



# MAKING RESEARCH RESULTS WORK FOR SOCIETY



## CONFERENCE

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26 OCTOBER 2023

COVENT GARDEN  
PLACE ROGIER  
BRUSSELS

LIVE ONLINE  
BROADCASTING



# JOIN US AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN ON KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION!



## STAY INFORMED

Europe has an excellent research community, with brilliant minds who foster innovation. We encourage the use of research results for creating positive impacts in our society and economy: Valorise knowledge!

There is a need for improving knowledge valorisation in the Union. Together with Member States and a wide array of stakeholders, a common approach has been developed in the form of guiding principles on knowledge valorisation for the R&I actors throughout Europe.

This resulted in the adoption of the Council Recommendation on the [Guiding principles for knowledge valorisation](#) on 2 December 2022, and the subsequent Commission Recommendations of 1 March 2023 on the [Code of practice on the management of intellectual assets](#) and the [Code of practice on standardisation](#).

The awareness raising campaign on knowledge valorisation aims to inform the broadest possible audience of these recommendations and also collect best practices, as well as listen to challenges faced by the various stakeholders and foster the exchange of ideas to overcome them.



## PARTICIPATE

This event is organised to further encourage an open dialogue. It is co-designed with various R&I actors based on their inputs received in a public call for contributions published on the [Knowledge Valorisation Platform](#).

The event will showcase the excellent contributions received which include suggestions for guidance, exchange of best practices, networking opportunities and recognition of innovative projects. Join the interesting discussions!



## FOLLOW US

The campaign also includes a Tour of capitals, for Member States to address their R&I specificities through national events.

Follow us on the campaign [webpage](#), mark the dates in your calendars and get involved to spread the benefits of knowledge valorisation in your network!

[Subscribe](#) to the **EU Knowledge Valorisation Newsletter** to receive information on policy developments, new initiatives and opportunities for stakeholders in Europe to engage in promoting the uptake of research results for a sustainable future.




## Participation

This event takes place on 26 October 2023 at the premises of the European Commission, in the Covent Garden building, situated at 16 Place Charles Rogier, 1210 Saint-Josse, Brussels.

You can [register here](#). It does not involve any registration fees.

The event starts at 9:00 CET and will also be broadcasted live.



If you are attending the event physically, you will have first to go to the registration desk, where you will receive your badge. This is located on the ground floor of the building near the reception.

To ensure a smooth registration, please make sure that you bring the confirmation of your registration with you along with a valid passport or ID.

Due to security measures, please arrive early (at least 30 minutes in advance) to allow enough time to access the building before the conference starts. Since all bags will be searched, please only bring handbags or briefcases if possible. Please avoid bringing suitcases or large bags.

Please note that pictures and videos will be taken during the event. Physical participation in the room of the conference will be considered acceptance of the use of these media during and after the event.

A buffet with sandwiches and salads will be available free of charge at lunchtime. Coffee and water will be available throughout the day.

Should you require any further information, please contact the organisation team at: [RTD-VALORISATION-POLICIES-IPR@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-VALORISATION-POLICIES-IPR@ec.europa.eu).



**REGISTER NOW**



# PROGRAMME

9:00 – 9:30 **REGISTRATION, COFFEE**

## OPENING REMARKS

9:30 – 9:45

**Joanna DRAKE**, Deputy Director-General : Implementation, Impact & Sustainable Investment Strategies, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

## PAVING THE WAY FOR KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION

9:45 – 10:30

**Táňa Hálova Perglová**, Deputy Director, Technology Agency of the Czech Republic

**Thomas Gazlig**, Managing Director, Charité BIH Innovation, Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany

**Kjell Håkan Närfelt**, Chief Strategy Advisor, Vinnova, Sweden  
**Inge Volman**, Knowledge Transfer Professional, Radboud University, Netherlands

**Moderator: Ewa Kocińska-Lange**, Director, Polish National Centre for Research and Development - NCBR Office in Brussels

