2nd version of the Knowledge Repository on Funding Opportunities

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Introduction

This guide has been put together to serve as a source of information for digital and deep-tech startups, for which different types of funding opportunities are being outlined to facilitate their product development and international expansion. Additionally, the guide is intended as a resource for institutions that are engaged in supporting startups in their development. This is the second (last) version of the document, which has been created as part of the Ready2Scale program, running until 31.10.2025.

Essential information is provided to ensure that fundraising steps are planned as effectively and strategically as possible by potential applicants. The state of play as of May 2025 is reflected in the presented content. Compared to the first version of the document, additional insights into the upcoming EU Framework Programme and emerging trends have been included. Selected topics, such as financing opportunities under the EU's 2021–2027 budget, open calls in innovation, crowdfunding platforms, revenue-based financing options, major European startup events, and curated lists of business angels and venture capital networks, are covered. Also the information on crowdfunding platforms and revenue-based financing options has also been added. All other sections have been updated accordingly.

To facilitate navigation, the document has been divided into five sections. In the first section, scenarios in which **public support is sought by startups** are addressed. In the second, **crowdfunding methods** are outlined. **Revenue-based financing options** are presented in the third section. In the fourth, **private funding opportunities** are explored. Finally, the fifth section is dedicated to engagement with the European startup community, where **networking and collaboration opportunities** are highlighted. Examples of available offers are included in each category. The information is presented in a clear and accessible way so that the most relevant content can be quickly identified, and further details can be accessed via provided links.

To explore full eligibility criteria, deadlines, and terms, the official websites of each specific program, call, or platform should be consulted.

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1. Public funding

The selected offering has been considered as highly popular among startups with whom collaboration has been conducted by the authors of the document so far. A significant portion of the funding described below is provided through Horizon Europe, the EU's primary funding programme for research and innovation. Therefore, this name is expected to be mentioned frequently throughout the document.

The opportunities being described are often considered complex and multifaceted. Later in the document, National Contact Points (NCPs) will be introduced, which are relied upon by companies to gain understanding of Horizon's offerings. It should be noted that the first part of this chapter is related to the process in which applications must be submitted in order for funding to be competed for by startups. In the second part, contact points and hubs are described, where various types of support can be accessed, including assistance with proposal preparation.

1.1. Next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

After the Horizon Europe programme (FP9), which is being run from 2021 to 2027, the EU's next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation is expected to be launched as FP10, with its commencement scheduled for 2028. Its continuation was officially confirmed on February 6, 2025, during the annual Science|Business conference, which was held in Brussels. During the event, it was announced that FP10 would be implemented as a standalone programme, and concerns about its potential merger into a broader EU competitiveness fund were eased. While the exact structure and funding details of FP10 are still being discussed, the programme is expected to be maintained as a standalone initiative, with its strategic importance being emphasized.

Several areas have been identified as requiring improvement in order for the effectiveness of EU research and innovation policy to be enhanced. It has been pointed out that **the issue is not perceived to lie in the overall level of funding, but rather in how the funds are allocated and managed**. The European Innovation Council (EIC) has been cited as an example in which financial mechanisms and resource efficiency are seen as needing significant refinement. Furthermore, **the importance of ensuring predictable and stable funding structures** for long-term research planning has been emphasized by stakeholders.

Another concern that has been highlighted is the slow pace of technological adoption in Europe, particularly in the field of artificial intelligence, where uptake is considered to remain critically low in comparison to EU targets. These aspects have been flagged as priorities that should be addressed in the design and implementation of FP10 so that its impact can be maximized. Key priorities for FP10 are likely to be defined as **the**

enhancement of Europe's global competitiveness, the acceleration of digital and green transitions, **and the support of breakthrough innovations**. The programme is also anticipated to be increasingly focused on the adoption of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, as well as on the fostering of international cooperation in science and innovation.

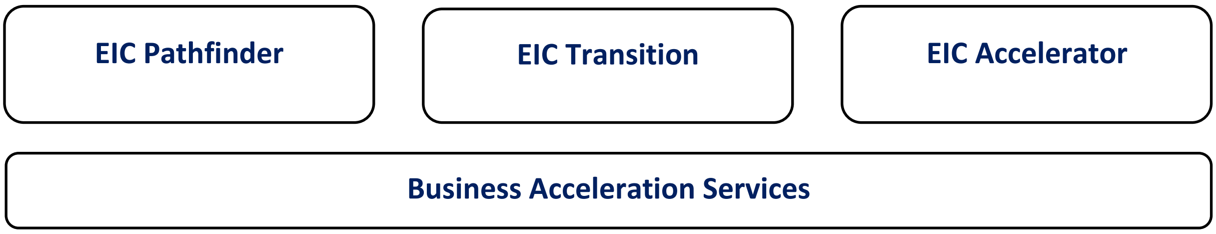
As discussions continue, a programme is anticipated by the research and innovation community to be delivered that not only ensures the maintenance of Europe's scientific excellence but also is adapted to address emerging global challenges[1].

