

INNOPRO 2026

Pathways to Scaling Artificial Intelligence Across Europe: Secure Innovation, Collaboration and Impact

Context and Vision

In previous editions, particularly in 2025, INNOPRO focused on digital transformation and innovation through theoretical presentations and the testing of pilot projects.

INNOPRO 2026 marks a strategic alignment with the priorities of European innovation ecosystems and Digital Innovation Hubs, focusing on strengthening regional innovation capacity in the age of Artificial Intelligence.

Our objective is to accelerate the transition from experimentation to real-world deployment, scaling, and commercialization of AI-driven solutions. This evolution brings significant challenges and opportunities, including regulatory compliance, AI adoption across value chains and business models, the transformation of innovation advisory services, intellectual property protection, cybersecurity, trustworthy AI, and sustainable competitiveness.

Day 1 – 29 October 2026

Session I: *Building the Foundations of Trustworthy AI - Policy, Infrastructure, Data Governance and Security*

09:30 – 09:50 | *Opening Remarks & Strategic Vision*

- ✓ *Aligning the INNOPRO regional innovation strategy with the European AI Continent Action Plan and key European Commission initiatives.*

Speakers

- ✓ **Cătălin Aurel Giulescu**, (President, Authority for the Digitalization of Romania (ADR) (TBC) - *Romanian policy support for EDIHs and DIHs*
- ✓ **Ines Paramo Barrera** (TWG Coordinator, DTA Representative) (TBC)
- ✓ **Andrei Nagy**, (Public Sector Sales Executive, UiPath) - *AI Governance*

09:50 – 10:30 | *Navigating the New AI Regulatory Landscape - AI Act, Data Protection and Regulatory Sandboxes*

- ✓ *Supporting SMEs in understanding and complying with European regulations.*
- ✓ *Leveraging Regulatory Sandboxes for safe experimentation and innovation.*
- ✓ *Defining protected assets (source code, AI algorithms, financial data and trade secrets) and establishing clear technology transfer boundaries.*

Moderator (TBC): *Mihaela Lafont* (DG CNECT, European Commission)

Speakers (TBC):

- ✓ Representative of Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission)
- ✓ Representative of Digital Transformation Accelerator (DTA)
- ✓ **Ana Maria Busoniu** (NCC)
- ✓ Representative of AI Office, European Commission

10:30 – 11:10 | *Connecting Regional Innovation Ecosystems to Europe's AI Infrastructure - From Local Innovation to European Networks*

- ✓ *Practical pathways for collaboration with Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEFs), AI Factories, and European Data Spaces.*

Moderator: *Costin Lianu* (Coordinator of EDIH Wallachia eHub)

Speakers (TBC):

- ✓ Representative of DG CNECT, European Commission
- ✓ Representative of ICI Bucharest
- ✓ Representative of RONCC
- ✓ Representative of TEFs
- ✓ Representative of DSSC2
- ✓ **Romanian success cases**

11:10 – 11:30 | *Coffee Break & Networking*

Session II: Scaling AI Through European Collaboration - Testing, Validation and Market Adoption

11:30 – 12:30 | *Parallel Thematic Working Groups*

Workshop 1 - Cyber Resilience in the Age of Artificial Intelligence – AI-driven cybersecurity challenges and opportunities

Moderators (TBC): *Iuliana Nichersu* (AI EDIH-AICS, Germany) and *Lea-Marie Berger* (AI EDIH Bretagne, France)

Speakers:

- ✓ **Dan Cîmpean** (General Director, DNSC)
- ✓ **Ana Maria Busoniu** (NCC-RO Coordinator)
- ✓ **Lea-Marie Berger** (EDIH Bretagne, co-chairs of the TWG Cybersecurity)
- ✓ Representatives of national cybersecurity authorities across Europe (NCC-IT/ACN, NCC-ES/INCIBE, NCC-BE/CCB, NCC-LU/LHC, and NCC-PL/NASK).
- ✓ **Romanian success cases**

Workshop 2 - AI for Sustainable Agrifood Systems - Scaling AI solutions for the green and digital transition in agriculture and food production

Moderator: *Costin Lianu* (Coordinator of EDIH Wallachia eHub)

Speakers:

- ✓ Co-chairs of the Agrifood TWG

- ✓ **Ioannis Amarantidis** (Senior Project Manager, DigiAgriFood EDIH / DUTH)
- ✓ **Marcel Ionescu** (Founder & CEO, AgriCloud | President, Romanian Association for Precision Agriculture)
- ✓ **Alexandru Lavu** (Agronomic Digital Solutions Portfolio Manager, Black Sea Region, Syngenta) (TBC)
- ✓ **Viorel Marin** (President of DIH and association ANAMOB)
- ✓ **Romanian success cases**

Workshop 3 - Transforming Healthcare Through Artificial Intelligence - AI adoption in medicine, diagnostics and healthcare innovation

Moderator: Sanziana Miu (Resident Physician, Manager Ana Superkids)

Speakers:

- ✓ Representative of Department for Digital Transformation, Romanian Ministry of Health
- ✓ **Stephen Barnes** (Senior Project Manager / XR Lab Manager Walton Institute, South East Technological University Ireland)
- ✓ **DTA Representative:** Ines Paramo Barrera – TWG Coordinator (TBC)
- ✓ **Romanian success cases**