## COFFEE BREAK

## EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL ASSETS FOR INNOVATION UPTAKE

10:45 – 11:30

**Admir Duraj**, Vice-president, European Institute for Legal and Business Studies, France

**Gregory Montenet**, Managing Director, Octogether, Belgium

**Nedeljko Milosavljevic**, Director, Centre for Technology Center, University of Belgrade, Serbia

**Laura MacDonald**, Chief Executive, ASTP

**Moderator: Aurelija Povilaikė**, Head of NCP Group, Research Council of Lithuania

## COFFEE BREAK

## FOSTERING CONTRIBUTIONS TO STANDARDISATION IN R&I ACTIVITIES

11:45 – 12:30

**Fernando Utrilla Ortega**, Head of the R&I Department, Asociación Española de Normalización, Spain

**Speranța Stomff**, Head of the Project Management and Training Unit, ASRO Romanian Standards Association

**Dimitrios Kyritsis**, Professor Emeritus of ICT for Sustainable Manufacturing, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland

**Livia Mian**, Project Manager, Innovation Team, CEN-CENELEC

**David Boswarthick**, Director of New Technologies (NET), ETSI

**Moderator: Signe Annette Bogh**, Senior Project Manager for R&I, Danish Standards, Horizon Standardisation Booster

## LUNCH

### FINDING INSPIRATION BY ENHANCING COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING

- 13:30 – 14:15
- Venera Giurcan**, Director, Ilie Murgulescu Technology Transfer Center, Romania  
**Juan Manuel Dapcich**, CEO, Tech Valley Management, Spain  
**Sofia Vairinho**, Head of the Unit for Industrial Property Promotion, Universidade do Algarve, Portugal  
**Javier Uranga**, European Innovation Consultant, Zabala Innovation Consulting, Spain  
**Helena Nulk-Leemets**, Technology intelligence expert, field of technology transfer, Innovation Department, Enterprise Estonia
- Moderator: Thomas Flanagan**, Director, Enterprise and Commercialisation at NovaUCD, University College Dublin

## COFFEE BREAK

### BUILDING SOLUTIONS FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY THROUGH OPEN INNOVATION

- 14:30 – 15:15
- Michela Magas**, Chair, Industry Commons Foundation, Sweden  
**Manolis Tsantakis**, Senior Project Manager, ETAM, Greece  
**Luis Diaz Allegue**, Postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Bioscience Engineering, University of Antwerp, Belgium
- Moderator: Peter Dröll**, Director for Prosperity, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

## COFFEE BREAK

- 15:30 - 16:00
- CEN-CENELEC AWARD FOR STANDARDS & INNOVATION CEREMONY**  
Awards granted by partner CEN-CENELEC

- 16:00 - 16:15
- CLOSING REMARKS**  
**Peter DRÖLL**, Director for Prosperity, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

# SESSIONS

## PAVING THE WAY FOR KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION

The guiding principles on knowledge valorisation aim at engaging all actors in the R&I ecosystem, focus on the connections and co-creation between actors, emphasise entrepreneurial skills and practices and cover the full range of knowledge generated by research and innovation activities.

Successful implementation of the guiding principles relies on the engagement of stakeholders and their active participation in valorisation activities.

This session will be focused on national best practices and stakeholder initiatives supporting a new mindset for knowledge valorisation.

## EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL ASSETS FOR INNOVATION UPTAKE

Going beyond intellectual property rights (IPR), knowledge valorisation embraces the potential of all intellectual assets to derive broader benefits.

Participants will exchange views and share practices revolving around the following topics:

- The full spectrum of intellectual assets and the importance of a management strategy beyond IP
- Strategies for valorisation and their impact on the uptake of R&I results
- Main challenges and opportunities for researchers and young innovators in bringing their results to the market
- Skills to be fostered

## FOSTERING CONTRIBUTIONS TO STANDARDISATION IN R&I ACTIVITIES

Standards drive the twin digital and green transition, allow interoperability and help for faster market uptake. Researchers are encouraged to consider them in view of promoting their results.

