

Climate-KIC, the EU's main climate innovation initiative

Press Kit 2014-2015



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About Climate-KIC

Climate-KIC (Climate Knowledge and Innovation Community) is the EU's main climate innovation initiative. It is Europe's largest public-private innovation partnership focused on mitigating and adapting to climate change.

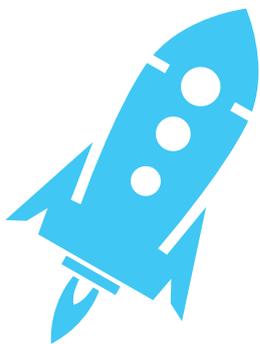
Climate-KIC's core purpose is to create opportunities to deliver economically viable, innovative solutions to climate change. It does this by linking a world-class network and dynamic alliance of European partners drawn from the best of academia, industry and the public sector.

Climate-KIC is one of several Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) created in 2010 by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). The KICs are the independent but operational part of the EIT. The EIT is the European Union body tasked with creating sustainable European growth and jobs while dealing with the global challenges of our time.

The organisation has its headquarters in London, UK, an office in Brussels, and operates across 12 European cities.



Climate-KIC focuses on three key areas: innovation, education and entrepreneurship



Innovation

Climate-KIC is Europe's most successful organisation for turning climate change innovation into commercial reality. It has Europe's largest network of climate change innovators with over 230 partners. With this network of partners, Climate-KIC identifies and develops the market potential of emerging technologies, creating new products, services and jobs in Europe with a global impact on climate change.

The organisation's success stems from the way in which it unites communities that would otherwise remain separate – for example, academia with business, or a large corporation with an SME.

Climate-KIC'S Open Innovation approach:

- Provides companies with access to the knowledge they need to accelerate climate change innovation
- Solves local climate change challenges by sharing best practice to local agencies who can benefit from leading climate change thinkers and innovators
- Offers access to the most effective test-bed for climate change innovation to help innovations move from an idea to commercial success.

For further details on innovation, see www.climate-kic.org/projects/



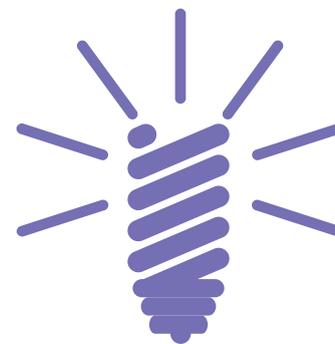
Education

Climate-KIC's blended-learning method fosters innovation on all levels, integrating education in entrepreneurship, innovation, and climate science to transform knowledge and ideas into economically viable products or services. The organisation recruits, nurtures and develops entrepreneurs to become change agents. Courses combine a practical programme of learning-by-doing, featuring real-life challenges and innovation projects with climate change science and entrepreneurship.

Climate-KIC helps students involved in climate change in several ways, including:

- Connecting them with the brightest academic minds in the climate change space in the world and providing opportunities to extend and deepen their current academic learning with access to the best academic institutions in Europe
- Providing the opportunity to receive career enhancing qualifications from the most prestigious academic sources
- Facilitating access to membership of an unprecedented network of entrepreneurs, commercial opportunities, influential bodies and academia.

For further details on educational activities, see www.climate-kic.org/for-students/



