

PRESS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE

Croatian angel investing ecosystem: the launch of CBAN – the Croatian Business Angels Network

Zagreb, Croatia

February 2025 – The official launch of the [Croatian Business Angels Network \(CBAN\)](#) opens a new chapter in the region's innovation ecosystem and promises to create a dynamic environment aimed at boosting early-stage investment and supporting technology startups across Croatia and the broader Southeast Europe (SEE) region.

Formally established in February 2025, CBAN brings renewed energy to the local investment landscape. The network is led by [Mihovil Barančić](#), a veteran investor and long-time advocate for innovation in the region. He is joined by a team of dedicated founding members, including [Renata Brkic](#) and [Mirna Marovic](#), both recognised for their leadership in the Croatian startup ecosystem and their efforts to advance gender diversity in angel investing. Brkic also serves on CBAN's Management Board.

Over the past decade, Croatia has emerged as a vibrant hub for tech entrepreneurship, thanks to its strategic location, skilled talent pool, and supportive policy environment. Yet, challenges remain—particularly in accessing early-stage capital, expanding the pool of experienced angel investors, and encouraging greater inclusion within investment communities.

CBAN is designed to address these gaps head-on. By offering mentorship, resources, and networking opportunities, the network aims to support both investors and entrepreneurs, while positioning Croatia as a key player in the SEE startup ecosystem.

ESIL, the Early Stage Investing Launchpad, is proud to see its community members and alumni at the forefront of this initiative. With 12 members already on board, CBAN is poised to become a cornerstone of angel investing in the region.

Highlighting the broader impact, **Reginald Vossen president at BAE and CEO at BAN Flanders**, remarked:

"Even if the full credit for the establishment of this new angel network belongs to the founders, as ESIL-ArchAngel for Croatia and president of BAE, I am very happy that we may have been able to spark the start of this network with the ESIL programme in Croatia. During my visits to Zagreb, I got to know Mihovil, Mirna and Renata as very inspiring figures in the angel scene, and I wish them all the success on their way to the first deals in their young network. Of course, as the ESIL team, we stand by them with all our resources and support in the coming months and years."

Adding her perspective, **Renata Brkic member of the CBAN Management Board** stated:

"With CBAN, we're building a strong and active community of business angels ready to support the next generation of tech entrepreneurs from Croatia and the wider SEE region. Our goal is to connect capital with innovation, while creating opportunities for diverse and emerging investors to take a part in shaping the future."



Funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or EISMEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

CBAN's formation reflects the broader momentum generated by initiatives like ESIL, which continues to promote diversity, inclusivity, and regional growth in angel investing across Europe.

Learn more and get involved: <https://cban.eu/>

Interested in joining the movement?

Whether you're a prospective angel investor or a startup seeking funding in Croatia or the SEE region, CBAN invites you to connect. In addition to investment opportunities, ESIL will soon launch a dedicated training course (MOOC), hands-on workshops, and community events to support new investors and entrepreneurs.

About ESIL, The Next Gen of Angels

ESIL is dedicated to boosting Europe's innovative ecosystems through the creation of a thriving, connected and diverse angel investment community across all the countries of Europe, whilst strengthening those markets where angel investment may still be lagging behind.

ESIL is supported by funding from the European Union through the European Innovation Council and SME Executive Agency EISMEA. ESIL will be delivered by a consortium of highly experienced ecosystem players, deeply embedded in European investment and innovation ecosystems, composed of [META Group](#), [BAE](#) and [Bpifrance](#).

Join the ESIL community on EuroQuity to stay connected with the latest updates and news. Follow [ESIL on LinkedIn](#), [X](#), and [YouTube](#).

Keywords

- Business Angels networking
- Angel investment
- Croatia
- Early-Stage Investment
- Croatian Business Angels Network

Website: <https://www.europeanesil.eu/>

Contact

Lorenzo Valeriani
Operation Manager,
META Group
l.valeriani@meta-group.com

Reginald Vossen
President, BAE
r.vossen@ban.be

Aileen Mena
Communication Manager,
Bpifrance – EuroQuity
af.menacortesei@ext.bpifrance.fr



Funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or EISMEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.