

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.*
- ✓ *Introducing the Summit, organizers and sponsors*
Supertree Concept – Gianina Craciun

Speakers

- ✓ **Cătălin Aurel Giulescu** - President, Authority for the Digitalization of Romania (ADR)
Romanian policy support for EDIHs and DIHs
- ✓ **Dragoș Pîslaru** - Minister of Investments and European Projects
- ✓ **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.*

Speakers:

- ✓ **Mihaela Lafont** - DG CNECT, European Commission
- ✓ Representative of Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission)
- ✓ **Ana Maria Busoniu** – Coordinator NCC
- ✓ **Ion Vaciu** - President of Digital Transformation (DX) Council
- ✓ **Costel Gilca (TBC)**
- ✓ 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
- ✓ **George Robev** - Chairman of the Board, Strategic Center of Artificial Intelligence – SCAI

Conceptual model for cooperation between EDIH's and EU AI Factories

- ✓ **Alexandru Soare** – Manager, Integrisoft
- ✓ **Dr. Eng. Adrian-Victor Vevera** - General Director of ICI Bucharest
- ✓ **Dragoş Barbu** - Technical coordinator, BSC AI Factory and RO AI Factory
- ✓ Representative of RONCC
- ✓ Representative of TEFs
- ✓ Representative of DSSC2

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*

Moderator: Cosmin Macaneata - CEO of Omega Trust

Speakers:

- ✓ **Dan Cîmpean** - General Director, DNSC

- ✓ **Ana Maria Busoniu** - NCC-RO Coordinator
- ✓ **Iuliana Nichersu** - AI EDIH-AICS, EDIH TWG Secretariat
- ✓ 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:

- ✓ **Stephen Barnes** - Co-chair of the Agrifood TWG
- ✓ **George Robev** - Chairman of the Board, Strategic Center of Artificial Intelligence – SCAI
Computer vision for precise and carbon-decreased AI driven agriculture process.
- ✓ **Elena Mateescu** – General Director, National Meteorological Administration
Agrometeorological Extremes in 2026 and Their Impact on Agriculture in Romania: Challenges and Solutions
- ✓ **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**
 - **Costin Lianu** - Digital transformation and Living Labs. The case of IH Bio Danubius

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**
 - **Anca Miu** (General Director) - *A Digital Transformation Success Story: Ploiești Pediatric Hospital*

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
- ✓ **Victor Frimu-Pascu** - CEO, AiPathPro Solution
 - *Hyperion SentinelAI – From CCTV to Intelligent Loss Prevention: Building AI that understands behavior in retail*
- ✓ **Iulian Bălțeanu** - CN ROMARM S.A.
- ✓ **George V. Scripcariu** - BlackForge
- ✓ **Dr. Eng. Adrian-Victor Vevera** - General Director of ICI Bucharest
- ✓ **Romanian success cases**
 - **Anatol Oprea** - CEO, T2
 - **Mihai Gradinaru** - Founder, PeachART

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:

- ✓ **Tomasz Samul** - SpinLab - The Venture Accelerator
Scaling CEE AI Startups: From PropTech to Smart Infrastructure and Urban Logistics
- ✓ **Miroslav Scheiner** - Ministerial Envoy for Smart Cities, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic | Lead Coordinator, PilotInnCities
- ✓ **Ovidiu Finta** - Manager of Art and Resturo
Digital transformation in heritage business
- ✓ **Prof. PhD Florin Baltaretu**, UTCB
- ✓ **Rodica Lupu** - Manager of TEC Cluster
- ✓ **Prof. habil. PhD Catalin Popescu** – Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiesti
Smart Universities for Smart Communities: Responsible and Ethical AI in Higher Education
- ✓ **Yiannis K. Giannarakis** - Coordinator of GR DigiGOV EDIH (TBC)
- ✓ **Lia Olguța Vasilescu** - President of the Romanian Association of Municipalities - AMR (TBC)
- ✓ **Romanian success cases**
 - **Robert Popa** - CEO, Geseidl
 - **Alexandru Andrei Petrescu** - CEO, TOBC

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
- ✓ *Roxana Lupașcu* – Măgurele Science Park

From Innovation to Impact: Unlocking EEN2EIC Synergies for Regional Growth. Case Study: Connecting EEN and EIC support to help innovative companies access funding, partnerships, investment, and scaling opportunities, while strengthening regional innovation ecosystems

- ✓ *Ana Dumitrescu* - Procurement Performance
- ✓ Representative of BCR/Banca Transilvania

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

- ✓ *Building cross-border innovation partnerships and soft-landing opportunities.*
- ✓ *Facilitating connections with investors, corporates, and innovation ecosystems.*

Moderator: *Costin Lianu* - Coordinator of EDIH Wallachia eHub

Speakers:

- ✓ *Tomasz Samul* - Business Developer CEE, SpinLab
"Bridging CEE & DACH: Practical Pathways for Cross-Border Startup Expansion, Corporate Venturing, and Investor Matchmaking"
- ✓ *Smita Singh* – AI Expert, Humboldt University
"From AI Training to Everyday Practice: Keeping People in Control"
- ✓ *Alexandru Bobe* – President, RODIH Association and Coordinator of EDIH CiTyInnoHub
- ✓ Representatives of European EDIHs
DIH Moldova, EDIH Saxony, EDIH Bretagne, EDEN Cluster

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: Extreme Light Infrastructure – Exploring Europe's World-Class Research Infrastructure

- ✓ Visit to the Extreme Light Infrastructure – Nuclear Physics (ELI-NP), one of the world's most advanced research facilities in high-power lasers and photonuclear physics, showcasing cutting-edge technologies and opportunities for research-industry collaboration and innovation.

Option 6: Cybersecurity and Digital Resilience - National Coordination Centre (NCC) Special Event

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

Option 7: Strengthening European Collaboration - Networking through Romanian Clusters and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)

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

Registration link:

<https://146794337.hs-sites-eu1.com/innopro-2026-ai-digital-innovation-summit-supertree>

WEH2.0 contributes to accelerating digital transformation by connecting SMEs and organizations with expertise, technologies and opportunities for innovation.

More information about the WEH2.0 project: www.wallachiaehub.ro

The INNOPRO 2026 Summit is organized within the framework of the Wallachia eHub 2.0 (WEH2.0) project, implemented by the Wallachia eHub consortium.

