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DT LAUNCH PAD
Enabling Deep Tech Entrepreneurship

LAUNCH
magazine

FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION

TRAINING PROGRAMME KICKS OFF

FROM LABS TO MARKETS

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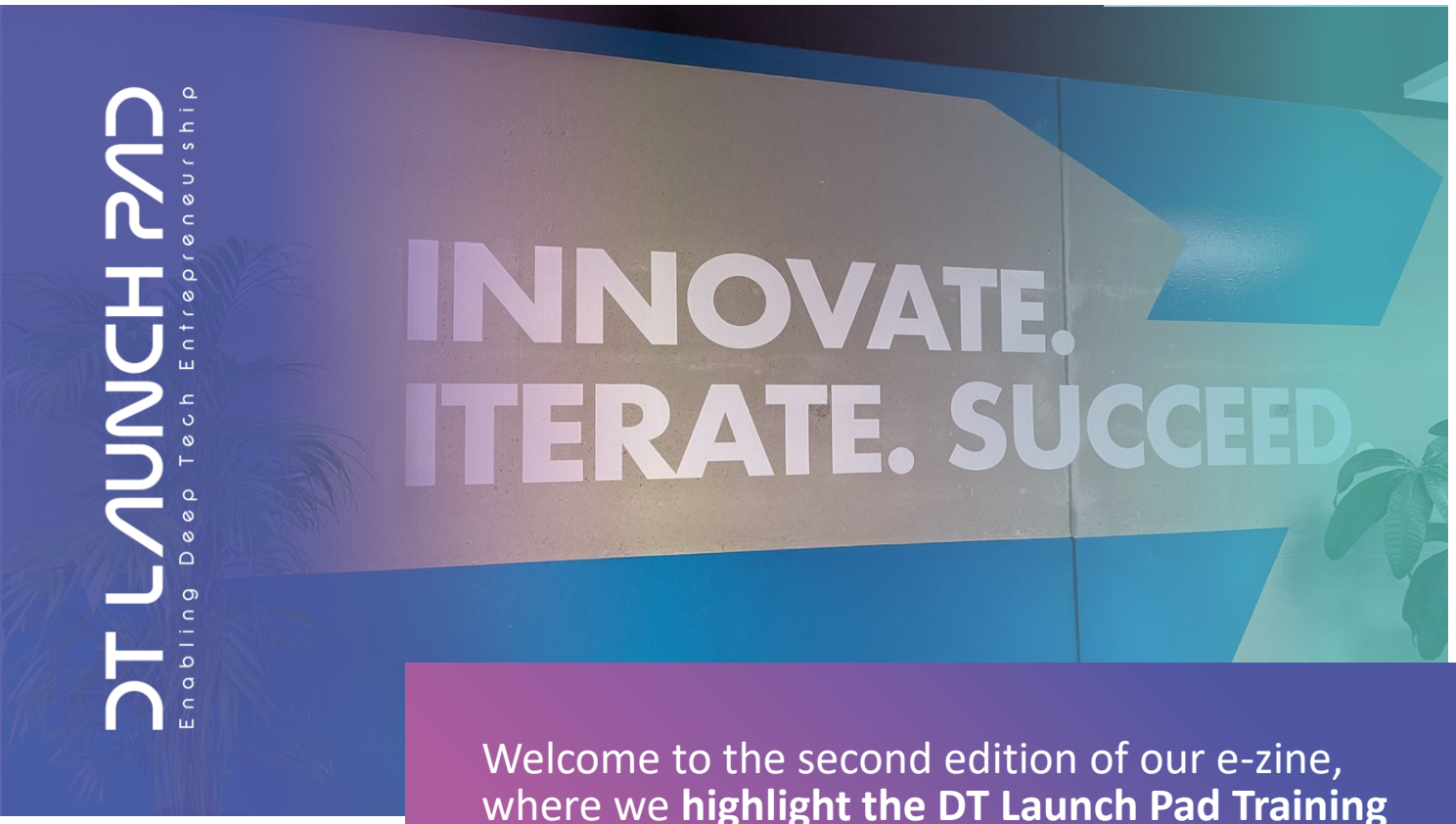


DT LAUNCH PAD
Enabling Deep Tech Entrepreneurship

Welcome to the second edition of our e-zine, where we **highlight the DT Launch Pad Training Programme which officially started on 30 September**. The programme took off with a dynamic mix of online and in-person events across Austria, Ireland, France, Slovenia, Turkey, the Netherlands, and Finland, bringing together 90 participants from 15 countries

IN THIS ISSUE

We also delve into Austria's deep tech landscape and feature in-depth profiles of two of our project partners: Ege University in Turkey and the University Industry Innovation Network (UIIN) in the Netherlands. We hope you enjoy the read and don't forget to follow us on social media for more updates and stories from our participants as they journey through the DT Launch Pad Training programme.

FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION: BUILDING EUROPE'S DEEP TECH TRAINING PROGRAMME

By **Elif Celik,** Project Co-Ordinator, TU Delft

Elif Celik

Turning groundbreaking research into real-world solutions is never simple*. For Deep Tech innovators, the journey from lab to market is full of unique challenges – from understanding markets and developing prototypes to securing funding and protecting intellectual property.*

At DT Launch Pad, we've designed a training programme to help researchers and innovators navigate these challenges. What makes our programme stand out is the way it was created: built on solid evidence, shaped by experts, and co-developed across Europe.

