



**Annual EU4Digital Startups and Innovation Forum**  
*'Innovative solutions for the development of startup ecosystems in the Eastern Partnership'*

**Thursday 27 January 2022 – online**

09:00 – 12:00 (Belgium - CET)

10:00 – 13:00 (Moldova, Ukraine)

11:00 – 14:00 (Belarus)

12:00 – 15:00 (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)

Timing (CET)	Topics and speakers
8:50 – 9:00	<i>Connection – the session will start at 9:00 sharp</i>
9:00 – 9:10	<p><b>OPENING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Gérald Audaz</b>, Head of the Economic Development Section, Unit C1 'Georgia, Moldova, Economic and Investment plan', DG NEAR, European Commission</li> </ul>
9:10 – 9:30	<p><b>KEYNOTE SPEECH – How to accelerate the potential of the Eastern Partnership startup ecosystem</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Charles K. Whitehead</b>, Founder of EO Business Incubator in Kyiv and Founding Director of Law, Technology &amp; Entrepreneurship Programme at Cornell Tech University (USA)</li> </ul>
9:30 – 10:10	<p><b>LAUNCH OF THE <a href="https://eapstartups.co">EAPSTARTUPS.CO</a> – Eastern Partnership startup ecosystem platform</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction and benefits for Eastern Partnership (EaP) startups</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Matthieu Demolin</b>, Head of Ecosystems at Dealroom</li> <li>- <b>Małgorzata Walczak</b>, Investment Director at PFR Ventures (Poland)</li> </ul>
10:10 – 11:30	<p><b>PANEL – Innovative solutions for startup ecosystems development in the Eastern Partnership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State of play in Eastern partner countries</li> <li>- Discussion - existing solutions and remaining challenges to accelerate the EaP startup ecosystem development</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator: Gérald Audaz</b>, Unit C1, DG NEAR, European Commission</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Davit Sahakyan</b>, Deputy Minister, Ministry of High-Tech Industry of Armenia</li> <li>- <b>Irakli Nadareishvili</b>, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia</li> <li>- <b>Andrei Cușca</b>, Head of Information Society and Digital Economy Directorate, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Moldova</li> <li>- <b>Oleksandr Bornyakov</b>, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine and Head of the Diia City Project</li> <li>- <b>Jesús Lozano</b>, EU4Digital Senior Expert</li> <li>- <b>Anna Pobol</b>, EU4Digital ICT Innovation Lead</li> </ul>
11:30 – 11:50	<b>Q&amp;A session</b>
11:50 – 12:00	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DG NEAR, European Commission</li> </ul>