Meet Inspiring EIT Community
Women Leaders and Entrepreneurs

Have you had to overcome many obstacles as a female leader?
Fortunately, in my leadership roles within the EIT Alumni communities I haven’t had to overcome any obstacles. The dynamics of the EIT Alumni Board have always been very empowering and open. We’ve helped each other to construct a long-lasting and dynamic community of innovators and entrepreneurs.

Who are three inspirational women in your field?
- Mary Robinson: Former President of Ireland and President of the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice.
- Helen Clark: Administrator of the UNDP and former Prime Minister of New Zealand.
- Mary Ritter: Former CEO of EIT Climate-KIC.

What have you gained from the EIT Alumni Community?
I am part of a community of like-minded entrepreneurs and innovators with whom I can exchange knowledge, form partnerships and discuss exciting new ideas.

What has been the most rewarding moment in your career so far?
Realising that I could finish a PhD, teach, work on my own start-up, chair two boards and still say that I enjoy every activity I take part in! In every aspect of my career I’ve always strived to create positive impact, especially in the field of climate change. I believe this is key to loving what you do. I am making a difference and this is the rewarding part!

Estefania Tapias
Graduate of EIT Climate-KIC PhD programme, President of the EIT Alumni board & former President of EIT Climate-KIC Alumni Association

Tell us a bit about yourself and your connection to the EIT Community?
I am a postdoctoral researcher and lecturer at ETH Zurich. I did the EIT Climate-KIC summer school and the PhD label programme and became an EIT alumna in 2012. After actively engaging in the EIT Climate-KIC Alumni Association (CKAA), I was elected President for 2015-2016. Currently I am President of the EIT Alumni board for 2016-2017.

What is the most valuable skill you learned during your EIT-labelled degree?
The ability to combine research and practice throughout my entrepreneurial training.

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