



RawMaterials
ALUMNI

Impact Report 2019

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Contents

1. Why does EIT RawMaterials Alumni exist?	3
1.1. Membership profile	3
2. What does EIT RawMaterials Alumni offer?	4
2.1. Events exclusive to Alumni	5
Company Challenge	5
Other events planned for 2020	5
2.2. Access to existing EIT RawMaterials events	5
2.3. Industry guidance	5
3. Main achievements in 2019	5
3.1. RM Summit	5
3.2. Company Challenge	6
Testimonials and Press about the event	8
3.3. EIT Alumni CONNECT	10
4. Who has benefitted from our activities?	10
4.1. Ali Hassan testimonial	10
5. What have we learnt so far?	11

1. Why does EIT RawMaterials Alumni exist?

EIT RawMaterials funds a wide range of partner-led and centralised projects covering business creation, innovation and education themes.

These projects include activities that may be full academic programmes, start-up funding and support, networking events, short courses, workshops or training sessions, to name a few.

Once these activities have concluded, participants (especially those who are not affiliated with an EIT RawMaterials partner organisation) lose their direct connection to EIT RawMaterials.

This is where we come in. EIT RawMaterials Alumni was created in order to forge an ongoing link between these individuals and our raw materials community. This is not only beneficial for the members, but also for EIT RawMaterials and its partners, as it enables them to track impact over time.

1.1. Membership profile

As of December 2019, there are 604 Alumni members. The gender balance is around 2:1 male: female and members are mainly 30 or under.

- 330 are male, 202 are female, 72 identify as other/prefer not to say their gender.
- 141 members were born before 1990 and 355 in 1990 or after, 108 did not provide information on their birth date.

MEMBER'S PROFILE



The membership has grown rapidly, from just 26 members at the kick off meeting in June 2018 to more than 600 just a year and a half later. Individuals who participate in EIT RawMaterials activities are encouraged to sign up directly at the end of the event, and EIT Labelled Master's and PhD students now receive information on Alumni when they begin their study programmes.

2. What does EIT RawMaterials Alumni offer?

The day-to-day logistics and management of the Alumni network is done by the Alumni Manager, a full-time employee of EIT RawMaterials. To steer the activities and ensure they are tailored to the needs of its members, EIT RawMaterials Alumni appoints an Alumni Board.

The Alumni Board has 6 members who have participated in a range of different EIT RawMaterials activities and work on a voluntary basis: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Events Officer, Marketing Officer and Industry Chair. Elections will be held annually.

The Founding Board was in office from July 2018 until December 2019, when elections opened for the new Board. The 2nd EIT RawMaterials Alumni Board took office from 1 February 2020.

EIT RawMaterials Alumni Founding Board

Position	Name	EIT RawMaterials Activity
President	Denis Gontcharov	SUMA EIT-Labelled Master
Vice-President	Marilu Valente	Start-up Funding (founder, Cyclic. Design)
Treasurer	Lukas Hädicke	Business Plan Competition Funding (employee at Miba Bearings)
Events Officer	Emmanuel III Ricohermoso	AMIS EIT-Labelled Master
Marketing and Communications Officer	Alexandre Piçarra	EMerald EIT-Labelled Master
Industry Chair	Vittorio Cannas	Start-up Funding (CEO, Spacearth)

2nd EIT RawMaterials Alumni Board

Position	Name	EIT RawMaterials activity
President	Ali Hassan	EMerald EIT-Labelled Master
Vice-President	Marilu Valente	Start-up Funding (founder, Cyclic. Design)
Treasurer	Théo Langlois	AMIS EIT-Labelled Master
Events Officer	Davide Messina	SUMA EIT-Labelled Master
Marketing and Communications Officer	Felipe Guerrero	SINReM EIT-Labelled Master
Industry Chair	Francisco Veiga Simão	Jumpstarter competition (co-founder, WEEE-DO)

2.1. Events exclusive to Alumni

Company Challenge

Company Challenge is a two-day event for around 20–25 EIT RawMaterials Alumni, focussed around a real-life raw materials challenge set by an Industry Partner. Groups of alumni work together to develop and present potential solutions to the problem embodied in the challenge.

The aim of the event is to come up with solutions that are not only technically sound and economically viable, but also presented as a marketable product.

Other events planned for 2020

In 2020, we are exploring the option of a networking event to bring together as many of the Alumni community as possible. This will hopefully include soft skills sessions such as a CV surgery and application writing workshop, which has been identified as a key need for our community. Alternatively, such sessions could also be held as part of other events or smaller individual events.

