city, regional and national governments.

EIT Climate-KIC has been grant-making in climate innovation for 15 years, working with a diverse community of the best innovators and entrepreneurs. In that time, we have helped over 6,000 climate positive start-ups accelerate their growth, trained over 40,000 future leaders on climate innovation and entrepreneurship, and attracted more than

300 organisations to the community. Our innovation projects alone have resulted in an estimated 13MT CO₂eq of annual avoided emissions. Our full portfolio has created over 21,000 new jobs and helped attract €6.7bn in follow-on funding for climate innovation.

Over the years, EIT Climate-KIC has orchestrated place-based transformations that ground climate action at the local level. By prioritising solutions developed and implemented in local contexts and building momentum to inspire action, we have made systems transformation meaningful by enabling change in the places where people live and work, creating a positive feedback loop to keep learning and improving together.



A Radical Approach to Collaboration

In our 2024 strategy, Transformation with Urgency, we defined radical collaboration not only as an underlying principle to underpin our approach, but also as a fundamental strategic choice over the coming years. By focusing on radical collaboration to overcome fragmentation and competition, we are explicitly acknowledging that no one individual or organisation can do enough alone. In our work, we are choosing to move away from fragmented actions and siloed solutions, towards the types of radical collaborations that will build sustained trust and shared risk-taking across ecosystems. It is only through this type of symbiotic work that we will reach our collective objectives.

EIT Climate-KIC is a founding member and driving force behind The Collaborative for Systemic Climate Action, a global initiative tackling fragmentation in climate action by fostering integrated, systemic transformation. Bringing together 15 Implementing Partners across six continents with over 250 years of combined experience, The Collaborative addresses climate challenges through multi-stakeholder cooperation, financial innovation, and systemic policy shifts.

Unlike traditional partnerships, The Collaborative has established the foundations of a collaboration model based on symbiosis, deeper than a traditional partnership, which allows us to bring together leading organisations that fulfil specific roles needed to realise this change — enhancing resilience and effectiveness. We aim to raise EUR 1 billion over 10 years, ensuring that climate initiatives achieve far greater impact than they would in isolation. This pooled fund fosters trust-based funding relationships, aligning financial support with transformational outcomes.



A

Paradigm Shift in Climate Action

System science shows that systemic change requires interventions at multiple levels, from shifting paradigms and policy incentives to reshaping physical infrastructures. To drive the transformation needed, we are building 'systems change portfolios' combining existing scale-ready or established initiatives and emergent initiatives with emerging paradigm shifts to create a compounding effect, ensuring that individual efforts collectively drive lasting change. These portfolios are purposefully diverse, enabling local and global action and everything in between.

The Collaborative's flexible, pooled fund aims to make the work of orchestrating systems change possible and widespread: joining the

dots. Each initiative that The Collaborative funds is championed by at least two Collaborative partners and one external organisation, prioritising those from the Global South. This transversal funding strategy ensures resources are directed toward coordination, integration, and amplification, elements that are often underfunded but critical for systemic transformation.

Larger order impact

EIT Climate-KIC serves as the secretariat for The Collaborative, overseeing governance, grant management, financial mobilisation, and strategic alignment. With 15 years of experience in multi-stakeholder coordination and place-based innovation, EIT Climate-KIC ensures The Collaborative effectively mobilises resources, facilitates learning, and accelerates systemic transformation.

Vision and Outcomes

The vision is that by coming together, in 10 years' time, we will have enhanced and saved the lives of millions of people and we will have accelerated systemic transformation towards a resilient, equitable, and regenerative future for all. The core outcomes we will pursue over 10 years include:

- **Mitigation outcome:** 40 gigatons of avoided or drawn down CO₂ emissions globally by 2040, amounting to approximately 10 per cent of the 1.5C-aligned global carbon budget at the start of 2023.
- **Regeneration and restoration outcome:** 35 million hectares of degraded ecosystems restored, amounting to approximately 10 per cent of currently degraded land globally.
- **Adaptation and resilience outcome:** Resilience to the impacts of climate change rapidly improved for 1 billion people through behavioural change, adaptation, socioeconomic enabling factors and environmental regeneration.

We believe our ambitious core outcomes can only be achieved when we can come together and invest in underfunded yet crucial leverage elements, including:

- **Narrative and mindset shifts:** Using storytelling, benefit-led narratives, reframes of the ways we make sense of the world and behavioural science to persuade and inspire, paving the way for place-based change, policy acceptance, and other elements of the portfolio.
- **Enabling conditions support:** Establishing a foundational layer that supports systemic transformation through building knowledge and capabilities, enhancing civic trust and cohesion, and facilitating access to resources.
- **Policy support and amplification:** Ensuring policies are systemic and coherent across global, regional, national and local levels, aligned with sustainability and resilience needs and supportive of civic processes.
- **New financial and economic models:** Developing new asset classes and funding models that prioritise and incentivise sustainability, aligning business activities with policy and sustainability goals.
- **Integration of the parts and orchestration:** Orchestrating systemic outcomes by combining and integrating multiple solutions and theories of change; facilitating synergies across diverse interventions.

The Collaborative moves beyond siloed efforts, ensuring coordination, speed, and scale match the urgency of the climate crisis. By working together, we are shaping a resilient, equitable, and regenerative future. A future that amplifies collective intelligence, enables large-scale action, and achieves long-lasting climate impact.

Our Approach to Impact Measurement

EIT Climate-KIC's approach to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) has been integral to our way of working and learning. We are part of a wider community of organisations putting MEL to work as an evolving element of transformative climate action. Through MEL, we gain understanding and generate evidence on whether and how our ideas worked in practice and test our assumptions, e.g. on how systems innovation unfolds to make change at scale happen, to provide both ad-hoc and regular feedback to key decision-makers and implementers that can feed into course corrections and wider learning.

Our approach to MEL seeks to address a number of challenges.

Answering the key strategic question of “What difference do we make to whom and how?” for different insights users – both on the level of individual interventions and the organisation as a whole, to inform ongoing improvements, planning, learning and strategic conversations.

Connecting to a learning-by-doing approach whereby we document and understand both the quality of our engagement and emerging outcomes related to partnerships, capabilities, collaborations and changed practices, among other shifts connecting our activities to systemic change we want to see.

Expand from a conventional focus on pre-defined indicators and targets towards the testing of causal and contextual assumptions, the robust tracing of contribution stories and narrative approaches to capturing and learning from emerging impact.

Engaging with implementing teams, partners and change-makers in developing their own capacity to conduct complexity-savvy and inclusive MEL including an exploration of impacts.

To ensure we are focussing our MEL and impact assessment practice on the right things, teams have the option of developing a Systems-Informed Theory of Change for their intervention, articulating the change they want to see and how this change might happen, surfacing assumptions about causalities, feedback loops, our sphere of influence, context dynamics and strategy.

Our Evaluation Frame provides a robust lens through which we capture and synthesise MEL and impact data across the organisation.

Our evaluative practice as an organisation seeks to draw out patterns of performance, context and impact into insights that can feed into cross-project reflections and sensemaking, improved strategic planning and wider knowledge building and learning useful to us and others.

The pillars we use to structure and harvest data collection efforts across projects – including impact data – are part of our overarching Evaluation Frame. The Frame brings together data on implementation with case studies and stories about impact, allowing for enquiries into how our actions interacted with context to contribute to short-term and higher-order changes.

Measuring the climate impact of supported start-ups

We know that measuring the climate impact of a start-up can be challenging, as start-ups often lack the data, track record, resources and overall business maturity to accurately measure their actual avoided emissions through conventional scope 1, 2, & 3 methodologies.

EIT Climate-KIC has developed an impact measurement methodology, tools and learning modules that focus on potential avoided emissions and integrated them into our Accelerator programmes. This allows start-ups from the earliest stages to test the potential climate impact of new and innovative products and services as they develop and grow. Alongside this process, we run live learning modules to educate entrepreneurs on impact measurement and our methodology.

EIT Climate-KIC follows a simplified, comparative Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) model that is made up of the following steps:

1. Start-ups identify the most similar product or service in the market for comparison.
2. They start the analysis by identifying the boundary or scope of their analysis (by selecting one or more phases of the life cycle of their product or service).
3. They then run a Pre-Assessment analysis, giving them a snapshot of the potential avoided emissions of their product or service compared to existing solutions in the market.
 - The full Climate Impact Assessment allows them to have a more in-depth analysis of their product or service compared to other solutions in the market.
 - The full Climate Impact Assessment results are then evaluated and validated by third-party LCA experts.



EIT Climate-KIC in numbers

EIT Climate-KIC aims to catalyse large scale, systemic change in countries, cities and regions in support of their climate targets. This work includes programmes of work within specific impact areas, to develop portfolios of connected innovations.

