



Strengthening life-sciences innovation across Europe EU-Innovation Network conference

Clayton Hotel Burlington Road, Dublin
21 November 2023



Background

In line with strategic goals set out in [European medicines agencies network strategy to 2025](#) and [Regulatory Science Strategy to 2025](#), the [EU Innovation Network \(EU-IN\)](#) is organising a conference hosted by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) with European incubators and technology transfer offices (TTOs). The main purpose of the conference is to power and support translation of innovative biopharmaceutical and medical technology developments.

Incubators and TTOs play a key role in the innovation ecosystem acting as enablers for academic researchers, small and medium size enterprises, universities, hospitals and non-profit research organisations.

This conference supports the [New European Innovation Agenda and Roadmap](#) on 'Engaging with innovation emerging from Innovation Ecosystems across the EU' by enabling knowledge exchange on disruptive developments and new technologies to enhance regulatory readiness in terms of expertise and regulatory standards.

As set out in the [EU-Innovation Network Workplan 2023](#), the objectives of the conference are to enable and support early translation of innovation by:

- Increasing awareness on EU's scientific and regulatory advice toolbox and EU funding opportunities available to innovative developers;
- Promoting the support by incubators and TTOs to innovative developers;
- Identifying innovative developments in priority areas to contribute to the EU, European Medicines Agency and EU regulatory network readiness;
- Facilitating dialogue and promoting collaborations between innovative developers, incubators, TTOs, funders and regulators;
- Accelerating and strengthening European innovation ecosystems across the EU.

Target audience

Incubators, TTOs, small and medium size enterprises (SMEs), academic researchers, universities, hospitals, non-profit research organisations, funding bodies, and regulators.

09:00	Welcome and opening address	
	Welcome and opening address	15'
	<i>Lorraine Nolan (HPRA, Ireland) and Tony Humphreys (EMA)</i>	
09:15	Session 1: European medicine agencies network	
	<i>Chairs: Rita Purcell (HPRA) and Falk Ehmann (EMA)</i>	
	National Medicines Agencies support to innovative developers	20'
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation offices at national competent authorities • Simultaneous national scientific advice • Support to clinical trials • Support to research on the development and regulation of medicines 	
	<i>Laurence O'Dwyer (HPRA)</i>	
	EMA support to innovative developers	20'
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to SMEs¹ • Support to Academia² • Early support to innovation³ • Scientific advice⁴ • PRIME: priority medicines⁵ 	
	<i>Oriane Blanquie (EMA) / Valentina Cordò (EMA)</i>	
	Q&A on European network support activities	20'
10:15	Coffee break	
		15'
10:30	Session 2: Incubators and Technology Transfer Offices	
	<i>Chair: Simona Jurkovic Mlakar (JAZMP, Slovenia) and Esa Heinonen (FIMEA, Finland)</i>	
	Enterprise Ireland	15'
	<i>Eithne McShane (Enterprise Ireland, Dublin, Ireland)</i>	
	University of Zurich Innovation Hub	15'
	<i>Deana Mohr (MUVON Therapeutics AG, Zurich, Switzerland)</i>	
	iPEPS and Eurasanté	30'
	<i>Paul Sarret (iPEPS, Paris, France)</i>	
	<i>Dorothee Gueras Tricart (Eurasanté, Lille, France)</i>	
	Granada Health Technology Park Foundation	15'
	<i>Lourdes Nuñez Muller (PTS Granada, Granada, Spain)</i>	
	Q&A	30'
	<i>All speakers</i>	

¹ <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/overview/support-smes>

² <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/partners-networks/academia>

³ <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/research-development/innovation-medicines>

⁴ <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/research-development/scientific-advice-protocol-assistance>

⁵ <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/research-development/prime-priority-medicines>

12:15	Lunch	60'
13:15	Session 3: Incubators and Technology Transfer Offices	
	<i>Chair: Anna Mäkinen Salmi (MPA, Sweden) and Eleonora Agricola (AIFA, Italy)</i>	
	Biocatalyst foundation <i>Andrii Shekhirev (Biocatalyst Foundation, Riga, Latvia)</i>	15'
	European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) <i>Menno Kok (EIT Benelux)</i>	15'
	Bio4Dreams <i>Luigi Azzarone (Bio4Dreams, Milan, Italy)</i>	15'
	Ghent University Industry Research Fund model <i>Dominic De Grootte (Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium)</i>	15'
	Q&A <i>All speakers</i>	30'
14:45	Coffee break	15'
15:00	Session 4: Q&A and panel discussion	
	<i>Chair: Tony Humphreys (EMA)</i>	
	Round table with stakeholder representatives Panellists: <i>Cornelius Schmaltz (European Innovation Council Accelerator)</i> <i>Laura Jansen (HERA Invest, European Commission)</i> <i>Aoife Gallagher (Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland)</i> <i>Carles Domènech (Ability Pharma, Spain)</i>	45'
15:45	Closing remarks	
	Wrap up <i>Laurence O'Dwyer (HPRA)</i> <i>Falk Ehmann (EMA)</i>	15'