From WP2 research to a European Curriculum

Our journey started with **extensive research across 7 consortium countries: Austria, Finland, France, Ireland, Slovenia, The Netherlands, and Turkey**. Through interviews and roundtable discussions with nearly **100 Deep Tech experts, educators, investors, and entrepreneurs**, we identified the main barriers and opportunities in bringing Deep Tech innovations to market. These insights became the foundation of our training programme.

Building on this, we co-created a curriculum through workshops and feedback cycles, carefully selecting the themes that matter most for aspiring Deep Tech entrepreneurs. The result is a comprehensive eight-module programme that immerses participants in the key aspects of deep-tech venturing and equips them to act on their learnings.

THE 8 MODULES: A STRUCTURED JOURNEY

Each module is **short, digestible, and interactive,** delivered by experts in their field. Together, they form a complete journey that combines practical knowledge with hands-on application and peer learning:

01 **Kick-off & National Deep Tech Ecosystem**
Introducing participants to their local deep tech landscape and building peer connections.

02 **Unlocking Innovation: The Foundations of Deep Tech**
Exploring what makes Deep Tech unique and how to commercialise it.

03 **Ideation, Market Research & Opportunity Assessment**
Equipping participants with tools to test and validate their ideas.

04 **Business Model Development**
Creating viable business models tailored to Deep Tech ventures

05 **Prototyping, Proof of Concept & Product Development**
Turning ideas into products across sectors and readiness levels.

06 **Intellectual Property & Protecting Innovation**
Navigating patents, licensing, and strategies to safeguard research outcomes.

07 **Funding & Investment Strategies**
Understanding the funding landscape and preparing to engage with investors.

08 **Communication, Collaboration & Leadership**
Developing the skills to pitch, build teams, and lead innovation projects.

Recruitment Success:

over 90 participants from 15 countries

When recruitment opened, the response was immediate and encouraging. We are proud to welcome **more than 90 participants from 15 countries** across the consortium.

Their diversity spanning multiple technologies, disciplines, and stages of development ensures a dynamic and collaborative learning environment.

Looking Ahead

Over the coming months, participants will complete the training modules, engage in peer-to-peer exchanges, and build their pitch deck with the help of mentors.

The programme will culminate in **pitch sessions**, where selected teams will advance into the second stage: a **six-month incubation journey** with tailored mentorship, international networking, and a final **Fundraising Fair in June 2026, Amsterdam.**

By combining expert-led training, peer learning, and ecosystem connections, DT Launch Pad is creating a bridge that helps Deep Tech researchers and innovators move from breakthrough ideas to impactful ventures.

DT LAUNCH PAD TRAINING PROGRAMME KICKS OFF

The DT Launch Pad training programme officially began at the end of September with kick-off events rolling out online and in person across ***Austria, Ireland, France, Slovenia, Turkey, the Netherlands, and Finland****, bringing together* ***90 participants from 15 countries.***

Over 8 weeks, the programme is guiding innovators through both pre-incubation and incubation stages, helping them take their first steps or their next big leap towards market readiness.

We look forward to spotlighting the entrepreneurs and mentors and hearing about their experiences. Congratulations to all participants and partners for this exciting start!

Finland's Kick Off - Led by Crazy Town Oy

Austria Kick Off
- Led by accent Inkubator

The event was all about DeepTech, ecosystems and the question of how research can lead to marketable innovations.

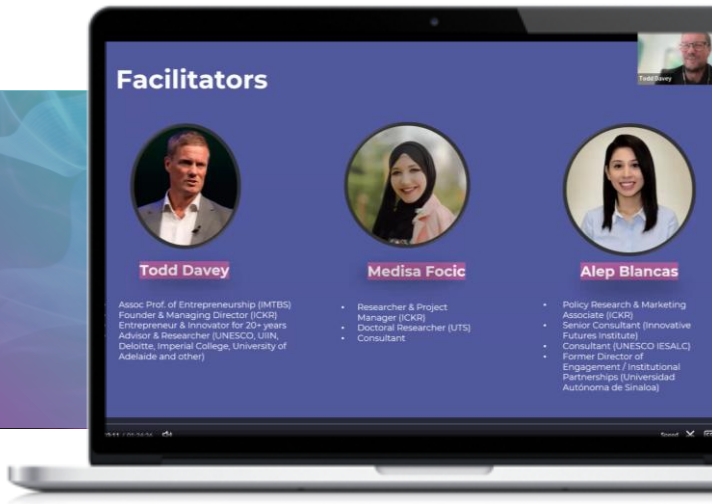
Speakers included:

- **Valerie Hengl** opened with From Deep Science to Deep Impact and showed that true DeepTech success is built on technology and diversity.
- Astrid Stakne (**FFG Austrian Research Promotion Agency**) on the Spin-off Fellowship and the path from research to start-up.
- Hannes A. Schwetz (**Austria Wirtschaftsservice** on DeepTech Funding in Austria from PreSeed to Seed Financing.
- **Ensemo GmbH** shared her start-up experiences and learnings in the Case Story: From Spin-Off to Market.
- **Thilo Schmalz** (**tecnet equity**) on Innovation Financing & Ecosystem Support and the role of venture capital.

The discussions clearly showed that DeepTech needs strong ecosystems, networked players and long-term support from the initial idea to international scaling. We are starting this project full of energy and look forward to promoting the next generation of DeepTech start-ups.

France Kick Off
– Led by IMTBS

An International kick-off was hosted by Institut Mines-Télécom Business School (IMTBS) in Paris on September 30th.



The event was facilitated by Assoc. Prof. Todd Davey and researcher Medisa Focic-Asipi. The guest speaker was Lucas Quiononero, CEO and cofounder of Mobeelity. He shared his entrepreneurial story, from research to scaling up technology, and engaged with participants in the inspiring Q&A session.

