



Bridging Regional Innovation with Global Ecosystem Impact Startups and Scaleups as Gateways to European Growth and Collaboration

3 - 4 DECEMBER 2025

University of Copenhagen Panum and Mærsk Tower
Blegdamsvej 3B, 2200 Nørrebro, Copenhagen, Denmark

Day 1 – Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025

08:30 – 09:00	On-Site Registration of Participants
09:00 – 09:15	Welcoming Address and Opening Remarks Representatives will deliver introductory remarks on the regional government, the European Commission, and the event facilitators. • Kim Balle, CEO, Global Startup Awards • Giovanni Emma, Policy Officer, DG GROW, European Commission • Eva Hoffmann, Prorektor for Research and Innovation, University of Copenhagen/Innovation District Copenhagen Master of the Ceremony: Teodora Jilkova, Veritas Cluster, ECCP Team Member
09:15 – 09:45	Setting the Scene, Presentation of the ECCP Input Paper • Dr Jan-Philipp Kramer, Partner at PROGNOS AD, Team Leader Data & Policy at ECCP StartUp & Scaleup Strategy • Giovanni Emma, Policy Officer, DG GROW, European Commission Strategy Implementing Initiatives in Denmark • Hanne Bregendahl Pihl, Managing Director, NorthDenmark EU-Office/dacob/EEN Denmark

09:45 – 10:15	EU Policy Panel - Connecting Innovation & Regions <i>This session will focus on how EU and national policies can work together to strengthen regional innovation ecosystems and cluster development. Representatives from the European Commission, national authorities, and key innovation agencies will discuss how existing frameworks, funding instruments, and policy priorities can support clusters, SMEs, and start-ups in addressing Europe's green and digital transition. The aim is to provide a policy foundation for the day, ensuring that the discussions that follow are anchored in current European and national strategies.</i> <i>This conversation will set the stage for the upcoming Strategic Dialogue on Innovation & Cluster Collaboration, where these strategic directions will be translated into concrete opportunities for clusters, start-ups and cross-border partnerships.</i> • Tarja Tiainen-Balsby, Programme Manager, DK – EU Policies DG REGIO, European Commission • Hanne Bregendahl Pihl, Managing Director, NorthDenmark EU-Office/dacob/EEN Denmark • Christian Kjær Monsson, Head of Research, Danish Industry - DI • Eva Hoffmann, Prorector for Research and Innovation, University of Copenhagen/Innovation District Copenhagen Moderation: <i>Merete Daniel Nielsen (tbc)</i>
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee Break
10:45 – 11:45	Strategic Dialogue on Innovation <i>This session will bring together national and EU representatives, alongside voices from across the innovation ecosystem, who will outline Denmark's innovation priorities and how these connect to wider European industrial objectives. The discussion will focus on turning shared strategies into practical opportunities for collaboration across the entire ecosystem, setting the stage for the sector-focused sessions that follow. Acting as a bridge between high-level policy dialogue and concrete ecosystem action, the session ensures a clear strategic thread links the morning's priorities with the afternoon's presentations, partnerships and co-creation opportunities.</i> • Giovanni Emma, Policy Officer, DG GROW, European Commission • Kim Balle, CEO, Global Startup Awards • Jesper Skou, CEO & Co-Founder, Skypuzzler • Niels Erik Haug-Larsen, Director, Business Hub FYNEN Moderation: <i>tbc</i>
11:45 – 12:30	Digital Transformation & AI Innovation Sectoral focus: Digitalisation, AI, Industry 4.0, data economy. <i>This session will highlight Denmark's leadership in digital innovation and cross-sector digital transformation. It will explore how technologies such as AI, data, and advanced manufacturing can strengthen industrial resilience and competitiveness. Representatives from other EU clusters will share</i>

	<i>perspectives and explore opportunities for joint initiatives and cross-border collaboration.</i> • Greater Copenhagen European Digital Innovation Hub • Carolina Garcés, Head of Strategy and Project Portfolio – OpenTech Sweden / Clusters of Sweden • Indo-Nordic Innovation Cluster (Nordic Flex House) • We Build Denmark (STAR*track) (tbc) Moderation: <i>Teodora Jilkova, Veritas Cluster, ECCP Team Member</i>
12:30 – 13:15	Security & Space Technologies Sectoral focus: Defence, space, dual-use technologies. <i>This session will examine how innovation in security and space can support European strategic autonomy and resilience. CenSec will present its work at the intersection of dual-use and aerospace technologies, with contributions from EU clusters to identify complementarities and cooperation opportunities in sensitive and strategic domains.</i> Cluster´s Role in Fostering Collaboration & Innovation • Dustin Wilden, CEO, CenSec Showcase of EU Funded Projects • Martin Olsen, Space Inventor NextGen Robotics - Technology and Skills • Kasper Aagaard, Development Director, Business Hub FYNEN Panel Debate & Audience Q&A on scaling dual-use innovations on EU Security and space ecosystem (med ovenstående). Moderation: <i>Dustin Wilden, CEO, CenSec</i>
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch Break
14:15 – 15:00	Health & MedTech Innovation Sectoral focus: Health, MedTech, biotech, digital health. <i>This session will showcase how the Danish life sciences ecosystem connects research, industry, and startups to accelerate innovation in health and MedTech. Afterwards, EU clusters from other Member States will contribute their perspectives, fostering cross-border R&I partnerships and opportunities to scale health innovation at the European level.</i> Denmark's Health Innovation Ecosystem & Cross-Border Collaboration • Karen Lindegaard, International Manager, Danish Life Science Cluster (DLSC) Partnership Model: Success Stories and Collaboration for Impact • Kirsten Danielsen, Senior Manager, Danish Life Science Cluster (DLSC) • Teton AI (tbc) Fireside Chat: Co-Creating Health Innovation • Lundbeck • BII

