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New European Innovation Agenda: the coalition grows in Davos

Today, Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, invites business and public actors in Davos to ensure the rapid and effective implementation of the New European Innovation Agenda.

“We have equipped the European Union with a cutting-edge innovation policy”, says Commissioner Gabriel. “We are aware that its timely and effective implementation is essential for the competitive advantage of our companies. And we are also aware that we must take on board all actors, public and private ones”.

The European Commission is working for a joint endeavour of all relevant stakeholders to be at the forefront of the new wave of deep tech innovation and startups, and ensure a resilient recovery and strong competitiveness business environment. To do so, Commissioner Gabriel has supported the launch of two initiatives: the Coalition of the Willing and the Sounding Board for Innovation.

Through the Coalition of the Willing, public and private organisations are proposing concrete initiatives to co-implement the New European Innovation Agenda’s flagships. The goal here is two-fold: to give visibility to best practices and to facilitate collaboration.

While, to make sure the Innovation Agenda is adapted to the rapidly changing global environment, the new European Sounding Board for Innovation will be intellectually focused, soliciting ideas and recommendations from the business, scientific and academic communities.

“I invite organizations to join the Coalition of the Willing by sharing details about the concrete initiatives they are working on or plan to work on, that support the goals of the New European Innovation Agenda”, says Commissioner Gabriel. “In addition, I invite CEOs to join personally the Sounding Board for Innovation. I would appreciate to hear their ideas and suggestions on how to best implement the Innovation Agenda and adapt it to a changing environment, if necessary”.

On 26th April, the Sounding Board will convene in Brussels, and on 1st June, the first meeting of the Coalition of the Willing will be held in Stockholm.

Background

New European Innovation Agenda

The Innovation Agenda aims to position Europe at the forefront of the new wave of deep tech innovation and start-ups. It helps Europe to develop new technologies to address the most pressing societal challenges, and to bring them on the market.

The Innovation Agenda is structured around five flagships:

- Improving access to finance for European start-ups and scale-ups;
- Improving the conditions to allow innovators to experiment with new ideas through regulatory sandboxes;
- Creating “regional innovation valleys” that will strengthen and better connect innovation players through Europe;
- Attracting and retaining talent in Europe, e.g., by training 1 million deep tech talents, increasing support for women innovators and innovating with start-up employees’ stock options;
- Improving the policy framework through clearer terminology, indicators and data sets, as well as policy support to Member States.

Building on the substantive work that have been done already to foster innovation in the EU, the New European Innovation Agenda aims to accelerate the development and scaling up of innovation across the Union through a coherent set of 25 dedicated actions.

European Sounding Board for Innovation

The European Sounding Board for Innovation is an advisory vehicle to stimulate further-development of the New European Innovation Agenda and discussions of emerging dossiers with high-level representatives from European academia, industry and regulators.

It is a transparent and impartial platform for an evidence-based, open and confident exchange amongst stakeholders from European industry, academia and the political sector. Its objective is to develop concrete recommendations and options for innovation activities and accompany their implementation, if needed, to ensure that Europe is leading the new wave of innovations.

Coalition of the Willing

The Coalition of the Willing was born out of the realisation that Europe needs a broad coalition of key European innovation stakeholders to ensure an efficient and effective implementation of the New European Innovation Agenda.

With the Coalition of the Willing, innovative ecosystems, corporates, local authorities, and European Universities want to co-implement the Innovation Agenda while having clear and open communication lines with the European Commission, to improve processes where needed.

The Coalition of the Willing members are proposing concrete initiatives. As of December 2022, more than 30 initiatives, covering the five Innovation Agenda flagships, have been proposed.

Cabinet Gabriel

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