

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

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

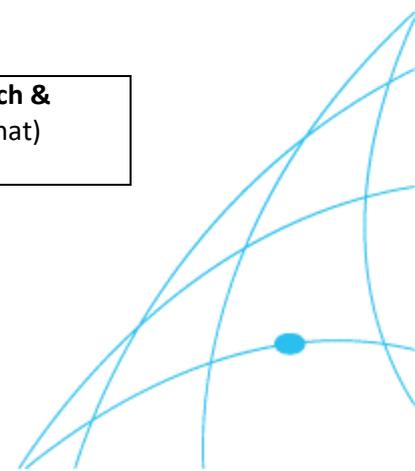
MAIN Stage:

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| 13:00 - 14:00 | Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marek Gzik, Secretary of State, Ministry of Science and Higher Education• Magdalena Sobkowiak-Czarnecka, Undersecretary of State, European Union Affairs Division, Chancellery of the Prime Minister• Jerzy Małachowski, Director of NCBR Keynote Speech: Signe Ratso , DG RTD, Deputy Director-General for Innovation, Prosperity and International Cooperation |
| 14:00 - 15:20 | Panel Discussion: Bridging the Innovation Gap <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michiel Scheffer, President of the EIC Board• Martin Kern, Director at EIT• Teresa Riesgo, Secretary General for Innovation at Ministry of Science and Innovation of Spain (ES)• Antonio Grilo, President of the Board of Agência Nacional de Inovação (PT) |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agata Wancio, Deputy Director o of Department of Innovation and Industrial Policy, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology • Grzegorz Orawiec, Director of Department of Innovation and Development Support Programmes, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy • Piotr Garstecki, CEO Scope Fluidics <p>Moderation: Magdalena Bem-Andrzejewska, Director of NCP Poland, NCBR</p> |
| 15:20 - 15:40 | Coffee break |
| 15:40 - 16:45 | <p>Unlocking Opportunities – Competitiveness and Tailored Support Mechanisms for CEE and Widening Countries (presentations’ session, HIGHLIGHT: Pre Accelerator & widening & support for the region)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Accelerator presentation – Keith Sequeira, Head of European Innovation Council Unit, DG RTD • Transferring regional development money to Horizon Europe - Aistė Vilkanauskytė, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (LT) • EIT RIS - Luke Incorvaja, Innovation Officer, EIT • Regional Innovation Valleys presentations - Jekaterina Novikova, Deputy Head of Unit at DG RTD Innovation Policy and Access to Finance Unit • STEP - Boryana Spasova, Policy officer in the STEP Taskforce, EC <p>Session Host: Magdalena Głogowska, NCBR</p> |
| 16:45 - 17:10 | Interactive Q&A session |
| 17:10 - 17:30 | Coffee break |
| 17:30 - 19:00 | <p>Panel Discussion: Discussing Dedicated Instruments to Foster Regional Innovation Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ana Barjasic, Connectology Founder, EIC Board Member • Dariusz Jemielniak, EIT Board Member • Naomie Verstraeten, Brainport Development’s Chief Innovation and Technology (Brainport Eindhoven region) • Pirita Lindholm, ERRIN Director • Małgorzata Zakrzewska, Director of Corporate Affairs Division, Play <p>Moderation: Jakub Jasiczak, Chairman at Polish Association of University Knowledge Transfer Companies</p> |
| | Evening Reception - Networking Dinner |