2.2. Access to existing EIT RawMaterials events

Alumni are regularly offered free places on events run by EIT RawMaterials partners, as well as help with travel and accommodation costs. There are sometimes conditions attached (that the Alumni must be a student or unemployed).

In 2019, we supported 17 Alumni to attend 9 different events, including Slush, the Climate-KIC Alumni annual event, the International Geosciences Student Conference, a Risk Assessment training course, EIT RM's Expert Forum on Sustainable Discovery and Supply, a short course on critical raw materials and a professional training course on lightweight materials organised by Fraunhofer Institute.

On a more informal level, Alumni also attended events hosted by other KICs or partners related to the wider EIT community, such as the TechOpenAir Festival in Berlin.

2.3. Industry guidance

There are currently 7 Alumni advisors. These are professionals who have stated they are willing to give advice to Alumni relating to technical or career development topics.

3. Main achievements in 2019

3.1. RM Summit

This was the first event the Alumni organised in 2019. 20 Alumni were given financial support to attend the Summit and their ticket fee was waived. The Alumni met the night before the Summit for networking drinks, and held a 'meet and greet' workshop at the EIT RawMaterials flagship conference. This consisted of a fun 'survival challenge' organised by the Alumni Board. A mixture of Alumni, industry and education partners attended.



3.2. Company Challenge

20 EIT RawMaterials Alumni were selected from 52 applicants to attend the Company Challenge, which was hosted by EIT RawMaterials Core Partner Atlantic Copper at their premises in Huelva, Spain. The challenge was to solve a real-life technical problem from Atlantic Copper related to the valorisation of secondary products from the copper cathode process. Background information was provided in advance, and after a plant visit to see the problem in context and a chat with the Human Resources department, participants worked together in small, interdisciplinary teams to develop their proposed solutions. R&D experts from Atlantic Copper were on hand to answer questions. Teamwork sessions were alternated with presentations on problem solving methodologies, presentation techniques and team roles and responsibilities as well as the market considerations for the elements in question, giving participants further tools to tackle the challenge. The event concluded with a pitching competition, where teams were assessed on both technical criteria and business viability, and the winning team were awarded a cash prize.



This event has proven to be extremely beneficial for both Alumni and industry, giving Master's students and early-career graduates a real insight into industry, and providing a dynamic talent pool with creative ideas for our industry partners.



Testimonials and Press about the event

Testimonials from Atlantic Copper staff:

Sol Villar (Senior Vice President Organization & Human Resources): “Win-Win project. EIT Students gave a new glance to a real business matter applying not only technical knowledge but also ingenious marketing advantages, and other issues to “sell” their problem solving to the judges. We all won with the Company Challenge Experience”.

Irene Ruiz (R+D Manager): “Having participated in the Company Challenge has been very rewarding and motivating for our company. The challenge proposed had a technical complexity that the participants knew how to deal with, to analyse the possible alternatives and to provide solutions in the short time they had. Much of the success of the event was the proactivity and initiative that the students demonstrated”.

Local newspaper article (in Spanish): <https://huelvabuenasnoticias.com/2019/09/05/un-total-de-25-estudiantes-participan-en-un-proyecto-de-valorizacion-de-productos-secundarios-en-atlantic-copper/>



The screenshot shows the header of the 'HUELVA buenas noticias' website. It includes a navigation bar with links for CONTACTO, SUSCRÍBETE, FIRMAS, QUIÉNES SOMOS, and LIBROS DE HUELVA. The main logo 'HUELVA buenas noticias' is prominently displayed. Below the logo, there is a date 'Viernes 07 de Febrero de 2020', social media links for Twitter and Facebook, and a search bar. A secondary navigation bar lists various categories: PORTADA, CAPITAL, PROVINCIA, SOLIDARIDAD, EL PUERTO, PERSONAS, DEPORTES, ECONOMÍA, CULTURA, UNIVERSIDAD, +HUELVA, and a bottom row with OPINIÓN, GASTRONOMÍA, SALUD, TEMAS, GOLF, MOTOR, HISTORIA Y PATRIMONIO, and ONUBENSES POR EL MUNDO.

