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EU4Digital Facility awareness event

Importance of supporting national ecosystem builders' actions through donor funding

Location:	Online
When:	18 July 2023, 13:00 – 15:00 (GMT+3) Equivalent to: 12:00 – 14:00 (CEST, Brussels) 13:00 – 15:00 (Ukraine, Moldova) 14:00 – 16:00 (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)
Language:	English

Concept: EU4Digital Facility is hosting an online event to raise awareness about **the importance of empowering ecosystem builders** to build the high-performing innovation ecosystem in the Eastern partner countries and its transformative impact on the regional economy as a whole. The lead speaker is Jesús Lozano, the key expert in ICT innovation for EU4Digital. He has more than 28 years of experience as an entrepreneurial investor and over 15 years in developing incubation. During the session, he will explain **what the high-performing ecosystem is and how the collaborative efforts of national organisations, with the support of donor organisations and regulators, can build and promote a thriving innovation ecosystem** for the development of cutting-edge technologies. The session will also welcome guest speakers who will share their ecosystem-building best practices in the EU and Eastern partner countries.

Participants:

- International donors and funding organisations;
- Ecosystem builders and other ICT innovation ecosystem actors in Eastern partner countries, including IT corporations, banks, business associations;
- EU4Digital ICT Innovation Network – working group members and other representatives from Eastern partner countries;
- EU Delegations



AGENDA

18 July 2023, 13:00 – 15:00 (GMT+3)

Time	Topic	Speaker
12:45 – 13:00	Time for connection – the session will start at 13:00 sharp	
13:00 – 13:10	Welcome	DG NEAR / EU4Digital
13:10 – 13:15	Understanding high-growth capacity innovation ecosystems Presentation of the ecosystem performance framework in the Eastern partner countries	Jesús Lozano, Expert in ICT Innovation, EU4Digital
13:15 – 13:30	The role of national organisations in building the innovation ecosystem Presentation of ecosystem builders' main responsibilities	Jesús Lozano, Expert in ICT Innovation, EU4Digital
13:30 – 13:40	The role of donor organisations and regulators in supporting ecosystem builders Presentation of the donor and regulators framework and relationships with innovation ecosystem builders	Jesús Lozano, Expert in ICT Innovation, EU4Digital
13:40 – 13:50	Q&A	All speakers and participants
13:50 – 14:05	National Association of European Business and Innovation Centres (ANCES) (Spain) Sharing the best ecosystem-building practices in the European Union	Álvaro Simón de Blas, President, ANCES
14:05 – 14:20	Startup Moldova Sharing the best ecosystem-building practices in the Eastern Partnership (EaP)	Natalia Bejan, Executive Director, Startup Moldova
14:20 – 14:35	EaP Startups ecosystem platform Presentation of the Dealroom map to connect with incubators and startups	Anna Pobol, ICT Innovation Lead, EU4Digital
14:35 – 15:00	Q&A and closure of the event	All speakers and participants



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SPEAKERS



Álvaro Simón de Blas
President of ANCES, Spain

Dr. Álvaro Simón de Blas, President of ANCES National Association of Spanish Business and Innovation Centres (BIC) Dr. Álvaro Simón de Blas is Director of BIC EURONOVA S.A European Centre for Business and Innovation of Malaga and President of ANCES National Association of Spanish Business and Innovation Centres based in Madrid. He has also been serving as a president of EBN European Association of European Business and Innovation Centres based in Brussels. Dr. Álvaro Simón is Associate professor at the University of Malaga, holding Degree in Economics and Business Administration and teaching business creation. Dr. Álvaro Simón de Blas is an experienced European evaluator of the Business Innovation Centres BICs program; member of the selection committee of the NEOTEC Invierte CDTI Forum and EOI training programs. He has an extended practical experience of running his own strategy and financial consultancy and having worked at the Stock Exchange (Bank of London and South America) Lloyds Banking Group Spain as well as at ICEX Commercial Office of the Embassy of Spain in Tokyo (Japan).



ANCES is the [National Association of European Business and Innovation Centres](#) in Spain, uniting 32 CEEIs and Business and Innovation Centres (BICs). This network is part of the European Business and Innovation Center Network (EBN) made up of more than 150 certified BICs and 100 organizations that support the growth and development of innovative entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs. ANCES contributes to the promotion and positioning of its member CEEIs or BICs in

the national R&D&I system as well as their capacity to support the creation of new SMEs and / or new activities in existing ones, based on innovative elements with development potential.



Natalia Bejan
Executive director of Startup Moldova Foundation, Moldova

Natalia Bejan is the executive director of Startup Moldova Foundation. Prior to Startup Moldova, Natalia started her career in project management and consulting, having delivered projects in 15 countries, for financial institutions in Europe and Asia. Following this, Natalia spent 2,5 years in China, building with her team a virtual credit card as an inhouse corporate innovation project for the largest consumer financing company in China. She stepped down from her last position as Chief Customer Officer of an insurance tech startup in Prague to join the team of Startup Moldova.

**STARTUP
MOLDOVA**

[Startup Moldova](#) is a private non-profit organization from the Republic of Moldova, aiming to accelerate the development of Moldovan tech startup ecosystem through community building initiatives, offering startups the access to needed resources, including access to funding, development of relationships with investors and preparation of startups to fundraising.

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