Entrepreneurship

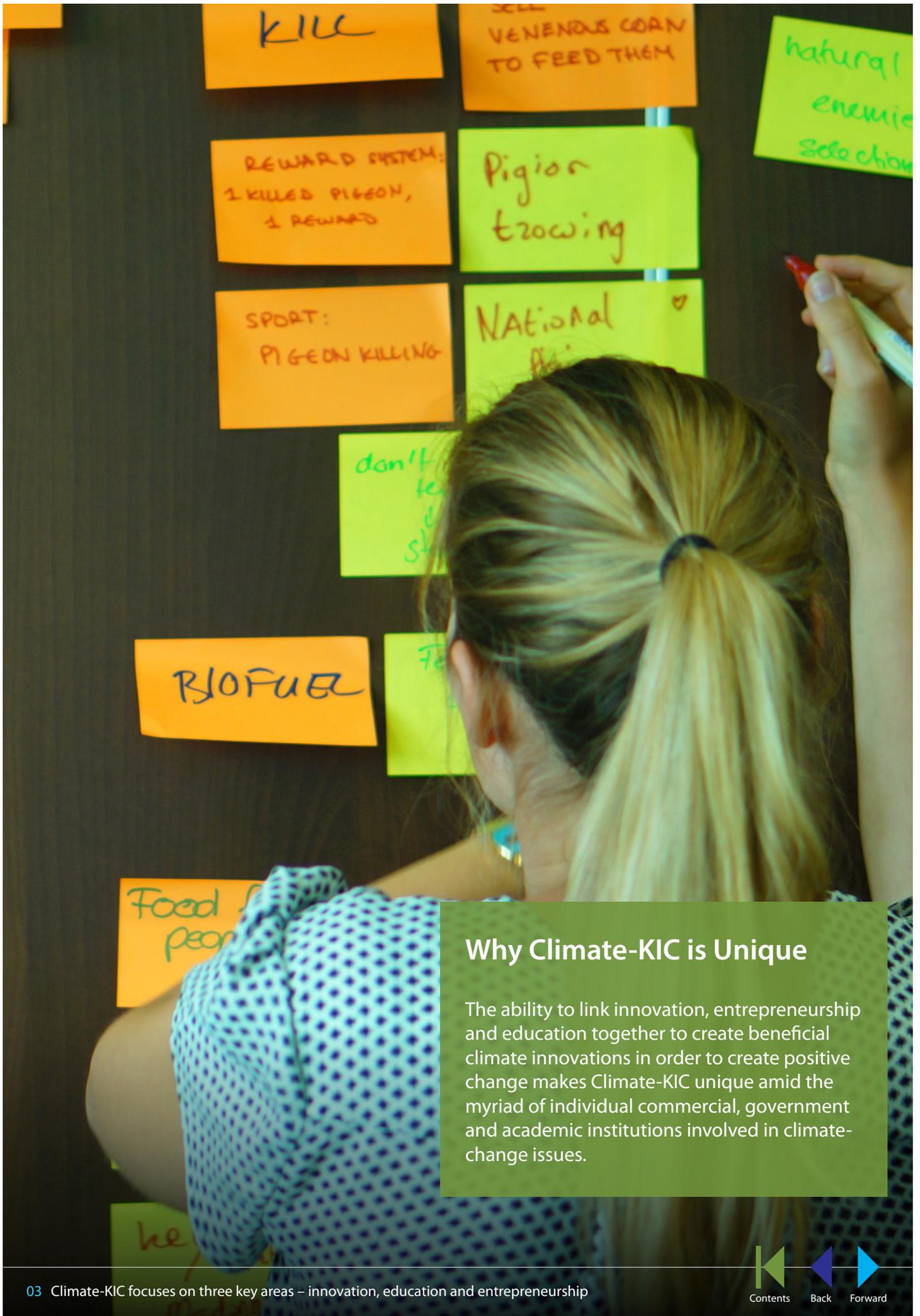
Climate-KIC provides the opportunities and practical tools to help entrepreneurs turn ideas into commercial success in order to open up the market for small business/start-ups working in climate innovation.

Climate-KIC works with individuals and entrepreneurs to enable them to get up and running in commercially profitable solutions to climate change. The entrepreneur can be active in combating climate change by supporting not just a cause, but a solution.

Climate-KIC offers support to entrepreneurs in the climate change sector including:

- Linking them with the best talent pools in the world and providing incubation support
- Helping to optimise go-to-market strategies by offering a network of expert commercial advisors and helping identify market opportunities
- Providing access to long-term investments and business financing
- Providing the skills and know-how required to help commercialise innovations and help entrepreneurs translate their ideas into commercial profit.

For further details on entrepreneurs, see www.climate-kic.org/for-entrepreneurs/



Why Climate-KIC is Unique

The ability to link innovation, entrepreneurship and education together to create beneficial climate innovations in order to create positive change makes Climate-KIC unique amid the myriad of individual commercial, government and academic institutions involved in climate-change issues.

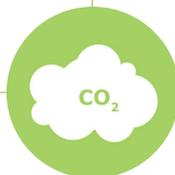
Climate-KIC's Themes

Climate-KIC's expertise in education, entrepreneurship and innovation covers eight themes of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

1. Greenhouse gas monitoring

Measuring greenhouse gases in support of climate change mitigation

[More Information >](#)



2. Adaptation services

Increasing the ability of cities, societies and infrastructures to adapt to climate change

[More Information >](#)



3. Making transitions happen

Creating the low-carbon culture that inspires companies, communities and citizens to reduce their climate change impact and to connect globally to overcome the climate change challenge

[More Information >](#)



4. Sustainable cities

Moving towards decentralised and integrated energy, waste and water utilities and more sustainable transport systems

[More Information >](#)



5. Built environment

Creating energy-efficient, low-carbon structures, and 'retrofitting' old ones

[More Information >](#)



6. Land and water

Supporting the adaptation of water engineering and agriculture to climate change and linking it to better land use and ecosystem services delivery

[More Information >](#)



7. Industrial symbiosis

Boosting efficiency by turning waste, including food waste and carbon dioxide (CO₂) into a resource

[More Information >](#)



