



New Frontiers for Innovative Entrepreneurs



Brussels, Belgium
28-30 October 2015

www.ebncongress.eu



EBN Congress 2015



The 21st Century frontiers are no longer purely physical. They exist at the forefront of business innovation including key technologies, open and social innovation, internationalisation, finance, creativity and the digital world.

Entrepreneurs and innovators are at these borders, pushing the boundaries, transforming ecosystems, creating opportunities, generating jobs and stimulating growth.

Helping these *frontierspeople* to reach their goals are EBN's Business and Innovation Centres (EU|BICs), the intermediaries who provide daily support to the start-ups, innovators & SMEs creating the future.

EBN's 24th Congress: New Frontiers for Innovative Entrepreneurs, will explore these borders, presenting the latest ideas from thought-leaders, showcasing the entrepreneurs opening up these frontiers, allowing you to see the future of innovation.

Economic Context

Today's economic challenges are allowing - some would say, forcing - entrepreneurs to exploit their creative skills at the new frontiers.

For Europe, and indeed many parts of the world, the economic crisis of the past few years has been devastating. But, as with all downturns, this one also throws up opportunities.

It is clear that large global corporate companies have not been able to absorb the masses of unemployed people created by the crisis. And policy makers have now realised that entrepreneurs and innovators are best placed to create the jobs and growth the economy so urgently needs.

EBN's Role

EBN is a 30+ year success story. Initially created and funded by the European Commission (DG-REGIO), but with sustainability in mind, EBN became *the* non-governmental, not-for-profit association of EU|BICs, incubators, accelerators, clusters etc. Its task is to coordinate the activities of the its members, ensuring the best quality of service is delivered to start-ups, innovators and SMEs at regional level, and maximising the impact on the economy.

EBN's role supporting today's *frontierspeople* has never been more important. And that is why this year's EBN Congress is focusing on where the frontiers are, who is working at crossing those frontiers, how EU|BICs are helping this activity, and celebrating the successes of some of the most innovate frontier businesses.

The International Dimension

Beyond Europe, there are huge opportunities for entrepreneurs to access markets where EBN has members and partners, such as China, Taiwan, India, USA, Canada, Brazil, Russia and the Middle East.



Similarly, European EBN members are ready and waiting to support companies from outside the EU who wish to establish themselves and invest in Europe.

The time has never been better, nor the need more urgent for strong international business relationships to develop.

EBN Congress is truly an international event and the occasion to meet new partners from new lands and develop lasting business relationships.



The New Frontiers

This year's EBN Congress will focus on a series of key frontiers, the major places of innovation and entrepreneurship that we identify from our members and the market.



The most obvious frontier today is **digital**. Digital is everywhere. No business model, no new technology, no person, no

organisation is unaffected by the impact of digital. Finding new opportunities that solve real-world problems, is a challenge for all digital entrepreneurs.

Also a challenge is combining **digital** with the **creative** industries, allowing technology and creativity to blend together in a new business environment. But not everything is purely digital. There are also many **non-digital technology**

frontiers that are offering opportunities to innovators and entrepreneurs. **Society** is under constant renewal and the challenges faced by an ageing population, youth unemployment, global migration, are creating new opportunities for social innovators, men and women, building businesses that have a positive 'triple bottom line'. Society is also the catalyst of the **green** challenges of the 21st century. These serious issues have prompted entrepreneurs to identify

innovative **eco-** and **bio-tech** solutions, offering the possibility to develop a more sustainable way of producing, moving and consuming. As usual, in fuelling these businesses, access to **finance** is always at the top of the agenda for entrepreneurs, and new funding models are here to change the game of financing innovation. Furthermore, **open innovation** creates opportunities for SMEs to influence large businesses. As most innovation happens in small companies less confined by bureaucracy, creating linkages between start-ups and corporates should lead to greater success. Obviously, entrepreneurship doesn't stop at the geographical borders. Congress will show you how to go **international** by listening to other countries' experiences in helping entrepreneurs to reach out and

learn what those beyond Europe are looking for. Last but not least, supporting the new *frontierspeople* is crucial to future economic success.



EU|BICs have for over 30 years been providing such support across Europe and beyond, and are now being challenged with new models, new tools and new support mechanisms. How should EU|BICs react and adapt?

Contact us

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Presenters

Confirmed presence of European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Corina Crețu.

Be inspired by our invited, international, industry experts and thought leaders, including:

Andrus ANSIP - European Commission; Bart BECKS - iMinds; John BELL - European Commission; Vasu BRIQUEZ - EBN; Pierre-Yves COUSTEAU - IUCN; Corina CREȚU - European Commission; Michael CULLIGAN - HALO; Nicholas DAVIS - World Economic Forum; Peter DRÖLL - European Commission; Valeria FASCIONE - Citta della Scienza; Vincent FOSTY - Deloitte; Anthony GARDNER - US Mission to the European Union; Cédric HANANEL - Arctik; Ghissia HAUSER - Rio Grande do Sul Government; John HIGGINS - Digital Europe; Candace JOHNSON - European Business Angels Network; Christian KETELS - Harvard Business School; Fenareti LAMPATHAKI - National Technical University of Athens; Ho LEE - Delta-Tech South Korea; Isabella LENARDUZZI - JUMP; Jean-David MALO - European Commission; Markku MARKKULA - Committee of the Regions; Diego PAVIA - KIC INNO ENERGY; Leena PISCHE THOMAS - Global Business Inroads; Khalil ROUHANA - European Commission; Gianluca SALVATORI - Euricse; Frank SALZGEBER - European Space Agency; Alvaro SIMON - BIC Euronova; William STEVENS - Europe Unlimited; Kurt VANDENBERGHE - European Commission; Philippe VANRIE - EBN; Zdenek VRBKA - KONICA MINOLTA ; Richard WATSON - NOWANDNEXT.COM; Rasmus Wiinstedt - Creative Business Cup; David WILKINSON - European Commission; Plus many more...

Places

Be rewarded by our choice of venues for Congress, Welcome Cocktail and Gala Dinner



The Albert Hall



Comic Art Museum



Halles St Géry (tbc)

Partners

Be rewarded by our partners



Official Carrier
Brussels Airlines



European Union



Eureka Network



European Space Agency (ESA)

Projects

Be challenged by international projects



Programme



28 October 2015

09:00	Project and Special Interest Group Meetings	18:00
16:00	'ConnectEU2Brazil4Entrepreneurs' Final Conference	18:30
19:30	Welcome Cocktail	21:30

29 October 2015

09:15	Opening Session		
10:00	Plenary Session 1: Digital Frontiers		
10:45	Coffee and Networking		
11:15	Creative Digital Frontiers	New Frontiers for EU BICs	Bioeconomy Entrepreneur Showcase
12:45	Lunch and Networking		
14:00	Plenary Session 2: Open Innovation Frontiers		
14:45	Key Technology Frontiers	Bio-economy Frontiers	Eureka Eurostars Showcase
16:15	Coffee and Networking		
16:45	Plenary Session 3: Meet the New 'Frontierspeople'		18:00
20:00	Gala Dinner		23:30

30 October 2015

09:30	Plenary Session 4: Societal Frontiers		
10:15	Green / Eco Frontiers	Financial Frontiers	EBN Smart Entrepreneur Showcase
11:45	Coffee and Networking		
12:15	Plenary Session 5: International Frontiers		
13:15	Closing Ceremony, Awards and Lunch		14:30