Ireland Kick Off
- Led by Munster Technological University

The Irish kick off began with the Munster Technological University (MTU) Innovation and Enterprise and Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Roadshow at the Nimbus Research Centre, followed by a dynamic session at the Rubicon Centre in MTU, Cork.

Guest speakers included **George O'Mahony**, Head of Computer Science at Munster Technological University, who presented insights into Ireland's deep tech landscape in cyber and quantum technologies. He was followed by Dr. **William Whelan-Curtin**, Nanophononics Group Leader at CAPPA, who shared his experience in deep tech innovation and entrepreneurship. Participants attending in person and online were keen to ask questions and relate with their experiences. The event proved an excellent start to our training programme and we are excited to see how the next few months unfold for the trainees.

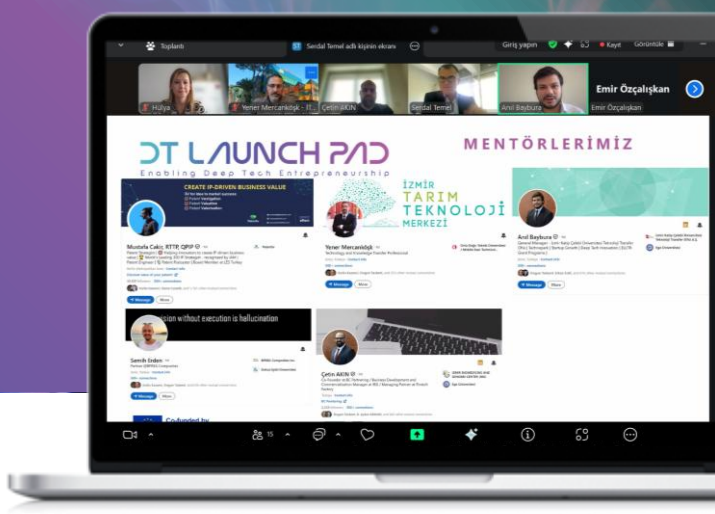
Slovenia Kick Off
- Led by University of Ljubljana

An eager group gathered at the Knowledge Transfer Office of the University of Ljubljana

An inspiring deep tech meetup and discussion on what the DT Launch Pad training is all about, as well as how deep tech research and innovation can be developed and marketed. The University of Ljubljana invited Jakob Gajšek, the Director of the Ljubljana University incubator, to present the journey from laboratory to the market. We also touched on the topic of "Where to find support" in Slovenia and beyond for deep tech ventures.

Turkish Kick Off
– Led by Ege University

The Turkish kick off hosted by Ege University brought together 13 passionate entrepreneurs from diverse industries and seven experienced mentors to support each other throughout their entrepreneurial journeys.



Dutch Kick Off
– Led by TU Delft

The Dutch kick-off event was held in YES!Delft and hosted an inspiring line-up of speakers who shared their expertise on deep tech entrepreneurship, startup experiences, and regional innovation ecosystems.

Speakers included:

- **Peter Maarten Westerhout** – Director of Deep Tech at Techleap, who introduced the Dutch deep tech entrepreneurship ecosystem, and common challenges & opportunities for Dutch deep tech startups.
- **Marouschka Blahetek** – CEO and Co-founder of Carapace Biopolymers shared her deep tech startup journey. As a former Investment Manager at Delft Enterprise, she also shared practical insights into spin-off processes.
- **Bram Spitzer** – Programme Manager of Zuid-Holland Startup & Scale-up Initiatives, brought a regional perspective on starting & scaling science-based ventures.
- **Claire Visser** – Lead of TU Delft's Impact Studio is supporting the creation of science-based startups within TU Delft and the wider 4TU context.

INTRODUCING RAVI RAMESH: DEEP SPARK TRAINING PROGRAMME PARTICIPANT

Ravi Ramesh is a PhD candidate at TU Delft *in the Netherlands, working at the intersection of engineering, energy access, and sustainable technology.*

His research focuses on physicochemical phenomena, particularly hydrodynamics and heat transfer in novel, multi-jet bubbling fluidised bed reactors, using advanced Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD).

He is the founder of B-FREE (Bubbling Fluidised bed Reactor for Energy Expansion), a project aimed at producing clean fuel from plastic waste in low and middle-income countries. By developing a low-cost, multi-orifice reactor, his goal is to generate syngas, hydrogen, methanol, and ethanol from household plastic waste, contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy.

Ravi brings entrepreneurial experience through the TU Delft Impact Contest, where he was a semi-finalist, and THRIVE Academy Rotterdam, where he trained as a knowledge broker, bridging academic research with real-world applications. He has also freelanced for companies like Avery Dennison and Nobian via Blackbear. Currently at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4, Ravi's project is in the validation phase, with active outreach to customer groups. He is seeking mentorship, funding, and networks to scale the technology and create real energy impact for communities in regions such as Kenya, India, Indonesia, and Brazil.

Follow our participants' progress on our social media channels as DT Launch Pad supports deep tech entrepreneurs across Europe.

CLICK TO **VIEW**

Listen to our short interview with **Ravi to discover more about B-FREE** as well as his expectations of the DT Launch Pad programme.

A SIMPLE TAP THAT BUILDS TRUST

Introducing TAGBASE and Manuel Mertl: Here you will find out how TAGBASE is protecting the stories behind every product.

Manuel Mertl

When CEO and co-founder Manuel Mertl travels, he enjoys discovering new places and learning the stories behind authentic products, from the origin of a local delicacy to the heritage of regional brands. Yet in industries such as premium beverages, cosmetics, and luxury goods, where authenticity defines value, counterfeiting has become a global challenge. Counterfeit goods now account for over $500 billion in global losses every year. Beyond the numbers, these fakes erode trust and disconnect us from the people and brands behind the products we love. That is the world Manuel and his co-founder, Mario Uher (CTO), set out to change.

