

# EU Innovation Journey'25

WARSAW, 12-13.05.2025



**EU Innovation Journey'25** is an **international conference that brings together deep-tech leaders, policymakers, and key players in the innovation ecosystem** to develop best practices and solutions for **reducing the innovation gap in Europe**. EU Innovation Journey'25 is a must-attend event for anyone interested in the future of European deep-tech innovation.

**Venue:** The Tides, 8 Wioślarska St., Warsaw

## AGENDA

### Day 1

<i>Morning</i>	<i>Guided tour of Warsaw (optional)</i>
11:00 - 12:00	Registration
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch

### MAIN Stage

13:00 - 14:00	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jerzy Małachowski</b>, Director of the National Centre for Research and Development</li> <li>• <b>Marek Gzik</b>, Secretary of State, Ministry of Science and Higher Education</li> <li>• <b>Magdalena Sobkowiak-Czarnecka</b>, Undersecretary of State for European Union Affairs, Chancellery of the Prime Minister</li> </ul> <b>Keynote Speech: Signe Ratso</b> , Deputy Director-General for Innovation, Prosperity and International Cooperation, DG RTD, European Commission
14:00 - 15:00	<b>Panel Discussion: Bridging the Innovation Gap</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Michiel Scheffer</b>, President of the EIC Board</li> <li>• <b>Martin Kern</b>, Director of EIT</li> <li>• <b>Teresa Riesgo</b>, Secretary General for Innovation, Ministry of Science and Innovation of Spain</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Antonio Grilo</b>, President of the Board of National Innovation Agency of Portugal</li> <li>• <b>Agata Wancio</b>, Deputy Director of Department of Innovation and Industrial Policy, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology</li> <li>• <b>Grzegorz Orawiec</b>, Director of Department of Innovation and Development Support Programmes, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy</li> <li>• <b>Piotr Garstecki</b>, CEO, Scope Fluidics</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderation: Magdalena Bem-Andrzejewska</b>, Director of NCP Department, NCBR</p>
15:00 - 15:20	<p><b>MoU Signing:</b> EIT – Polish Ministry of Development and Technology – Regional Innovation Booster Pilot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Martin Kern</b>, Director of European Institute of Innovation and Technology</li> <li>• <b>Michał Jaros</b>, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology</li> </ul>
15:20 - 15:40	Coffee break
15:40 - 16:45	<p><b>Presentation session: Unlocking Opportunities – Competitiveness and Tailored Support Mechanisms for CEE and Widening Countries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pre-Accelerator</b> – <b>Keith Sequeira</b>, Head of European Innovation Council Unit, DG RTD, European Commission</li> <li>• <b>Transferring regional development money to Horizon Europe</b> – <b>Aistė Vilkanauskytė</b>, Advisor of Technology and Innovation Division of Higher Education, Science and Technology Department, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of Lithuania</li> <li>• <b>EIT RIS</b> – <b>Luke Incorvaja</b>, Innovation Officer, EIT</li> <li>• <b>Regional Innovation Valleys presentations</b> – <b>Jekaterina Novikova</b>, Innovation Policy and Access to Finance Unit, Deputy Head of Unit, DG RTD, European Commission</li> <li>• <b>STEP</b> – <b>Boryana Spasova</b>, Policy Officer in the STEP Taskforce, European Commission</li> </ul> <p><b>Session Host: Magdalena Głogowska</b>, Expert at NCP Department, NCBR</p>
16:45 - 17:10	<b>Interactive Q&amp;A session</b>
17:10 - 17:30	Coffee break
17:30 - 19:00	<p><b>Panel Discussion: Discussing Dedicated Instruments to Foster Regional Innovation Growth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ana Barjasic</b>, Connectology Founder, EIC Board Member</li> <li>• <b>Bénédicte Charbonnel Zabdyr</b>, Programme Manager, DG REGIO</li> <li>• <b>Dariusz Jemielniak</b>, EIT Board Member</li> <li>• <b>Pirita Lindholm</b>, ERRIN Director</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Małgorzata Zakrzewska</b>, Director of Corporate Affairs Division, Play</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderation:</b> <b>Jakub Jasiczak</b>, Chairman, Polish Association of University Knowledge Transfer Companies</p>
19:00 - 23:00	<b>Evening Reception – Networking Dinner</b>