By 2027, we aim to have:

Strengthened the climate resilience of
10 million people

Contributed to the avoidance of
500 million tons of CO₂ emissions

With contributing outcomes of:

Leveraging to scale-up innovations tackling climate change
€100 billion

Becoming the strategic partner to achieve net-zero emission and climate resilience to over
100 cities, regions, and countries

Supporting the creation of
50,000 green jobs

Providing enhanced innovation and entrepreneurial skills to
200,000 people across Europe

We have been contributing to these goals by:

Supporting
119 European cities to reach their 2030 net-zero goals

Incubating more than
5,000 green business ideas

Becoming the strategic partner through our Deep Demonstrations to
2 countries, 40 European regions to reach mitigation and adaptation goals

Developing the world's most extensive climate tech accelerator, ClimAccelerator,
Supporting more than 2,000
climate start-ups

Delivering enhanced innovation and entrepreneurial skills to more than
44,000 participants

Raising
€ 6.7 billion in follow-on investment

Supported people to become resilient to impacts of climate change
53 million people

Creating
21,000 jobs
Launching
1,081 innovative products and services

Building the world's largest green business ideas competition, ClimateLaunchpad

Avoiding
An estimated 3.95 billion tons of avoided CO₂ emissions (CO₂eq)

Our Community

At our core, EIT Climate-KIC is a community striving for radical collaboration. We work on a shared principle that we can achieve more by learning from one another, by accelerating our learning through implementation and collective sensemaking, by discovering and demonstrating what works and what doesn't, and through sustained collaboration.



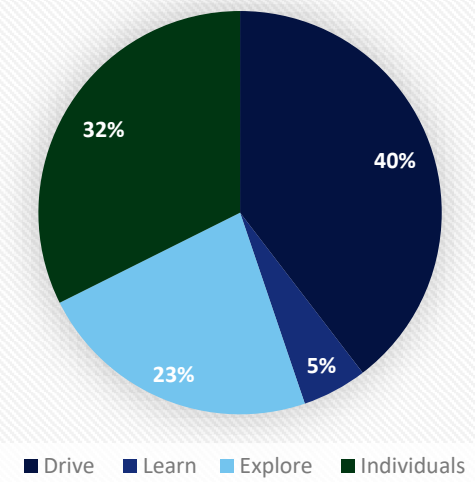
In 2024, formal membership of EIT Climate-KIC's Community comprised 346 partners, encompassing universities, research institutions, cities, NGOs, and start-ups united in their commitment to tackle climate change head-on. Their diverse backgrounds and unwavering dedication form an unrivalled breadth of knowledge and expertise. Together, EIT Climate-KIC and its Community members drive forward transformative climate innovation, shaping a resilient and sustainable future for all.

We collaborate within our expanding Community to accelerate the transformation of cities, regions and value chains for enhanced adaptation and climate

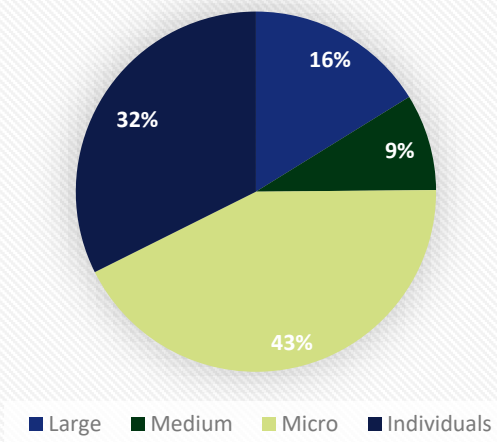
resilience. Together, we cultivate the critical mass required to scale up both the supply and demand for climate change solutions.

In 2024, we hosted numerous events for our Community, including Gipuzkoa's Regional Transformation Forum. We introduced an individual membership offer, attracting 673 professionals, and launched the 'Experts initiative', inviting 100 experts to share insights into innovative climate solutions. Our digital campaign engaged over half a million people across 14 countries, and our Community Connect events brought together 521 participants to explore systemic themes such as finance, farming, biodiversity, and global governance mechanisms.

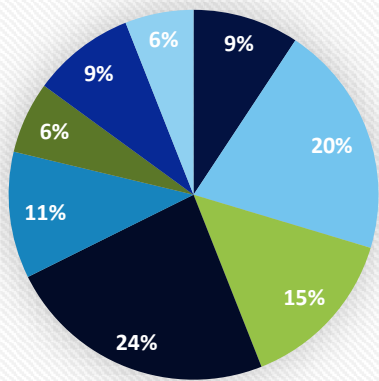
Community member by type



Community member by organisation size



Community member by region



- Benelux
- Central and Eastern Europe
- DACH
- Mediterranean
- UK & Ireland
- Nordics
- Other European
- Outside Europe

Our 2024 Highlights

European cities are learning how to hit net-zero goals together

Cities in Europe are at the forefront of tackling global climate challenges. Their density allows for more energy-efficient housing, transport and service provision. The EIT Climate-KIC led NetZeroCities, its Pilot Cities Programme, and the Twinning Learning Programme represent Europe's efforts to drive urban areas towards climate neutrality. These initiatives, part of the broader EU Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, emphasise collaborative learning, experimentation, and innovative solutions.



A space for experimentation

The Pilot Cities Programme is the primary learning vehicle within NetZeroCities. It gives cities extra funding, support, and training to help collective learning. The programme's design also encourages experimentation, which creates a dynamic environment for cities to explore and refine their approaches to achieving climate neutrality.

From 2023 through March 2024 and beyond, the [Pilot Cities Programme bootcamps](#) set the stage for a comprehensive learning journey. By thinking through their challenges and

opportunities in person, cities have had many opportunities to gain a deeper understanding of their different realities and ways of working. This sparked potential solutions that they could scale and replicate in various contexts and helped them identify beneficial contacts for further discussions.

In the first years of the programme, cities have already explored the need to define the role of city administration in the transition, the need for good practices to boost citizen involvement, and the difficulty in identifying and engaging the right stakeholders. They are

also discovering the potential of collaboration with each other.

The programme's "sensemaking sessions" offer opportunities for cities to share their experiences, difficulties, and questions with peers working on similar challenges. Here, they can receive feedback, encouragement and advice from other cities, reflect on past experiences and current work and anticipate future hurdles.

Learning in groups

The **Twinning Learning Programme** connects Twin Cities through a two-way exchange between cities in the Pilot Cities Programme and partner cities across Europe. This opportunity allows them to learn from each other, share knowledge, and collaboratively develop strategies to achieve climate neutrality by 2030.

Site visits are crucial to the programme. They enable in-person interactions between Pilot and Twin Cities. These visits started in February 2024. After months of collaboration, eight team members from Belfast and Galway city councils met in person. They visited Galway's **WarmHome Hub**, a community centre pivotal in educating residents about retrofitting and climate action. Throughout the visit, Belfast gathered insights and strategies to inform their pilot retrofitting programmes, aiming to replicate Galway's success in enhancing community involvement and energy efficiency initiatives.

"The Twinning Learning Programme is a valuable experience that allows us to establish connections at a technical level between municipal teams. It facilitates innovation processes and approaches to climate and energy problems, enabling us to think outside the box," said Javier Frades Orallo, Project Officer for Bioeconomy and Biocities in the Spanish city of Soria during a site visit.

Multiple capacity-building initiatives

NetZeroCities Winter, Spring, and Summer Schools are another integral component of the extensive capability-building programme for EU Mission Cities. These schools offer both online and offline learning opportunities, guiding cities in their pursuit of climate neutrality by equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge and facilitating the rapid formulation of cohesive action plans and robust funding strategies.

Participants describe the **Summer Schools** as *"inspiring and useful," "the chance to tell your story," "good networking opportunities",* and *"providing intensive training that reduces the amount of extra work"* to help cities in their climate action pathways towards climate neutrality.

The workshops at the **2024 Spring School** in Stockholm focused on social innovation and stakeholder engagement, climate investments, and designing a portfolio of actions.

The NetZeroCities initiative and its associated programmes, the Pilot Cities Programme and Twinning Learning Programme, provide a framework for learning, collaboration, and innovation among European cities. By offering structured learning opportunities through boot camps, schools, and sensemaking sessions, these programmes support cities in navigating the complexities of a transition to climate neutrality. The shared experiences and collaborative efforts not only speed up progress but also build a resilient and interconnected network of cities ready to tackle global climate challenges.

EIT Climate-KIC launches Climate Leadership Academy in Rivne, Ukraine

EIT Climate-KIC and United For Ukraine have partnered to support Ukraine's green recovery and transition, with a focus on the country's path towards EU accession. The initial pilot phase of the Climate Leadership Academy, launched in September 2024, supported the city of Rivne in its commitment to achieving net zero.