Manuel has always been fascinated by how technology shapes society.

"I could talk for hours about how AI, robotics, and digital money are reshaping the way we live and interact." He has even published a book on these topics, available on Amazon ***(just search for Manuel Mertl).***

This curiosity, together with his love for efficiency and structure, his self-described superpower, sparked a simple but powerful idea.

What if every product could carry its own trusted, digital story?

That question became the foundation of **TAGBASE**, an Austria-based deep tech startup that gives physical products tamper-proof digital identities. Imagine buying a bottle of fine wine or a luxury bag, tapping it with your smartphone, and instantly seeing its full story: where it came from, how it was made, and a guarantee that it is authentic.

That is exactly what TAGBASE makes possible. Using secure NFC tags, the company allows consumers to verify products with a simple tap, with no app required. Each tag becomes a digital touchpoint, a direct connection between brand and consumer. From videos and certificates to care tips, origin stories, and e-commerce links, the product itself becomes a living, trusted bridge. And because TAGBASE uses dynamic cryptographic verification, counterfeiters cannot copy or clone the tags.

For consumers, verifying authenticity is effortless. But for brands, TAGBASE unlocks a powerful new data layer. Every verification generates insights about when and where products are being checked, helping brands understand customer engagement in real time. Companies can also upload documents, manuals, and certificates directly linked to each product. TAGBASE is currently integrating an AI-powered chatbot that draws from these materials, along with verified data sources, to help consumers get answers instantly. Instead of browsing through hundreds of pages, users can simply ask the product a question in chat and receive the exact information they need. The same data also helps brands understand which topics and details matter most to their customers, offering actionable insights to improve communication and support.

TAGBASE operates at the intersection of IoT and blockchain, combining secure NFC chips and cloud-based verification with analytics and optional blockchain integration for ownership tracking. The platform is already proven at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 6, with real-world demonstrations showing how easily it can scale across industries like luxury goods, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals. TAGBASE is part of **ACCENT**, Austria's leading startup incubator, and also part of the **Techstars Web3 Founder Catalyst**, an accelerator program supporting innovative ventures in the Web3 space. The team has already secured grant funding and angel investments, incorporated the business, scheduled IP consultations, engaged with potential customer groups, and developed investor materials to accelerate growth. TAGBASE is also currently running three pilot projects to demonstrate its technology with industry partners.

Through the **DT LaunchPad programme, Manuel hopes to expand TAGBASE's network,** refine its go-to-market strategy, and bring its vision of product trust to partners and early adopters across Europe.

If Manuel could have dinner with anyone, it would be Elon Musk. *"His vision of making humanity multi-planetary inspires me,"* Manuel explains. *"I'd love to hear his thoughts firsthand."*

That big-picture mindset drives how Manuel leads TAGBASE as a way to make authenticity and trust accessible to everyone. "It's a simple tap, but a deeply secure and scalable infrastructure behind it."

FROM LABS TO MARKETS

By **Julia Maria Bauer MA,**
Project Manager, accent Inkubator GmbH

Julia Maria Bauer

How Austria Builds DeepTech Engines for Europe – Lower Austria as a Regional Model for Science-Based Innovation and Cross-Border Scale

DeepTech is reshaping Europe's technological future. Austria with its long-standing research strengths, targeted funding programs, and increasingly integrated innovation ecosystem, is strengthening its role in this transformation. Among its regions, Lower Austria demonstrates how strategic alignment between academia, policy, and business can foster high-impact, science-based innovation.

This progress is firmly grounded in national and regional policy frameworks most notably Austria's **Research, Technology and Innovation Strategy 2030.**

Regionally, the FTI-Strategie Lower Austria 2027, fully aligned with the EU's Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3), defines strategic sectors such as Bioeconomy, Digital Health, Sustainable Mobility and Circular Economy. This alignment ensures both European fund compatibility and local impact. Lower Austria's RIS3-based governance turns policy into practice — from cluster-based innovation to talent development and cross-border scaling.

Photo Credit: From lab to orbit: GATE Space showcasing their scalable propulsion system for space applications — a key enabler for Europe's competitiveness in NewSpace technologies. Photographed at the prototyping facilities of the accent Incubator.

Austria's Growing DeepTech Footprint

*According to the **Austrian Startup Monitor 2024**, 17 percent of startups in Austria qualify as DeepTech ventures companies grounded in scientific discovery and advanced engineering.*

These startups are concentrated in strategically relevant sectors such as life sciences and medical technology, information technology and software, as well as hardware, electronics, and advanced materials.

What distinguishes DeepTech ventures in Austria is their strong linkage to the research landscape. Around 70 percent of these startups collaborate directly with universities or research institutions a significantly higher rate than among conventional startups. While many DeepTech ventures face extended development cycles and are often still pre-revenue, their growth potential is clear: more than 85 percent plan to expand their teams, and nearly half are preparing to enter international markets, especially in North America and Asia.

Furthermore, DeepTech startups are more likely to attract larger funding rounds: 36 percent have raised over €500,000 in external equity capital, compared to just 20 percent of other startups.