1.2. European grants

In this part, information is provided about the activities undertaken by the European Innovation Council (EIC), projects designed to be supported for women in leadership positions, and funds aimed at being allocated to the development of companies closely aligned with sustainable development and the European Green Deal.

Under the umbrella of the **European Innovation Council (EIC)**, three main streams of support can be found. The EIC Accelerator is typically regarded as the most relevant by startups.

Figure 1: EIC Funding Structure



Source: Own elaboration

EIC Pathfinder

Multidisciplinary research teams are supported through EIC Pathfinder, with startups being included as part of consortia to explore breakthrough technologies. Visionary research that may lead to significant technological advances is targeted. Similarly to the EIC Accelerator, bottom-up open calls and calls with specific challenges are issued. High-risk, high-reward research is intended to be transformed into viable innovations through this initiative.

Grants: *up to EUR 3-4 million.*

[1] *https://sciencebusiness.net/planning-fp10/fight-intensifies-over-independent-fp10*

EIC Transition

Research results are helped to be converted into market-ready innovations through EIC Transition. Projects that have already received funds from EIC Pathfinder and ERC Proof of Concept are supported with additional funding to enable the maturation of technologies and the development of business cases. Collaboration is fostered by the programme to ensure that the gap between lab research and commercialization is bridged.

Grants: *up to EUR 2.5 million and additional booster grants for ongoing projects.*

EIC Accelerator

Startups and SMEs are supported in developing and scaling up high-impact innovations. The recruitment process is divided into three stages. Initially, a short proposal is submitted; after qualification, a main proposal is required, and finally, a pitching session (face-to-face interviews) is conducted. Applications can be submitted throughout the year, although specific cut-off dates are set for proposal evaluation. Once qualification is achieved, a more detailed application is expected to be submitted. Additionally, specific challenges are announced annually, based on the most pressing needs identified for that year.

Grants*: up to EUR 2.5 million, with the option of equity investments ranging from EUR 0.5 to 10 million.*

Business Acceleration Services

Business Acceleration Services are provided by the EIC to support the market uptake and growth of innovations developed under EIC-funded projects. These services are made available primarily to beneficiaries of the EIC Accelerator, Pathfinder, and Transition programmes. They are also accessible to applicants who have been invited to submit a full proposal for the EIC Accelerator. Support is delivered both during the implementation of EIC projects and after their completion, ensuring that beneficiaries can benefit from continued assistance beyond the project lifecycle. The support offered includes individualised coaching and mentoring, access to investor matchmaking and pitching opportunities, enhanced networking with relevant stakeholders, and activities aimed at increasing the visibility of participating organisations within the European innovation ecosystem. All services are tailored to the specific needs of each participant and are designed to accelerate market readiness, business growth, and international competitiveness.

1.3. New opportunities introduced in the EIC Work Programme 2025

EIC Pre Accelerator call

A call has been launched by the EIC for early-stage deep tech startups from WIDERA countries (Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area). With a €20 million budget, startups in less-developed EU regions are supported in preparing for the EIC Accelerator or in attracting private investment. In addition to funding, access is provided to EIC's Business Acceleration Services, which include mentoring, networking, and investor matchmaking. The call is scheduled to be opened in May 2025, with a deadline set in November and a single-stage evaluation process being applied.

***Grants**: ranging from €300,000 to €500,000 will be awarded to selected companies*

The EIC STEP Scale Up (Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform)

An initiative has been designed to provide targeted financial support to startups, SMEs, and small mid-cap companies (with up to 499 employees) from EU Member States and Associated Countries. Through this instrument, breakthrough innovations in key strategic sectors are expected to be scaled up. Funding is allocated through a competitive call for proposals, which is organised within the framework of Horizon Europe. The initiative is focused on companies operating in the fields of digital and deep tech, clean technologies, and biotechnologies.

***Grants**: equity funding between €10 million and €30 million per company*

WomenTechEU

This initiative is aimed at supporting women-led startups and SMEs in the deep tech sector. Eligibility is defined for early-stage startups that have been founded or co-founded by women, or that are led by a female CEO and are registered in the EU or Horizon Europe-associated countries. Grants may be awarded to successful applicants to support their initial steps in innovation and business development. In addition, mentoring, coaching, and networking opportunities are provided through the programme to ensure that female entrepreneurs are supported in scaling their businesses and in strengthening their leadership capabilities.

***Grants:** up to EUR 75,000*

Digital Europe Programme

The Digital Europe Programme has been established as a European Union funding initiative designed to accelerate the digital transformation of Europe's economy, public sector, and society. Strategic investments are made in areas such as supercomputing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced digital skills, and the widespread adoption of digital technologies across multiple sectors. Funding is provided through a range of mechanisms, primarily in the form of competitive calls for proposals. These calls are published periodically on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal and are organised within the framework of multiannual work programmes. Standard grants under the programme are used to cover up to 50% of eligible project costs. However, in order to encourage broader participation by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), a higher co-financing rate of up to 75% may be applied. In specific cases the EU contribution may cover up to 100% of eligible costs.