Un total de 25 estudiantes participan en un proyecto de valorización de productos secundarios en Atlantic Copper

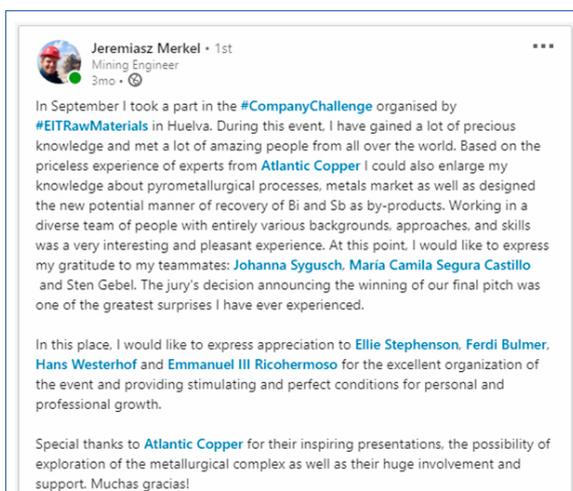
jueves 5 - septiembre - 2019 ·

Se trata de una experiencia pionera, vinculada a la economía circular e impulsada por la entidad europea EIT Raw Materials.

Comentarios recientes

► Luis Anes en La gimnasta Andrea Jiménez, de nuevo convocada para una Jornada de Tecnificación en el CAR de Marbella

Servicios

The screenshot shows a LinkedIn post by Jeremiasz Merkel, a Mining Engineer. The post is dated 3 months ago and contains the following text:

In September I took a part in the #CompanyChallenge organised by #EITRawMaterials in Huelva. During this event, I have gained a lot of precious knowledge and met a lot of amazing people from all over the world. Based on the priceless experience of experts from Atlantic Copper I could also enlarge my knowledge about pyrometallurgical processes, metals market as well as designed the new potential manner of recovery of Bi and Sb as by-products. Working in a diverse team of people with entirely various backgrounds, approaches, and skills was a very interesting and pleasant experience. At this point, I would like to express my gratitude to my teammates: [Johanna Sygusch](#), [María Camila Segura Castillo](#) and [Sten Gebel](#). The jury's decision announcing the winning of our final pitch was one of the greatest surprises I have ever experienced.

In this place, I would like to express appreciation to [Ellie Stephenson](#), [Ferdie Bulmer](#), [Hans Westerhof](#) and [Emmanuel III Ricohermoso](#) for the excellent organization of the event and providing stimulating and perfect conditions for personal and professional growth.

Special thanks to [Atlantic Copper](#) for their inspiring presentations, the possibility of exploration of the metallurgical complex as well as their huge involvement and support. Muchas gracias!

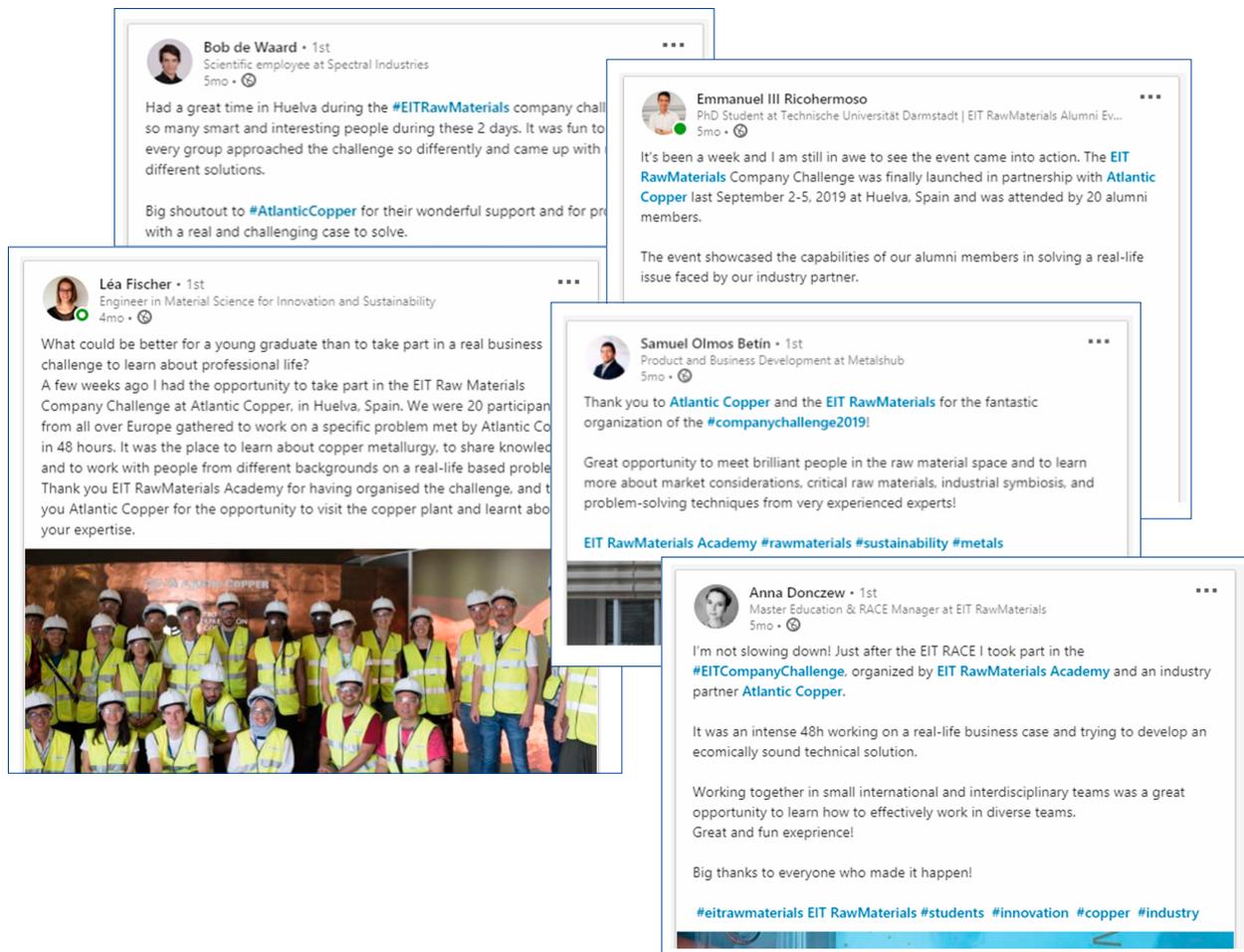
Article on EIT RawMaterials website:

<https://eitrawmaterials.eu/company-challenge-first-edition/>

Article on Atlantic Copper's website (in Spanish):

<https://www.atlantic-copper.es/sala-de-prensa/comunicados-de-prensa/716-veinticinco-estudiantes-participan-en-un-proyecto-de-valorizacion-de-productos-secundarios-en-atlantic-copper>

LinkedIn testimonials from participants:



- https://www.linkedin.com/posts/%C3%A9a-fischer-693905144_what-could-be-better-for-a-young-graduate-activity-6583816833902751744-0lBn
- https://www.linkedin.com/posts/bob-de-waard_eitrawmaterials-atlanticcopper-activity-6577156025760129024-4nRU
- https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ali-hassan-159b45b2_we-leave-huelva-spain-after-2-long-days-activity-6575275414539784192-KsEF
- <https://www.linkedin.com/posts/activity-6590920167117594624-8lUj>
- https://www.linkedin.com/posts/emmanuel-iii-ricohermoso-01280441_un-total-de-25-estudiantes-participan-en-activity-6577612044562907136-4Dcg
- https://www.linkedin.com/posts/samuelolmos_eit-rawmaterials-academy-on-twitter-activity-6576897483048275969-x5EY
- https://www.linkedin.com/posts/annadonczew_eitcompanychallenge-eitrawmaterials-students-activity-6575311150706229248-fpKL

3.3. EIT Alumni CONNECT

23 members of EIT RawMaterials Alumni attended the EIT Alumni CONNECT event at Brody Studios in Budapest on 14 October. The theme of the event was the 11th Sustainable Development Goal, "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". At the event, they joined members of Climate-KIC Alumni, CommUnity by InnoEnergy, EIT Digital Alumni and EIT Health Alumni. Each Alumni network briefly presented their aims and activities before lunch, followed by an afternoon of workshops designed and hosted by each Alumni community – a great way to learn and exchange ideas. The EIT RawMaterials Alumni Board, led by Events Officer Emmanuel III Ricohermoso, organised a workshop entitled Keep it RAW! Unboxing. Participants were encouraged to consider issues surrounding the metals and minerals contained in everyday electronic items, using the YouTube trend 'unboxing' as a fun starting point. 35 people, mostly from other Alumni communities, took part. Topics covered included the EU's critical raw materials list and the concept of urban mining.

