

# WOMEN TechEU



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the European Union

## FINAL EVENT

4 March 2026

Brussels

# Welcome to the Event



**Angele Giuliano**

Dissemination & Communication Leader  
AcrossLimits Managing Director

# Agenda

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**13:30** **Welcome to the Event** –  
Angele Giuliano

**13:35** **Address by Roberta Metsola,**  
**EP President** (recorded)

**13:40** **Overview of the project and its successes**  
– Teresa Hernandez

**14:00** Videos of success stories

**14:05** **Panel 1:** Women TechEU Behind the scenes

**14:35** Videos of success stories

**14:40** **Panel 2:** The Deep Tech Success Stories

**15:10** Questions from the floor (including  
internet)

**15:20** **How EIC supports early stage deep tech  
companies** – Michiel Scheffer (President  
EIC Board)

**15:30** **Coffee Break** (and exhibition of winning  
companies)

**16:00** Welcome back & Video of Success Story

**16:05** **Women TechEU in the EU policy context** –  
Elena Martines, Cabinet DG RTD

**16:20** **Distilling the learnings** – the WTEU policy  
papers – Angele Giuliano

**16:45** **Panel 3:** Wider support in EU & Associate  
countries for Women Led Businesses &  
Deep Tech

**17:15** Questions from the floor (including internet)

**17:30** Success story video

**17:35** **The Future of Women TechEU** –  
Francesca Doria (Head of Unit in EISMEA)

**17:45** **Closing remarks** – Cristina Russo,  
Deputy Director General DG RTD

**17:55** Thanks to all

**18:00** **Networking drinks** (and exhibition of  
winning companies)



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# Welcome Address (Recorded Message)



**Roberta Metsola**

President of the European Parliament



# Project Overview



**Teresa Hernández Martín**

Project Coordinator  
EIT Manufacturing West



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# WOMEN TechEU

## In Numbers

# The Meaning of Success



# 160

Winners



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# 80

Badges of Honor

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# Behind the Scenes

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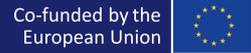
Coordinator



# 13



## Partners





# 51

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Professionals

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# 43

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Mentors



# 65

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PoS Facilitators

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# 104+4

Evaluators

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# 115

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Allies



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# 8

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EISMEA Representatives

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# 390

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Humans-in the-project

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# The Unfinished Work

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3792

Applications

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# 1

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## Personal Reflection

Thank you!

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Success Story Video:

**Naomi McGregor - MoveTru**

Call 1 Winner



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Panel 1:

# Women TechEU Behind the Scenes

**Panel 1:**

Women TechEU Behind the scenes



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**Natalia Nowinska**

EISMEA, Women TechEU Project Officer



Moderated by:

**Valeria Gasik**

Trainer



**Mary  
McKenna**

AwakenHub



**Miguel Garcia  
Gonzalez**

Sploro



**Rebecca  
Zammit**

AcrossLimits



**Antoni  
Pijoan**

EIT Manufacturing

Success Story Video:

**Lucy Lyons - Kestrix Ltd**

Call 1 Winner



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Panel 2:

# The Deep Tech Success Stories

**Panel 2:**

The Deep Tech Success Stories



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**Aneta  
Ozierańska**  
Oligofeed



**Ozlem Barut  
Selver**  
LimbuStem



**Jekaterina  
Romanova**  
PrintyMed



**Mariam  
Elgabry**  
Bronic

Moderated by:



**Anna Maria Darmanin**  
Policy Expert Acrosslimits; General Secretary European Tugowners Association

# Questions?

[including internet]

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# How the European Innovation Council supports early stage deep tech companies



**Dr. Michiel Scheffer**

President of the European  
Innovation Council (EIC) Board

# 30 min Coffee Break

[and exhibition of  
winning companies]



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# Welcome Back

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Success Story Video:

**Katarzyna Koba - SensiVR**

Call 2 Winner





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# Women TechEU in the EU policy context