New European Bauhaus

The New European Bauhaus is recognised as a complementary form of financial support that can be accessed by companies and startups. This initiative has been launched to promote funding for activities that are aimed at fostering the implementation of the European Green Deal through culturally and socially inclusive innovation. Financial support is provided for projects that integrate elements of art, culture, social inclusion, science, and technology, with the goal of creating sustainable and aesthetically appealing living spaces. Startups and other eligible entities are encouraged to apply with proposals that demonstrate alignment with the core principles of the initiative: sustainability, aesthetics, and inclusivity. Funding is awarded through competitive calls for proposals, published on relevant EU platforms such as the EU Funding & Tenders Portal.

Eurostars

Eurostars is recognised as a European funding programme through which innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are supported when engaged in international R&D projects. The programme is designed for SMEs whose activities include the development of new products, processes, or services with strong market potential, and for which international collaboration with partners from other participating countries is intended. Participation is enabled through consortia that are required to be led by an R&D-performing SME, while additional partners such as other companies, universities, or research centres can be included. Funding is awarded in the form of national grants, with reimbursement rates typically being set between 50% and 70% of eligible costs, depending on national rules.

The LIFE Programme

The LIFE Programme is considered the EU’s main funding instrument for environmental protection, climate action, and clean energy. Innovative projects that contribute to sustainability, such as those focused on reducing emissions or improving resource efficiency, are supported under this programme. For companies, particularly SMEs, co-financing is offered through LIFE for pilot initiatives, green technology demonstrations, and close-to-market environmental solutions. Applications can be submitted either individually or in consortia, in response to annual calls that are published on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal. Through this mechanism, environmental and climate innovations are enabled to be transformed into practical and scalable solutions.

1.4. Other types of support from the European Commission

Various forms of support are provided with the intention of positively impacting the development of startups, most commonly through advice, consultations, or assistance being offered in building business partnerships.

The Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)

The Enterprise Europe Network is primarily focused on supporting businesses in finding international partners and opportunities through a variety of events and matchmaking activities. If a business partner in Europe is being sought, EEN is recommended as the first point of contact. With a vast network of over 600 member organisations across more than 60 countries, collaborations and connections between small and medium-sized enterprises are facilitated, allowing their market reach to be expanded and innovation capacity to be strengthened at the global level. Since 2025, EEN services have been extended to include specialised support for startups engaged in green and digital transformation, in alignment with the EU's strategic priorities.

National Contact Points (NCP)

National Contact Points are designated as the primary source from which information about Horizon Europe can be obtained. As indicated in the earlier part of the document, numerous initiatives dedicated to startups are made available through this channel. Each of these initiatives is governed by specific rules and eligibility conditions that must be fulfilled in order to participate in competitive calls. Due to the administrative and procedural complexity of the application process, free support can be requested from NCPs. Guidance, practical information, and assistance on all aspects of Horizon Europe participation are provided by NCP representatives. Contact points have been established not only within EU Member States and Associated Countries but also in many non-EU countries. In addition to their role in supporting traditional Horizon Europe projects,

European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs)

European Digital Innovation Hubs are established as one-stop shops through which companies and public sector organisations are supported in responding to digital challenges and are assisted in becoming more competitive. Across Europe, information points have been made available at many EDIHs. Digital and deep tech startups are enabled to benefit from this initiative in two main ways.

- First, access is provided to advanced technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, High-Performance Computing, and cybersecurity tools. This access allows advanced technologies to be experimented with and integrated into products and services by startups without requiring significant upfront investment. Capabilities can be enhanced through workshops, training sessions, and expert guidance, ensuring that startups are kept competitive and innovative within a rapidly evolving digital landscape.
- Second, collaboration opportunities are facilitated. When technologies developed by a startup are capable of supporting the growth of other entities, cooperation with EDIHs can be established to identify potential clients. Through this mutual engagement, valuable partnerships can be formed, and the market reach of startups can be extended.

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology is designated to support the growth of innovative small and medium-sized enterprises by ensuring that collaboration is promoted among the education, research, and innovation sectors. A number of key activities are facilitated by EIT within this framework.

- Entrepreneurial education programmes at the master's and doctoral levels are delivered to train the next generation of entrepreneurs.
- Innovative products and services are developed through research projects that are focused on advancing innovation.
- New companies are supported during both the startup and scale-up phases, with coaching, business creation, and acceleration services being provided to enhance their growth and sustainability.

Eight Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) are managed by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT):

- The transition to a zero-carbon economy is being accelerated by EIT Climate KIC
- A sustainable energy future for Europe is being pursued by EIT InnoEnergy.

- Europe's digital transformation is being driven by EIT Digital.
- Greater opportunities to enjoy a healthy life are being provided to EU citizens by EIT Health.
- Raw materials are being developed as a major European strength by EIT Raw Materials.
- A global revolution in food and production is being led by EIT Food.
- Smart, green, and integrated urban transport is being developed by EIT Urban Mobility.
- The competitiveness of Europe's manufacturing industry is being strengthened and increased by EIT Manufacturing.