Panelists will exchange about the practical uptake of the Code of practice on standardisation in their organisations.

They will also discuss about bottlenecks in view of implementation of the recommendations and they will describe potential strategies to overcome these challenges by showcasing concrete examples and highlighting specific training needs.

# SESSIONS

## FINDING INSPIRATION BY ENHANCING COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING

Adequate collaboration and networking skills can promote results more efficiently.

Participants will describe practices from their organisations for fostering collaboration with outside institutions, networking with professionals who are active in knowledge valorisation locally and abroad and ways of promoting matchmaking.

The roundtable format should allow participants to have an exchange of views and discuss openly what practices could be translated in their environment, through peer-learning, recommended trainings, contribution to networks, participation to events, or mobility of professionals.

## BUILDING SOLUTIONS FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY THROUGH OPEN INNOVATION

The uptake of knowledge valorisation principles will be showcased through practices of innovative and collaborative ways to address societal and economic challenges.

Projects aiming at fostering a more circular economy involve smart ways of looking at old problems, promoting digital solutions, engaging citizens to address their needs in a human-centric approach and sharing inspiration for scalable results.

The participants will share practical insights from their projects.

## CEN-CENELEC AWARD FOR STANDARDS & INNOVATION CEREMONY

The 2023 edition includes three categories which successfully contributed to standardization:

- Project;
- Individual researcher/innovator
- Young Researcher for academic theses, doctoral dissertations or other university projects

All the nominees are briefly presented on the website [cencenelec.eu](https://www.cencenelec.eu).



# SPEAKERS & MODERATORS

## OPENING REMARKS

Joanna Drake is the Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation since 2021. In this role, she provides overall assistance to the Director-General in the management of the DG, contributing to the definition, coordination and implementation of strategy and policy orientation. She is also Mission Manager for the EU Mission Cancer.

Previously Deputy Director-General of DG Environment (2016-2021), she chaired a cross-cutting Task Force spear-heading strategic positions for the DG on (inter-alia) the post-2020 Commission financial framework negotiations, Brexit co-ordination, the urban agenda and the future-proofing of the EU's environmental acquis. Between 2010 and 2015 she was director for SME's and Entrepreneurship in the DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW). During her tenure in DG GROW she also led the Commission's Task Force on The Collaborative Economy, New Business Models And SME's.

By training, Joanna is a doctor of laws from the University of Malta, where she also lectured full time in the Department of European and Comparative Law. She acquired a post-graduate degree in Advanced European Legal Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. She held various legal and management posts in the private and public sector before joining the European Commission as head of the European Commission Representation in Malta in 2005. She also had a key role in the Malta-EU accession negotiations as member of the Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee.



### JOANNA DRAKE

Deputy Director-General  
Directorate-General Research and  
Innovation, European Commission

## PAVING THE WAY FOR KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION

Táňa Hálova Perglová is currently Deputy Director at the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA ČR), the main funding organisation of applied research in the Czech Republic.

She has gained professional experience in research and innovation policy, investments and business development, EU funding and in the implementation of EU structural funds in different positions in TA ČR, CzechInvest, CZELO (Czech Liaison Office for Research and Development in Brussels), Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU and in the private sector. She has been actively involved in international cooperation and synergies with Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe as well as in research and innovation policy and implementation of knowledge valorisation principles.



