



## AGENDA

*EU4Digital ICT Innovation second networking event:*

**«Integration of business angels and venture capital (individuals and associations) into the EU and global networks and their capacity building to increase digital SMEs access to finance in EaP region»**

<b>8 October - Thursday</b>		
<b>Time (CET)</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Participants / Speaker</b>
<b>Session 1 – Introduction &amp; keynote speech</b>		
<b>11:45 - 12:00</b>	<i>Time for connection – the session will start at 12:00 sharp</i>	-
<b>12:00 - 12:10</b>	Opening notes	<i>EU4Digital</i>
<b>12:10 - 12:20</b>	Participants brief introduction	<i>All participants</i>
<b>12:20 - 12:35</b>	Networking event organisation – goals and objectives	<i>EU4Digital</i>
<b>12:35 - 12:55</b>	Keynote speech: Angel Investments in the EaP Region	<i>Jesus Lozano, ICT Strategic Advisor at European Innovation Council</i>
<b>12:55 - 13:05</b>	Q&As	<i>All participants</i>
<b>Session 2 – Networking of innovation &amp; business support ecosystems</b>		
<b>13:05 - 13:25</b>	European Business & Innovation Centre Network (EBN): Value proposition and vision of possible cooperation in the EaP region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>David Uhlíř, Chief Strategy Officer at JIC and President at EBN</i></li> <li>• <i>Luca Maini, Quality and Research Officer at EBN</i></li> </ul>
<b>13:25 - 13:40</b>	SME Development Office Ukraine (SMEDO): Establishing EBN Business and Innovation Centres in Ukraine: opportunities, challenges and next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Inna Petrenko, Advisor at SMEDO</i></li> <li>• <i>Luca Maini, Quality and Research Officer at EBN</i></li> </ul>
<b>13:40 - 14:00</b>	Q&As; discussion of possible cooperation	<i>All participants</i>
<b>14:00 - 14:20</b>	Short Break - Stretch your legs	<i>All participants</i>
<b>Session 3 – Networking of BA and VC associations</b>		
<b>14:20 - 14:40</b>	European Business Angels Network (EBAN): Understanding the business angel landscape in Europe and connecting with it	<i>Jacopo Losso, Director of Secretariat at EBAN</i>
<b>14:40 - 14:55</b>	Q&As; discussion of possible cooperation	<i>All participants</i>
<b>14:55 - 15:15</b>	Business Angels Europe (BAE): Working with the leading angel networks in Europe	<i>Jan Debets, Head of Operations at BAE</i>
<b>15:15 - 15:30</b>	Q&As; discussion of possible cooperation	<i>All participants</i>
<b>Session 4 – Networking of crowdfunding ecosystems</b>		
<b>15:30 - 15:50</b>	European Crowdfunding Network (ECN): Value proposition and vision of possible cooperation in the EaP region	<i>Oliver Gajda, Executive Director at ECN</i>
<b>15:50 - 16:10</b>	Challenges and progress in developing regulation for alternative finance providers in Georgia	<i>Otar Gorgodze, Head of Financial and Supervisory Technology Development Department at National Bank of Georgia</i>
<b>16:10 - 16:20</b>	Q&As; discussion of possible cooperation	<i>All participants</i>
<b>16:20 - 16:30</b>	Closure remarks	<i>EU4Digital</i>