## POTENTIAL & OPPORTUNITIES Stage

15:40 - 16:10	<p><b>Presentation &amp; fireside chat: Innovation Journeys Without a Single Route: The Creotech, AP-Tech &amp; Microamp Solutions:</b> Aleksander Szalecki, VC Founder &amp; Lidia Aviles, Managing Partner, SIGF</p>
16:10 - 17:10	<p><b>Panel Discussion: Accelerating Innovation: Turning CEE Potential into Global Success</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Marek Garniewski</b>, CEO, Orlen VC</li> <li>• <b>Stephane Ouaki</b>, Acting Director of EISMEA</li> <li>• <b>Viktoria de Bourbon de Parme</b>, Chief Partnership Officer, EIT Food</li> <li>• <b>Przemysław Pączek</b>, CEO, Nevomo</li> <li>• <b>Aleksander Mokrzycki</b>, Deputy CEO, PFR Ventures</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderation:</b> <b>Kinga Stanisławska</b>, Co-Founder and President, European Women in VC</p>
17:10 - 17:30	Coffee break
17:30 - 19:00	<p><b>Startup Spotlight: Best Practices &amp; Challenges Exchange</b></p> <p>Startup teams showcase their innovative solutions and discuss their approaches to overcoming challenges, engaging in a dynamic Q&amp;A session with business support institutions to exchange insights and ideas.</p> <p>Startups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nanosci</b>, Adam Kądziela</li> <li>• <b>Watersense</b>, Filip Budny</li> <li>• <b>IQBioozom</b>, Dorota Dardzińska</li> <li>• <b>Beit</b>, Paulina Mazurek</li> <li>• <b>Orbital Matter</b>, Jakub Stojek</li> <li>• <b>QSAR Lab</b>, Alicja Mikołajczyk</li> </ul> <p>Policy Makers &amp; Experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Michiel Scheffer</b>, President of the EIC Board</li> <li>• <b>Ilaria Tagliavini</b>, Head of Operations at EIT</li> <li>• <b>Dariusz Łukaszewski</b>, Head of Innovation Policy Unit, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology</li> <li>• <b>Daniel Szczechowski</b>, Head of Financial Instruments Unit, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy</li> <li>• <b>Marcin Lewenstein</b>, Innovation Officer, InnoEnergy</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Anita Uchańska-Bieniusiewicz</b>, Expert, NCBR</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderation:</b> <b>Kamila Chmielewska</b>, Expert at NCP Department, NCBR; <b>Aleksandra Niżyńska</b>, Partner, Gender Solution</p>
19:00 - 23:00	<b>Evening Reception – Networking Dinner</b>