If alignment with one of these areas is identified for a startup, information should be sought directly from the appropriate community.

EU-LAC Digital Accelerator

The EU-LAC Digital Accelerator is operated as a multi-sided platform through which business opportunities from large corporations are connected to startups and innovative SMEs. These partnerships are supported up to an investment-ready stage, and specific benefits are provided to each party involved. Partnerships between startups and corporates in the EU and in Latin America & the Caribbean are facilitated, enabling solutions to be commercialised and funding opportunities to be accessed by participating companies.

2. Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding has been recognised as an increasingly popular alternative financing model for startups, through which capital can be raised directly from a large number of individual backers. In return, early access to products, equity, or other forms of reward, such as branded merchandise, exclusive content, or limited-edition item, is often provided. This model is considered to be particularly useful for early-stage digital and deep-tech companies, where product validation with real users is sought, while funding is simultaneously secured. In this section, leading crowdfunding platforms are presented, and guidance is provided on how these platforms can be effectively leveraged by startups as part of a broader fundraising strategy.

Indiegogo

A global crowdfunding platform is used to support innovative and unconventional projects across various categories, including technology, design, and social impact. With a community of over 9 million backers in 235 countries and territories, powerful exposure and early market validation are provided to entrepreneurs. Flexible and fixed funding models can be selected by startups, depending on whether retained funds are desired regardless of whether the fundraising goal is reached. A suite of campaign management tools – including analytics and marketing guidance, is offered to assist in optimising fundraising efforts.

Crowdcube

An equity crowdfunding platform is operated to connect aspiring entrepreneurs with a diverse network of investors who seek to own a stake in innovative businesses. The investment process is simplified through the provision of clear and accessible resources, which are designed to educate first-time investors about the crowdfunding model and the specifics of equity financing. Credibility is enhanced by backing from some of Europe's largest venture capital firms, while a transparent business model is maintained to foster trust between startups and the investor community. Through this platform, capital can be raised by businesses in exchange for equity, and engaged, supportive networks can be built from the very beginning.

StartEngine

StartEngine is recognised as one of the largest equity crowdfunding platforms in the United States, and is designed to enable startups to raise capital from everyday investors. A strong emphasis is placed on high-quality deal flow, and a rigorous vetting process is implemented to ensure that only well-prepared and promising startups are featured. A wide range of investment opportunities across various industries is offered, providing founders with access to a large pool of potential supporters. Intuitive tools and resources are provided to assist with campaign setup, marketing, and compliance. Through the platform's structure, customers and fans are empowered to be converted into shareholders, resulting in a more engaged and invested community around the business.

Mightycause

Mightycause is recognised as a comprehensive fundraising platform tailored for nonprofits, individuals, and teams seeking to run effective online campaigns. Known for its intuitive, user-friendly interface, a wide range of customizable tools is offered, including donation pages, widgets, peer-to-peer fundraising features, and event support. Both personal and organizational fundraising efforts are supported, with particular effectiveness demonstrated in the management of giving days and large-scale fundraising events. With mobile-ready functionality and robust donor management tools, the platform is considered ideal for campaigns requiring flexibility, detailed analytics, and strong user engagement.

3. Revenue-based Financing

Revenue Share Agreements (RSA) have been recognised as an increasingly attractive alternative financing model for businesses, particularly for startups and small and medium-sized enterprises. In this model, capital is provided to a company by investors in exchange for a fixed percentage of its future revenue, which is paid until a predetermined repayment cap has been reached. Unlike traditional loans, repayments are tied to actual business performance, higher payments are made when revenues increase, and lower payments are required when revenues decline. As a result, RSAs are considered especially appealing for companies with variable income or seasonal revenue cycles, as flexibility is provided without requiring the surrender of equity or the assumption of rigid debt obligations.

Uncapped

Uncapped is known as a fintech company through which working capital solutions are offered to online businesses. While revenue-based financing was previously provided, the company's focus has been shifted toward the provision of fixed-term loans and lines of credit. These funding options are made available without requiring equity or personal guarantees, ensuring greater flexibility for the businesses served.

Booste

Booste is recognised as a Polish fintech platform specialising in revenue-based financing for e-commerce businesses. Quick and easy access to funds is provided, enabling online retailers to scale their operations through financing that is offered based on their revenue performance.

Re:cap

Re:cap is identified as a German platform through which revenue-based financing is offered to SaaS and subscription-based companies. Future recurring revenues are enabled to be converted into upfront capital, allowing runway extension and the postponement of equity rounds, so that dilution can be minimized.

Viceversa

Viceversa is known as an Italian fintech company through which equity-free revenue-based financing is provided to digital businesses. Funding is combined with data-driven marketing insights so that companies are supported in scaling sustainably and at a pace that is determined by their own growth dynamics.