## Elena Martines

Senior European Union official and  
Member of the Cabinet of Ekaterina  
Zaharieva, the European Commissioner  
for Startups, Research and Innovation

# Distilling the Learnings: The Women TechEU Policy Papers



**Angele Giuliano**

Dissemination & Communication Leader  
AcrossLimits Managing Director

**WOMEN**  
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May 2025

**The Role of Venture  
Capital in Advancing Deep  
Tech in Europe:**

Challenges, Opportunities, and  
Future Directions

Policy Paper



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February 2025

**Addressing the Deep Tech  
Gender Funding Gap:**

Toward Inclusive Innovation

Policy Paper



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February 2025

**Women TechEU: The Blueprint**

How-to build successful gender focused  
support programmes for deep tech business

Policy Paper





# Policy Paper

## 1 The Role of Venture Capital in Advancing Deep Tech in Europe: Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Directions

- Providing **long-term patient capital** to bridge the funding gap
- **Government-backed** venture capital programmes and **corporate partnerships** should be expanded
- Offering **de-risking mechanisms**, financial support, and **market access** to emerging startups.
- Introducing **R&D tax credits** and **equity-matching grants**
- Structured **co-investment frameworks** between regional development agencies and VCs





# Policy Paper

# 2

## Addressing the Deep Tech Gender Funding Gap:

Toward Inclusive Innovation

## Deep tech firms in Europe



Women take **5+**  
**months longer**

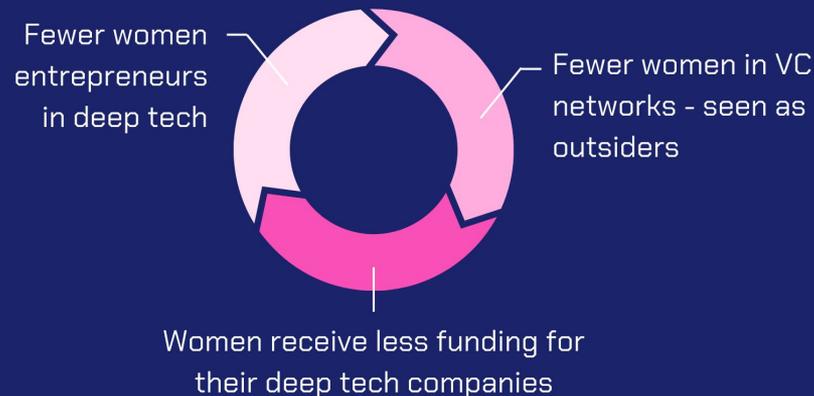
than their men counterparts  
to **secure a 1<sup>st</sup> term sheet.**

For every **1** deal  
closed by **women-led** companies,  
**men-led** companies close **3**.



## The Challenges Faced By Women When Seeking Funding

- Funding Bias
- Limited Access to Networks
- The Credibility Gap
- Structural Barriers and Societal Pressures
- Intersectional Disadvantages



## Recommendations

- Policymakers can **lead by example with public funding.**
- We need to foster an **inclusive ecosystem** from the ground up.
- Addressing the **cultural and structural barriers** requires collaboration between public and private sectors.
- **Innovation in finance** can be part of the solution.





# Policy Paper

## 3

### Women TechEU: The Blueprint

How-to build successful gender focused support programmes for deep tech business

## The Success of Women TechEU – Multiplying investment in Women-led companies

Funds raised by 3 cohorts of WTEU  
until the date of their Final Report:

- Call 1: €14,360,700
- Call 2: €14,426,009
- Call 3: €25,025,816
- **TOTAL = €53,812,525**  
(from an input of €9M)