The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine has had a devastating impact on the country, with severe national and global repercussions. The war has triggered Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II, intensified global crises such as energy instability and food insecurity, and caused an estimated USD 700 billion in damages. For more than two and a half years, Russia has been targeting Ukrainian grain silos, schools, hospitals, power plants, and other critical infrastructure. The systematic destruction of Ukraine's energy sector has already destroyed approximately 60 per cent of its power generation capacity.

Despite the ongoing Russian war, Ukraine remains firmly committed to sustainable recovery and European integration. In response to this, EIT Climate-KIC and United for Ukraine, an internationally operating NGO dedicated to supporting Ukrainians and the country's sustainable economic recovery, launched the Climate Leadership Academy, an initiative designed to equip local leaders, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and changemakers with the knowledge and tools they need to drive Ukraine's sustainable transition, aligning with the broader goals of the European Union's Green Deal and Ukraine's roadmap to EU accession.

Empowering Ukraine's leaders

The Climate Leadership Academy pilot consisted of four expert-led workshops, supporting Rivne in its goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2030. Rivne was selected by the European Commission to participate in the EU Cities Mission's Net-Zero Cities programme, led by EIT Climate-KIC. The pilot also provided practical examples of successfully developed and implemented strategies to support the integration of renewable energy sources and reduce the city's overall carbon footprint.

Collaborating for Ukraine's green transition

The Climate Leadership Academy built on EIT Climate-KIC's expertise in climate innovation and systems thinking and was supported by partnerships with local and international experts in sustainable energy, policy, and economics. The initiative is a unique collaboration between Ukrainian stakeholders and European partners, demonstrating a shared commitment to building a green and resilient future for Ukraine.

The long-term vision of this programme focuses on five key areas:

- **Online learning:** Engaging over 1,000 Ukrainian professionals annually through online modules led by Systems Innovation facilitators. This programme will enhance capacity for innovation development and equip participants with the skills necessary to navigate complexity and drive systemic transformation.
- **Community of practice:** Establishing a network of Ukrainian professionals, EU strategic partners, and local institutions centred around the theme of "Sustainable Cities and Communities."
- **#StrongerTogether:** Offering a 1 to 3-month international placement experience with EIT Climate-KIC and UFU, connecting participants with transformative European projects to foster rapid learning and collaboration.
- **Portfolio innovation:** Creating comprehensive solutions by testing new policies and running pilot projects that directly engage key Ukrainian stakeholders and decision-makers.
- **Climate Leadership Festival:** Hosting a three-day festival featuring climate challenge-led seminars, workshops, and community engagement activities, bringing together up to 150 people in a dynamic learning environment.

Building a resilient future for Ukraine

"Ukraine's future lies in its capacity to rebuild sustainably. The Climate Leadership Academy is more than just a programme; it is a movement that will empower the next generation of Ukrainian leaders to shape a future where sustainability and resilience are at the heart of our recovery," said Marina Gil Velasco, Learning Strategy Lead, EIT Climate-KIC.

United for Ukraine, which has spearheaded several projects aimed at supporting Ukraine's sustainable recovery, is playing a key role in co-organising the Academy. Olga Hamama, Co-Founder, United for Ukraine, emphasised: *"As we rebuild our country, we must also rebuild our energy systems, economies, and communities in ways that are sustainable and future-focused. The Academy will help our leaders build the capacity to do just that."*

From vision to action: Ireland's progress towards climate-neutral agriculture and food systems

The Irish government has set ambitious goals for its land and agri-food sector: reduce emissions by 25 per cent by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. EIT Climate-KIC is supporting Ireland to reach these goals through new, innovative approaches.



In 2024, the Deep Demonstration partnership between EIT Climate-KIC and Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine transitioned to a new, exciting phase of action. Building on the groundwork laid in the previous two years, four of the seven identified flagship innovation areas are now in early implementation:

Carbon farming at scale: EIT Climate-KIC worked with the Irish government to develop the first national carbon farming framework in Europe, designed to compensate farmers for measurable ecosystem improvements, including carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and water quality. After undergoing public

consultations and in close alignment with EU legislation, the framework will be tested through nation-wide pilots, engaging at least 5,000 farms by 2027.

Sustainable dairy transformation: 2024 saw the launch of pilots across diverse farm types, testing combinations of policy tools and technology to rapidly cut emissions from enteric fermentation and manure management. These pilots build on successful models such as ClieNFarms, with the goal of creating a blueprint of what a sustainable dairy farm can look like across environmental, social and economic indicators.

Circular bio-economy: EIT Climate-KIC is now a member of the Irish Bioeconomy Forum, which aims to promote, support and advocate for the sustainable development of the bioeconomy in Ireland. In 2024, we have been exploring biochar use in anaerobic digestion plants for nutrient management and soil regeneration, as well as exploring governance models based on cooperatives, with projects undertaken with the Irish Co-Operative Society, the All-Ireland Bioeconomy Fund and the Circular Bio-Based Europe Joint Undertaking. We have also been closely collaborating with the Climate Action Regional Offices to develop a blueprint for regional bio-economy plans.

“The ‘learning by doing’ principle is particularly important. Instead of waiting for a perfect system, we need to start implementing and improving along the way. Our work with EIT Climate-KIC has reinforced this approach – emphasising the urgency of action while allowing flexibility for refinement.”

Bernard Harris, Agricultural Inspector, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Building momentum through collaboration and policy support

A key achievement in 2024 was the activation of funding and financing pathways to unlock systemic change. While capital flows for producer-level investment remain constrained, EIT Climate-KIC’s research helped identify opportunities to bridge this gap, with the support of targeted policy interventions and on-farm demonstrations that built investor confidence. As a result, in 2024 alone, we raised €1.2 million new funding with private partners.

Looking ahead: Vision 2050 and beyond

While implementation is well underway for short-term impact areas, 2024 also laid the foundation for long-term strategic goals, including the development of a Vision 2050 for Ireland’s land-agri-food system to address innovation, inclusion and generational renewal.

Throughout the year, we involved over 360 between farmers, public officials, industry experts, researchers, youth and creatives to reflect on common values and narratives to build support for the transition, as well as reflecting and modelling a new vision for 2050.

The outputs from this process will outline 10 desired outcomes for the agri-food sector, emerging trends, and potential pathways to 2050, with the goal of informing public policy.

EIT Climate-KIC releases a practical guide for regional climate adaptation planning

*In 2024, EIT Climate-KIC advanced its mission to accelerate systemic climate innovation by supporting European regions in building transformative climate resilience. As climate impacts intensify—from heatwaves and floods to droughts and storms—regions across Europe increasingly recognise the urgent need for robust, forward-looking adaptation strategies. This year, EIT Climate-KIC took a major step forward with the launch of the **Regional Resilience Journey**, a structured, step-by-step methodology to help regions plan and implement systemic climate adaptation.*



Delivered as part of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, the Pathways2Resilience programme empowers local and regional authorities to craft comprehensive climate resilience plans. These plans move beyond incremental adaptation by embedding systems innovation, just transition principles, and transformative thinking.

Participating regions receive access to training, technical assistance, and funding of up to €210,000 to co-develop their plans using the Regional Resilience Journey methodology. The approach is informed by EIT Climate-KIC's decade of experience, including flagship

initiatives such as the Deep Demonstrations, and integrates tools like the European Environmental Agency's Regional Adaptation Support Tool (RAST).

"The novelty of the Regional Resilience Journey lies in its ability to go beyond traditional adaptation tools," says Thomas Koetz, Senior Advisor for Climate Resilient Regions at EIT Climate-KIC. "By embedding transformation and aligning with mitigation efforts, such as those in our NetZeroCities programme, we support regions to shape their climate futures, not just react to them."

A three-step journey: prepare the ground, build the vision, design pathways

The Regional Resilience Journey offers a flexible, non-linear approach to developing climate adaptation plans, tailored to a region's readiness and context and consists of three interconnected phases:

Regions can draw on the **wealth of resources and training** provided by Pathways2Resilience to prepare their climate adaptation strategy.

1) Step one: prepare the ground

Regions assess climate risks, identify key stakeholders, and establish enabling conditions, such as data, finance, and governance.

For instance, in their 2022 **Law on Climate Change and Energy Transition**, the Canary Islands identified water scarcity and land use change, coupled with lack of quality data, as key priorities and barriers to address when building climate resilience.

At the end of this phase, regions will have a comprehensive baseline covering, among others, risk assessments, adaptive capacity needs, a stakeholder map and a monitoring framework that will act as a solid foundation for your plan.

2) Step two: build the vision

Regions engage communities and local actors to co-create a shared, inclusive vision. This step defines strategic priorities and sets collaborative governance in motion.

Some communities have already embedded this collaborative approach. The Glasgow City Council's new project **Creative Climate Futures** brings organisations and local residents in two of its most vulnerable neighbourhoods together with decision-makers, technical experts and artists to shape the climate-resilient future they want.