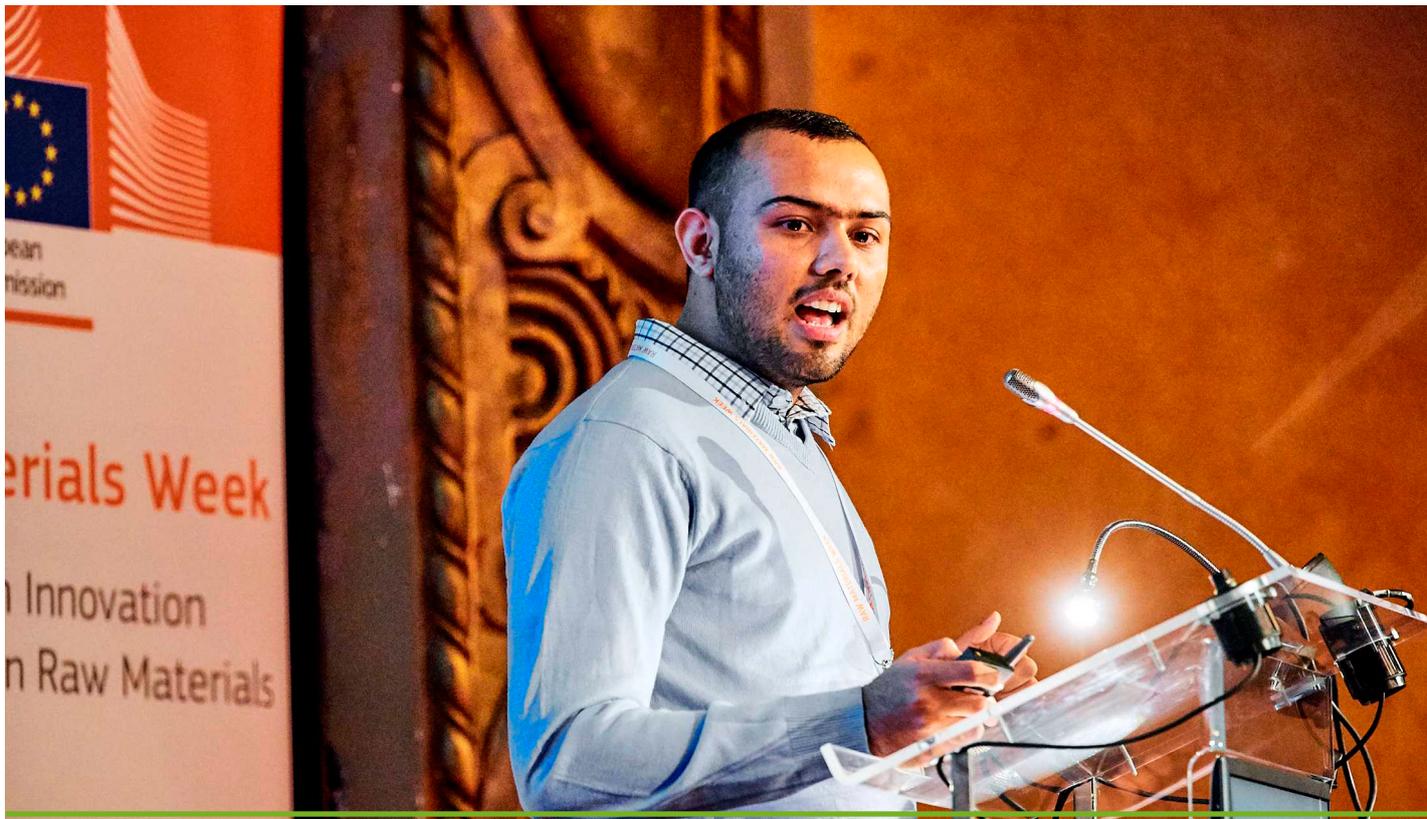


4. Who has benefitted from our activities?

4.1. Ali Hassan testimonial

"I am a second-year student of the EIT-Labelled EMerald Master in Georesources Engineering. Being part of EIT RawMaterials Alumni has provided me with multiple learning and networking opportunities

which has opened several doors for me. I received a travel grant to attend the International Geosciences Student Conference in Uppsala and participated in Company Challenge in summer. Participating in the Academy event 'Talk Nerdy to Me' allowed me to interact with people involved in raw materials sector which led me to find an internship at the SME Erzlabor in Freiberg, Germany during my summer break. During the RACE, I interacted with several keynote speakers and that led me to explore a few research opportunities after I finish my Masters. Through my connection to EIT RawMaterials, I have built a wide professional network across Europe which keeps me informed about the latest activities in raw materials sector and beyond. I have significantly improved my communication and personal skills which is an essential part of professional development. Surely, all these activities will go a long way in my career and I hope to continue attending more EIT RawMaterials events."



5. What have we learnt so far?

We are doing well on reaching Alumni who are still studying or early in their careers, but not so well on reaching start-ups (as they are often very busy) or those later in their careers.

We are doing well on raising awareness about our network and expanding it among those groups (students and recent graduates). We receive positive feedback from them about the impact of our



activities and their overall experience within EIT RawMaterials, which they often intensified due to their contact with Alumni. We provide lots of excellent networking opportunities and access to technical knowledge.

We need to improve our interaction with industry, perhaps by not only focusing on large players, but building more bridges with the European start-up network. Setting up a more formal mentoring system will be one of the main aims for 2020.



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