### Annex 1. Short descriptions of EU participants

Name	Description
<a href="#">European Business &amp; Innovation Centre Network (EBN)</a>	EBN is a not-for-profit that serves a pan-European, global community of people that use innovative business as a driver for regional (economic) development. EBN's initiatives include <a href="#">EU BIC certification</a> , development and distribution of quality business support programmes, facilitation and initiation of project collaborations, global networking and advocacy for excellent business support actors like the EU BICs. There are now more than 130 quality-certified EU BICs and 46 Associate Members shaping our global EBN network. Becoming an EU BIC means responding to our mission to use business and innovation as a force for regional development with the best possible actions to create vibrant, thriving startups and SMEs. In other words, EU BICs take real steps to ensure that their services are best advantageous to their clients and best advantageous to their regions. EBN's service offering includes <a href="#">benchmarking</a> of quality-certified organisations through the EU BIC Quality Mark, using assessment frameworks derived from leading evaluation and business appreciation practices. Such benchmarking enables members to uphold the high-quality standards of innovation support.
<a href="#">European Business Angels Network (EBAN) Knowledge Centre</a>	EBAN is the pan-European representative for the early stage investor community gathering over 150 member organizations in more than 50 countries today. Established in 1999 by a group of pioneer angel networks in Europe with the collaboration of the European Commission and EURADA, EBAN represents a sector estimated to invest 11.4 billion Euros a year and playing a vital role in Europe's future, notably in the funding of SMEs. EBAN fuels Europe's growth through the creation of wealth and jobs. Since its inception, EBAN always dedicated its efforts to providing first class documentations, resources, statistics, and many more papers to its members. The robustness and the credibility of these documents were built on several years of experience and expertise in the early stage investing market.
<a href="#">Business Angels Europe (BAE)</a>	Business Angels Europe (BAE) is the European Confederation of Angel Investing. BAE works with, represents and connects the leading business angel networks from the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal and the Benelux. BAE does intensive networking through specialized (online) events, research and data sharing with institutions like the EIF, as well as deal flow sharing with our BAE Club.
<a href="#">European Crowdfunding Network (ECN)</a>	The European Crowdfunding Network AISBL (ECN) is an independent, professional network promoting adequate transparency, (self) regulation and governance while offering a combined voice in policy discussion and public opinion building. We execute initiatives aimed at innovating, representing, promoting and protecting the European crowdfunding industry as a key aspect of innovation within alternative finance and financial technology, including crypto assets and distributed ledger technologies. We aim to increase the understanding of the key roles that crowdfunding can play in supporting entrepreneurship of all types and its role in funding the creation and protection of jobs, the enrichment of European society, culture and economy, and the protection of our environment. In that capacity we help developing professional standards, providing industry research, as well as, professional networking opportunities in order to facilitate interaction between our members and key industry participants. ECN maintains a dialogue with public institutions and stakeholders as well as the media at European, international and national levels.



## Annex 2. List of speakers

	<p><b>Mr. Jesus Lozano, ICT Strategic Advisor at European Innovation Council and CEO at IT Entrepreneur</b></p> <p>Jesus Lozano is one of the high-level advisors of the European Innovation Council in the high-tech sector and has 27 years of management experience as an expert in business model innovation and operations strategy with a focus on ICT start-ups. Jesus is the CEO and founder of several IT start-ups worldwide. As an angel investor and venture capitalist, he is investing in technology start-ups, with a present portfolio valuation of 34m EUR. Currently, he is combining his professional career with a passion to support start-ups through investing, conferences, workshops, and mentoring sessions in Universities and international events. Jesus is a co-author of the “Top Challenge Acceleration Program” methodology to support entrepreneurs from idea-stage to seed-stage.</p>
	<p><b>Mr. David Uhlíř, President at European Business &amp; Innovation Centre Network (EBN) and Chief Strategy Officer at South Moravian Innovation Centre (JIC)</b></p> <p>David Uhlíř currently holds the position of Chief Strategy Officer at South Moravian Innovation Centre (JIC), a leading innovation centre in the Czech Republic. He is responsible for development of its new strategic projects and initiatives, and for management of regional innovation strategy. He joined JIC in 2010 while his effort was instrumental in establishing JIC back in 2003. From 2016 to 2019, David acted as Vice-president of EBN (European Business &amp; Innovation Centre Network), the largest European association of incubators, accelerators and science parks. He was elected as President of EBN in 2019. His professional interests revolve around innovation and science policies, role of universities in regional development, and business innovation policy.</p>
	<p><b>Mr. Luca Maini, Quality &amp; Research Officer at European Business &amp; Innovation Centre Network (EBN)</b></p> <p>Luca Maini joined EBN in April 2019, where he manages the activities of the EU BIC Certification. He is also responsible for the planning and execution of the network’s applied research activities, creating capacity for EBN members in relation to research practices and impact measurement in innovation and business support. Luca holds a master’s degree in International Business Economics and Management from University of Leuven. Before joining EBN, Luca worked in Brussels-based public policy consultancies, where he gained knowledge on EU-level evaluations and impact assessments in the fields of internal market and innovation.</p>



