

Ljubljana, 11 October 2021

***IT IS TIME FOR NEXTROUND.EU –
LET'S BUILD THE ENTREPRENEURIAL FUTURE OF EU UNICORNS TOGETHER***
INVITATION

On behalf of the Slovenian Presidency of the Council EU, it is our distinct pleasure to invite you to the:

Next Round.eu - EU Next Generation Innovators Summit Slovenia & Investment Conference (<https://www.nextround.eu/>),

which will **take place in hybrid form**

on October 26th/27th

in Ljubljana, Crystal Palace, BTC Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Following the success of the previous high-level discussion organized by Portuguese and French colleagues, Slovenian presidency of the Council EU would like to keep the momentum and bring once again together national and EU leaders, innovators, and investors.

Slovenian Presidency firmly believes that now, more than ever, we have to step together and make concrete steps in delivering commitments to make Europe the Global Powerhouse in innovation and entrepreneurship. In the post COVID-19 period, the Europe's future lies in disruptive technologies based on science and deep tech, that has to have sufficient access to finance at all stages of business development.

The main objective of the NextRound.eu is to identify the main implementation challenges the deep tech start-ups and scale-ups are facing at the national and EU level and based on this propose concrete policy solutions and interventions to the Member States and the European Commission. The goal of the two-day event is to not to re-discuss what has been already said, but to make a step forward.

Next Round.eu is divided into two parts:

Next Round - The EU Next Generation Innovators Summit (day 1) - *The first day will be organized as a high-level policy discussion and thematic panels, on which Mariya Gabriel - European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, and Education will join us. The discussion will be dedicated to the EU Next Generation Innovators Summit where EU and national leaders will discuss how the start-up and scale-up ecosystem can support key EU agendas. The basis for the Summit discussions will be the so called "Traffic Light" – a mapping tool developed by the Slovenian Presidency which will establish a benchmark across the EU Member States with regard to the implementation progress on measures in the five priority*

areas: (1) Access to finance, (2) Talent activation and mobility, (3) Encouraging deeptech, (4) Collaboration with corporates (5) Legislation and taxes and access to information. The Traffic light will be showcased at the Summit and could serve as an input for developing future interventions at the national and EU level, such as a EU programme, EU action or EU policy that could solve the challenges addressed and deliver the expected impact.

Next Round - The investment conference additionally addressing funding issues in Europe (day 2) - The second day will be a premier investors' event, attracting and aggregating investor in potential of 2 billion+ euros. We will match the most investable start-ups and scale-ups from Europe with the best investors in the seed, angel, or scale-up stages. At the conference there will be more than 300 meeting slots reserved for making deals happen.

The intention of the Slovenian presidency is to conclude the event with a concrete result – e. g. a roadmap, that will articulate major steps and milestones on how to bring the EU institutions, national governments, VC community and innovators better together to push the EU transformation forward to become a Global powerhouse for Next Generation startups and scaleups. The conference will gather the European Commission, policy makers, investors, innovation leaders, scale-ups, start-ups, and innovators from all over Europe.

The gathering is organised by the Ministry of Economic development and Technology and the Slovene Enterprise Fund, in collaboration with ABC Accelerator and CEED Slovenia, and with the support of the European Commission.

More information, a final programme for the event, registration as well as logistical details/virtual connection can be found at <https://www.nextround.eu/>.

We are looking forward to meeting you in person in Ljubljana, or, since NextRound.eu has been organised as a hybrid event, alternatively meeting you online if new COVID-19 restrictions are in place.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the Slovenian Government

Maja Tomanič Vidovič

Slovene Enterprise Fund

Director



Simon Zajc

Ministry of Economic development and
Technology

State Secretary