### TÁŇA HÁLOVA PERGLOVÁ

Deputy Director, Technology Agency  
of the Czech Republic

Thomas Gazlig is the Managing Director of Charité BIH Innovation (CBI), the joint technology transfer office of Charité and Berlin Institute of Health. Following the credo of "increasing impact", CBI established, among others, the validation programs SPARK-BIH and Digital Health Accelerator, initiated scouting activities, and expanded CBI's networks both nationally and internationally. Since 2017, Charité has recorded 40 spin-offs and created a robust pipeline with approximately 200 commercialization projects. Prior to his leadership at CBI, Thomas worked in various management positions, including at Charité, the Helmholtz Association, and the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research. He studied biology with a focus on biochemistry and biotechnology in Braunschweig (Germany), journalism in Hannover (Germany), and business administration in St. Gallen (Switzerland). Beyond his role at CBI, he serves as a board member of TransferAllianz, chairs the board of trustees for the Life Science Foundation, and holds the position of vice chairman on the board of trustees for Germany's largest early childhood education initiative, Little Scientists Foundation.



### THOMAS GAZLIG

Managing Director,  
Charité BIH Innovation - Universitätsmedizin Berlin



Kjell-Håkan Närfelt is Chief Strategy Advisor at Vinnova Sweden, involved in the strategic development of a new area at Vinnova – Ecosystems for innovative companies. Mr Närfelt is also chairperson for UNECE’s Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies, and member of the International Advisory Board for the National Innovation Agency of Thailand. He has been working with technology driven business development and R&D for more than 20 years in different management positions. He has served as a board member and advisor to several R&D based start-ups during his time as an investment director in a corporate venture capital firm and as partner in a private seed investment company.

He has a research background in computer science which resulted in an academic spin-off that encouraged him to leave academia and to exploit the research results in a commercial context.



**KJELL HÅKAN NÄRFELT**  
Chief Strategy Advisor  
Vinnova, Sweden

Inge Volman is knowledge transfer professional at the Radboud University, the Netherlands. With a background in cognitive neuroscience research, she previously owned a company that created sustainable innovations out of scientific ideas.

At the Radboud University, she focuses on knowledge transfer, driving forward innovative projects in the domain of social sciences, humanities, and arts. This includes licensing of university IP, collaborative projects with third parties, spin-off creation and training of researchers on valorisation. Moreover, she develops strategies for faculties and institutes within the university to increase their positive societal impact.



**INGE VOLMAN**  
Knowledge Transfer Professional  
Radboud University

Ewa Kocińska-Lange is managing the Brussels office of the National Centre for Research and Development operating in partnership with Business & Science Poland. The main goal of the office is to strengthen the position of the Polish research and innovation community in the EU initiatives. She is an expert in the Horizon Europe Strategic Programme Committee as well as in the Widening and European Research Area Programme Committee. She is also a member of the ERA Forum and the Partnerships Knowledge Hub.

Ewa has in-depth experience as expert evaluator and reviewer in Horizon 2020 and FP7 projects, and as advisor in the TAIEX programme. She has been also engaged in various framework programmes projects as partner and coordinator.



**EWA KOCIŃSKA-LANGE**  
Director  
NCBR Office in Brussels

## EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL ASSETS FOR INNOVATION UPTAKE

Admir Duraj is a senior legal fellow, graduated from the University of Bologna, working on enforcing intellectual property rights, legislative development and policy review. Admir is the founder and vice-president of the European Institute for Legal and Business Studies, whose goals are to support transforming intellectual capital into added value by contributing to sustainable development.

His 20 years of experience as a researcher and senior legal advisor has spanned across the European Union and the Balkans. His recent work focused on how the intersection between new technological segments and public policy span can solve the most pressing societal problems and sustain progress. In addition to his formal training as a lawyer, he holds a professional designation in Intellectual Property Law from the Academy of the World Intellectual Property Organisation. As a knowledge management and intellectual property law expert, Admir has worked with the European Patent Organisation, European Training Foundation, United Nations and several other organisations to promote the management of the intangibles as accelerators of innovation, competitiveness and economic sustainability.



**ADMIR DURAJ**  
Vice-president, European Institute for Legal and  
Business Studies, France



Grégory Montenot is the Managing Director of Octogether, a Brussels-based company supporting companies in their international business development and investment strategies, with a focus on innovation and IP.