**Ms. Inna Petrenko, Advisor at SME Development Office Ukraine (SMEDO)**

Inna Petrenko is experienced marketing, strategy and SME programming expert with more than 15 years' professional background in marketing, business development and start-up launch. She is serial entrepreneur, digital economy consultant of SME programmes development and implementation with focus on funding tools, marketing and communication strategy development, brand engineering, global communications, MarCom, digital marketing and public relations.

Inna has more than 10 years' experience in developing training programmes, e-learning projects, managing and implementing trainings in private sector and in cooperation with donors and Business Angels as well as mentorship experience in acceleration programmes. She has experience in working with Lithuanian, Hungarian, Swiss, Belgium, the UK, the USA, Georgian, Azerbaijani and Russian markets.



**Mr. Jacopo Losso, Director of Secretariat at European Business Angels Network (EBAN)**

Jacopo Losso joined EBAN in 2015 as the association's Director of Secretariat. He is responsible for managing the organization and its network of members, expanding the association's reach and influence, tracking issues of strategic importance to the early stage investing ecosystem and representing the association externally.

Jacopo holds a bachelor's degree and a Master of Science degree in Business Administration from Bocconi University in Milan, Italy. Thanks to his education and his strong academic background both in marketing and in financial management, Jacopo has a successful track record with international work experiences.



**Mr. Jan Debets, Head of Operations at Business Angels Europe (BAE)**

Jan Debets is Head of Operations of the Business Angels Europe secretariat, the European association in angel investing. His daily work consists of working closely with the members, the European institutions and other stakeholders to connect, strengthen and grow the European angel market. He therefore leverages his previous work experience as a business angel network manager in the Netherlands and as a trainee at the European Commission in Belgium. He has studied history and politics at the universities of Leiden (NL), Sorbonne (FR) and Oxford (UK).



**Mr. Oliver Gajda, Executive Director at European Crowdfunding Network (ECN)**

In the past decade, Oliver has worked with venture capital, microfinance, technology and social entrepreneurship in both commercial and non-profit settings in Europe and the USA. Oliver co-initiated ECN in 2012 and went on to ensure its establishment as an international NGO in 2013 as founding Executive Director and Chairman. Oliver has been driving ECNs professional activities with a view to establish an independent industry representation for the emerging crowdfunding sector. Oliver is an Advisory Board Member at Förderkreis Gründungs-Forschung e.V. (FGF) and a member of the European Crowdfunding Stakeholder Forum at the European Commission. A former journalist, he started his career in the early 1990s in the publishing and business information industries. Oliver holds Masters degrees from Solvay Business School and from the University of Hamburg and studied at SEESS (UCL) in London.



**Mr. Otar Gorgodze, Head of Financial and Supervisory Technology Development Department at National Bank of Georgia**

Otar Gorgodze as the Head of Financial and Supervisory Technologies Development Department at National Bank of Georgia oversees Financial Innovation Office, Regulatory Sandbox, Open Banking and Information Exchange, AI model risk management, internal data science teams and supotech applications. Previous change management portfolio includes Risk Based Supervisory change in banking supervision, development of cyber risk, operational risk, market risk, credit risk, macroprudential risk, corporate governance and market conduct units. Otar is an acting member of Monetary Policy Committee, he contributed to change of monetary policy framework to Inflation Targeting. Prior to joining the public sector, Otar has worked in private sector as a credit officer and investment analyst, held teaching positions at various universities. The speaker has various publications on the topics of financial development and risk management.