

# **Spinoff Conference 2025 – Program Draft**

***Innovating the Future: Digital, Green, and AI-Driven Transformation in Europe***

 **Date:** June 19-20, 2025

 **Location:** GATE Institute, Sofia University

The **4th edition** of **Spinoff Conference 2025** will bring together **300+ speakers and guests and 40+ pioneering spinoffs**, creating a dynamic platform for innovation. The event connects researchers, entrepreneurs, and investors to drive the transformation of groundbreaking ideas into successful ventures.

As a key player in the **EU innovation ecosystem**, the conference fosters **health, biotechnology, AI, microelectronics, and cybersecurity growth**, strengthening collaboration and impact across these critical sectors.

With a strong vision for the future, we aim to **support 500+ spinoffs by 2030**, accelerating innovation and shaping the future of technology and entrepreneurship.

## **What to expect - Insights, Networking & Interactive Sessions**

- ✓ **Main Conference** - Inspirational talks, discussions, panel sessions
  - ✓ **B2B Matchmaking & Horizon Europe Partnerships:** *Meet potential partners, consortia, and funding experts*
  - ✓ **Workshops:** 360-degree Labs for: Personalised Medicine, AI adoption, Cybersecurity
  - ✓ **Triple AI Zone** – A dedicated space for attendees to engage in fun and intuitive AI prompt learning, experiment with AI-generated content, and explore real-world AI applications.
  - ✓ **CyberTech Zone** - provided by the EDIH Trakia
  - ✓ **Brain Games for Deep Tech** – Quiz & Challenges
  - ✓ **Spinoff Showcases** – Live demonstrations of cutting-edge biotech, AI, and digital health solutions
  - ✓ **Spinoff of the Year Award Ceremony**
  - ✓ **Round Table Discussions**
- 

## ***Day 1 – June 19, 2025***

09:00 - 09:30 | **Registration & Morning Coffee**

09:30 - 09:45 | **Opening Remarks** (Founders of the Initiative)

09:45 - 10:00 | **Official Guest Speaker** (Senior Government Stakeholders)

Maria Hristova - General Manager at Invest Sofia Agency

Yordanka Chobanova - Head of the European Commission's Representation in Bulgaria at the European Commission

Antoaneta Angelova-Krasteva - Director for Innovation, Digital Education and International Cooperation at European Commission (TBC)

Eva Maydell - MEPs - European Parliament (TBC)

Tzvetelina Penkova - MEPs - European Parliament (TBC)

10:00 - 10:20 | **Keynote** Denmark's EU Presidency & European Digital Identity

Dario Zoric - Regional Digitisation Lead at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

10:20 - 10:40 | **Keynote** - Stefan Dobrev. Chair, EIT Governing Board

10:40 - 11:20 | **Panel 1: AI – To Adopt or Not? / The AI Dilemma: Innovation vs. Regulation**

Speakers:

Daniel Abbou - President of the European AI Forum (EAIF), General Manager of KI Bundesverband

Kaloyan Ratchev - Member of the MB of the AI Cluster Bulgaria

Piotr Mieczkowski - Digital Poland (TBC)

Chloé Plédel - Hub FranceIA (TBC)

11:20 - 11:40 | **Coffee Break**

11:40 - 12:00 | **Keynote - The Biotech Act & Start-Up Strategy** – EuropaBio

12:00 - 12:40 | "Scaling Science to Market: EU Projects Boosting Spinoff Potential"

- **PRECISEU – European Innovation Valley for Personalised Medicine**  
PRECISEU connects 25 partners from 11 European regions (Spain, Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Germany, Sweden, Lithuania, Belgium) and Ukraine. As the first I3-funded project in personalised medicine, PRECISEU builds a European Innovation Valley by empowering regional ecosystems to co-develop, scale, and commercialise deep-tech health solutions through smart specialisation, mentoring, and investment readiness.
- **VELES – Smart Health Excellence Hub**  
The project under the HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-04 aims to boost innovation excellence in Southeast Europe by building a sustainable, place-based ecosystem powered by a **Regional Smart Health Data Space**. With a strong focus on widening countries (Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Cyprus) and support from Sweden, Spain, and Germany, the project advances digital health innovation and regional leadership in healthcare transformation.
- **ENACT – Advancing Biotech for Better Health**

Funded under Horizon Europe, ENACT brings together a pan-European consortium to develop innovative biotech solutions that enhance healthcare delivery and outcomes. With a strong focus on stakeholder collaboration and data-driven insights, the project aims to translate cutting-edge research into real-world health impact across diverse European regions.