POTENTIAL & OPPORTUNITIES Stage

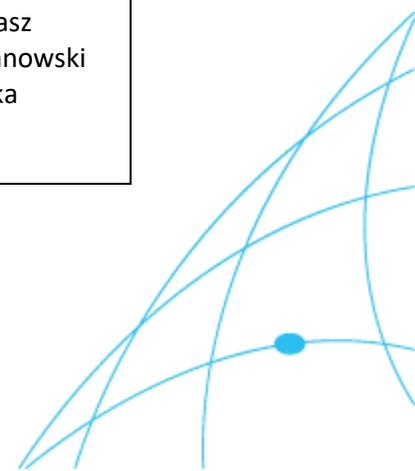
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| 15:40 - 16:10 | Innovation Journeys Without a Single Route: The Creotech, AP-Tech & Microamp Experience: Aleksander Szalecki (presentation/firesidechat) |
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| 16:10 - 17:10 | <p>Panel Discussion: Accelerating Innovation: Turning CEE Potential into Global Success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marek Garniewski, CEO, Orlen VC • Stephane Ouaki, Head of Department, EISMEA • Viktoria de Bourbon de Parme, Chief Partnership Officer, EIT Food • Przemysław Pączek, CEO, Nevomo • Maciej Ćwikiewicz, Heads the Alternative Funds arm at Polish Development Fund Group (PFR Ventures) <p>Moderation: Kinga Stanisławska, Co-Founder and President, European Women in VC</p> |
| 17:10 - 17:30 | Coffee break |
| 17:30 - 19:00 | <p>Startup Spotlight – Best Practices & Challenges Exchange</p> <p>Startup teams showcase their innovative solutions and discuss their approaches to overcoming challenges, engaging in a dynamic Q&A session with business support institutions to exchange insights and ideas.</p> <p><i>Policy Makers & Experts:</i></p> <p><i>Michiel Scheffer, President of the EIC Board; Ilaria Tagliavini, Head of Operations at EIT; Dariusz Łukaszewski, Head of Innovation Policy Unit, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Daniel Szczechowski, Head of Financial Instruments Unit, Ministry of Development Fund and Regional Policy; Marcin Lewenstein, Innovation Officer, InnoEnergy; Anita Uchańska-Bienusiewicz, Expert, NCBR.</i></p> <p>Moderation: Kamila Chmielewska DKPK/NCBR, Aleksandra Nizyńska Gender Solution</p> |
| Evening Reception - Networking Dinner | |

CHALLENGES Stage:

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| 15:40 - 17:10 | <p>Roundtable Discussion</p> <p>Investment gap- financing deep-tech innovation (VC). "How to Attract Venture Capital to CEE Countries?" Key challenges in creating VC interest. Lessons learned from EU-wide programs. Policy recommendations for enhancing investment opportunities.</p> <p>Participants: Anna Stodołkiewicz (EIB), Emilio Carrera Felix (Bpifrance), Kinga Stanisławska, Kasia 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 Middelman (EIT Health), Mikołaj Budzanowski (Innoenergy), Iwona Biernat (EU Inc), Sławek Olejnik (Fundacji Polska Innowacyjna) & more</p> |
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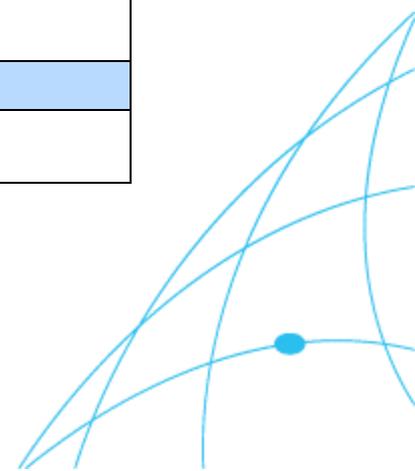


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| | Moderation: Maria Tyka - Majewska, Huge Thing, Paweł Michalski, VC Leaders |
| 17:10 - 17:30 | Coffee break |
| 17:30 - 19:00 | <p>Roundtable Discussion Aligning National and EU Innovation Support Systems. Synergies: Creating a Coherent Support System for Innovators</p> <p>Participants: Signe Ratso (DG RTD, EC), Grażyna Piesiewicz (DG CNECT), Luca Perego (DG EAC, EC), Teresa Riesgo (Ministry of Science and Innovation of Spain), Aiste Vilkanauskyte (Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, LT), Antonio Grilo (ANI), Marja-Liisa Meurice (EIT Food), Jes Broeng (Technical University of Denmark), Michał Goszczyński (MNiSW), Agata Wancio (MRiT), Paulina Skrzypińska (BNP Paribas), Anna Dymowska (FundingBox), Marta Materska-Samek (UJ/PACTT), Arleta Malasińska (Akces NCBR), Piotr Zawadzki (NCBR) & more</p> <p>Moderation: Ola Ihnatowicz, DKPK/NCBR, Mirosław Raba, EIT Food</p> |
| | Evening Reception - Networking Dinner |

Day 2

MAIN Stage:

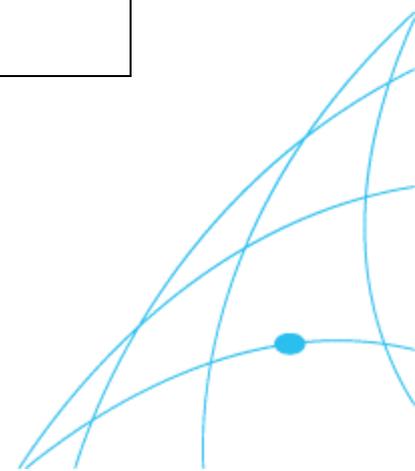
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| 9:00 - 9:30 | Registration & welcome coffee |
| 9:30 - 9:50 | <p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karolina Ziolo-Pużuk, Ministry of Science and Higher Education • Bożena Lublińska-Kasprzak, Deputy Director, NCBR |
| 9:50 - 11:20 | <p>Focus on: Start Up & Scale Up Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andras Inotai, Acting Head of Taskforce on Startups & Scaleups, DG RTD • Iwona Biernat, EU-Inc • Tomasz Snażyk, Startup Poland • Jakub Dąbroś, Innovations Hub • Agata Wancio, MRiT • Eve Peeterson, Head of Innovation and Startups at Enterprise Estonia <p>Moderation: Katarzyna Piasecki, EU Women in VC</p> |
| 11:20 - 11:35 | Coffee break |
| 11:35 - 13:00 | Panel Discussion: Towards the future |



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| | <p>Keith Sequeira, Head of European Innovation Council Unit, DG RTD Ilaria Tagliavini, Head of Operations EIT Denisa Naidin, Programme Development Leader Eureka Network Adam Piotrowski, CEO, Vigo Photonics Catherine Cornuel, Senior Expert in the STEP Taskforce, EC</p> <p>Moderation: Maria Śmietanka, Deputy Director of NCP Poland, NCBR</p> |
| 13:00 - 13:30 | <p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerzy Małachowski, Director of NCBR • Jes Broeng, Director of The Centre for Technology Entrepreneurship, DTU • Barbara Spano, Ministry for Higher Education and Science, DK |
| 13:30 - 14:30 | Lunch |

POTENTIAL & OPPORTUNITIES Stage

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| 9:50 - 11:20 | <p>R&D Showcase– Best Practices & Challenges Exchange</p> <p>R&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>Moderation: Adrianna Pawlik, DKPK/NCBR, Krzysztof Gulda</p> |
| 11:20 - 11:35 | Coffee break |
| 11:35 - 12:20 | <p>EIC session: Pathifinder – in search of breakthrough innovations Panelists: Prof Jerzy Langer, Polish Academy of Science Barbara Piętka, University of Warsaw Karolina Rudnicka, University of Łódź Katarzyna Materka, 7Bulls</p> <p>Moderation: Greg Ambroziewicz, EISMEA, EC</p> |
| 12:20 - 13:00 | <p>Internationalisation of Innovations from the CEE region: A journey with the EIT Community Panelists: Mateusz Maj, VivaDrive Ema Kufel, Prosoma & more</p> <p>Moderation: Adi Barel, EIT Global Outreach</p> |



CHALLENGES Stage:

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| 9:50 - 11:20 | Roundtable Discussion Technology transfer - science commercialisation challenges. Participants: Mart Toots (Enterprise Estonia), Ozren Polašek (Croatian Science Foundation), Lucyna Woźniak (Medical University of Łódź), Beata Lubos (Łukasiewicz ILOT), Arkadiusz Majoch, Marcin Konkol (ORLEN), Pavel Panasjuk (DAC), Krzysztof Gulda, Jacek Kasz (CTT Politechnika Krakowska), Natalia Osica & more Moderation: Magdalena Głogowska NCBR, Jakub Jasiczak PSC |
| 11:20 - 11:35 | Coffee break |
| 11:35 - 13:30 | #EUInnovateTogether Bridging Western Corporations and CEE Science & Academia for Collaborative R&I (flagship initiative of PSC and PACTT) Companies: Orange, Veolia, GSK, ABB and more tbc. |
| 14:30 - 17:00/18:00 | <i>Study visits (optional)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>VIGO Photonics</i>• <i>Fibritech</i>• <i>The Institute of Horticulture</i> |