When wrapping up this phase, regions will have a draft strategy comprising a vision, an evidence-based outline of actions that will lead to the desired changes, and collaborative governance mechanisms underpinning this process.

3) Step three: design pathways

Regions develop portfolios of interventions—diverse, complementary actions that foster innovation and address uncertainty. These pathways support systemic change by integrating new technologies, cross-sector collaboration, and long-term resilience planning.

As an example of addressing interlinked challenges around extreme temperatures, biodiversity loss, and rural livelihoods, the Castilla y Leon region in Spain **is exploring a range of nature-based solutions** around water management, climate-proofing of public infrastructure, sustainable land use and food production, and renewable energy deployment.

Systemic innovation in practice: designing a portfolio of actions deeply rooted in the local context

"EIT Climate-KIC's methodologies for systemic innovation in specific places, from Deep Demonstrations to the Regional Resilience Journey and Living Labs, put at the centre the vision and concerns of local community and groups," explains Koetz. "Taking into account a wide range of perspectives from the outset allows us to address root causes of problems. The next step is designing a portfolio of interventions that push forward innovation and are firmly grounded in the local context. With this approach, our programmes aim to contribute to more effective investments and planning towards just, inclusive climate resilience."

EIT Climate-KIC has already been implementing large-scale demonstration

programmes in Ireland, Slovenia, Spain and Greece, and is helping to shape 'Living Labs' through a third EU Mission on healthy soils – places to experiment with solutions for urban and rural challenges in real-life conditions, together with farmers, industrial sites, citizens and local authorities.

End of the journey: a solid foundation for implementing your resilience plan

By completing the Regional Resilience Journey, participating regions will have developed a comprehensive climate resilience action plan that includes multiple pathways and portfolios of interventions, defined investment strategies, measurable environmental, social, and economic indicators, and tools for ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and learning.



Partnering with philanthropy to drive systemic climate innovation

In 2024, EIT Climate-KIC deepened its commitment to systemic climate action by launching a strategic partnership with Philea (Philanthropy Europe Association) through the Climate-KIC International Foundation. This collaboration aims to strengthen connections between the philanthropic sector and the EIT Climate-KIC community to accelerate climate innovation and ensure that the transition is just, inclusive and locally grounded.

The partnership promotes collaboration between public-benefit foundations and city leaders to address the immense challenge of achieving climate neutrality.

EIT Climate-KIC brings 15 years of experience as a Knowledge and Innovation Community focused on bridging the gap between climate commitments and current realities, while Philea nurtures a diverse and inclusive ecosystem of foundations, philanthropic organisations and networks in over 30 countries that are committed to effecting change for people and planet in Europe and beyond.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with EIT Climate-KIC as we work to ensure that cities' transition towards climate-neutrality is equitable, fair and inclusive. Philanthropy has a unique role to play in enabling experimentation, co-creation and innovation by being a trust-based partner that works on the long-term with stakeholders from the ecosystem," says Delphine Moralis, CEO of Philea.

The partnership will explore joint efforts to channel philanthropic funding into climate programmes and support various actors, from businesses and public authorities to grassroots organisations and communities, to catalyse systemic change. It will focus on co-creating knowledge, collaborating on current and emerging climate issues, and promoting environments that foster innovation and good practices.

"The climate crisis requires new levels of collaboration, innovation and financial mobilisation to create the scale of change we need," says Kirsten Dunlop, CEO of EIT Climate-KIC. This partnership and webinar series bring together the power of philanthropy and innovation to drive impactful climate solutions for cities across Europe. The transition to climate-neutral cities requires technical and financial support but above all systemic approaches to innovation, community-driven solutions and creativity—this is where partnership with philanthropy can be transformative."

Sixteen community-focused projects receive New European Bauhaus funding

In May 2024, the EIT Community New European Bauhaus has confirmed 16 new projects to receive funding through its community-focused Connect NEB and Co-create NEB programmes, which focus on citizen-generated solutions to the challenges facing cities, peri-urban and rural areas. While the Connect NEB programme engages people in relevant challenges within their local community, the Co-create NEB programme calls on local communities and public authorities to re-design public space.



With projects based in locations ranging from the Baltic city of Tallinn to Maia on the Iberian Peninsula, the geographical diversity of this year's cohorts represents the far-reaching impact of the New European Bauhaus initiative.

Announced in early 2021, the New European Bauhaus is an EU-backed initiative that calls on all Europeans to shape an alternative future for the continent – built on the core principles of sustainability, inclusivity and aesthetics.

Along with our partners [EIT Food](#), [EIT Manufacturing](#), and [EIT Urban Mobility](#), EIT

Climate-KIC leads the [EIT Community NEB](#), whose role is to support on-the-ground projects that embody the values of the NEB movement.

In April 2024, we reported on the impact of last year's [Connect NEB](#) and [Co-create NEB cohorts](#), which collectively demonstrate [place-based transformation](#) in a tangible way. Furthermore, by addressing an issue highlighted by the community, these programmes ensure that European Union funding is reaching the places and people who need it the most.

Selected cohort for Connect NEB

- **Connecting Seveso** (Lombardy, Italy)
Creating green spaces through the redevelopment of urban wasteland.
- **PLACETHEATRE** (Novi Sad, Serbia)
Placemaking through street theatre and future storytelling.
- **FishArt** (Anzio, Italy)
Sustainable, participatory art for the rejuvenation of the local harbour.



- **Bavarian Alps + BeCare** (Munich, Germany)
Inclusive and sustainable connections to and from the Bavarian Alps.
- **Gardens 4 Good** (Paris, France)
Sharing the benefits of community gardening with elderly, vulnerable people.
- **FURKAN** (Ostróda, Poland)
Supporting the transformation of the urban-rural food system.
- **CraftEarth** (Catalonia, Spain)
Catalysing transformation through environmental resilience and technology.
- **From know-how to do-how** (Liepāja, Latvia)
Training the local community to restore neglected buildings.

Selected Co-create NEB projects

- **EmMa** (Ljubljana, Slovenia)
Emergency responses for flood-damaged public spaces.
- **ELDERS** (Barcelona, Spain)
Encouraging active living and self-sufficiency among the elderly population.
- **COHERE** (Utrecht, Netherlands – *see main article image*)
Working with local people to make inner-city neighbourhoods greener.
- **Sobrotherhood** (Maia, Portugal)
Rebuilding community through **biophilic design**, which focuses on aspects of nature that contribute to human health.
- **GO AERCHOT!** (Schaerbeek, Brussels)
Improving public space and climate awareness for vulnerable groups in the city.
- **Cultural Campus** (Frankfurt, Germany)
Transforming vacant buildings to boost culture and community.
- **PlayInn** (Madrid, Spain)
Forging connections and a sense of belonging through improved public spaces.
- **Kopli93** (Kopli, Estonia)
A home for local people to learn about food, construction and self-sufficiency.



New partnership charts a path for systemic change in the EU

The Systems Transformation Hub, a pioneering venture designed to drive systemic solutions for Europe, was launched on 24 January 2024 at the European Parliament by a coalition of five thought-leading organisations, including EIT Climate-KIC. This comes at a pivotal time of complex and interconnected crises in the lead-up to key elections in the European Union.

The world faces an unprecedented convergence of crises: conflict, climate change, biodiversity loss, public health emergencies, social unrest around migration and deepening inequality. These challenges are inextricably linked, demanding a holistic, systemic approach to policymaking.

“While the European Green Deal has set the stage for a profound economic transformation, its implementation faces obstacles. Short-term crisis management, coupled with rising social, financial, and political tensions, have all underscored the need for a systemic approach to achieving Europe’s green and socio-economic goals”, say the Hub’s leaders in a common statement.

The Systems Transformation Hub aims to provide strategic and systematic guidance, supporting the European institutions and Member States in policy analysis, development, policy learning and agile decision support.

The Hub will focus on European policy, yet also on Europe’s relationship with the rest of the world. This Hub emerges from the collaboration of five organisations working on systems change: [Metabolic](#), [EIT Climate-KIC](#), [Systemiq](#), [The Club of Rome](#), and

the [World Resources Institute](#), with an open invitation for others to join.

The Systems Transformation Hub will develop a roadmap with policy orientations, to inspire the upcoming European Commission in its early months of operation.

The approach includes:

- Mapping the EU status with regards to the Sustainable Development Goals and European Green Deal and conducting a gap and incoherence analysis.
- Developing a narrative for policymakers rooted in systemic levers, robust scientific knowledge, and data analysis to support the European Green Deal in the changing political economical context.
- Stress-testing and disseminating results with relevant policymakers and world-leading experts in their respective fields.

The Hub will provide strategic capability for the EU, remaining independent, transparent, science-based and non-political.

EIT Climate-KIC launches FoodCoP, strengthening regional collaboration to transform food systems

The FoodCoP project has officially launched in November 2024, marking the beginning of a new initiative to transform rural food systems across Europe. The European Union has recognised the growing need for sustainable growth in rural areas, where bioeconomy solutions hold significant potential to drive both long-term economic growth and environmental sustainability.