Workshop 4 - Dual-Use Technologies and the AI Revolution - How artificial intelligence is reshaping civil and defence markets

Moderator: Cosmin Lianu (Manager of Dual-Use Cluster)

Speakers:

- ✓ **Ambroise Godard** (EDEN Cluster / European Interclustering for Defense and Security) (TBC)
- ✓ **Luca Frusone** (Managing Partner LARAN BUSINESS, expert in writing EDF projects)
- ✓ **Viorel Manole** (Executive Director, PATROMIL – Romanian Defence Industry Associationn)
- ✓ **Iulian Bălțeanu** (CN ROMARM S.A.)
- ✓ **George V. Scripcariu** (BlackForge)
- ✓ **Dr. Eng. Adrian-Victor Vevera** (General Director of ICI Bucharest)

Workshop 5 - Smart Communities Powered by AI - Applications in tourism, construction, logistics and urban development

Moderator: Irina Gabriela Radulescu (EDIH WEH Executive Board Member, Manager of Danube Engineering Hub Cluster)

Speakers:

- ✓ Representative of Authority for the Digitalization of Romania (ADR)
- ✓ **Miroslav Scheiner** (Ministerial Envoy for Smart Cities, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic | Lead Coordinator, PilotInnCities)
- ✓ **Rodica Lupu** (Manager of TEC Cluster)
- ✓ **Yiannis K. Giannarakis** (Coordinator of GR DigiGOV EDIH) (TBC)

- ✓ **Lia Olguța Vasilescu** (President of the Romanian Association of Municipalities - AMR) (TBC)
- ✓ **Romanian success cases**

12:30 – 14:00 | *Networking Lunch*

Session III: Excellence, Impact and the Future of AI Innovation - Building Europe's Next Generation Innovation Ecosystem

14:00 – 14:40 | *Financing AI Scale-Up and Innovation Growth - Funding instruments, investment opportunities and support mechanisms for AI deployment*

Moderator: *Emanuela Modoran* (EDIH WEH Executive Board Member)

Speakers:

- ✓ Representative of Fundingbox
- ✓ **Ana Maria Paraschiv** (Project Manager, Unbox Management Solutions)
- ✓ Representative of MSP
- ✓ Representative of BCR/Banca Transilvania

14:40 – 15:10 | *From Innovation Hubs to AI Experience Centers – EDIH Excellence and Best Practices Across Europe*

- ✓ *The New Role of EDIHs:* From Test Before Invest and digital maturity services to AI experimentation, deployment and trusted adoption of Generative and Agentic AI.
- ✓ *European Best Practices:* Successful digital and AI transformation journeys from leading EDIHs, demonstrating measurable impact for SMEs, public administrations and regional innovation ecosystems.
- ✓ *Cross-Border Collaboration:* How EDIHs can connect regional capabilities, infrastructures and expertise to accelerate AI adoption across Europe.
- ✓ *Interactive AI Demonstration:* A live Agentic AI workflow, illustrating how an autonomous AI agent can process administrative or business data securely and transparently, with attention to EU AI Act requirements.
- ✓ *Green AI by Design – Spotlight Discussion:* How can Europe scale AI without scaling its environmental footprint?

Moderator: *Costin Lianu* (Coordinator of EDIH Wallachia eHub)

Speakers:

- ✓ Representatives of European EDIHs

15:30 – 17:00 | *Innovation Matchmaking - One-to-One Meetings for Partnerships, Projects and Investment Opportunities*

Day 2 – 30 October 2026

9.00 – 13.00 | *AI in Action - Infrastructure, Entrepreneurship and Real-World Adoption*

Option 1: Visit to UiPath

- ✓ Participants will explore the future of operational efficiency through live demonstrations of agentic AI and advanced automation technologies directly at UiPath's headquarters.

Option 2: Forbes 30 Under 30 Forum - The Next Generation of AI Entrepreneurs and Innovators

- ✓ Fireside discussions with Forbes 30 Under 30 alumni, founders, investors, and technology leaders. Exploring pathways from innovation to scale-up, internationalization, and investment readiness while connecting young innovators with European ecosystems.

Option 3: AI in Action: Field Visits and Ecosystem Networking. Digitalization of the Agrifood Sector, Test before Invest through TEF Agrifood

- ✓ Visit to **INDAGRA Fair** exploring practical applications of digital technologies and AI in agriculture, meeting clients, stakeholders, and developing cross-border projects under the Test before Invest through TEF Agrifood framework.
- ✓ Workshop on transition and new agrifood business models
- ✓ Matching with participants

Option 4: European AI Infrastructure in Practice - Visit to the AI Factory at ICI Bucharest

- ✓ Demonstrating advanced AI capabilities, computing infrastructure, and applied innovation support services linked to the national BSC AI Factory Project pipeline.

Option 5: Cybersecurity and Digital Resilience - National Coordination Centre (NCC) Special Event

- ✓ Special session on advanced threat protection, infrastructure resilience, and secure AI deployment frameworks.

Option 6: Strengthening European Collaboration - Networking through Romanian Clusters and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)

- ✓ Facilitating international partnerships, technology transfer, and international market expansion.