**Multiplier = 6 !!**

€ € € € € € € € € €

€9M invested

Call 1

€ € € € € € € € € €

Call 2

€ € € € € € € € € €

Call 3

€ € € € € € € € € €

€ € € € € € € € € €

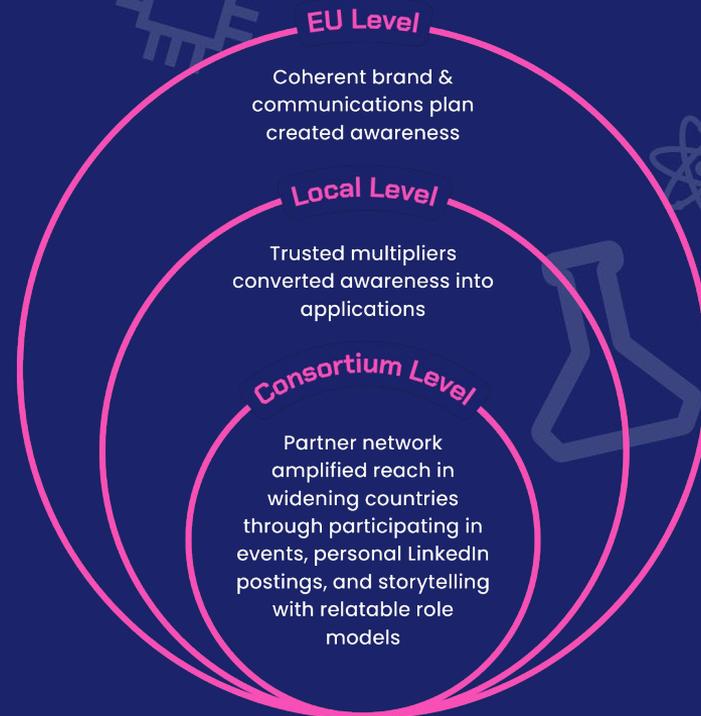
€ € € € € € € € € €

**x6**

€54M generated

## Four themes resonate across both the consortium and the beneficiaries:

- Simple guidelines, clear communications
- Easy quick applications, quick decisions
- Combo of grants & services for growth
- Increased Widening Participation through local multipliers



## Recommendations for Similar Programmes

# 1

### ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PLAYBOOK

- Two Gate intake
- Guidance assets
- Ethics clarity
- Appeals

# 2

### SERVICES AND MENTORING MODEL

- Mentor/trainers procurement
- Matching logic
- Format mix
- Alumni and chapters

# 3

### INVESTOR PATHWAYS AND BLENDED FINANCE

- Engagement timeline
- Capital stack
- Tracking

## Final Thoughts

- Download all our policy papers from our website [womentecheurope.eu](https://womentecheurope.eu)
- Send us your feedback on [policy@womentecheurope.eu](mailto:policy@womentecheurope.eu)
- Stay tuned for PP4 coming by end of May 2026

- Help us build similar programmes across Europe !



Panel 3:

# Wider support for Women Led Businesses & Deep Tech



### Panel 3:

## Wider support for Women Led Businesses & Deep Tech



**Orily Pratt**

Mentor



**Marta**

**Wysoczyńska**

EIC Coordination &  
Analytics Team Leader



**Yvette Go**

Impact Shakers



**Ana Barjasic**

Connectology CEO;  
EIC Ambassador

Moderated by:



# Questions?

[including internet]

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Success Story Video:

**Gayathri Sudhakaran - Melsonic**

Call 3 Winner



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# The Future of Women TechEU



## Francesca Doria

Head of Unit in EISMEA - the EU  
Executive Agency for the European  
Innovation Council and SMEs

# Closing Remarks



## **Maria Cristina Russo**

Deputy Director-General for  
Innovation, Prosperity and International  
Cooperation, Directorate-General  
Research & Innovation

# THANK YOU!



**Applicants**

**Winners**

**Allies**

**Evaluators  
& Mentors**

**Advisory  
Board**

# Networking Drinks

[and exhibition of winning companies]

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Thank you for your attention

 [womentecheurope.eu](https://womentecheurope.eu)  [helpdesk@womentecheurope.eu](mailto:helpdesk@womentecheurope.eu)    [womentecheu](https://womentecheu)



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