DeepTech as a Platform for Transformation

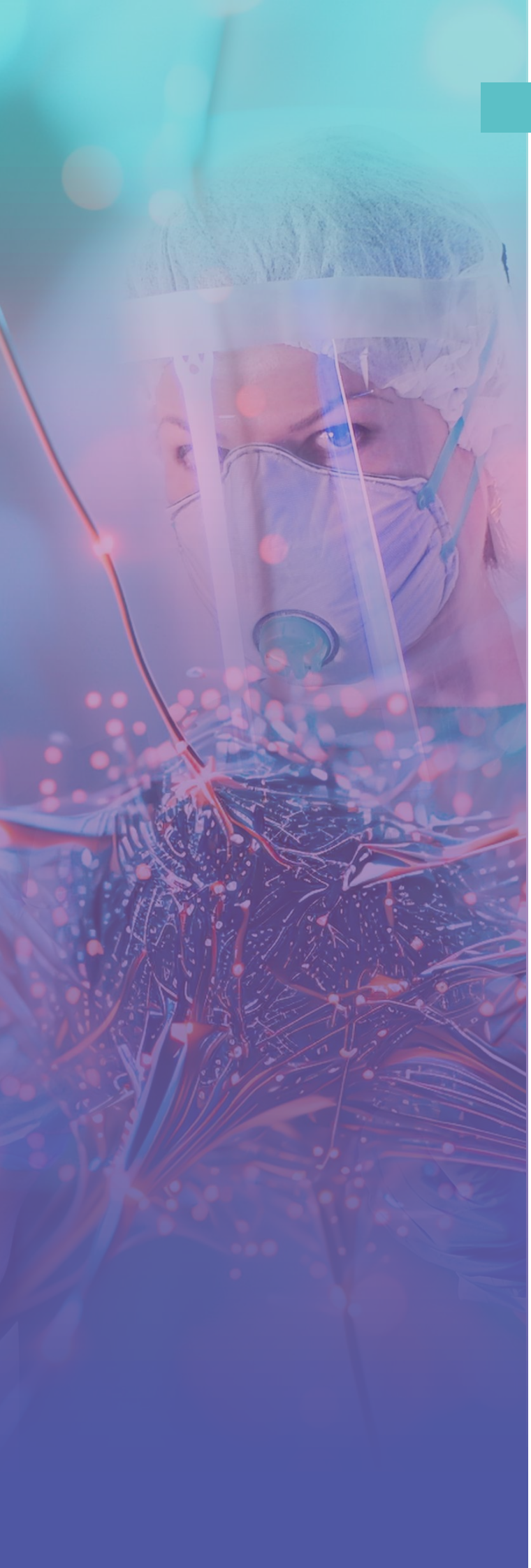
DeepTech innovation goes beyond incremental improvement it addresses complex global challenges and enables systemic transformation.

Austria's transformation in DeepTech is driven not only by technology, but by the people behind it. Highly qualified founders with strong technical and entrepreneurial skills are building solutions in AI, robotics, life sciences, and advanced manufacturing. Recent data highlights the central role of human capital in turning complex ideas into scalable innovation.

At the regional level, accent incubator plays a key role in enabling this transformation. Located in Lower Austria, one of Europe's most active innovation regions, accent supports early-stage, science-based startups through a tailored mix of mentoring, infrastructure access, internationalisation coaching, and funding preparation. Many of these founders emerge from academic environments and need precisely this bridge to turn research into entrepreneurial impact.

A flagship initiative in this ecosystem is the Start-up Village Tullnerfeld, which was recently recognised with the prestigious European "Start-up Village" label for rural innovation. The site hosts over a dozen impact-driven ventures working on technologies such as CO_2 recycling, biological seed treatment, and sensing technologies for health and agriculture.

Through access to Makerspace infrastructure, laboratories, coworking spaces, and mentoring by accent, founders can move quickly from concept to prototype to international pitch readiness. This setup exemplifies the region's commitment to "mission-driven innovation", enabling real-world impact and global scalability — even from a rural setting.



Strategic Funding as an Enabler

Austria supports its Deep Tech landscape with a coherent funding architecture that spans all stages of the innovation journey.

European-level programs support Austria's DeepTech ventures in different ways: the EIC Accelerator provides blended finance for breakthrough technologies, Horizon Europe supports collaborative R&D under mission-driven calls, and selected EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities – such as EIT Health or EIT Manufacturing – offer access to testbeds, internationalisation support, and thematic scaling programs. At the national level, the Austria Wirtschaftsservice (aws) plays a central role in financing high-potential technology ventures through dedicated instruments aimed at early-stage prototyping, seed financing, and scale-up readiness. The Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) complements this with funding for applied R&D, cross-sectoral innovation projects, and technology validation efforts. The Wirtschaftskammer Österreich (WKO) further supports innovation through funding schemes, vouchers, and business support programs.

Regionally, Lower Austria offers an additional layer of financial instruments. Organisations such as ecoplus, the Business Agency of Lower Austria, manage cluster-related investment programs and infrastructure development. Funding institutions like tecnet equity and the Niederösterreichische Bürgschaften und Beteiligungen GmbH (NÖBEG) provide equity capital, guarantees, and mezzanine financing for capital-intensive ventures with strong technological foundations. This funding pipeline addresses one of the biggest challenges in the DeepTech journey: bridging the "valley of death" between research output and market adoption, a central goal of the national innovation strategy.

Lower Austria: A Regional Innovation Strategy in Action

Lower Austria stands out for its well-orchestrated innovation ecosystem, which is shaped by the Regional Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3 NÖ). The strategy prioritises regional strengths such as bioeconomy, digital health, sustainable mobility, and the circular economy, while aligning closely with European Union missions and investment priorities.

The region combines academic depth, entrepreneurial support, and industrial application. **Key research and innovation structures include:**

01 University of Applied Sciences St. Pölten, University of Applied Sciences Wiener Neustadt, and IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems, which deliver applied R&D and workforce development across fields like cybersecurity, robotics, biotechnology, and medtech.