8. Developing a bio-economy

Supporting the transition to a bio-based economy to reduce carbon footprints

[More Information >](#)



[More Information >](#)

1



[More Information >](#)

2



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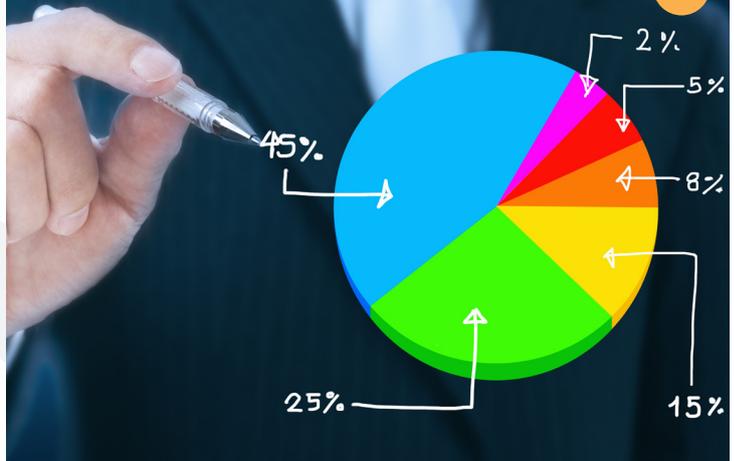
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Examples

50 projects creating innovative products and services

Over the last year (2013-14) Climate-KIC has been involved in over 50 projects creating innovative products and services to tackle climate change and 20 new products or services have been launched.

45 start-ups have raised over €59 million

In addition, **45 start-ups have raised over €59 million** as a result of business support and coaching from Climate-KIC, 133 business ideas have been incubated and 32 start-ups have been created. In 2013 Climate-KIC start-ups won top honours at the Silicon Valley Cleantech awards, with breakthrough ideas in solar simulation technology, hybrid solar and aquaponic farming.



Photo courtesy of EMPA

The Building Technologies Accelerator

is a programme of activities with the objective of accelerating the potential of low carbon products and services in the built environment. This Climate-KIC programme aims to stimulate the introduction, dissemination and scaling up of new technologies in the market. By bringing together a network of 'living labs' across Europe, it addresses not only the climate impact of new building technology combined with human interaction but also across different climactic zones. Eight prototypes of different technologies are being built in the 'living labs'. A kitemark programme will also be developed where tested technologies will be quality labelled to gain the confidence of buyers of innovation via guaranteed savings and accreditation under European regulations. David Goatman, Head of Sustainability and Energy at global property consultant Knight Frank says, "**Our Climate-KIC partnership helps us deliver our services in smarter and more sustainable ways.**"

15 Climate-KIC partners are involved with this project.



The Greenhouse programme helps entrepreneurs transform climate innovation ideas into a sustainable business model. Loulou van Ravensteijn, a Masters student at Wageningen University says, **“The business idea I developed in the Greenhouse is all about improving indoor air quality and fighting sick building syndrome. My idea uses plants to filter the particles that undermine indoor air quality. Climate-KIC’s role in this has been crucial.”**



Smarter Urban Mobility aims to persuade risk-averse cities to embrace the electric bike. Moritz Meenen, CEO at Climate-KIC start-up ElectricFeel in Zurich, says, **“Bike sharing and e-bikes are a growing trend worldwide. But to make this mainstream, the business case must improve.”**

ElectricFeel builds smart software for the clean transport industry which helps manage key logistical variables – from where to site the e-bike to how large the batteries should be, in order to make each ‘e-kilometre’ more visibly affordable. The company’s core clients are European cities.

Climate-KIC’s summer school allowed Moritz to develop his business idea which was further supported by Climate-KIC funds and a KPMG inspiration grant. They are now a Climate-KIC affiliate partner.

More photos can be found on [Flickr](#) or can be requested from the press office at media@climate-kic.org



