

Annual Report 2020





"The Global Community of Europe's Tech Innovators"

- 3 **Who are we?
Ecosystem**
Get to know our background and vision
- 4 **2020 Highlights**
An overview of the year's key events and their impact on the community
- 5 **Community Events**
Despite the pandemic, several local events were held in China, Finland and Sweden
- 6 **Who are the EIT Digital alumni?**
People - our most valuable asset
- 7 **Structure of the Foundation
Finances**
A behind-the-scenes peek into the foundation and its operations
- 8 **Communication
Representation**
Online and offline appearances by our alumni at various events
- 9 **Startups in the Community**
Founders of our community's startups share their experiences
- 10 **Acknowledgements**
Special thanks to our members and supporters - you made all of this happen!

Dear partners, friends and fellow alumni,

Without a doubt, 2020 has been an extraordinary year. Like the rest of the world, our community had to reinvent the way we meet, engage and learn from each other. As a result, 2020 saw an unprecedented increase in new (online) event formats aimed at creating engagement within the community.

In addition to the highly successful Local Representative Training and a Pre-Departure event in Shenzhen, China - both held in-person - EIT Digital Alumni organised various online, knowledge-sharing events: the Tuesday Afterwork Series, focused on personal development; the Startup Contest, aimed at showcasing entrepreneurship; and the AlumniHack, an opportunity for teamwork and collaboration. These events significantly expanded our reach and will be here to stay in the coming years.

Unfortunately, 2020 also saw the cancellation of many local events and initiatives, and our flagship event, the EIT Digital Alumni Annual Meeting, had to take place online. Cancelling these events undoubtedly had a big impact on the community, but we are hopeful we can pick up where we left off once the world reopens. Combining the new with the old, the EIT Digital Alumni will certainly be stronger than ever!

Jeroen van Lent
President of EIT Digital Alumni

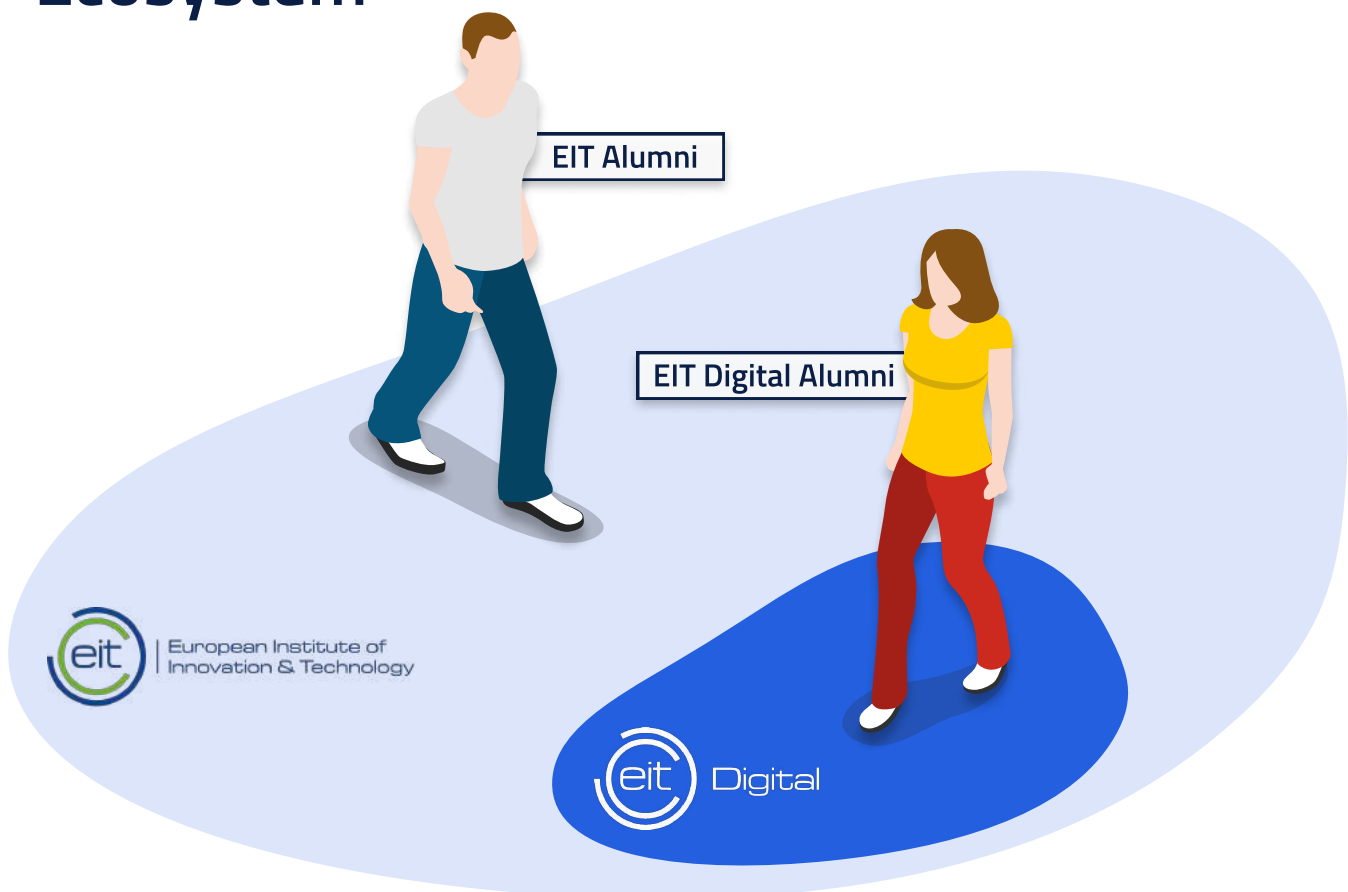
Who are we?