02 The Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) Bioresources, located in Tulln, develops new technologies to enhance the use of plant-based and microbial resources. Globally, AIT in Tulln offers its clients and research partners from industry, academia, and the public sector **translational research at the interface between fundamental scientific discoveries and their industrial application**, as well as **customised development services and high-end analytical solutions**.

03 **acib Tulln** develops bio-based and biodegradable solutions at the intersection of **environmental biotechnology** and industry. The focus lies on applying microbial and enzymatic processes to polymers — with strong links to regional research and industry.

04 **IFA**, a unit of the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, conducts basic research in **reproductive biology**, **mitochondrial genetics**, and **cell communication**, contributing to biomedical innovation through molecular and translational approaches.

05 The Institute of Science and Technology (ISTA) in Klosterneuburg is a world-class research institute focused on **interdisciplinary basic science** in fields such as **mathematics**, **physics**, **life sciences**, and **computer science**. With a strong international PhD program and dedicated tech transfer unit (*xista innovation*), ISTA connects frontier research with economic and societal application.

06 The **University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) in Tulln** focuses on **agricultural biotechnology**, **environmental technologies**, and **bio-based materials**, combining scientific excellence with practical application and active technology transfer.

Innovation Governance and Regional Coordination

Lower Austria's innovation system is supported by a **coordinated governance model involving public agencies and financial institutions:**

01 **accent Inkubator –** plays a key role in the early-stage startup pipeline, supporting science-based ventures with mentoring, prototyping infrastructure, and funding readiness. Through the **Creative Pre-Incubator (CPI),** accent also fosters entrepreneurial thinking among students at Lower Austria's universities.

02 **ecoplus** – The Business Agency of Lower Austria, responsible for cluster management, infrastructure and regional development;

03 **Technology and Innovation Partner of Lower Austria (TIP NÖ),** offering coaching, innovation services and project guidance;

04 **Regional Innovation Centre of Lower Austria (RIZ NÖ),** supporting startups and business development across the region;

05 **tecnet equity**, the region's specialist in technology transfer and venture capital for spin-offs and IP-based startups;

06 **Niederösterreichische Bürgschaften und Beteiligungen GmbH (NÖBEG),** which provides guarantees and mezzanine capital for high-tech and capital-intensive ventures.

Together, these organisations build the framework for DeepTech entrepreneurship, from lab stage to market scale

Cluster-Based Innovation: Applied Cooperation at Scale

At the core of Lower Austria's strategy lies its cluster approach, coordinated by ecoplus. The regional cluster system has supported over 1,600 innovation projects, with a cumulative project volume of more than €74 million and €39 million in public funding. These clusters facilitate knowledge transfer and R&D cooperation across sectors such as mechatronics, plastics, green transformation, health technologies, and food innovation translating strategic priorities into practical, company-led initiatives.

Cross-Border Scaling: The DeepTech Launchpad Corridor

Lower Austria's innovation agenda is not limited to regional impact. The DeepTech Launchpad Project, exemplifies how transnational collaboration can support startup growth, joint infrastructure access, and harmonised innovation policy. This cross-border corridor represents a blueprint for a European-scale DeepTech ecosystem linking Central European research and industrial networks while reinforcing the goals of EU cohesion and smart specialisation strategies.

Strategic Alignment for European Leadership

Austria's national RTI Strategy 2030 and Lower Austria's RIS3 NÖ and FTI Strategy provide a multi-level policy framework that connects scientific excellence with mission-driven innovation. Lower Austria operationalises these frameworks, turning them into real engines of economic transformation, technological sovereignty, and cross-border innovation. It stands as a European model for how DeepTech can move from labs to markets, and from local strength to global relevance.

EGE UNIVERSITY: A NATIONAL LEADER IN DEEP TECH RESEARCH, INNOVATION, & COMMERCIALISATION

By **Dr. Hülya Yılmaz Temel**, *Ege University*

Dr. Hülya Yılmaz Temel

*Founded in 1955 in İzmir, **Ege University** is one of Türkiye's oldest, largest, and most research-oriented universities, recognised for its pioneering contributions to science, technology, and innovation. With more than 70,000 students and over 3,500 academics, Ege University plays a vital role in Türkiye's innovation ecosystem by transforming cutting-edge research into real-world impact.*

Its strength lies in its **multidisciplinary excellence**, spanning engineering, medicine, pharmacy, agriculture, and life sciences, making it a unique breeding ground for **deep tech innovation**. Ege University has long been a **national frontrunner in deep technology development**, focusing on science-based solutions that address grand societal challenges in health, biotechnology, materials, agriculture, and sustainability. As deep tech ventures require long development cycles, advanced infrastructure, and cross-disciplinary collaboration, Ege University's ecosystem offers all the necessary components from laboratory-based research to full-scale market deployment.

At the heart of this ecosystem is **EBILTEM-TTO (Ege University Technology Transfer Office**), Türkiye's first and most established technology transfer office. EBILTEM-TTO provides comprehensive support across the entire innovation value chain, including intellectual property management, licensing, entrepreneurship training, market validation, and investment readiness. The office guides researchers and start-ups from idea to market through **structured pre-incubation, incubation, and acceleration programs**, while also connecting them with national and international investors. Its experience and track record in deep tech licensing and start-up creation have made Ege University a model institution within Türkiye and the wider European innovation landscape.