## CHALLENGES Stage

15:40 - 17:10	<p><b>Roundtable Discussion: Investment gap – financing deep-tech innovation (VC)</b></p> <p><b>"How to Attract Venture Capital to CEE Countries?"</b> Key challenges in creating VC interest. Lessons learned from EU-wide programs. Policy recommendations for enhancing investment opportunities.</p> <p><b>Participants:</b> Anna Stodołkiewicz (EIB), Emilio Carrera Felix (Bpifrance), Kinga Stanisławska (EU Women in VC), Katarzyna Piasecki (EU Women in VC), Tomasz Mazuryk (Funding Box), Łukasz Dziekoński (Montis Capital), Małgorzata Ziemińska (NCBR), Pavel Panasjuk (DAC), Monika Synoradzka (SpeedUp), Tomasz Ciamulski (FibriTech), Isaac Middelmann (EIT Health), Mikołaj Budzanowski (Innoenergy), Iwona Biernat (EU Inc), Sławomir Olejnik (Innovative Poland) &amp; more</p> <p><b>Moderation:</b> <b>Maria Tyka-Majewska</b>, Acceleration Lead, Huge Thing, <b>Wojciech Walniczek</b>, Partner, OTB Ventures</p>
17:10 - 17:30	Coffee break
17:30 - 19:00	<p><b>Roundtable Discussion: Aligning National and EU Innovation Support Systems</b></p> <p><b>Synergies:</b> Creating a Coherent Support System for Innovators</p> <p><b>Participants:</b> Signe Ratso (DG RTD, EC), Grażyna Piesiewicz (DG CNECT, EC), Luca Perego (DG EAC, EC), Teresa Riesgo (Ministry of Science and Innovation, ES), Aistė Vilkanauskytė (Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, LT), Antonio Grilo (ANI, PT), Marja-Liisa Meurice (EIT Food), Jes Broeng (Technical University of Denmark), Michał Goszczyński (Ministry of Science and Higher Education, PL), Agata Wancio (Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, PL), Paulina Skrzypińska (BNP Paribas), Anna Dymowska (FundingBox), Marta Materska-Samek (Jagiellonian University/PACTT), Dorien Rookmaker (former MEP, Nevomo), Arleta Malasińska (Akces NCBR), Piotr Zawadzki (NCBR) &amp; more</p> <p><b>Moderation:</b> <b>Ola Ihnatowicz</b>, Coordinator at NCP Department, NCBR, <b>Mirosław Raba</b>, Partnerships Manager, EIT Food</p>
19:00 - 23:00	<b>Evening Reception – Networking Dinner</b>

## Day 2

### MAIN Stage

9:00 - 9:30	Registration & welcome coffee
9:30 - 9:50	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jerzy Małachowski</b>, Director, NCBR</li> <li>• <b>Marcin Kulasek</b>, Minister of Science and Higher Education</li> </ul>
9:50 - 11:20	<b>Focus on: Start Up &amp; Scale Up Strategy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Andras Inotai</b>, Acting Head of Taskforce on Startups &amp; Scaleups, DG RTD, European Commission</li> <li>• <b>Iwona Biernat</b>, Policy Advocate &amp; Legal Strategist, EU-Inc</li> <li>• <b>Tomasz Snażyk</b>, CEO, Startup Poland</li> <li>• <b>Jakub Dąbroś</b>, Managing Partner, Innovations Hub</li> <li>• <b>Dariusz Łukaszewski</b>, Head of Unit, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology</li> <li>• <b>Eve Peeterson</b>, Head of Innovation and Startups, Enterprise Estonia</li> </ul> <b>Moderation: Katarzyna Piasecki</b> , Managing Director, EU Women in VC
11:20 - 11:35	Coffee break
11:35 - 13:00	<b>Panel Discussion: Towards the future</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Keith Sequeira</b>, Head of European Innovation Council Unit, DG RTD</li> <li>• <b>Ilaria Tagliavini</b>, Head of Operations, EIT</li> <li>• <b>Denisa Naidin</b>, Programme Development Leader, Eureka Network</li> <li>• <b>Adam Piotrowski</b>, CEO, Vigo Photonics</li> <li>• <b>Catherine Cornuel</b>, Senior Expert in the STEP Taskforce, EC</li> </ul> <b>Moderation: Rafał Duczmal</b> , Head of section at NCP Department, NCBR
13:00 - 13:30	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bożena Lublińska-Kasprzak</b>, Deputy Director, NCBR</li> <li>• <b>Jes Broeng</b>, Director of the Centre for Technology Entrepreneurship, Technical University of Denmark</li> <li>• <b>Barbara Spano</b>, Chief Consultant, Danish Ministry for Higher Education and Science</li> </ul>
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch

## POTENTIAL & OPPORTUNITIES Stage

9:50 - 11:20	<p><b>R&amp;D Showcase: Best Practices &amp; Challenges Exchange</b></p> <p>R&amp;D projects at earlier stages of development present their innovations, focusing on regional challenges and best practices, engaging in an open dialogue with innovation agencies, technology transfer experts, and other key stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Presenters and Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maciej Guzik</b>, Professor of Institute of Catalysis and Surface Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences</li> <li>• <b>Piotr Jurga</b>, Innovation Broker, Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation, Polish Bioeconomy Hub</li> <li>• <b>Magdalena Stobińska</b>, Professor of the University of Warsaw, CEO of levelQuantum</li> <li>• <b>Katarzyna Kowalska Rull Quesada</b>, President &amp; Co-Founder, UNIMOS Alliance</li> <li>• <b>Andrzej Słomczewski</b>, R&amp;I Manager, CGFP Sp z o.o.</li> <li>• <b>Aleksander Bomberski</b>, Head of Department, Agricultural Advisory Centre in. Brwinów</li> <li>• <b>Barbara Pastuszek-Lipińska</b>, Expert at Strategic Management Department, NCBR</li> <li>&amp; more</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderation:</b> <b>Adrianna Pawlik</b>, Expert at NCP Department, NCBR, <b>Krzysztof Gulda</b>, Board Member, UWRC</p>
11:20 - 11:35	Coffee break
11:35 - 12:20	<p><b>EIC session: Pathfinder – in search of breakthrough innovations</b></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jerzy Langer</b>, EIC Ambassador, Polish Academy of Science</li> <li>• <b>Barbara Piętka</b>, University Professor, University of Warsaw</li> <li>• <b>Karolina Rudnicka</b>, University Professor, University of Łódź</li> <li>• <b>Katarzyna Materka</b>, Operation Manager, 7Bulls</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderation:</b> <b>Greg Ambroziewicz</b>, Deputy Head of Unit, EISMEA</p>
12:20 - 13:00	<p><b>Internationalisation of Innovations from the CEE region: A journey with the EIT Community</b></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mateusz Maj</b>, CEO at Viva Drive</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Emilia Kufel</b>, CEO at Prosoma</li> <li>• <b>Bartosz Ziółtek</b>, Head of Digital Solutions, Santander Corporate and Investment Banking</li> <li>• <b>Adina Be'er</b>, Operations and Communications Manager, EIT Global Outreach</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderation:</b> <b>Adi Barel</b>, Director, EIT Global Outreach</p>
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch

## CHALLENGES Stage

9:50 - 11:20	<p><b>Roundtable Discussion: From Transaction to Transformation: Rethinking Tech Transfer as a Strategic R&amp;I Engine</b></p> <p><b>Participants:</b> Mart Toots (Enterprise Estonia), Ozren Polašek (Croatian Science Foundation), Beata Lubos (Łukasiewicz ILOT), Marcin Konkol (ORLEN), Pavel Panasjuk (DAC), Krzysztof Gulda (UWRC), Jacek Kasz (CTT, Cracow University of Technology), Natalia Osica (Pro Science) &amp; more</p> <p><b>Moderation:</b> <b>Magdalena Głogowska</b>, Expert at NCP Department, NCBR, <b>Jakub Jasiczak</b>, Chairman, Polish Association of University Knowledge Transfer Companies</p>
11:20 - 11:35	Coffee break
11:35 - 13:30	<p><b>#EUInnovateTogether</b> (closed session – by invitation only)</p> <p>Bridging Western Corporations and CEE Science &amp; Academia for Collaborative R&amp;I (flagship initiative of PSC and PACTT)</p> <p><b>Companies:</b> <b>Orange, Veolia, GSK, ABB, Roche &amp; more</b></p> <p><b>Moderation:</b> <b>Jakub Jasiczak</b>, Chairman, Polish Association of University Knowledge Transfer Companies</p>
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch

14:30 – 20:00	<p><b>Optional site visits (including travel time)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>VIGO Photonics</i></li> <li>• <i>FibriTech</i></li> <li>• <i>National Institute of Horticulture</i></li> </ul>
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