

PRESS RELEASE

VivaTech's 2026 "Top 100 Rising European Startups" Ranking: Technological Sovereignty, a Priority for European Tech Ecosystems

- Following the success of the first edition of the "Top 100 Rising European Startups", VivaTech presents the second edition of the ranking.
- **Twelve** countries are represented, with the United Kingdom (**28**), France (**23**) and Germany (**23**) standing out as significant breeding grounds for companies.
- The **six** most represented sectors are Artificial Intelligence (divided into six sub-categories); FinTech; Cybersecurity; HealthTech; LegalTech; and Marketplace & E-commerce.
- The 2026 ranking includes **70** new startups compared to the 2025 edition.

Paris, 12 March 2026 - VivaTech, Europe's biggest event dedicated to startups and technology, has unveiled the second edition of the "Top 100 Rising European Startups" ranking, which highlights the 100 most promising startups in the European tech ecosystem, operating across all sectors. Hailing from 12 countries, these companies each have the potential to profoundly transform their industry and stand out for their rapid growth.

Sovereignty as a Common Thread and a Trio of Leading Countries

In 2026, the European startup ecosystem is more diverse and specialised than ever. The "Top 100 Rising European Startups" covers 28 sectors and has undergone a major overhaul, with 70 newcomers alongside 30 startups that were already present last year. The list also reveals geographical leadership: the **UK-France-Germany** trio accounts for 74% of the startups in the ranking: 28 in the UK, 23 in France and 23 in Germany. The Nordic countries (Sweden, Finland, Denmark) are outperforming in AI and Climate Tech, while Italy is emerging in LegalTech and AgriTech.

According to **François Bitouzet, Managing Director of VivaTech**: "This year, technological sovereignty is the common thread running through the Top 100, and it's particularly evident in cybersecurity and defence tech. The rise of Mistral AI against the American giants is one of the most visible examples of this. This dynamic reflects a strategic turning point, with Europe investing heavily to gain leadership and sovereignty in key technologies."

Major Trends in 2026

1. The era of "generic AI" is over, making way for integration and specialisation by use

Artificial Intelligence is becoming more vertical, and European startups **are specialising by use case: content creation** (four startups in the ranking, including ElevenLabs and Lovable), **voice & conversational** (four, including Parloa and GetVocal AI), **productivity** and **automation** (nine, including Dust, Langdock and n8n). This dynamic is based on solid European technological foundations (Mistral AI, Axelera AI, Synthesia) and confirms a paradigm shift: the European ecosystem is no longer *doing "AI for AI's sake"*, but is innovating in application, integration and specialisation by use.

2. Hardware's Big Comeback

After a decade dominated by software, **hardware** and **physical industry** are making a strong comeback in Europe. **Physical AI** (Neura, Dexory) illustrates the convergence between artificial intelligence and autonomous robotics. The **space industry** is also becoming more industrialised thanks to new players (The Exploration Company, ICEYE, Isar Aerospace), while **Defence Tech** is emerging as a strategic sector (Helsing, ARX, Quantum Systems, Comand AI). Driven by these dynamics, the European continent is embarking on a technological reindustrialisation closely linked to issues of sovereignty and industrial competitiveness.

3. European FinTech Reaches Maturity

FinTech remains a pillar of European innovation. Today, it is moving beyond the realm of neobanks to focus on "invisible" and specialised infrastructures. **Financial rails** (Truelayer, Silverflow), **embedded finance** (Taktile, Flatpay) and **open finance** (Insurely) are taking over, with models shifting **from B2C to B2B2C**. This evolution is accompanied by a **Europeanisation of payment infrastructures** in the face of American and Chinese giants: European FinTech is now building the financial backend/back office of tomorrow.

4. Regulated Sectors Shift Toward Artificial Intelligence

The boom in **LegalTech** (five startups including Lawhive, Summize and Solve Intelligence); the transformation of **HealthTech** through clinical AI (Nabla, Voize and Tandem); and the modernisation of **HR Tech** (Skello, Sona and Jack&Jill) are accelerating the opening up of the most regulated sectors to intelligent automation. Even **InsurTech** (Kota, Artificial) and **EdTech** (Emma) are integrating this new technology. In 2026, innovation is no longer confined to "tech-native" industries: AI is finding its way into areas where compliance, regulation and the human factor were previously seen as obstacles.

5. Cybersecurity, an Essential Lever to Protect Businesses, Local Authorities and People

As the acceleration of Artificial Intelligence and the emergence of quantum computing raise new security challenges, five startups contributing to European sovereignty are included in the ranking: Aikido Security (Belgium), Stoïk (France), Riot Security (France), Filigran (France) and Exein (Italy).

Selection Criteria

The selection of the 100 startups was carried out with the help and in partnership with five of the world's largest investment funds: Accel, Eurazeo, HV Capital, Northzone and Partech. Each startup in the ranking meets the following criteria:

- Headquarters based in Europe;
- Demonstration of innovation capable of transforming their industry;
- Annual recurring revenue (ARR) of at least €5 million in 2025;
- Annual growth of at least 40% over the last three years.

Discover the most promising European startups and their founders at VivaTech 2026.

Visit the "VivaTech Rising European Startups Village" from 17 to 20 June 2026. Twelve selected startups will be showcased each day, giving visitors the opportunity to:

- **Discover** cutting-edge innovations;
- **Meet** the founding teams;
- **Explore** partnership opportunities; and
- **Network** with the future champions of European technology.

Among the founding teams, the following will be present at VivaTech:

- Roeland Delrue, co-Founder & COO of Aikido Security
- Hélène Huby, Founder & CEO of The Exploration Company
- Mati Staniszewski, co-Founder of Eleven Labs

About VivaTech

VivaTech is an innovation accelerator that connects startups, technology leaders, large companies and investors responding to the greatest challenges facing our world.

Each year VivaTech organizes Europe's largest startup and tech event. For four days, we bring together all the excitement of tech in Paris, focusing on the most disruptive topics in the ecosystem and innovations presented in a world preview, making it a unique place where business and innovation meet. The tenth edition of VivaTech will take place from 17 to 20 June 2026.

More information is available at <https://vivatech.com/media> and @VivaTech.

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