*Complementing EBILTEM-TTO, **Ege Teknopark** serves as a dynamic hub for research-driven entrepreneurship. Hosting over 200 R&D companies and more than 50 start-ups, Ege Teknopark provides state-of-the-art laboratories, pilot-scale production spaces, and business acceleration services. Together, EBILTEM-TTO and Ege Teknopark offer a fully integrated pathway for the commercialisation of university-originated innovations particularly **deep tech ventures in biotechnology, medical devices, and advanced materials.***

Ege University also supports entrepreneurs in accessing **finance, venture capital, and international markets**. Through initiatives like TÜBİTAK's Tech-InvestTR, Horizon Europe programs, and private investment networks, Ege University helps deep tech start-ups secure the resources needed to progress from proof of concept to market entry. In parallel, the university provides extensive support in **patent protection, IP valuation, and licensing negotiations**, ensuring that technological breakthroughs are transformed into sustainable businesses.

A cornerstone of Ege University's deep tech capacity is the **Ege DeepTech Factory**, a flagship initiative co-financed by the European Union and the Republic of Türkiye. Designed to transform research outcomes into scalable ventures, the DeepTech Factory offers specialised mentorship, product development support, and international investor matchmaking. Through its five-stage acceleration model: **Onboarding, Product Development, Go-to-Market, Business Visibility, and Internationalisation**, the program equips start-ups with the skills, infrastructure, and global connections required for successful deep tech commercialisation. The initiative has positioned Ege University as a national center of excellence in **deep technology incubation and prototyping**, enabling researchers to develop high-impact technologies with real market value. In alignment with these institutional efforts, Ege University plays an active and strategic role as a **core partner in the European Deep Tech LaunchPad (DT LaunchPad) Project**. Within this EU-funded initiative, Ege University leads key activities on ecosystem development, training design, and pilot implementation for deep tech commercialisation. Drawing on its experience with Ege Teknopark, EBILTEM-TTO, and the DeepTech Factory, the university contributes to the project by **testing and refining new support models** that help early-stage science-based start-ups transition from research to market. Ege University also serves as a **regional demonstration site**, showcasing best practices in mentorship, prototyping, and investor engagement for deep tech entrepreneurs in Türkiye and across Europe

.

Through its engagement in the DT LaunchPad project, Ege University not only strengthens its international partnerships but also reinforces its position as a **gateway between academic research and industrial application** in deep tech. The project has amplified Ege's role as a regional catalyst for technology transfer and as a model for integrating European-level deep tech policies with national innovation strategies. Ultimately, Ege University embodies the spirit of **deep technology-driven transformation** where scientific discovery meets entrepreneurship. With its combined strengths in research excellence, advanced infrastructure, and innovation-oriented governance, Ege stands as a **leading force in Türkiye's transition toward a deep tech economy**. Through its integrated structures EBILTEM-TTO, Ege Teknopark, incubation and pre-incubation centers, and the DeepTech Factory, Ege University provides end-to-end support for scientists, entrepreneurs, and investors working to bring breakthrough technologies to life. Its vision is clear: to nurture a new generation of innovators who will shape the future of science, technology, and sustainable growth, locally, nationally, and globally.

MEET THE PARTNER

UNIVERSITY INDUSTRY INNOVATION NETWORK (UIIN)

The University Industry Innovation Network (UIIN) exists to create positive social, economic, and ecological change through the transformation of higher education. Its mission is to empower universities to become more entrepreneurial, impactful, and connected with their communities.

By fostering collaboration between academia, industry, and government, UIIN supports institutions in strengthening their education, research, and innovation impact. Operating from Amsterdam Science Park, UIIN has built a global network of more than 120 ambitious organisations committed to continuous learning and the exchange of best practices. Its internationally diverse team delivers research, training, consultancy, and events that enable higher education institutions and their partners to thrive in fast-changing innovation ecosystems.

UIIN is a proud partner in DTLaunchPad, a project dedicated to strengthening Europe's capacity to translate cutting-edge research into sustainable deep tech ventures. Through its role, UIIN supports the development of entrepreneurial mindsets, institutional capabilities, and collaborative networks that help universities accelerate the journey from lab to market. The project aligns with UIIN's long-standing mission to foster innovation-led growth, build more connected ecosystems, and prepare the next generation of science-based entrepreneurs. Across its activities, UIIN plays a pivotal role in upskilling leaders, academics, and professional staff to operate effectively at the intersection of higher education and innovation. Through its targeted training programmes, the organisation equips participants with the competencies needed to strengthen university–industry cooperation and drive institutional change. Its consulting and advisory services support universities in embedding entrepreneurship and partnership practices into their strategies, enabling long-term, systemic transformation.