The EIT Digital Alumni Foundation is the global community of Europe's tech innovators. It creates a vibrant, active and successful alumni network for EIT Digital. Our mission is to keep strong connections among fellow alumni and the EIT Digital ecosystem.

We organise meet-ups, maintain an engaged community, support career development and connect our members with companies, public institutions and academia.

Our members are graduates of EIT Digital education programmes, as well as individuals who have had formal roles in EIT Digital. The community also welcomes associate members and friends of EIT Digital.

Ecosystem



EIT Digital was established as a Key Innovation Community (KIC) for the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT). The EIT Digital Alumni Foundation and the EIT Alumni community are thus two separate entities. In particular, EIT Digital Alumni serves members of the EIT Digital ecosystem, and shares a vision with the EIT Alumni community to strengthen EIT as a whole.

2020 Highlights

Working Group Meeting

February, Madrid

The year started with a Working Group Meeting with 20 attendees. The meeting was a success, and several board initiatives as well as event plans were made for the year ahead.



Startup Contest

June, online

26 startups and 40 participants took part in this year's very successful contest. All participants received valuable community feedback and support to further develop their ideas.



Annual Meeting

November, online

53 participants took part in the Annual Meeting. The community was updated on the state of the foundation, a vote for new by-laws was proposed and a keynote was delivered by Ruud Visser, founder of Doppler.



Tuesday Afterwork Series

May - June, online

In response to pandemic restrictions, we launched an online series of 7 events that featured various alumni speaking about personal and professional development.



AlumniHack

September, online

Our first hackathon was launched to collect new ideas for our website and provide web design and development training to our members. Ideas generated during the event are being implemented on our website.



Community Events

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the number of local events organised by our local representatives and other members of the EIT Digital Alumni community in 2020. Despite the restrictions on private indoor gatherings and international travel, the Alumni Foundation was able to provide financial and logistical support for the organisation of the following events, provided that all local safety recommendations were met.

Stockholm

Master Thesis Seminar Series | 4th March

Hosted by the Stockholm CLC, this session featured short talks by EIT Digital Master's students about their thesis projects.

AlumniHack 2020 Hub | 26th & 27th September

Participants of the AlumniHack who were based in Stockholm had the opportunity to gather over the weekend to work on proposed solutions to improve the EIT Digital Alumni website. This event was hosted by Hedylity Technology.

Alumni & Master Students Meetup | 30th September & 14th October

These evening sessions, hosted by the Stockholm CLC, were aimed at introducing the Alumni Foundation to current students and showcasing various journeys from students to graduates.

Helsinki

EIT Digital HotPot | 6th March

This networking session gathered alumni and Master's students in a social event to learn more about EIT Digital Alumni. The second part of the event featured an international dinner and a trip to the sauna.

Run & Chill | 20th September

EIT Digital alumni and master's students hosted their own sports event. After completing a 5km run, there was a networking session with food, drinks and a Finnish sauna.

Shenzhen

Pre-departure Meetup | 25th July

This meet-up was organised for all new EIT Digital students in China before their travel to Europe to begin their studies. Attendees received information about student life in Europe and discussed networking opportunities between new students and alumni. This event was hosted by our alumni Yue Sun and Tianchi Li at the company headquarters of Codemao.

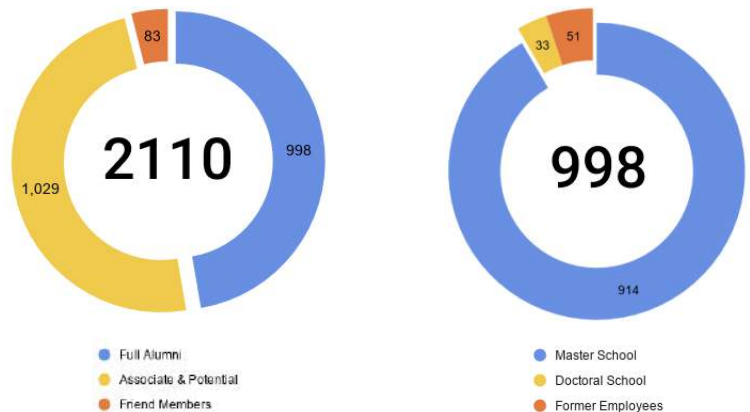


Who are the EIT Digital alumni?