He has over a decade of experience as Business Development Manager for various international startups and has been involved in various programmes helping SMEs to manage their IP and develop their business, such as Horizon IP Scan and StartSmart CEE (formerly MIT Enterprise Forum CEE).

### **GRÉGORY MONTENOT**

Managing Director  
Octogether, Belgium

Nedeljko Milosavljević's expertise and dedication have enabled him to successfully address various challenges associated with the technology transfer process within the academic and research institutions of the Western Balkans.

He is a co-founder of Dr Knight Ltd, a start-up aimed at further developing and commercializing innovative solutions originating from his own Ph.D. research. Together with an international team of peers, he has also contributed to the creation of a multilingual web-based platform to empower students, researchers, and teachers in utilizing their research outcomes and initiating entrepreneurial projects. He is a senior consultant and business developer for Oxentia, a consultancy firm specializing in innovation and technology commercialization.

Recognized as an expert for the European Commission and the World Intellectual Property Organization, he serves as the Co-Director of Founder Institute Serbia and the Co-Director of Labena Ventures, renowned pre-seed startup accelerator programs that help early-stage entrepreneurs build successful companies.



### **NEDELJKO MILOSAVLJEVIĆ**

Director  
Center for Technology Transfer, University of Belgrade



Laura MacDonald has headed up the HQ of ASTP (the pan-European members association for knowledge transfer professionals) since September 2016. Her role there combines responsibility for professional training events, conferences and advocacy to enhance capacity-building of the knowledge transfer sector. Originally qualified as a Scots lawyer, specialising in EU and IP law, her transition to the world of academic/industrial collaborations started in 1992 when she established the first in-house legal function in a UK university to support these collaborations. Then followed a career across different UK universities (Dundee then Edinburgh) before moving to the Netherlands, spending 10 years at Leiden University and Medical Centre, with responsibility across all aspects of knowledge transfer activities. She has been active in key professional organisations which bring together players in this ecosystem, such as Licensing Executives Society and AUTM as well as ASTP.

### **LAURA MACDONALD**

Chief Executive  
ASTP

Aurelija Povilaiškė is the Head of the Unit for National Contact Points (NCP) and NCP Coordinator at the Research Council of Lithuania. Over the years she has developed a career in the research management in the UK, before transferring her skills and knowledge to Lithuania. Alongside supporting Lithuanian applicants to obtain the funding and working on national strategies, she is focusing on teaching about the importance of impact and actively takes part in various CSA Horizon Europe projects.

Aurelija is nominated national expert for European Research Council and WIDERA programme committees in Horizon Europe.



### **AURELIJA POVILAIKĖ**

Head of NCP Group  
Research Council of Lithuania



## FOSTERING CONTRIBUTIONS TO STANDARDISATION IN R&I ACTIVITIES



Fernando Utrilla Ortega is the Head of the R&I Department in the Spanish National Standardisation Body UNE since 2012, taking part in more than 100 funded European projects and providing international training and advice on the role of standardization in the lifecycle of innovation.

He joined UNE in 2001 after working in the machinery industry. Initially, he was responsible for standardization in different engineering sectors and for the growing of Innovation Management standards (UNE 166000, CEN/TS 16555, ISO 56000). He is a Mechanical Engineer by the University of Zaragoza (Spain) and got a Master degree in Innovation Management by AENOR.

### FERNANDO UTRILLA ORTEGA

Head of the R&I Department  
Asociación Española de Normalización, UNE

Speranța Stomff is currently Head of the Project Management and Training Unit in ASRO (Romanian Standards Association). Speranta graduated from the University "Politehnica" Bucharest and has a PhD at the same university in the area of materials science.