	• Teton.ai • CEBR Moderation: <i>Kirsten Danielsen, Senior Manager, Danish Life Science Cluster (DLSC)</i>
15:00 – 15:45	FinTech & Innovation Financing Sectoral focus: FinTech, green finance, investment platforms, SME scaling <i>This session explores how financial innovation can support Europe's green and digital transformation. Copenhagen Fintech will share new financing models for innovation, while a Danish VC perspective will highlight how public and private capital can better support early-stage growth and scale-ups.</i> Financing Europe's Future: How Public and Private Capital Can Strengthen the Scale-Up Environment • VC Denmark Startup-Driven Innovation: Bridging Industry, Finance & Academia • Simon Schou, Co-founder and Chief Innovation Officer, Copenhagen Fintech Moderation: <i>Kim Balle, CEO, Global Startup Awards</i>
15:45 – 16:30	Green Transition & Energy Leadership Sectoral focus: Renewable energy, offshore wind, Power-to-X, decarbonisation. <i>This session will highlight Denmark's leadership in the green transition and the role of clusters in driving energy innovation. With contributions from EU energy clusters, the discussion will focus on opportunities for joint projects and strategic cooperation to accelerate the deployment of renewable technologies and support Europe's net-zero ambitions.</i> Presentation of the Energy Cluster Denmark and the European Project • Glenda Napier, CEO, Energy Cluster Denmark • Q&A
16:30 – 16:45	Wrap up Day 1 and intro to Day 2 • Teodora Jilkova, Veritas Cluster, ECCP Team Member

Day 2 – Thursday, December 4th, 2025

08:30 – 09:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee
09:00 – 09:15	Morning Welcome & Recap Summary of the 1st day and introduction of the 2nd day • Kim Balle, CEO, Global Startup Awards
09:15 – 09:45	Keynote: Turning Insights into Action

	This session will build directly on the strategic discussions and ecosystem insights from the previous day. Rather than focusing solely on programmes and instruments, the session will explore the <i>needs, challenges and opportunities</i> across Europe's innovation ecosystems and turn them into practical, actionable steps that countries, companies, clusters, accelerators and investors can take together. The aim is to identify concrete areas where collaboration, shared infrastructure, talent mobility and joint initiatives can strengthen innovation capacity and enable SMEs, start-ups and scaleups to grow across borders. This keynote sets the practical frame for the roundtables that follow, enabling participants to connect their ideas with real EU support tools. • Valentino Izzo, Programme Coordination Manager, EISMEA, European Commission • Sine Linderstrøm, Director of SMEs and Entrepreneurship, Danish Industry - DI Moderation: tbc
09:45 – 10:45	Opportunity Labs - From Cluster to Collaboration Thematic breakout discussions with startups (moderated by facilitators): • Green Transition & Energy Innovation • Health & Life Science Cooperation • Digital Transformation & AI • Finance & Investment for Innovation • Security & Space Technologies Each table develops 2-3 “next-step” collaboration ideas or EU project leads. The Opportunity Labs will serve as the central action moment of the event, bringing together clusters, start-ups, and innovation actors to turn strategic priorities and thematic insights from the previous day into concrete opportunities for collaboration. Each lab will focus on a specific thematic area: Green Transition & Energy Innovation, Digital Transformation & AI, Health & Life Sciences, Finance & Investment for Innovation, and Security & Space, and provide space for participants to jointly shape ideas for potential EU projects, partnerships, and innovation initiatives. The format will combine short thematic inputs or pitches with targeted group work, fostering direct exchange and co-creation. The outcomes of these labs will form the basis for further follow-up after the event, ensuring that discussions translate into tangible next steps and partnerships.
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:10	Setting the Stage for The GSA Nordics Spotlight • Kim Balle, CEO Global Startup Awards
11:10 – 12:10	GSA Nordics Spotlight As part of the CMR 2025 program, this session will spotlight some of the most promising startups from across the Nordic region in an engaging, future-oriented format.

	Through a series of interactive panels, Nordic founders will get a unique chance to share their insights in front of EU officials, investors, and cluster representatives, shaping the conversation around the future of European entrepreneurship.
12:10 – 12:20	Closing Remarks The closing will summarise key takeaways from the event, highlight collaboration opportunities identified during the Opportunity Labs, and outline how these will be followed up at the EU level. It will reaffirm the commitment to turning discussions into action, partnerships and impact. • Harris Omerinovic, International Relations Manager, Global Startup Awards • Teodora Jilkova, Veritas Cluster, ECCP Team Member
12:20- 14:00	Site Visits: University of Copenhagen - Denmark's leading research institution, recognised for its academic excellence and strong partnerships with industry and government.