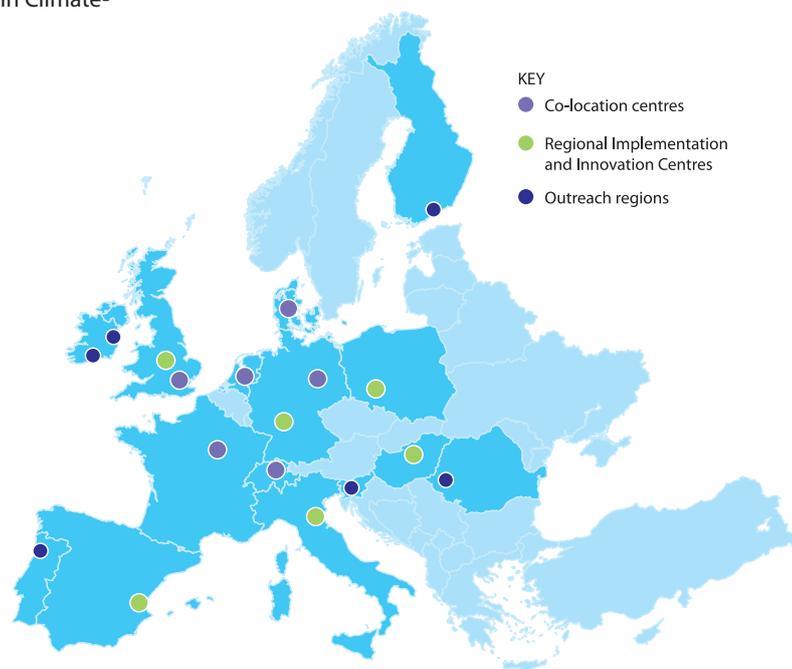
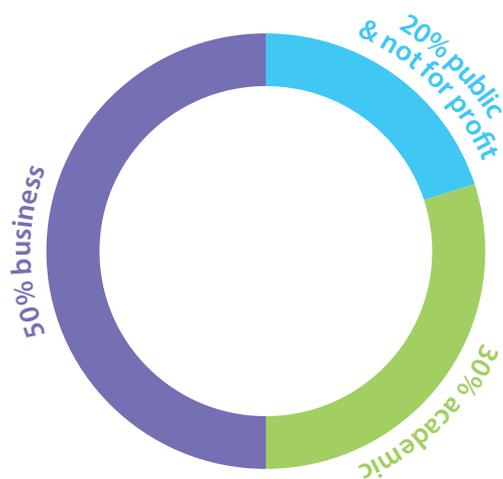
Climate-KIC's Partners and Organisation

Structure and Location

Climate-KIC connects global and local, small and large partners [hyperlink to list or web address for print version] from the private, public and academic sectors. The split across the three sectors is approximately 50% business, 30% academic and 20% public and not for profit.

Climate-KIC operates across Europe including the major cities of Brussels and London, with **six national centres** (UK, France, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland & Nordic) and **six regional centres** (Lower Silesia, Central Hungary, Valencia, Hessen, Emilia-Romagna & West Midlands).

Climate-KIC's **six regional innovation** centres have initiated partnerships with additional EU regions. Regions in Ireland, Finland, Portugal, Romania and Slovenia will now be taking part in Climate-KIC's innovation programmes.



Funding and Governance

The organisation receives funding from academic and private sector partners as well as an annual grant from the European Commission through its **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)**.

A non-profit Association, Climate-KIC's supreme decision-making body is the **Assembly** which draws together one representative from each of its core partners, and two elected affiliate partner representatives.

Strategically, Climate-KIC is led by a **governing board** which includes representatives of its European centres.

Operationally, the organisation is driven by a chief executive officer and an executive team.

Spokesperson



Bertrand van Ee

Bertrand van Ee is the Chief Executive Officer at Climate-KIC. He is responsible for continuing to expand Climate-KIC's work supporting climate innovators in Europe – growing Climate-KIC's world-class network of partners, strengthening ties with academics, innovators, entrepreneurs and the public sector, across Europe.

Van Ee brings a wealth of commercial and technical expertise to Climate-KIC. Most recently he was chairman and CEO of Royal Haskoning DHV (DHV), an independent, international engineering consultancy in The Netherlands with 7,000 professionals active in 35 countries, having been CEO of DHV since 2007. He is also President of the Academy of Technology and Innovation (ActI) and a member of Engineering Academies in Europe (Euro-Case) and globally (CAETS). Prior to his role at DHV, Van Ee had worked up through the ranks to be VP over a 21-year career at Fluor, a multinational engineering and construction firm headquartered in the US.

View Climate-KIC [key spokespeople](#).

Climate-KIC Partner Network

Climate-KIC drives innovation in climate change through creative partnerships large and small, local and global, between the private, public and academic sectors.

Climate-KIC has over 230 partners –with six national centres and six regional innovation and implementation centres.

All **partners** bring their industry experience to the community and are connected through a national or regional centre.

Core Partners

Climate-KIC's **core partners** shape its strategic direction in the following ways:

- Business development
- Representation on its governance structure
- Bring expertise into the community
- Make a financial and/or in kind contribution.

View Climate-KIC [core partners](#).

Affiliate partners

Climate-KIC's affiliate partners participate in its activities in the following ways:

- Development of its education and entrepreneurial offerings
- Involvement in its innovation, education and entrepreneurial activities
- Bring specific knowledge into the community
- Make a financial and/or in kind contribution.

Affiliate partners are listed on the [national](#) and [regional](#) centre pages.



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