Karmen

Karmen is described as a French startup through which revenue-based financing solutions are offered, tailored specifically for digital SMEs. Non-dilutive funding options are provided without the requirement of personal guarantees, ensuring that the service is made accessible to a wide range of businesses.

Wayflyer

Wayflyer is recognised as an Irish fintech platform through which revenue-based financing is offered to e-commerce businesses. Fast, flexible, and non-dilutive funding is provided to help companies ensure cash flow is optimised and growth opportunities are pursued through targeted investment.

Silvr

Silvr is recognised as a French fintech company specialising in revenue-based financing for SMEs. Flexible business loans based on future revenues are offered, supported by quick application processes and transparent fee structures. Through this model, businesses are supported in their growth journeys.

4. Private funding – the European venture capital and business angels

If collaboration with business angels (BA) or venture capital (VC) firms is considered by a startup in the future, an understanding of the market landscape will likely be required. These types of investors are regarded as essential to the development of digital and deep tech startups. Business angels are defined as individuals whose personal funds are invested in early-stage startups, typically in smaller amounts, together with mentorship and access to valuable networks. Seed funding from business angels is often used to help startups build prototypes and validate business models. Venture capital firms are described as professional groups in which large sums of capital are pooled from institutional investors to fund high-growth startups in exchange for equity. Larger investments from VCs are provided to enable scaling and expansion, with an active role in the business often being taken. Unique advantages are brought by each type of investor, and a significant impact on a startup's trajectory is often observed. To assist startups in identifying such investors, comprehensive databases are presented below, listing BA and VC firms, along with details on their investment preferences and previous activities. Although many of them are focused on European markets, their operations are not limited to this region.

European Business Angels Network (EBAN membership Directory)

EBAN is recognised as an umbrella organisation through which business angel networks, investors, and early-stage funds across Europe are connected. The Membership Directory is composed of angel networks, early-stage funds, and associates from various countries, and a platform for collaboration and resource sharing is provided through it. The directory is considered a valuable source of information for startups, although its members are primarily classified as investors.

Invest Europe

An annual survey is published by the organisation, through which comprehensive and robust activity data on fundraising and investments are collected from more than 1,750 private equity and venture capital firms in Europe. This data may be used to support the understanding of general activities within the European market. Invest Europe is recognised as the world's largest association of private capital providers. Europe's private equity, venture capital, and infrastructure investment firms, along with their investors – including major pension funds and insurers – are represented by the association. A better understanding of private equity is promoted by Invest Europe, so that capital and expertise can be invested into businesses by its members, and returns for investors can be generated, without being subject to unnecessary regulation or constraints.

OpenVC

On the OpenVC portal, several thousand companies are listed as investors in early-stage startups. The search engine is configured to allow entities to be filtered based on geography, the development stage of the startup, and the size of the expected investment.

AirTable

Similarly to the above, another extensive list of venture capital firms, mainly from the Baltic region and Eastern Europe, can be found under the provided link. The listed entities can be quickly sorted by their focus areas, and examples of other capital investments are also included for reference.

Polish Funding Ecosystem by Inovo Venture Partners v3

This database was created by Inovo Venture Partners. Although it was last updated in 2022 and was developed from a Polish perspective, it still contains information on over 200 venture capital firms and more than 54 business angels, whose LinkedIn profiles are presented. Polish investors are marked as "local" under the VC tab, while others are indicated as "foreign". In addition, accelerators are included in the document.

Sogrape Ventures – open call

In most of the presented databases, a brief profile of each entity along with their investment preferences can be found. As the market is considered highly specialised, well-matched entities can be identified depending on the industry in question. For example, in this particular case, investment is sought in startups that present innovative concepts, technologies, processes, and business models within the value chain of the wine industry specifically, and more broadly, the beverage sector.

Crunchbase

Crunchbase is recognised as a global database of startups, investors, and funding rounds. It is widely used for the discovery of venture capital firms and business angels. Powerful search and filtering tools are offered, and both free and paid versions are made available to users.

PitchBook

PitchBook is described as a professional-grade financial data platform that provides deep insights into venture capital, private equity, mergers and acquisitions, and startups. It is primarily used by corporate and institutional investors. Extensive data is offered, although access is considered very expensive.

Dealroom

Dealroom is regarded as a Europe-focused alternative to Crunchbase, through which detailed information on startups, investors, and market trends is provided. It is known for accurate and well-structured data. A free tier is offered, alongside premium plans that are made available for advanced users.

AngelList (Wellfound)

AngelList (now known as Wellfound) is recognised as a popular platform through which startups are connected with business angels and early-stage investors. The platform is also used for recruiting and syndicate investing. It is considered mostly free and highly friendly to startups.

CB Insights

CB Insights is known as a market intelligence platform that provides data-driven insights on startups, investors, and emerging technology trends. It is used by corporates and analysts for strategic decision-making. Access is offered at the enterprise level, and the platform is considered high in cost.