This year's survey of EIT Digital's alumni was done in collaboration with the Master School Office. This team effort allowed us to coordinate on the most important questions and gave us the ability to reach a record number of respondents: 752 - that's a 144.2% increase! It is now our goal to analyse these responses to increase the value of our community, specifically for the alumni who help sustain it.

Growing community

Fewer physical, in-person events meant that there was a lack of opportunities to promote the community towards potential new members. Nevertheless, our membership grew to 2110, while 998 of whom are full alumni. A breakdown of the numbers is visualised on the right.



Professional development Interests

A survey of EIT Digital alumni reveals that the services most appreciated by our members are: 1) licenses for productivity softwares, 2) opportunities training and professional development, and 3) job and internship offers. These results will be used to inform the foundation's strategic decisions in the year ahead.

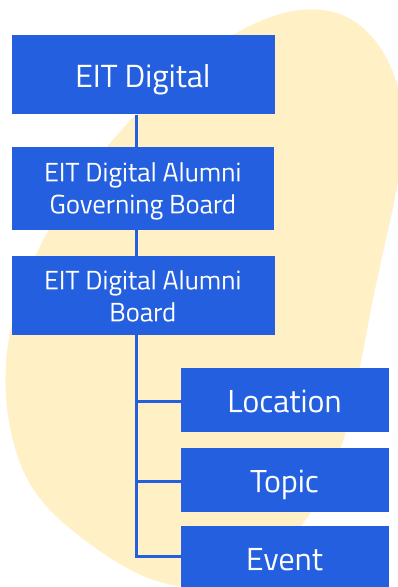


International nature

The majority of the foundation's members are graduates of EIT Digital Master School programmes, a two-year education in which students build their own unique curricula, following courses in two universities in two different European countries. Hence, members of community are located internationally by nature. The community has nine local hubs in Europe, North America, and Asia.



Structure of the Foundation



EIT Digital Alumni is organised into 3 levels: governance, operations and working groups. Governance is carried out by the Governing Board, which decides on the annual business plan, budget and other formal matters. The Governing Board consists of 2 representatives from EIT Digital and one representative from the EIT Digital Alumni.

Daily operations are run by the Alumni Board, supported by the Community Coordinator. The Alumni Board consists of 7 individuals elected by the community with the mandate of pursuing the foundation's non-profit mission and activities.

The various working groups, clustered by location, topic or larger event (such as the Annual Meeting), plan and implement the vast majority of our activities,

Finances

The EIT Digital Alumni Foundation is funded entirely by EIT Digital, which provided a budget of 81.000 euros for the year 2020. This budget is expected to be completely spent in the optimal case, and is used primarily for organising events, which means that a lot of work is required from volunteers and the board to keep the foundation running. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, total expenditures turned out lower than originally forecasted.

In short, this means that active volunteers and board members are needed in order to fulfil the foundation's goals. In addition, the treasurer, together with the president, serves as a guardrail to make sure that spending goes according to plan.

INCOME

Contribution from EIT Digital	€81.000,00
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EXPENSES

	Actual	Expected
Overhead expenses	€10.828,99	€13.000,00
B1 - Website and Intranet	€6.716,74	€8.000,00
B2 - Board Participation at Events	€0,00	€10.000,00
B3 - Alumni Community Activities	€7.950,07	€9.500,00
B4 - Cross-KIC EIT Alumni Activities	€0,00	€1.500,00
B5 - Graduation Ceremony	€552,87	€2.000,00
B6 - Annual Alumni Meeting	€7.699,62	€12.000,00
B7 - Branding and Promotion	€3.322,62	€5.000,00
B8 - Community Coordinator	€20.000,00	€20.000,00
Total	€57.070,91	€81.000,00

Overall, most of the budget for community activities, the website, the annual meeting and promotional activities were successfully spent. The Board looks forward to organise in-person activities again in 2021, with the support of the community.



Facebook 1.7k followers
Twitter 1.2k followers
LinkedIn 1.7k followers
Instagram 1.1k followers



Communication

Looking for the latest news and updates from the foundation? Follow @digitalumni on social media or [subscribe to our newsletter!](#)

In the year 2020, the foundation enriched its digital content with more than 10 inspirational [alumni blogs and success stories](#) (special thanks to Gaffar Rampage, our blog writer). Our [new Flickr albums](#) and [YouTube playlists](#) also add to our growing repository of online content. We believe that this will sharpen our ideas and bring us closer together.