Starting from 2003, Speranta is working in standardization activities, to develop a part of standardization services in ASRO. Since 2014, she has taken up the responsibility of Project Management in ASRO, and since 2018 the training activities too. Her work includes raising awareness on the link between standardization and research and innovation, in a very operational level (such as providing standardization support for more than 10 projects under FP7, H2020, Horizon Europe and even ERASMUS+).



### SPERANȚA STOMFF

Head of the Project Management and Training Unit  
ASRO Romanian Standards Association



Dimitrios Kyritsis is Professor Emeritus of ICT for Sustainable Manufacturing at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland) and Senior Adviser of the Department of Informatics of the University of Oslo.

He is co-founder of the Industrial Ontologies Foundry and since 2019 actively involved in the WEF Platform on Advanced Manufacturing and Supply Chains. His research interests are Closed-Loop Lifecycle Management, Sustainable Manufacturing, Cognitive Digital Twins and Industrial Ontologies. He has more than 250 publications.

### DIMITRIOS KYRITSIS

Professor Emeritus of ICT for Sustainable Manufacturing  
École polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

Livia Mian is a project manager in CEN and CENELEC's Innovation Team, responsible for various activities aimed at facilitating the integration of the standardization system with research and innovation. She provides secretariat support to CEN and CENELEC's working group STAIR (STANDards, Innovation & Research), which is the focal point within CEN and CENELEC for discussing how standard bodies can strengthen their link with research projects and support the market uptake of projects' outcomes.

Livia holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of Padua (Italy). Before joining CEN-CENELEC, she worked in a research and technology transfer centre focused on supporting startups creation and business innovation.



### LIVIA MIAN

Project Manager  
CEN-CENELEC



David Boswarthick is currently the ETSI Director of New Technologies (NET), which involves tracking the latest ICT technology and business trends and all relevant research initiatives in order to identify appropriate technology standards needs and future opportunities for ETSI.

In addition, he works on outreach initiatives towards the research and academic communities, both in Europe and globally, as well as engaging with key European research programs such as Horizon Europe. David has more than 30 years' experience in the telecommunications sector, which includes over 20 years' working in ICT standardization supporting both 3GPP and ETSI Technical and strategic groups.

**DAVID BOSWARTHICK**  
Director of New Technologies (NET)  
ETSI

Signe Annette Bogh is a senior project manager for research and innovation at Danish Standards, the national standard body of Denmark. She holds a Master of Engineering in International Technology Management from Aalborg University.

For the past ten years, she has had key roles in several national and European research projects featuring standardisation including the BRIDGIT consortium (Bridging the gap between research and standardisation) and HSbooster.eu (Standardisation Booster for H2020 & HE research results). HSbooster.eu aims to support researchers under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe in reaching their standardisation potential to increase overall impact of research in Europe. Signe also teaches standardisation and is the driving force and editor of a textbook for higher education on standardisation: "A world built on standards".



**SIGNE ANNETTE BOGH**  
Senior Project Manager for Research and Innovation  
Danish Standards

## FINDING INSPIRATION BY ENHANCING COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING



Venera Giurcan is Director of "Ilie Murgulescu" Technology Transfer Center - CTT-ICF Romania since May 2022, having the role of promoting the results of the research carried out in the ICF, guiding the researchers in intellectual rights protection and looking for potential partners from the business or academic fields. She is also a Scientific Researcher 2nd degree at Chemical Kinetic Department of ICF.

She was awarded her PhD degree in Chemistry in 2008 from the University of Bucharest, Romania. Her main research interests includes flames and explosion of gaseous homogeneous systems: initiation of explosions; flammability of hydrocarbon-air mixtures; explosion propagation in enclosures at various initial conditions.