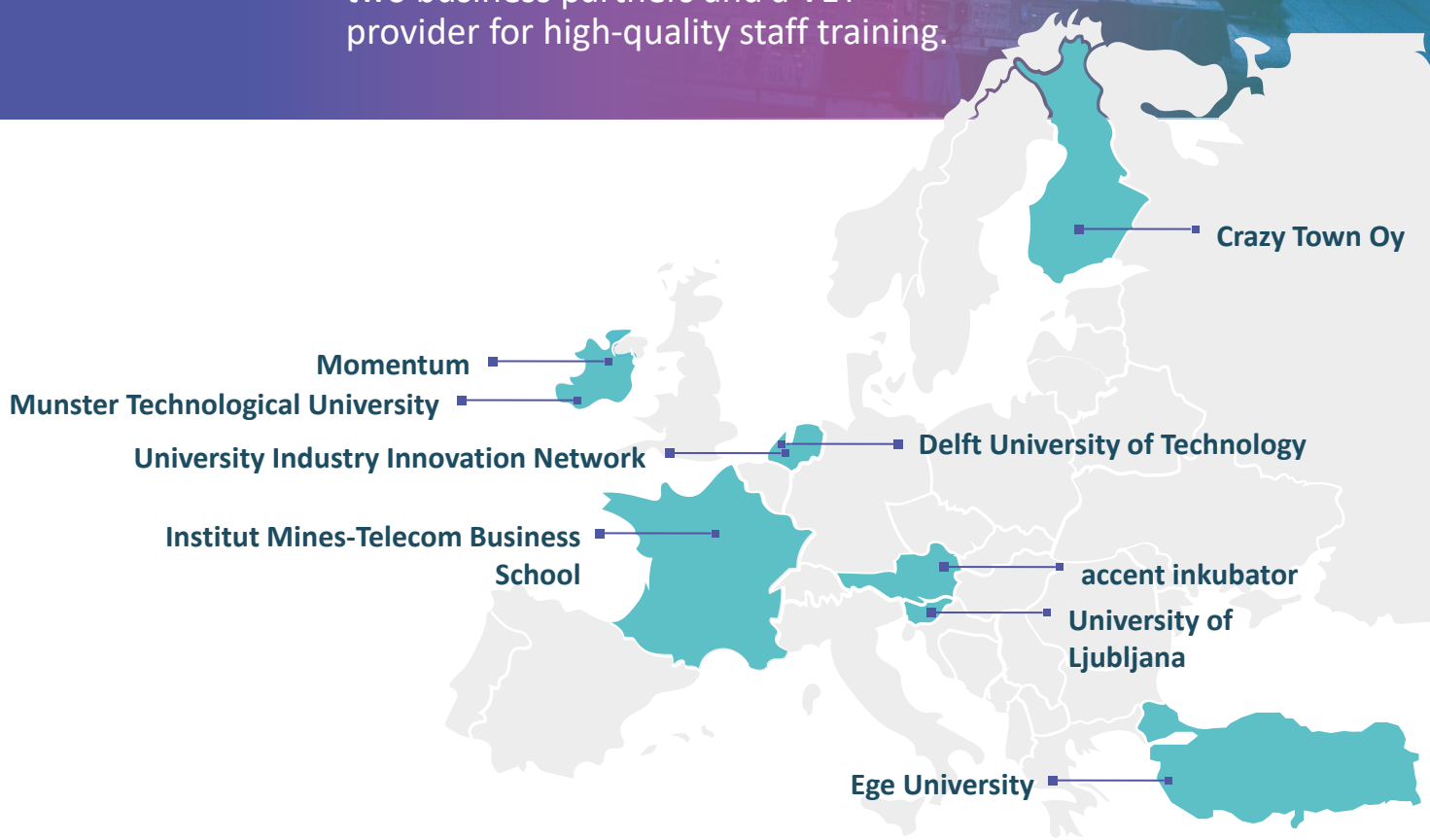
A highlight in UIIN's calendar is its annual conference, the largest gathering on university–business collaboration in Europe. For over 13 years, this event has attracted participants from more than 60 countries, creating a platform for academics, practitioners, and policymakers to share insights, showcase good practice, and shape the future of engaged universities and innovation ecosystems. Beyond its training and community-building activities, UIIN conducts extensive research for public and private institutions across Europe and beyond. It has contributed to over a dozen large-scale initiatives funded by the European Commission, EIT, GIZ, and national governments. Its work spans key topics such as entrepreneurship education, research valorisation, and regional development, building a robust evidence base that informs both policy and institutional strategy.

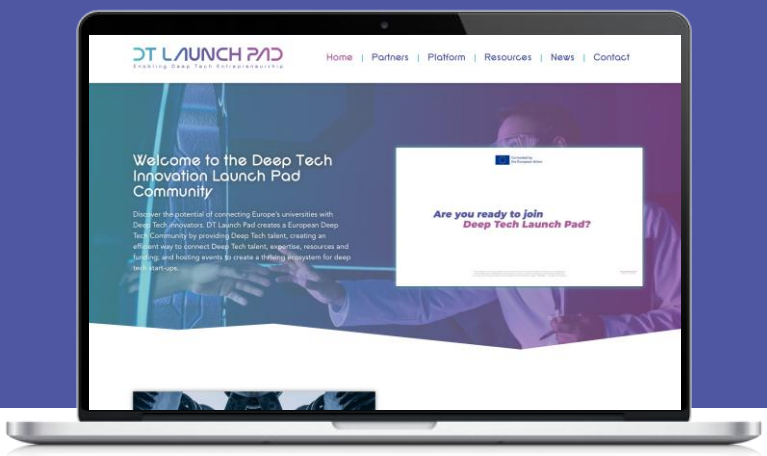
UIIN is also the organisation behind the largest European study on university–business cooperation and the creator of the *Entrepreneurial and Innovative University* framework — a methodology that guides universities in transforming their systems, culture, and partnerships. With more than a decade of research, thought leadership, and implementation experience, including the *Future of Universities Thoughtbook* series, UIIN continues to shape the evolution of higher education across Europe and beyond. Through DTLaunchPad, UIIN brings this experience to the deep tech frontier, contributing its expertise in ecosystem building, capability development, and institutional transformation to strengthen Europe's innovation capacity and help science-based entrepreneurship flourish.

UIIN University Industry Innovation Network

WHO WE ARE?

Our consortium represents all drivers of Deep Tech entrepreneurship in European regions. This includes two technological universities, three comprehensive universities; an incubator/accelerator to bring on-the-ground knowledge; two business partners and a VET provider for high-quality staff training.





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Enabling Deep Tech Entrepreneurship

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