5. Community events and platforms

Tremendous potential is held by the European startup community. However, the process of navigating the multitude of events, networks, and platforms that connect this ecosystem is often considered challenging. Below, an initial compilation is presented, through which events, networks, and platforms can be explored. Opportunities to connect with potential investors and partners, learn from successful entrepreneurs, and stay informed on industry trends are offered at these events. Although direct funding is not typically provided, valuable connections with future investors are facilitated. The events listed below have been categorised based on their primary focus areas, though some overlap may be observed depending on content and objectives. Starting in 2025, many events (such as 4YFN, VivaTech, and Latitude59) are increasingly focused on topics related to artificial intelligence, climate innovation (GreenTech), and DeepTech within the framework of ESG.

5.1. DeepTech focused events

DeepTech Atelier (Latvia)

The largest deep tech industry event in the Baltics is organised to bring together all stakeholders of the ecosystem, including entrepreneurs, scientists and technology developers, investors, as well as government and public organisations. During the two-day conference, outstanding international speakers are featured, pitch sessions are held, practical workshops are conducted, and excellent networking opportunities are provided through B2B sessions.

DeepTech Summit & Challenge (Poland)

The most important event and deep tech startup contest in the CEE region is hosted in collaboration with Hello Tomorrow and international partners from both the CEE and the EU. The Deep Tech CEE Challenge is launched as an open call for visionaries whose startups, scale-ups, or projects are based on R&D or high-tech engineering (TRL3-8), and which are characterised by high scientific or engineering risk as well as product–market fit risk. Solutions addressing environmental, human, or industrial problems are sought through this initiative.

Hello Tomorrow Global Summit (France)

The Hello Tomorrow Global Summit in Paris is recognised as the pioneering global event exclusively crafted for scientists and deep tech founders from a wide range of industries. This summit is designed to go beyond conventional boundaries, with more than 3,000 attendees, 100 speakers, and 125 exhibitors being brought together.

Healthcare Innovation World Cup (Germany)

The 17th edition of the Healthcare Innovation World Cup® is being conducted in search of the next generation of smart health devices, medical wearables, digital biomarkers, electroceuticals, intelligent patches, and related innovations. HealthTech and MedTech innovators worldwide are invited to participate free of charge, with submissions requested by the deadline of September 12th, 2025.

Deep Tech Momentum (Germany)

Deep Tech Momentum is held annually in Berlin as an invite-only conference, where Europe's most promising deep tech startups are brought together with leading investors and industry experts. Launched in 2022, the event is focused on accelerating breakthrough technologies by ensuring that connections, investment opportunities, and knowledge exchange are fostered. Sectors such as AI, biotech, renewable energy, advanced materials, and space tech are covered, and the conference has been established as a key platform for strengthening the European deep tech ecosystem.

5.2. Sector agnostic events for startups

4 Years From Now (4YFN) (Spain)

4YFN is held in conjunction with the Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona, Spain. The event is focused on connecting startups, investors, corporations, and public institutions to ensure that innovation and collaboration within the global tech ecosystem are fostered. A platform is provided for startups to showcase their products, pitch their ideas, and engage with potential investors and partners. The event is structured around keynote speeches, panel discussions, pitching sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities, making it a vibrant hub for entrepreneurship and technological advancement. Startup growth is supported, investment opportunities are facilitated, and forward-thinking initiatives in technology and business are promoted through this gathering.

Wolves Summit CEE (Poland)

Wolves Summit is organised as an events and marketing platform through which young tech and other startup companies from the CEE and DACH regions are connected with venture capital funds, innovation divisions of global corporations, and angel investors.

EBAN Congress

One of Europe’s most prominent events for angel investors, entrepreneurs, and industry experts is organised by the European Business Angels Network (EBAN). The summit is attended by over 500 participants from around the globe. Insightful sessions, workshops, keynote speeches, and networking opportunities are featured, with a focus placed on the latest trends and challenges in the startup ecosystem.

Latitude59 (Estonia)

Latitude59 is organised with the mission of employing the tools, talent, and know-how of the startup and tech community to address the global challenges of today. A wide range of opportunities is offered to startups at any stage of growth, including the Pitch Competition, Demo Area, Karma Matchmaking, and a colourful programme of side events.

STARTUP DAY (Estonia)

The event is recognized as a prominent fixture in Estonia's startup calendar, dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship and innovation. STARTUP DAY, held in Tartu, is a large-scale conference that brings together startups, investors, and industry experts for networking, pitching, and learning opportunities. Its goal is to connect entrepreneurs with the resources and knowledge needed to scale their ventures.

Start-up Europe Awards (Belgium)

An initiative is promoted by the European Commission and is supported by the Committee |of the Regions and the European Parliament. It is implemented by the Finnova Foundation in collaboration with Startup Europe. The Startup Europe Awards (SEUA) is used as an open innovation tool through which companies are enabled to identify talented startups capable of addressing current challenges across various domains.