**VENERA GIURCAN**  
Director  
Ilie Murgulescu Technology Transfer Center

Mr. Juan Manuel Dapcich is CEO of Tech Valley Management. With an expansive career that spans continents, Juan Manuel Dapcich holds influential roles on the executive boards of technology companies in the UK, Spain and the United States. A recognized expert in corporate communication strategies and innovation, he has shared his insights as a professor at prominent institutions like Complutense University, Madrid, and Valencia University. An authoritative voice in media intelligence, Juan Manuel's leadership continually shapes the trajectory of tech industry standards and intellectual asset optimization.



**JUAN MANUEL DAPCICH**  
CEO  
Tech Valley Management





Sofia Vairinho is the head of the unit for Industrial Property Promotion of University of Algarve (GAPI – UALG, an EPO PATLIB Centre) within CRIA – the Division of Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer of the University of Algarve. Sofia has 20 years of experience in the field of protection and knowledge valorisation, helping spin-off and entrepreneurial activities and supporting the participation and execution of several European projects.

She holds a PhD in Legal Sciences, a Master's Degree and a Post-graduation in Business Law and a degree in Law. She has professional experience as Manager for Business Development and Licensing at Carnegie Mellon University (USA), and as an international consultant for CLDP (Commercial Law Development Program USA Gov.), a member of the Executive Committee in the UTEN - University Technology Enterprise Network. She has carried out professional development programs at IC2 (University of Texas), Carnegie Mellon University (General Counsel and CTTEC), and in Cambridge Enterprise Ltd - University of Cambridge. She is also a Board member of the Algarve Systems and Technology Partnership Association, an innovative technological incubation and acceleration infrastructure.

**SOFIA VAIRINHO**

Head of Unit, Industrial Property Promotion  
Universidade do Algarve, Portugal

Mr. Javier Uranga is a European Innovation Consultant in Zabala Innovation, leading the exploitation team which main task is to support entities and consortiums from EU projects in accelerating the arrival of project results to market and valorising the generated knowledge.

His background is in Biomedical engineer (MsC) (University of Heidelberg) with over 8 years of experience in project management, research and industry. He has participated in multiple European projects leading the exploitation activities.



**JAVIER URANGA**

European Innovation Consultant  
Zabala Innovation Consulting, Spain



Helena Nulk-Leemets has been technology intelligence expert at Enterprise Estonia for the last two years, helping companies to find the technology or experts needed to develop innovative products better and faster.

Her educational background is in physics and material sciences. In addition, she has 5 years of experience working in industry, analyzing and caring out automation and robotisation projects while also researching these topics in university. So in theory, she has seen the three sides of the table: the enterprise side, the university side and the facilitator side.

**HELENA NULK-LEEMETS**

Technology intelligence expert  
Innovation Department, Enterprise Estonia

Thomas Flanagan is the Director for Enterprise and Commercialisation at University College Dublin, where he leads innovation, entrepreneurship, and enterprise development at NovaUCD, Ireland's premier incubator / accelerator, which has supported over 450 companies, including Ireland's sixth Unicorn Wayflyer, attract over €1.2b in investment and create thousands of hi-tech jobs. Tom has served on international evaluation boards for the EU and member states and has successfully led large-scale EU projects' commercialization work programmes. He is also VP for the Special Interest Groups at ASTP and is a frequent invited speaker at ASTP, PraxisAuril and AUTM conferences.

Thomas is on the Advisory Boards of two Atlantic Bridge University Venture Funds. He served on the Board of the Dublin Local Enterprise Office and on founding boards of several high-tech companies including DecaWave, acquired for over €360m. He previously set up the first KTO and Innovation Centre at Technical University Dublin and established the Dublin Region Innovation Consortium supporting five institutes with KTO services. He was also seconded to Knowledge Transfer Ireland to lead a review of the National IP Protocol.