The bioeconomy sector already contributes €2.2 trillion to the European economy and supports 17.5 million jobs. Projections show this could rise to €3 trillion by 2050, with the agri-food industry being a key driver of Europe's green future.

Aligned with these objectives, FoodCoP is building a network of "Start-up Villages" across Europe. These are regions dedicated to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship to stimulate local economies, **furthering the concept developed by the EU Commission's**

Joint Research Centre (JRC) and Gloucester University, and enlarging its reach.

By developing shared resources and creating learning opportunities, this community of practice (CoP) will help these villages adopt circular bioeconomy practices that prioritise resource efficiency and waste reduction. This collaborative approach will strengthen the resilience of rural food systems, creating a model of sustainability that can be replicated across Europe.

Through community engagement, knowledge sharing and place-based action, FoodCoP aims to make rural food systems more sustainable and self-sufficient.

The project focuses on making better use of resources, cutting food-related emissions and waste and strengthening the economic resilience of rural communities. FoodCoP is dedicated to inspiring real, lasting improvements in how food systems work. By encouraging the sharing of best practices, it aims to spark systemic change, helping create a food landscape that's both more efficient and fair, while bridging the gap between cities and rural areas when it comes to innovation.

Coordinated by the Municipality of Fundão, FoodCoP brings together 14 partners from 9 countries, including SMEs, EIT Climate-KIC,

Start-up Villages, universities, regional innovation networks, and research organisations. This diverse representation ensures broad outreach and active stakeholder involvement across Europe, essential to achieving the project's objectives. Supported by the European Union under the Horizon Europe programme, FoodCoP will run for two years. As the Scientific Coordinator of the FoodCoP project, EIT Climate-KIC is leading both the "Community Building and Mobilisation" and the "Training, and Capacity Building" activities.

This means organising hands-on activities like sensemaking workshops, Climathons and training programmes designed to equip Start-up Villages and other stakeholders with the skills they need to put circular bioeconomy solutions into practice.

"This project is a key opportunity to drive innovation in rural communities by fostering collaboration and equipping stakeholders with the tools, knowledge and network to implement sustainable solutions and fostering entrepreneurship. At EIT Climate-KIC, we see FoodCoP as perfectly aligned with our broader strategic goals of enabling systemic change and empowering regions to thrive within a circular and green economy breaking the innovation divide."

Elisa Von Fritsch, Project Assistant at EIT Climate KIC

A vision for sustainable waste management and prevention

Waste management poses a pressing challenge in Bengaluru and Nairobi, two vibrant and rapidly growing cities. The increasing volume and complexity of waste strain existing systems, impacting ecosystems, livelihoods, and community well-being while creating serious risks to human health and the environment. Current waste management approaches fail to keep up, making innovative and sustainable solutions urgently necessary.



In India's, the oldest and largest landfill, Ghazipur in Delhi, went up in flames once again, on the eve of Earth Day 2024, significantly impacting the health of the local population.

At EIT Climate-KIC we work on solutions that involve all stakeholders, including the local population and informal waste workers who spend their days, and sometimes even nights, on the landfills.

A holistic solution to waste management

Nairobi faces significant waste management challenges because of rapid urbanisation. The city generates approximately 3,207 tonnes of waste daily, around 20 per cent of which is plastic and 50 per cent is organic waste. Much of this waste remains uncollected, with only 77 per cent being managed in 2021.

In response, a diverse coalition of government bodies, businesses, NGOs and waste workers is

spearheading the Circular Economy Innovation Cluster, a programme by EIT Climate-KIC in partnership with GrowthAfrica and funded by the IKEA Foundation.

Mavji Varsani, CEO of Vintz Plastics, a plastics recycling company that is part of the Circular Economy Innovation Cluster network said, *"The main challenges for Kenya's waste management sector are related to policies not being implemented. Education is critical. The sector needs to be aware of how to manage and dispose of waste correctly for environmental safety. We need to find ways to innovate and give value to waste, turning it into a resource. This shift in mindset can benefit the entire sector."*

Acknowledging the limitations of relying solely on recycling, the cluster adopts a holistic strategy, engaging local stakeholders to map challenges and incubating circular ideas, especially targeting upstream innovations and

marginalised groups like informal waste workers. The focus goes beyond recycling to prioritise waste prevention, guided by core circular principles, marking a transformative shift in Nairobi's approach to waste prevention.



Photo: Mavji Varsani, Vintz Plastics

Key insights from a baseline study conducted by Wasafiri Consulting highlight the necessity of upstream circular solutions, integration of informal workers into waste management initiatives, and the need for diverse platforms to foster collaboration. The programme will also facilitate knowledge exchange and co-learning events to bridge silos and accelerate the transition to circularity.

The Circular Economy Innovation Cluster in Nairobi is aimed to serve as a hub for collaboration, ideation, and incubation of circular business models that can contribute to reducing and preventing waste and promoting resource efficiency. Through targeted support and mentorship, GrowthAfrica will support entrepreneurs to develop and scale innovative solutions that address the root causes of waste and pollution in the city, especially in bio-waste, agricultural waste, and solid waste (plastics, paper, metal, glass, etc). They will also work to enhance the working conditions of informal waste workers, particularly women, who are often marginalised in the waste management sector.

Gisore Nyabuti, the Secretary General of the Kenya National Waste Pickers Welfare Association, also part of the Circular Economy Innovation Cluster explains: *“The main objective of the association is to ensure the waste-pickers welfare. We want them to have a dignified life. We needed something to unify them, to provide them with a collective voice because there are numerous health risks associated with waste picking. Some landfill waste-pickers resort to burning plastic to keep warm as they sleep in the landfill. So, what we do is we establish companies, intending for them to have shares to continue receiving dividends when they are unable to work in the landfill due to age. We strive for their involvement in every aspect of the waste management value chain. Currently, we are seeking partners for a five-year collaboration to establish centres and systems. After this period, we anticipate the waste pickers will start benefiting from the organisation.”*



Photo: Gisore Nyabuti, Kenya National Waste Pickers Welfare Association

In the face of the escalating plastic pollution crisis, EIT Climate-KIC's efforts in Nairobi exemplify the power of systemic change and collective action. By incubating and accelerating circular innovations, building capacity, fostering partnerships, and showcasing best practices, we are supporting a long-lasting change transformation in waste management and prevention practices in Nairobi.

Forty European regions selected to develop climate adaptation plans under EU scheme

Some of Europe's most vulnerable regions and communities are poised to make significant progress in adapting to climate change. In 2024, forty regions and communities have been selected with EIT Climate-KIC to improve their resilience to a wide range of hazards, from droughts to wildfires, under an innovative EU scheme.



Pathways2Resilience, a programme funded by the European Union and led by EIT **Climate-KIC**, has been **set up** to help local authorities integrate systemic innovation and rapid learning mechanisms into their adaptation plans. The first selected regions, representing a combined population of 53 million, will have a year and a half to develop their transformative strategies and action plans, from October 2024 until February 2026.

Mete Coban, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy of the Greater London Authority, said: *"We are delighted that London has been chosen as one of the recipients of this flagship project – it's a testament to all the climate resilience work we have already started across the capital that we have been chosen as part of the first cohort. The support from Pathways2Resilience funding will enable us to take forward some of the recommendations*

from the London Climate Resilience Review to ensure London is prepared for the changing climate we have already experienced in the city. Worldwide projects like this can support us as we continue to build a fairer, greener London for everyone."

Increasing climate disasters call for a transformative approach to climate adaptation

The 40 regions were selected from a pool of 164 applicants – an unusually large number for an EU funding call – signalling the urgency felt by local governments to protect their communities from increasingly frequent climate-related disasters, as Europe **warms up twice as fast** as other continents.

16 of the selected regions reported being at high risk of exposure to climate hazards, citing

heatwaves, wildfires, droughts and floods as the most concerning.

In addition to a grant of €210,000, the regions will have access to practical guidelines, tools, and hands-on training and mentoring developed by programme experts, from adaptation finance to innovation and participatory policy design.

“For Pathways2Resilience, EIT Climate-KIC has designed a blend of innovative learning methods that move beyond traditional, linear thinking, promoting a more systemic approach,” explains Laura Pando Martínez, project coordinator and learning expert at EIT Climate-KIC. *“Building a resilient future for all requires not only protecting the most vulnerable, but also making sure they have an active role in designing solutions and reaping opportunities.”*

Local communities are increasingly driving climate action

This group represents the first step towards Pathways2Resilience’s overall goal to mobilise 100 regions and communities, and strengthening the ambition and know-how of local authorities on their climate adaptation journey.

