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EU4Digital Facility awareness event

Importance of supporting national ecosystem builders' actions through donor funding

18 July 2023, 13:00 – 15:00 (GMT+3)

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.

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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.