In addition, new branding elements have been introduced (thanks to Jiayao Yu, our visual designer).

Representation

Throughout the year, our alumni have been part of various online and offline events:

Representatives from the community had the opportunity to present their experiences to participants of the ***EIT Digital Summer Schools 2020***.

Various EIT Digital Alumni were involved as participant, speaker or organiser at ***EIT Alumni CONNECT 2020*** to meet, learn from and network with other EIT alumni.

EIT Digital Alumni represented EIT Alumni and the rest of the EIT ecosystem in a panel discussion about career development and entrepreneurship at the ***European Research & Innovation Days***.

EIT Digital Alumni is a communication partner of ***DigiEduHack 2020*** - aimed at engaging more people to solve digital education challenges.

Contact us to be our partners!

Interested in hosting workshops, job fairs, hackathons, or any other events with us? Would you like to introduce your organisation to our alumni? Please email us at alumni@eitdigital.eu



Startups in the Community



We are very glad to have won the Startup Contest 2020, where we got valuable mentorship and financial support. In the future, we aspire to grow together with the Alumni ecosystem and contribute to the advancement of our society.

Selah Li and Marc van Almkerk

Co-founders of Ellure,

a startup on a mission to address waste for a more sustainable cosmetic lifecycle

Alumni of Human-Computer Interaction and Design track 2018

Being part of EIT Digital Alumni is a mix of having fun, meeting friends and professional networking. Some of the alumni I've met have become both my friends and supporters of my startups, and they have been eager to connect me with resources. That's what I really love about the community.

Dora Palfi

Co-founder & CEO of ImagiLabs,

a startup aimed at bridging the gender gap in STEM education

Alumna of Human-Computer Interaction and Design track 2018



The EIT Digital Alumni community is a very diverse group of smart people that are very supportive. The community is always willing to help out with answering questions and giving feedback on ideas.

Ruud Visser

Co-founder of Doppler,

a startup that provides a universal secrets manager for development security

Alumnus of Digital Media Technology track 2015

Entremo's journey was highly accelerated by the EIT Digital community. We've received funding, secured partnerships and been invited to conferences and events all through EIT Digital connections.

Peter Lakatos

Co-founder of Entremo,

a startup that pioneered a wristband to remotely monitor vital signs of patients

Alumnus of Data Science track 2020



Our deepest appreciation goes to all those who have helped make 2020 a great year!

Special thanks to ...

The local representatives and alumni members who organised local events in 2020

Dániel Bányay (*Budapest*), Xuemei (May) Yu and Yuan (Jane) Wang (*China*), Magdalena Mihalache and Gábor Major (*Helsinki*), Sina Sheikholeslami and Gigi Ho (*Stockholm*)

The Summer School presenters

Dániel Bányay, Francesco Bonadiman, Miriam Gaissmaier, Sina Sheikholeslami

The Tuesday Afterworks presenters

Vincent Giardina, Xuemei Yu, Yating Lu | *Citizen Engagement & Communities*

Guillermo Guridi Mateos, Jan Jaap de Groot | *Responsible Design & Development*

Gaffar Rampage | *Personal Branding*

Jan van de Kerkhof, Marcin Paszkiewicz | *Applied ML and AI in Google Zürich*

The Working Group for Annual Meeting 2020, Split (cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic)

Kristijan Korać, Josip Vukoja

Contributors to the Annual Meeting 2020 (online version)

Ruud Visser (*keynote speaker*), Luca Vavassori (*community session facilitator*)

Facilitators and organisers of the Local Reps Gathering workshops, AlumniHack and Annual Meeting

Ákos Wetters, Balázs Horváth, Alessandro Tomasi

Our web developer

Damiano Fossa

Our Governing Board

Willem Jonker, Roberto Prieto

Former Head of the EIT Digital Master School for supporting our Local Reps Gathering and alumni community activities

Arturo Varona

The Editorial Team

Jeroen van Lent *President*

Craig Kershaw *Secretary*

Paul Velthuis *Treasurer*

José Carlos Camposano *Events Officer*

Jiayao Yu *Marketing & Communications Officer*

Davor Ljubenkov *Outreach & Partnerships Officer*

Shashank Srivastava *Technology Officer*

Gaffar Rampage *Community Coordinator*

Designer

Jiayao Yu

EIT Digital Alumni Foundation

Rue Guimard 7

1040 Brussels

Belgium

alumni@eitdigital.eu

<https://alumni.eitdigital.eu/>

"The Global Community of Europe's Tech Innovators"

*EIT Digital Alumni is supported by the EIT,
a body of the European Union* 

 alumni.eitdigital.eu

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