Slush (Finland)

Slush is recognised as a world-renowned startup and technology event held annually in Helsinki, Finland. The event is designed to connect startups, investors, and industry leaders from around the globe. Inspiring speakers, pitching competitions, workshops, and extensive networking opportunities are featured as part of the programme. Attracting over 25,000 participants from more than 100 countries, Slush has been established as one of the largest and most influential gatherings in the startup ecosystem. A platform for innovation, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas is provided, making the event a cornerstone for entrepreneurs and investors worldwide.

Web Summit (Portugal)

Web Summit is regarded as one of the largest and most influential technology conferences in the world, held annually in Lisbon, Portugal. Its mission is defined as connecting the technology community with industries both old and new. An extensive lineup of speakers, including top executives, industry leaders, and innovators, is featured, covering a wide range of topics from technology and startups to politics and culture. Networking opportunities, pitching competitions, and workshops are offered to a diverse audience, which includes startups, investors, corporations, and media representatives. With over 70,000 attendees from around the globe, Web Summit has been established as a key event for fostering innovation and shaping the future of technology.

PODIM (Slovenia)

A startup and tech event is organised to gather entrepreneurs, investors, corporate representatives, and innovators from the Central and Eastern European region and beyond. The conference is structured around keynote speeches, panel discussions, startup pitches, workshops, and networking sessions. Collaboration, knowledge sharing, and investment opportunities within the startup ecosystem are aimed to be fostered through this event.

TechChill (Latvia)

TechChill is recognised as a leading tech and startup event through which entrepreneurs, investors, tech enthusiasts, and industry professionals are brought together to explore the latest trends, innovations, and opportunities within the startup ecosystem. Keynote speeches, panel discussions, startup pitches, workshops, and networking sessions are featured throughout the event. Growth within the Baltic and European startup communities is aimed to be accelerated, as the event is positioned as a platform where startups are enabled to showcase their ideas, connect with investors, and gain valuable insights from experienced mentors and thought leaders in the tech industry.

DeepTech Atelier (Latvia)

A specialised event is held with a focus on deep technology innovations and startups. A series of workshops, presentations, and networking sessions are typically featured, designed to bring together researchers, entrepreneurs, investors, and industry experts interested in cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, biotech, and advanced materials. The development and adoption of disruptive technologies with the potential to drive significant societal and economic impact are aimed to be accelerated through this event.

Startup Fair (Lithuania)

A significant event in the Baltic startup ecosystem is organised with the aim of fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and networking among startups, investors, and industry leaders. Held annually in Vilnius, the event is positioned as a platform where startups are enabled to showcase their ideas, connect with potential investors, and gain visibility within the international startup community. Pitch sessions, panel discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities are featured, making it a valuable gathering for all those involved or interested in the startup landscape in Lithuania and beyond.

TechBBQ (Denmark)

TechBBQ is recognised as one of Denmark’s largest annual tech and startup events, held in Copenhagen. Entrepreneurs, investors, corporates, and tech enthusiasts are gathered to network, collaborate, and discuss the latest trends in technology and innovation. Keynote speakers, panel discussions, pitching sessions, and extensive networking opportunities are featured, providing a valuable platform for startups to showcase their ideas, attract investment, and forge strategic partnerships. Denmark’s position as a hub for entrepreneurship and innovation within the European tech ecosystem is aimed to be strengthened through this event.

VivaTech (France)

VivaTech is recognised as a premier technology and innovation conference, held annually in Paris, France. The event is positioned as a global meeting ground where startups, established companies, investors, and tech enthusiasts are brought together to explore cutting-edge innovations and emerging trends. Keynote speeches from industry leaders, startup pitches, exhibitions of emerging technologies, and networking opportunities are featured throughout the programme. Collaboration between startups and established companies is fostered, digital transformation is driven, and Europe's role in the global tech landscape is showcased. The event is attended by a diverse international audience, making it a significant platform for connecting, learning, and demonstrating technological innovation.

ChangeNOW Summit (France)

ChangeNOW is held annually in Paris as a global summit dedicated to accelerating sustainable innovation and environmental solutions. Entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, and thought leaders are brought together to address pressing environmental and social challenges. For startups, significant benefits are offered through participation in ChangeNOW. A platform is provided to showcase innovations to a global audience, connect with potential investors and partners, and gain insights from industry experts. Networking sessions, thematic workshops, and pitch competitions are organised, allowing startup visibility to be enhanced and growth to be accelerated

AI Summit London (United Kingdom)

The AI Summit London is held annually at Tobacco Dock in London, typically in June, as part of London Tech Week. The event is positioned as a premier platform for exploring the practical applications of artificial intelligence across various industries. Business leaders, technologists, investors, and policymakers are brought together to discuss AI-driven strategies, innovations, and solutions. For startups, significant opportunities are provided through participation in The AI Summit London. The Start-Up & Investor Village is featured as a dynamic hub where early-stage companies are enabled to showcase their innovations, engage in mentoring sessions, and pitch to potential investors. This environment is designed to foster networking, collaboration, and exposure to the global AI ecosystem, ensuring that startups are equipped with the tools and connections needed to accelerate their growth and impact.

