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## A people-led transformation of Europe's Manufacturing

EIT Manufacturing's focus on driving a sustainable industrial transformation, with a strong emphasis on the people side of change, resulted in remarkable achievements in 2021 and also provided a major theme for the second EIT Manufacturing Summit, the largest annual event organised by this innovation community.

Paris, France, 8 December 2021 – More than 700 members of industry and academia, researchers, and other stakeholders registered to exchange ideas as they sought to forward a people-centred, digital and climate-friendly transition for manufacturing at “The Future of Manufacturing Work”, the second annual EIT Manufacturing Summit. Running both online and live from 30 November through 2 December 2021, the gathering reinforced the Summit's position as a key event in the European manufacturing calendar and provided an opportunity to review remarkable progress made by EIT Manufacturing in the past year.

EIT Manufacturing, a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) under the umbrella of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, a body of the European Union, was founded in 2019 and just finished its second year of operation, having achieved a broad impact on education and support of innovation for manufacturing in Europe. Some highlights from 2021 are outlined below. The EIT Manufacturing Summit, a showcase of innovation in Europe's manufacturing industry, focused on the need to keep people from a wide variety of backgrounds at the centre of change, instilling them with the skills and inspiration to drive the twin green and digital transitions needed to transform Europe into a climate neutral continent.

*“While manufacturing is undergoing a dynamic digital transformation, this transition can only succeed if it is centred around people and environmentally sustainable. European industry needs to keep the future of manufacturing work human-centred. Skill-wise, the future of manufacturing is about moving from muscle power to brainpower, with soft skills and adaptability gaining in importance – and we need all hands on deck to succeed, large corporations, SMEs, women and men”,* said **Klaus Beetz**, CEO, EIT Manufacturing.

In bridging the present and the future, EIT Manufacturing is committed to helping close the skills gap and contributing to attracting new talent, including more women, to the manufacturing sector.

**Maria da Graça Carvalho**, Member of the European Parliament, stressed the importance of education, especially in manufacturing, as well as the role of EIT Manufacturing. *“We see a positive correlation between countries, societies and companies that have invested in new manufacturing technologies and digitalisation, and how successfully they have managed the pandemic. Moreover, we see that this work has not been done in isolation, but by combining efforts and integrating the knowledge triangle, thus linking education and research, and creating ecosystems for innovation to facilitate the market uptake. These ecosystems are the secret bullet for economic development in our time – and the EIT is already showing how-precisely that should be done.”*



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**Paul Rübige**, Former MEP & Member of the EESC, and current Member of the Governing Board of the EIT, also pointed out the importance of developing the knowledge of science and research with professional IP and license policy, as well as *“the need to speed in transferring research and development results into business and into jobs”*. Rübige highlighted that entrepreneurial education programmes are key for EIT Manufacturing activities. *“We have investigated, depending on cultural differences, what type of skills are necessary and new learning in teaching technologies for individualised training and learnings. This is the base of the success stories where EIT Manufacturing is in the lead”*, he added.

### EIT Manufacturing 2021 achievements: A people perspective

Driving a sustainable transformation, with a strong emphasis on the people side of change, is a focus area for EIT Manufacturing, as is reflected in the organisation’s 2021 achievements:

- Launching the first pan-European Manufacturing Open Innovation platform, AGORA, with about 700 active members and counting.
- Implementing a successful first stakeholder consultation process to identify new call themes for our 2023 Call for Proposals, with more than 230 active participants and 17 hotspots identified in collaboration with the community.
- Launching a Technology Radar and Future of Manufacturing working group to exchange ideas about trends and how to shape the future.
- Involving more than 10,000 teachers and students in EIT Manufacturing’s Master and Doctoral Schools and related programmes, and close to 4,000 participants in other learning and training programmes. More than 450 individual training lessons created on industry relevant topics will soon be available on the interactive learning platform, Skills.move.
- Engaging with more than 200 startups, scaleups and SMEs, to support their growth; and launching three new programmes to engage more companies.

### Manufacturing SMEs key for succeeding in the twin transformation

A successful transition to a climate-neutral economy requires the full mobilisation of Europe’s relatively fragmented manufacturing industry, regardless of location or size. More than 90% of Europe’s manufacturing companies are small or mid-size companies, and do not necessarily have the resources to drive the transformation nor to reskill or upskill the workforce. As a response to this need, in 2021 EIT Manufacturing further strengthened its existing partnership model and services to make it easier and more attractive for SMEs to participate. The regional Co-Location Centres also are working locally with SMEs and relevant stakeholders (e.g. industry associations) to support SMEs “on the ground” giving consideration to the peculiarity of each region.

Manufacturing is and continues to be a key driver for prosperity and growth in Europe, and it’s essential for meeting the EU goals for the economy, society and the environment, including making EU a climate neutral continent by 2050. Europe’s manufacturing sector employs more than 30 million people and accounts for more than 80% of our exports, while representing 20% of total EU value added.

### Background information

The [European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\)](#) strengthens Europe’s ability to innovate by powering solutions to pressing global challenges and by nurturing entrepreneurial talent to create



sustainable growth and skilled jobs in Europe. The EIT is an EU body that is an integral part of Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Institute supports the development of dynamic pan-European partnerships – EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities – among leading companies, research labs and universities.

[EIT Manufacturing](#) is supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union. It is one of eight Knowledge and Innovation Communities within EIT. The others are EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Digital, EIT Food, EIT Health, EIT InnoEnergy, EIT Raw Materials, and EIT Urban Mobility. EIT Manufacturing’s main goal is to bring European stakeholders focused on manufacturing together in innovation ecosystems that add unique value to European products, processes and services and inspire the creation of globally competitive and sustainable manufacturing. EIT Manufacturing brings together more than [65 organisations](#) (universities, research institutes and business).

## **EIT Manufacturing — Making Innovation Happen!**

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