- **InnoMedCatalyst – Accelerating 5P Digital Health Innovation**

InnoMedCatalyst is an EU-funded initiative under the I3 Programme, uniting 13 partners from Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Greece, and Portugal. The project aims to enhance regional innovation capacity in 5P medicine—predictive, Preventive, Personalised, Participative, and precise—by supporting 36 startups and entrepreneurs through acceleration programs, mentorship, and open innovation platforms. By 2026, it seeks to develop over 20 investment-ready digital health projects, fostering collaboration between MedTech companies and healthcare providers across Europe.

**12:40 - 13:30 | Panel 2: Personalised Medicine in the Context of Digital & Green Transformation**

Speakers:

- Stamatiki Kritas - CEO of CEBR
- Johan Lecocq - International Relations Manager at Biovia
- Alina Căpitanu - Vice-President of Imago-Mol Cluster, Chair of MEDIC NEST Meta-Cluster in Precision Medicine (TBC)
- Wojciech Nowak, MA, EMBA (IMD) - Global Senior Director at Novartis (TBC)
- Irena Pavlova - project coordinator of VELES, Manager of the European Programmes and Projects at GATE

**13:30 - 14:30 | Lunch & Networking**

**14:30 - 15:30 | Panel 3: Building a Stronger EU Innovation Ecosystem**, organised by GATE Institute

Speakers:

- Till Christopher Lech - Innovation Director at NorwAI – Norwegian Research Center for AI Innovation, Research Manager – Smart Data at SINTEF Digital
- Professor Sylvia Ilieva - Director of GATE Institute at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

**15:30 - 16:00 | Panel 4: Funding the Future: Investor Insights into Spinoff Opportunities**

Moderator: Fund of the Funds

Speakers:

- Henk Joos - Founder & General Manager, Silver Arrow
- Assoc. Prof. Ivan Angelov, Ph.D. - Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”
- Francesco Maria Senatore - Bio4Dreams Business Development Manager

- Aneta Tyszkiewicz - Director Data Digital at EFPIA, European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (TBC)
- Georgi Kaludov - Co-Founder & Program Lead of IBM Sofia Accelerator (TBC)

16:00 - 16:20 | Pitchings: HTIS24 – SEE **Champions in Medtech**

16:20 - 16:40 | Pitching: C3BG - **Champions of Microelectronics**

16:40 - 17:00 | Pitching: CleanTech - **Champions of Clean Technology**

16:40 - 17:00 | Pitching: EDIH Trakia - **Champions of Cybersecurity**

17:00 - 17:30 | Pitching: **Spinoff of the Year Awards Ceremony**

18:30 - 22:00 | **Spinoff Party & Networking**

---

## ***Day 2 – June 20, 2025***

09:00 - 09:30 | **Registration & Morning Coffee**

09:30 - 09:45 | **Opening Remarks** (Founders of the Initiative)

09:45 - 10:00 | **Official Guest Speaker** (Senior Government Stakeholders)

- Krasimir Valchev is the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria (TBC)
- H.E. Mr Paul Lambert - Ambassador of the Belgian Embassy (TBC)

10:00 - 10:20 | **Keynote:** Professor George Angelov - Deputy Minister of Innovation and Growth

10:20 - 11:00 | Panel 1: **"Advancing Europe's Technological Independence and Microelectronics Leadership"** - organised by C3BG

- Assoc. Prof. Phd Dimitar Nikolov - TU Sofia, Coordinator of C3BG
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimiter Prodanov, MD, PhD - Institute of Information and Communication Technologies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
- Luisa Leroy - International Business Developer, imec.istart

11:00 - 11:30 | **Coffee Break**

11:30 - 11:50 | **Keynote:** Associate Professor Costin Lianu - Prorector & General Manager USH Pro Business, Spiru Haret University, President of Wallachia eHub, President Inter-Bio

11:50 - 12:40 | Panel 2: **Digital Freedom: Europe's Path to Cyber Resilience** - organised by EDIH Trakia

Speakers:

Hristian Daskalov, PhD - Chairman of the Board at the European Digital Innovation Hub "Trakia"

12:40 - 13:20 | **Panel 3: Panel 6: Research Security in the UK & Implications for the EU**

**Topics:** UK's current approach to research security, Horizon Europe & IP protection in a globalised world

Speakers:

- Dr Nicole Searle- Goldsmiths University of London.
- Nikolay Krushkov - Assoc. Prof. Dr. at the University of National and World Economy

13:20 - 14:00 | **Lunch & Networking**

14:00 - 14:20 | **Keynote: Tech Transfer Experience – Best Practices**

Teresa Sixto Anello - Innovation and Technology Transfer Manager at iHUB – FEUGA

14:20 – 14:40 | **Keynote:** Marco Di Donato - Policy and Projects Manager - EUREGHA Secretariat

14:20 - 15:00 | **Panel 4: Horizon Europe: Empowering Research, Innovation, and Growth -** organised by National Point of Contact Network

Speakers:

- Assoc. Prof. Boyan Zhekov, PhD - National Coordinator for Bulgaria for the Horizon Europe programme at the Ministry of Education and Science
- Professor Zara Cherkezova-Zheleva - Institute of Catalysis, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, European Research Council (ERC)
- Milena Damyanova - Director of Science Directorate, Ministry of Education and Science

15:00 - 15:20 | **Coffee Break**

15:20 - 16:00 | **Panel 5: Talents, Education and Public Infrastructure – Building a Knowledge-Driven and Resilient Future / Deep Tech Talent and Innovation Ecosystems**

Speakers:

- Professor Nikola Kasabov - Chair and Founder of N3BG, Director of the Knowledge Engineering and Discovery Research Institute (KEDRI)
- Prof. Dr. Eng. George Todorov - Dean of the Faculty of Industrial Technology. Head of the Centre of Excellence at TU-Sofia.
- Christian Van Gysel - Ambassadeur Paris-Saclay, Co-Fondateur TEDxSaclay, Co-Fondateur Paris-Saclay Hardware Accelerator
- Kiril Kirilov - the Chief Operating Officer of the supercomputer Discoverer, AI Factory
- Apostolos Dimitriadis, ICS- FORTH

16:00 - 16:20 | **Keynote (TBC)**

16:20 - 17:00 | **Panel 4: Women in Tech – Inspiring Change & Breaking Barriers** (Interactive Format)

Speakers:

Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD - Rector of "Angel Kanchev" University of Ruse  
Paulina Chotrova - Women in Deep Tech - Group CEO & Founder, PSK Group

17:00 - 17:10 | **Closing Remarks**

---

## **Side events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Side event</b>	<b>Room</b>
19.06.2025	11:30 - 13:00	360-Degree Lab for Cybersecurity (WORKSHOP)	Spinoff Workshop Room, fl.2
19.06.2025	14:00 - 15:30	360-Degree Lab for Clean Tech	Spinoff Workshop Room, fl.2
19.06.2025	11:30 - 16:00	<b>Triple AI Zone</b> – A dedicated space for fun and intuitive AI prompt learning, experimenting with AI-generated content, and exploring real-world AI applications	Lobby, fl. 2
19.06.2025	11:30 - 16:00	<b>CyberTech Zone</b>	Lobby, fl. 2
19.06.2025	11:30 - 16:00	B2B Matchmaking & Collaboration Spaces	B2B Room, Fl. 2
19.06.2025	17:30 - 18:30	GATE Institute Labs Visit	Lab Complex
20.06.25	11:30 - 13:00	360-Degree Lab for Personalised Medicine (WORKSHOP)	Spinoff Workshop Room, fl.2
20.06.25	14:00 - 15:30	360-Degree Lab for AI Adoption: Balancing Economic, Technical, and Environmental Trade-Offs (WORKSHOP)	Spinoff Workshop Room, fl.2
20.06.25	11:30 - 16:00	<b>Triple AI Zone</b> – A dedicated space for fun and intuitive AI prompt learning, experimenting with AI-generated content, and exploring real-world AI applications	Lobby, fl. 2

20.06.25	11:30 - 16:00	<b>CyberTech Zone</b>	Lobby, fl. 2
20.06.25	11:30 - 14:00	B2B Matchmaking & Collaboration Spaces	B2B Room, Fl. 2