Tech.eu Summit

The Tech.eu Summit is held annually as a technology conference that brings together key players from the European startup and innovation ecosystem. Industry trends, investment, tech policy, and collaboration between startups, investors, and public institutions are highlighted during the event. In 2026, the Tech.eu Summit is scheduled to take place on April 21–22 in London. For startups, participation is considered a valuable opportunity to showcase their solutions, connect with investors and business partners, and gain insights from industry leaders. The summit is positioned as a platform through which visibility can be boosted and growth can be accelerated within the European tech landscape.

5.3. Events facilitating networking between investors and startups

FiBAN Angel Day (Finland)

Organised by the Finnish Business Angels Network (FiBAN), this event is regarded as a key gathering for business angels, investors, and startups. A focus is placed on networking, sharing investment insights, and promoting collaboration within the startup ecosystem. Keynote speeches, panel discussions, pitching sessions, and workshops are included, providing valuable opportunities for learning and connection. The event is considered instrumental in supporting early-stage companies and in strengthening the investment landscape
in Finland.

Engaged Investments (Czech Republic)

A prominent investment conference is organised annually in Prague, Czech Republic, by DEPO Ventures. The event is designed to bring together business angels, limited partners (LPs), venture capitalists (VCs), and startup founders—primarily from the Central and Eastern European region. Collaboration is fostered, investment insights are shared, and the regional startup ecosystem is strengthened through keynote speeches, panel discussions, pitching sessions, and networking opportunities.

Big Angels Day (France)

The key event for European and African business angels is organised by Bpifrance in collaboration with France Angels. Held as part of the Bpifrance Inno Génération (BIG) event, the summit is intended to highlight the role of business angels within the early-stage startup ecosystem. Both virtual and physical meetings between investors and entrepreneurs are facilitated, alongside online workshops in which topics such as becoming a business angel, cross-border investment, and the role of women in early-stage investing are covered.

E.G.G. Investor Day Athens

The E.G.G. Investor Day event is considered one of the largest investor-focused gatherings, where more than 40 startup and scaleup companies are given the opportunity to interact with over 100 representatives from venture capital funds, family offices, crowdfunding platforms, and individual business angels. Participants are brought together from Greece, Central and Eastern Europe, Israel, the USA, Canada, and the UK, creating a dynamic environment for investment dialogue and collaboration.

Funded by the European Union

5.4. Platforms

Customised support services, such as mentorship, accelerator programmes, and specialised tools, are provided to help startups expand their market reach and navigate the complexities of the startup landscape. Below, several popular platforms and initiatives are presented, through which this type of support is made available to startups across various sectors and development stages.

F6S

F6S is recognised as a global platform through which digital and deep tech startups are supported with tools for fundraising, talent recruitment, and community engagement. Startups are connected to a vast network of investors, accelerators, and mentors that are considered crucial for growth. For example, accelerator programmes such as Techstars and Ready2Scale, as well as funding opportunities from venture capital firms like Sequoia Capital, can be applied for via F6S

Sploro

Sploro is operated as a platform through which deep tech startups are connected with European research facilities, fostering collaboration and innovation. Advanced research infrastructure and funding opportunities, such as Horizon Europe grants for joint project, are made accessible to startups. For example, collaboration with research institutes on pharmaceutical development can be established by a biotech startup using Sploro, enabling both expertise and funding to be leveraged in order to accelerate innovation. Startups' capabilities are enhanced by Sploro through the bridging of essential resources and growth-enabling funding within Europe's deep tech landscape.

EuroQuity

EuroQuity is recognised as a platform through which companies – including digital and deep tech startups—are connected with investors and partners across Europe. Networking and access to funding opportunities are facilitated, helping startups ensure that their growth and innovation are accelerated. Tools for visibility and collaboration are also provided, supporting startups in building strategic partnerships and expanding their market reach within the European ecosystem.

Plug and Play Europe

Plug and Play Europe is recognised as a leading innovation platform through which startups are supported via accelerator programmes, corporate partnerships, and investment opportunities. Close collaboration is established with industry leaders to ensure that startups are connected with the resources, mentorship, and funding necessary for growth. A focus is placed on a range of industries, including fintech, health, and mobility, through which innovation and entrepreneurship across the continent are fostered.

Funded by the European Union

Dealroom

Dealroom is recognised as a European startup intelligence platform through which a searchable database of accelerators, venture capital firms, government programmes, and startup hubs is provided. The platform is widely used by investors and policymakers to analyse ecosystem trends and identify key players in the European startup landscape.

Summary

A large portion of this document is expected to remain relevant over time. However, certain initiatives mentioned throughout should be considered time-sensitive. Readers are encouraged to visit the websites of Poznań Science and Technology Park, Civitta, EBAN, Tehnopol Science and Business Park. These organisations are actively engaged in supporting startups on a daily basis, and any questions can be addressed by their respective teams.