*“EIT Climate-KIC is contributing to **implementing the EU Missions** by fostering systemic innovation in specific places,”* says climate resilience expert Thomas Koetz, who leads the project with Pando Martínez.

“Our Mission programmes (Pathways2Resilience, NetZeroCities in Mission Cities, Living Labs in Mission Soil) put the vision and concerns of local communities and groups at their centre. By incorporating a wide range of perspectives from the outset, we can effectively address root causes of problems.”

Cities and regions **have repeatedly called** for more funding and support to implement climate mitigation and adaptation actions, citing national inaction as many EU governments **have failed** to submit their energy and climate plans on time.

In a statement, the City of Budapest said: *“The City of Budapest faces significant challenges in building resilience to the growing threats of climate change, including heat waves, floods, and droughts. Short-term solutions are not enough; we urgently need national strategies and stronger governmental support to address issues such as water management, outdated legislation, and funding climate adaptation measures. By taking part in Pathways2Resilience and the EU Mission Adaptation, we hope to enhance international cooperation with and learn from other cities and regions who are committed to increasing climate resilience.”*

Pathways2Resilience is one of the instruments established by the EU Mission Adaptation to accelerate local action, providing regions with a total of €21 million in cascade funding through two public calls.

Navigating the future of carbon farming: Insights from the first EU Carbon Farming Summit

In March 2024, over 600 experts, organisations, and enthusiasts gathered in Valencia for the first EU Carbon Farming Summit, co-hosted by EIT Climate-KIC and the EU-funded CREDIBLE project. The event showcased the growing momentum around carbon farming as a key solution for sustainable agriculture and climate resilience.



When part of a holistic approach, carbon farming, the practices of boosting carbon storage in soils and vegetation, can enhance climate resilience and biodiversity while transforming agriculture for a sustainable future. Beyond carbon sequestration, it offers co-benefits like improved soil health, water retention, and nutrient cycling. Though integration with existing carbon standards remains a challenge, technological advances and standardised metrics are clarifying its full impact.

The EU-funded CREDIBLE project, co-host of the EU Carbon Farming Summit, champions carbon farming as a powerful, context-specific tool to regenerate agriculture and build trust in its transformative potential.

EU Carbon Removal Certification Framework: support the way towards net-zero

The EU Carbon Removal Certification Framework is a crucial component of Europe's strategy to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Presented by DG CLIMA at the summit, this framework addresses the growing significance of carbon removals in Europe's efforts to combat climate change. Given the challenges in completely reducing emissions, carbon removals are becoming increasingly important for balancing out unavoidable emissions. The objective of this framework is to set the standards and guidelines for certifying and verifying these carbon removal methods, ensuring they meet the required environmental and technical criteria.

The importance of monitoring: ensuring the effectiveness and integrity of carbon farming

Measuring and monitoring are crucial for assessing the impact of any mitigation action, and carbon farming follows the same logic: climate claims linked to shifting agricultural management must be proven and validated. In this respect, the Carbon Removal Certification Framework intends to offer clear quantification guidelines covering both soil emission reduction units and sequestration units, while at the same time acknowledging the impermanent nature of biogenic carbon. Proper and continuous monitoring ensures that the claimed carbon removals are genuine and verifiable. This not only serves as a technical requirement but is also fundamental in establishing trust and credibility in the carbon credit market among investors, policymakers, and the public.

A harmonised approach: building trust in carbon credits

The summit highlighted the necessity of a harmonised approach to carbon credit certification across Europe. The current fragmented methods of certification create inconsistencies and uncertainties in the carbon credit market. A unified and standardised approach is essential to level the playing field, reduce complexities, and enhance transparency and credibility. Such a harmonised approach would facilitate easier comparison and evaluation of carbon credits, fostering trust among stakeholders and encouraging greater participation in carbon trading and investment.

Empowering farmers: a key success factor for carbon farming

Farmers are central to the success of carbon farming initiatives. Their knowledge, skills, and on-ground experience are invaluable for

implementing effective carbon sequestration and emission reduction practices. However, current carbon schemes do not always provide sufficient financial incentives for farmers to adopt these environmentally friendly practices. To overcome this barrier, complementary financing mechanisms and incentives need to be explored. Additionally, empowering farmers through education, training, and ongoing support is crucial to accelerate the adoption and scaling of carbon farming practices across Europe.

Local context matters: tailoring carbon farming initiatives

Carbon farming is a diverse, context-specific solution. The summit underscored the need to adapt practices to local ecosystems, farming conditions, and socio-economic realities across Europe. Peer-to-peer learning and collaboration with local stakeholders—farmers, communities, landowners, and organisations—are key to building trust and ensuring effectiveness.

The EU Carbon Farming Summit served as a pivotal moment, setting the stage for a sustainable future for agriculture. The summit provided valuable insights, highlighted challenges, and unveiled opportunities, forging a path towards an integrated approach where agriculture and climate action go hand in hand.

By embracing a multi-actor approach, encouraging collaboration among stakeholders, and implementing progressive and responsible policies, Europe can fully unlock the potential of carbon farming, positioning it as a cornerstone of its sustainability strategy. As we transition from theory to action, one thing is clear: the future of carbon farming in Europe is promising, but it demands concerted effort, innovation, and collaboration to realise its full potential.

EIT Climate-KIC launched new gender-smart handbook for climate entrepreneurs

In 2024, EIT Climate-KIC launched a campaign outlining five actions to address gender inequality in climate entrepreneurship: *Action 1: Reflect internally*, *Action 2: Show them the money*, *Action 3: Update marketing and communications materials*, *Action 4: Robust data collection*, *Action 5: Bringing in men as allies*



In a world of diverse needs and perspectives, women bring distinctive leadership qualities, social change capabilities, and entrepreneurial skills that are essential to innovation. Studies show that women-led firms have higher ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) scores, and businesses with a higher share of women in leadership positions are more likely to adopt environmentally friendly practices. Additionally, women-led ventures generate more revenue.

Despite this, inequality in climate innovation continues, with men dominating the sector, both in the number of climate start-ups founded by men and the amount of funding given to men-founded companies versus those founded by women. To foster stronger ideas

and solutions in climate innovation, we must catalyse support for women as agents of change in start-ups and in the development of products that serve women's communities.

So, how can climate start-ups become gender-smart?

EIT Climate-KIC handbook “*WeClim Equally: Gender-Smart Handbook for Climate Entrepreneurs*” developed in collaboration with *Bopinc* and launched in June 2024 supports climate start-ups in embedding gender perspectives across all facets of their operations.

It features exercises for start-ups to assess the strength of their gender considerations within

their organisation and implement interventions across four critical areas:

- **Leadership:** Strategies to cultivate gender-balanced leadership and decision-making structures.
- **Organisational culture:** Best practices for fostering an inclusive and equitable workplace environment.
- **Marketplace:** Approaches to ensure gender considerations are integrated into product development, marketing, and customer engagement.
- **Community:** Ideas for supporting gender equality within the broader community and ecosystem.

By addressing these areas, start-ups can promote gender equality and drive innovation and business success within the climate innovation sector.

[Download the handbook](#)

At EIT Climate-KIC, we are committed to driving systemic change in gender equity across the climate innovation sector. Supported by [Irish Aid](#), [CATAL1.5°T](#), and [IDB Lab](#), [our programme](#) helps partners identify gaps in their understanding of gender inequity and implement concrete actions to embed a gender lens into their everyday work.



UNIDO and EIT Climate-KIC join forces to support global efforts to combat and adapt to climate change

In June 2024, UNIDO and EIT Climate-KIC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at leveraging the strengths and expertise of both organisations to promote climate adaption technology and innovation models.



The agreement outlines a framework for joint initiatives that will support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Key areas of cooperation include:

- Conducting joint research and analysis on issues related to climate change and sustainable development;
- Identifying, designing, and executing joint training programmes and capacity-building initiatives as well as technical assistance projects in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition;
- Pursuing joint resources mobilisation;
- Identifying investment opportunities and innovative financing mechanisms to mobilise private capital for sustainable development and climate action;
- Developing a platform for knowledge sharing, facilitating the spread of experience, expertise and best practices.

"I am very glad to be expanding our partnership with EIT Climate KIC. We will combine our expertise to bring climate adaptation solutions with innovative technologies and techniques and accelerate the transition to circular and green economies in communities worldwide. To achieve this, we need to mobilise new investments, especially from the private sector, support new financing and business models and extend knowledge sharing with our partner countries in the Global South," said UNIDO Director General, Gerd Müller.

Accelerating climate solutions in Latin America and the Caribbean

In partnership with IDB Lab and with support from the Clean Technology Fund, EIT Climate-KIC is advancing climate innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). In 2024, our joint programme had accelerated 100 climate-tech start-ups across 11 countries, addressing regional challenges related to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Although LAC contributes just 5 per cent of global energy-related emissions, it is among the most climate-vulnerable regions: facing droughts, shifting rainfall patterns, and declining agricultural productivity. Strengthening the region's climate entrepreneurship ecosystem is critical to building resilience and fostering sustainable solutions.

