



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: EU Next Generation Innovators Summit Slovenia & Investment Conference
(Ljubljana, 26-27 October 2021)
Information from the Presidency

Delegations will find attached a Presidency note on EU Next Generation Innovators Summit Slovenia & Investment Conference (Ljubljana, 26-27 October 2021) with a view to the meeting of the Competitiveness Council on 25 November 2021.

**INFORMATION ON THE PRESIDENCY EVENT EU NEXT GENERATION
INNOVATORS SUMMIT SLOVENIA & INVESTMENT CONFERENCE – Presidency
background note**

Introduction

The EU's research, innovation and new deep tech ventures have an important role to play in the EU's post-COVID-19 economic recovery.

In particular, it is necessary to foster innovation in the EU tech ecosystem and provide better access to financing at all stages of business development.

About the event

The Presidency Event “Next Round.eu” (Summit and Investment conference) took place on **26 and 27 October 2021 as a hybrid meeting that enabled a physical presence in Ljubljana and the participation online**. It was organized by the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology together with the European Commission, the Slovene Enterprise Fund, ABC Accelerator and CEED Slovenia.

The main objective of the event was to **bring together the eminent representatives of EU institutions, Member States, the venture capital investment community, start-ups and scale-ups** to assess the current situation and discuss critical implementation challenges in order to make the EU the world’s most successful start-up and scale-up ecosystem.

The event represented the **continuation of the discussion at EU level and in Member States** and was based on different EU and national strategic documents for start-ups and scale-ups.

The conclusions

Building a circular, creative and smart future is the right way forward and **start-ups and scale-ups are one of the key players** to achieve this goal.

The path to recovery must therefore include **measures to boost investment**, in particular in research and development, the green economy, digitalisation and the use of new technologies, deep tech and innovation.

The proposed “**traffic light**” is a valuable tool that provides for benchmarks, best practices and a compass to accelerate the implementation of relevant policies and programmes at EU and national level in the following five main categories:

- Access to finance
- Talent activation and mobility
- Encouraging deep tech
- Collaboration with corporates
- Legislation, taxes and access to information.

The Presidency is of the opinion that this event represents a good basis to continue addressing challenges and opportunities for start-ups and scale-ups, to consider the methodological upgrade of the “traffic light” for further analysis at EU level as well as for further efforts – including new initiatives by the Commission to promote innovation - to ensure the best enabling conditions for start-ups and scale-ups to operate and grow within the EU.

More info: <https://www.nextround.eu/>