

PRESS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER

ESIL Annual Event calls for early collaboration of Angels and Deep Tech teams and a Pan-European co-investment mechanism for cross border investment

Europe's business angel and innovation community has called for the development of a capacity building scheme for Angels and Deeptech teams collaboration and for the creation of pan-European co-financing schemes with stronger cross-border investment mechanisms, following the ESIL Annual Event: Business Angels and Deeptech, held on 2–3 December 2025 at the European Commission's Covent Garden Building in Brussels.

Organised by the consortium of partners under the EU-funded initiative “ESIL - Next Gen of Angels”, the two-day event gathered business angels, innovation actors, policymakers, national promotional banks, and representatives of the European Innovation Council (EIC) to address Europe's deeptech financing gap and strengthen early-stage investment pathways.

A clear message from the ecosystem

Discussions across high-level panels and solution-oriented workshops highlighted a shared conclusion: **national co-investment schemes must be scaled and better aligned at pan-European level** to unlock capital mobility, empower cross-border angel syndication, and support the growth of deeptech startups beyond their home markets.

While national co-investment instruments have proven effective, participants stressed that fragmentation across countries continues to limit scale and impact. ESIL therefore calls for **coordinated European co-financing instruments**, aligned with existing EU tools such as the EIC and Structural Funds, to create a seamless investment continuum from research to scale-up.

Earlier involvement of business angels in research projects will accelerate their venture building and support their access to the market. This approach could make Europe more competitive and accelerate innovations.

Showcasing several local initiatives confirmed **the importance of diversity and inclusion in enhancing investment decisions, improving support for early-stage founders, and strengthening innovation ecosystems in Europe.**

Strengthening Europe's deeptech pipeline

With nearly **100 participants** on site and with balanced participation, the event demonstrated high interest in the topics about angel investments from all genders and confirmed one of the main objectives of the initiative – the Next Gen of angels is more diverse and inclusive. The ESIL Annual Event also focused on how **business angels and innovation actors can jointly bridge the gap between scientific excellence and market success**, particularly in capital-intensive deeptech sectors such as biotech, medtech, AI, quantum, defence, and sustainable technologies.

Key takeaways from the event confirmed that:

- Early engagement of business angels improves investment readiness through “smart capital”, mentorship, and strategic guidance.



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.

- Cross-border syndication is essential to provide sufficient funding, sector expertise, and follow-on investment.
- Pan-European co-investment funds can significantly reduce risk and accelerate scale-up for angel-backed startups.

Key recommendations from the event

Speakers, participants and experts during high-level discussions and open-floor workshops agreed on the need to:

- Design and scale **pan-European co-investment and fund-of-funds structures** accessible to business angels
- Strengthen **cross-border collaboration** between angels, innovation actors, and public funding bodies.
- Align EU and national instruments to ensure **clear pathways from research to market**.
- Build capacity in emerging ecosystems through **targeted pre-accelerator and mentoring programmes**.

Looking ahead

The event reinforced ESIL's role as a platform connecting **business angels, innovation actors, and European institutions**, translating ecosystem insights into actionable recommendations.

The message from Brussels was clear: **Europe's deeptech ambitions require shared investment tools and stronger cross-border cooperation**. Pan-European co-financing schemes are a critical next step to transform Europe's innovation potential into globally competitive companies.

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
- Angel Investment
- Innovation Ecosystem
- Early-Stage Investment
- Research & Innovation



- Access to market
- European Competitiveness
- Cross-border cooperation

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

Contact

Lorenzo Valeriani

Operation Manager,
META Group

l.valeriani@meta-group.com

Reginald Vossen

President, BAE

reginald.vossen@businessangelseurope.com

Aileen Mena

Communication Manager,
Bpifrance – EuroQuity

af.menacortesei@ext.bpifrance.fr