115 Entrepreneurship Support Organisations (ESOs) from across 16 countries applied to the programme. From this, 26 ESOs were selected for intensive capacity-building in climate entrepreneurship, financial sustainability, systems innovation, gender mainstreaming, and impact assessment.

Four ESOs continued their journey with a collective financial contribution of \$300,000 to help scale climate ventures in their respective regions. This funding enabled them to expand their reach, leverage resources, and

strengthen networks to support emerging climate-tech entrepreneurs.

The ESOs driving this next phase include Consortium Universidad EAN Impacta, BIOINTROPIC, Connect (Colombia), Fundación Chile (Chile), Alterna (Central America + Caribbean), and New Ventures (Mexico).

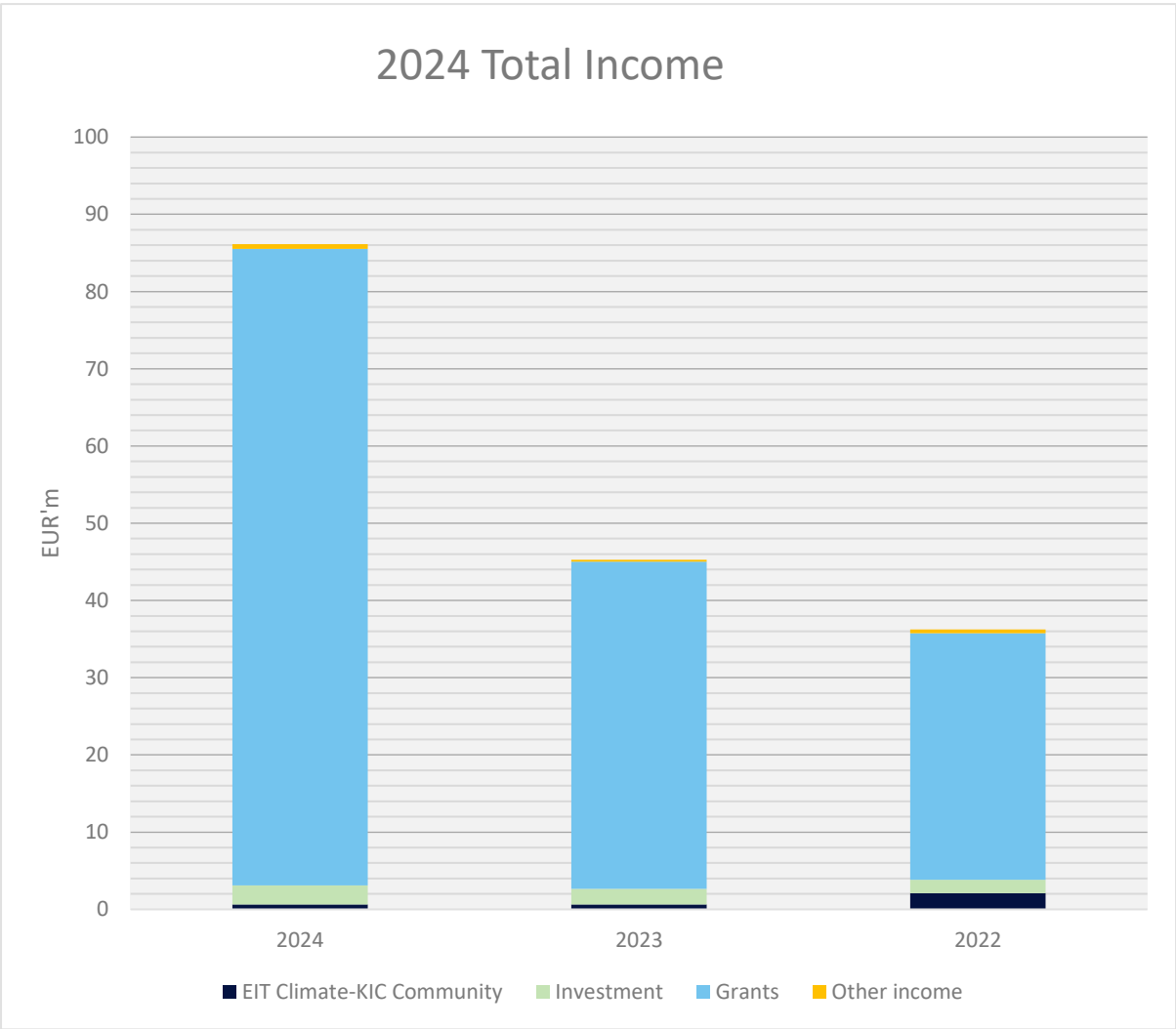


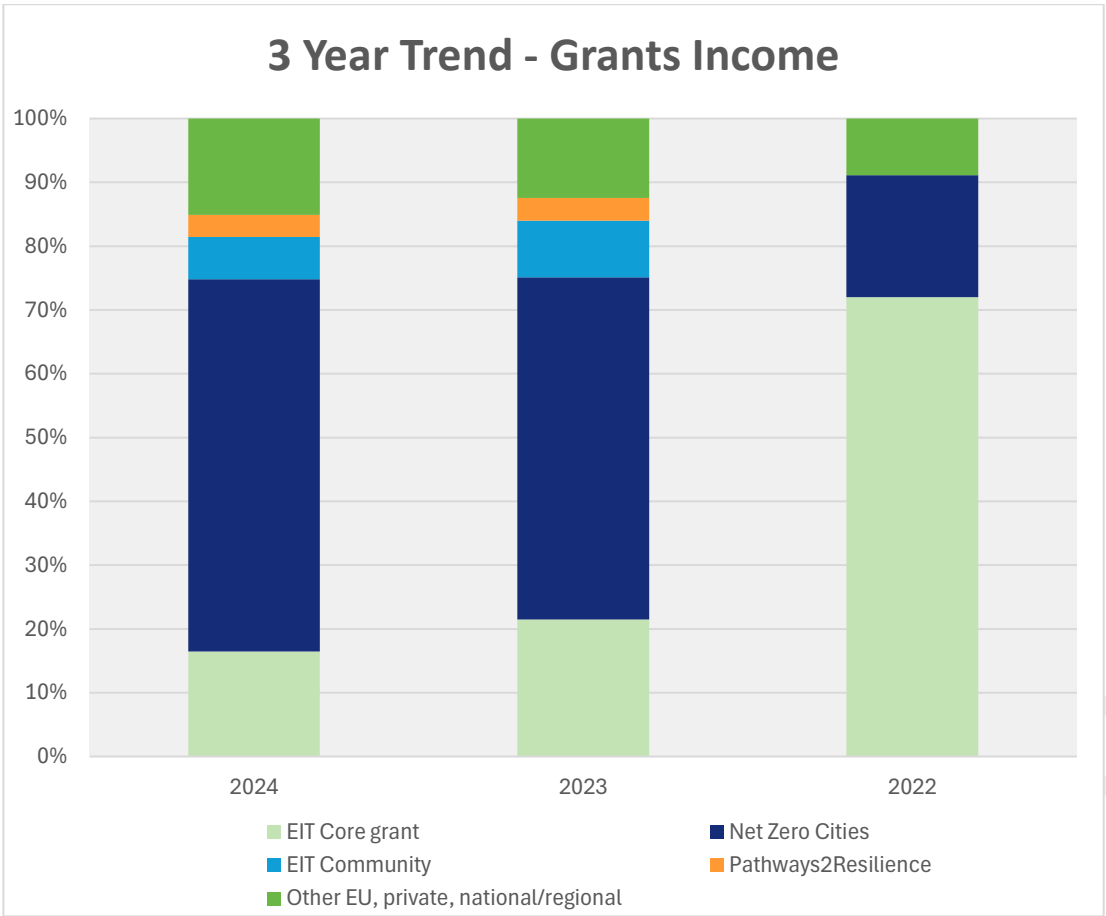
Our financial performance

EIT Climate-KIC continued to grow a diversified revenue base for the organisation and its Community as part of a substantial push to achieve financial sustainability beyond the completion of the EIT mandate in 2024.

In 2024, our total funding rose to over EUR 86.1 million, of which grant income was EUR 82.4 million. Grant income includes EIT (core grant and EIT Community funding), Net Zero Cities, other EU funding, private funds, and national and regional government funding.

The income from investments from EIT Climate-KIC’s supported start-ups was assessed at EUR 2.5 million.