**THOMAS FLANAGAN**

Director for Enterprise and  
Commercialisation, University College Dublin

## BUILDING SOLUTIONS FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY THROUGH OPEN INNOVATION



Michela Magas is Chair of the Industry Commons Foundation, advisor to the European Commission and the G7 leaders, Member of President von der Leyen's High Level Round Table for the New European Bauhaus, and member of the Advisory Board of CERN IdeaSquare (ISAB-G). As Innovation and Sustainability Manager for the European project OntoCommons, her research focuses on building a legacy for cross-domain collaboration and data interoperability. She is the Founder of Stockholm-based MTF Labs and has over the past 11 years been conducting technology experiments with its global community of 8000 contributors from the arts and sciences with methods that have been selected as best practice of Knowledge Valorisation by DG RTD. For 20 years she ran Stromatolite Design Lab in London creating design futures with global clients such as Apple, Nike and Nokia. In 2017 she was awarded European Woman Innovator of the Year by the European Commission, and in 2019 the Leonardo Journal, published by MIT Press, recognised her as an Outstanding Peer Reviewer.

### MICHELA MAGAS

Chair  
Industry Commons Foundation

Manolis Tsantakis is Senior Project Manager at ETAM SA, Greece. He is an economist with a professional experience of 29 years including an extensive experience in communication, dissemination, and exploitation of research and innovation projects.

Manolis is also a member of the Registers of European Commission Expert Groups for Agriculture and Rural Development, Regional Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs, as well as a member of the Registry of EACEA for the programs "Youth in Action", "Europe for Citizens", "Culture" and "KeyActivity 1 Policy Cooperation and Innovation". During the course of his professional career, he has coordinated or participated in impact assessments of operations, feasibility studies, business plans and rules of procedures, development planning and programme evaluations, organizational innovation plans and public private partnerships.



### MANOLIS TSANTAKIS

Senior Project Manager  
ETAM, Greece



Luis Diaz Allegue is Postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Bioscience Engineering at the University of Antwerp since September 2023. Previously he was senior researcher in the sustainability area of ANFACO-CECOPECA Spain. He is part of the Core Group of the Purple Gain project, a COST Action project that aims to create a European network to share information, facilitating technology and knowledge transfer between the academic and industrial sectors, related to Purple Bacteria applications for resource recovery from organic waste sources. The network associates fundamental-focused and applied-research groups, improving lab-scale technology optimization through mechanistic modeling. It benefits the technology transfer from applied-research groups to industry, considerably improving process design.

### LUIS DIAZ ALLEGUE

Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of  
Bioscience Engineering, University of Antwerp

Peter Dröll is Director for Prosperity in the Directorate-General Research and Innovation of the European Commission. Peter has been working in the European Commission for more than 20 years with positions in environment, enlargement negotiations, industry policy, innovation and research. He was a Cabinet member of Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen and Head of Cabinet of the Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik.

Since 2010 he is at Directorate-General Research and Innovation where he was first responsible for Innovation and subsequently for Industrial Technologies. Following the re-orientation of DG Research and Innovation towards sustainability, his competences have been enlarged to include industrial R&I agendas and business intelligence, as well as knowledge valorisation policies. Before joining the European Commission, Peter worked as a lawyer in a German law firm. Peter is a lawyer by training with a doctorate degree in German constitutional law and European law.



### PETER DRÖLL

Director for Prosperity, Directorate-General for  
Research and Innovation, European Commission



# PRACTICAL DETAILS

## LOCATION

Auditorium Nowotny 25th Floor, Covent Garden, European Commission Building  
16 Place Charles Rogier, 1210 Saint-Josse, Brussels

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Nearest metro station: Rogier (lines 2 and 6) – take the exit 7 Place Rogier.

Airport connection: regular direct trains to North Station (Gare du Nord), situated only a few minutes' walk from the event venue.

Please note that the European Commission will not cover travel and accommodation costs of participants.



## VENUE

The conference room is located on the 25th floor of the Covent Garden building. Signposts will be placed visibly on the way from the ground-floor Reception to reach the room.

In front of the room there is a wide corridor where stands for networking opportunities will be available.

The European Commission will offer the coffee and water during breaks and sandwich/ salad walk-in lunch.