Funders 2024

Amazon EU SARL
Arup
Bank of America
CINEA (Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe)
Climate Finance Fund
Climate Smart Forest Economy Program (CSFEP)
Department of Food, Agriculture and the Marine, Government of Ireland (DAFM)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
EIC (Horizon 2020)
EISMEA (Horizon Europe)
EIT (Horizon Europe)
ETC CA (Horizon 2020)
FedEx Cares
Fundación Biodiversidad
Gipuzkoa Provincial Council
HADEA (Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe)
Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund
REA (Horizon 2020)
RIA (Horizon Europe)
IKEA Foundation
INRAE (Horizon Europe)
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
Irish Aid
Laudes Foundation
Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy, Government of Slovenia
Salesforce Foundation
The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

Our Governance

EIT Climate-KIC has been a public-private partnership comprising the Association Climate-KIC, the Climate-KIC International Foundation and the Climate-KIC Holding B.V. In 2024, Association Climate-KIC held 10 per cent of shares in the Holding, while the Climate-KIC International Foundation held 90 per cent.

Association Climate-KIC Governing Board in 2024

The Association Governing Board provides intellectual leadership and investigates critical challenges in the areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation, informing Climate-KIC's strategy and aspects of strategic relevance to the Association. In 2024, the Governing Board was comprised of ten individuals appointed by the Association from its members. Two members of the Association Governing Board act as representatives on the Foundation Supervisory Board, including the Chair. Board members receive no remuneration for their work; they are compensated for any expenses made in the course of exercising their duties, including travel expenses for board meetings.

Fabio Maria Montagnino, Chair, The Cyprus Institute
Quentin Crowley, Centre for Environment, Trinity College Dublin
Diana Ürge-Vorsat, IPCC
Brigitte Hasewend, ESEIA
Francesca Rizzo, Politecnico di Milano
Jonas Kamleh, City of Malmö
Kai Palludan-Müller, cirka cph
Laia Romero Gonzalez, Lobelia Earth
Suzanne Reynders, INRAE
Valentin Alfaya, Grupo Ferrovial

Climate-KIC International Foundation Board in 2024

The Climate-KIC International Foundation's Board leads and manages EIT Climate-KIC on its path to achieving its mission and objectives. The Foundation's Board monitors the policies pursued and the general course of affairs in the Foundation. It further provides advice, ensuring that the Foundation's objectives are always considered in day-to-day management and policy setting.

John Schellnhuber, Chair, PIK
Rutger de Witt Wijnen, Vice-Chair, CGIAR
Anaar Kara, AXA / CGAP
Sheela Patel, Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centers (SPARC)
Marc Oppenheim, Credit Agricole Immobilier
Wiebke Schloemer, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Climate-KIC International Foundation Executive Director in 2024

Anders Wijkman, Executive Director

Climate-KIC Holding Supervisory Board in 2024

The Supervisory Board has responsibility for the supervision of Climate-KIC Holding B.V.'s Executive Board and the company's general affairs. In 2024, it supervised the Holding's managing statutory directors' performance and considered matters such as the multiannual strategy, the annual business plan, accounts, legal and portfolio strategy for partners and strategic alliances.

Barna Baráth, Chair, REAL School

Thomas Goergen, Covestro Deutschland AG

Sarah Hendel-Blackford, ASRA Network

Valentin Alfaya Arias, Grupo Ferrovial (nominee from Association Climate-KIC)

Jonas Kamleh, City of Malmö (nominee from Association Climate-KIC)

Climate-KIC Holding B.V. Management Board (Executive Directors) 2024

Kirsten Dunlop, Chief Executive Officer

Andrew Kerr, Chief Strategy Officer

Michelle Spratt, Chief Financial Officer

Briana van Strijp, Chief Operations Officer

Community Members 2024

Aalto University	Zubi Cities S.L.
Stichting Wageningen Research	Chillservices Gmbh
TEP Energy Gmbh	Project X Global Limited
Stowarzyszenie Eko-Biegły (Eko-Biegły Association)	Gecosistema Srl
Instytut Nauk Geologicznych Polskiej Akademii Nauk	Privredna Komora Srbije
Edinn Global S.L.	Fundatia Oeconomica Timisiensis
Meteorological Environmental Earth Observation	Stiftung Global Infrastructure Basel
I4CE - Institute for Climate Economics	Stichting Technotrend
Asociación Valenciana De Empresas Del Sector De La Energía	Eat Foundation
Stowarzyszenie Centrum Rozwiazan Systemowych	E-Zavod, Zavod Za Celovite Razvojne Resitve
Climate Media Factory UG (Haftungsbeschränkt)	Bankers Without Boundaries
Res Societa Cooperativa	Lightfi Limited
Itecon Ingenieria Y Construccion S.L.	Amped Concepts B.V.
Ne Nomisma Energia Srl	Athena Research Center
Exceedence Ltd	Regionalna Energetska Agencija Sjeverozapadne Hrvatske
Cool Farm Alliance Community Interest Company	Edgeryders OÜ
Pannon Pro Innovation Services Ltd.	Leuven Klimaatneutraal 2030 Vzw
Camera De Comert, Industrie Si Agricultura Timis	Dark Matter Laboratories B.V.
Building Global Innovators	Fagor Sociedad Cooperativa
Chrysalis Leap Limited	The Democratic Society Aisbl
Genillard & Co. Gmbh	Fondazione Fenice Onlus
Cleantech Bulgaria Ltd.	Zdruzenie Na Gragjani SMART AP-Laboratorija Za Socijalni Inovacii Skopje
	Swarmcheck Sp Z.O.O.

Verture	Fundacja My Personality Skills
Civitta Slovakia, A.S.	Greeometer
ZUM Urbanizem, Planiranje, Projektiranje D.O.O.	Wuppertal Institut Für Klima, Umwelt, Energie Gmbh
Cleantech Hub Colombia	Instituto Tecnológico De La Energía
Plate-Forme Technologique Européenne Pour Le Future Du Textile Et De l'Habillement	South Pole Carbon Asset Management Ltd.
La Palma Research Centre for Future Studies SL	Fundación De La Comunidad Valenciana Para La Promoción Estratégica, El Desarrollo Y La Innovación
Naučno-Tehnološki Park Niš D.O.O.	Rigas Tehniska Universitate
KLIK, Energetska Zadruga	AIT Austrian Institute of Technology Gmbh
Zało Un Viedo Tehnologiju Klasteris	Mondragon Corporacion Cooperativa S. Coop
Bogatin D.O.O	REDO Società Di Gestione Del Risparmio S.P.A. -Società Benefit
Regional Education and Information Centre For Sustainable Development In South-East Europe	Euskampus Fundazioa
Impact Hub Labs Mko	4CF Limited Liability Company (Spółka Z Ograniczoną Odpowiedzialnością)
2811 Social Enterprise Ug	Irish Manufacturing Research Clg
Impact Hub Vienna Gmbh	The Cyprus Institute
Ropot Boutique Srl	Saulėtekio Slėnio Mokslo Ir Technologijų Parkas
Sveuciliste U Zagrebu	Lobelia Earth, S.L.
Cirka Cph	Stichting Circle Economy
Ecometro Mediciones SL (Member)	Technische Universiteit Delft
Giy Ireland Clg	l'Institut National De Recherche Pour L'agriculture, L'alimentation Et L'environnement
Metabolic BV.	Universität Hamburg
Amigo S.R.L.	Engie S.A.
MAGFI Ltd	Sorbonne Université
Slovene Dutch Business Platform	The Provost, Fellows, Foundation Scholars, and other members of Board, of the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Queen Elizabeth near Dublin

Instituto Valenciano De Competitividad Empresarial

Lunds Universitet

Aalto-Korkeakoulusäätiö

Malmö Stad

Aarhus Kommune, Teknik Og Miljø

Aarhus Universitet

Universidad Politécnica De Madrid (UPM)

Vlaamse Instelling Voor Technologisch Onderzoek N.V.

RISE Research Institutes of Sweden AB

Politecnico Di Milano

Uniwersytet Warszawski

Fachhochschule Zentralschweiz - Hochschule Luzern

Instytut Technologii Eksploatacji - Sieć Badawcza Łukasiewicz

Gmina Miejska Kraków

Ayuntamiento De Madrid

Crea Madrid Nuevo Norte Sa

Technological University Dublin

Ayuntamiento De Valencia

Ayuntamiento De Valladolid

Ayuntamiento De Zaragoza

Tecnalia

Suez Groupe Sas

Fondazione Per L'Innovazione Urbana

Scor Global P&C Se

Onf International Sas

Fundacja Warszawski Instytut Studiów Ekonomicznych

Instituto Tecnológico De Producto Infantil Y Ocio

Ferrovial Corporación, S.A.

Cyprus Energy Agency

Technická Univerzita V Košiciach

Climate Leadership Coalition

Climatetrade Corp Sucursal En España

Centar Za Cirkularnu Ekonomiju Cirekon D.O.O

Centrum Łukasiewicz

Stichting Rooftop Revolution

Green Aureus Gmbh

DBP Studio, Marketing In Oglaševanje, D.O.O.

Social Gob

Meijer & Co Kft.