



‘What has always made Europe stand out is its incredible human capital. At the heart of Europe’s competitiveness agenda must now be unlocking that potential at scale.’

— John Collison, co-founder and president of Stripe, speaking at the **Scaling Europe Summit**

What Startups Can Do for Europe	1
AI: Turning Safety Principles into Practice	2
Copyright Regulation in the Age of AI	2
Data Protection and Competitiveness	2
Walking the Talk: From Research to Results	3
News and Outreach	4
Upcoming	4

In April 2025, the Lisbon Council announced with deep sorrow the passing of its esteemed co-founder and president, Paul Hofheinz. The Lisbon Council remains committed to the values he championed and the standards he so boldly held. Paul was a giant. While he cannot be replaced, the Board has appointed Director of Research David Osimo as the new executive director and Tjark de Lange, treasurer and co-founder of the Lisbon Council, as president to uphold Paul’s vision. [Read Passing of Co-Founder and President Paul Hofheinz](#)

## What Startups Can Do for Europe: What Europe Can Do for Startups

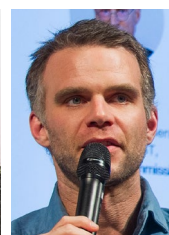
For too long, Europe’s regulatory attitude toward startups could be summed up in the words of U2: *With or Without You*, with entrepreneurs leaving rather than scaling their ideas within the continent. But what would it take for entrepreneurs to stay in Europe? What potential is there for European competitiveness? To answer this question, the Lisbon Council teamed up with Stripe Inc. to convene the [Scaling Europe Summit: How Startups and Scaleups Can Grow a Competitive Online Economy](#), an invite-only gathering of 180 entrepreneurs, policymakers and analysts. The forum provided experience-driven insights to shift the mindset from one of resilience to one of ambition. Against this background, the Summit served as the launch of *When Europe Scales: How Startups and Scaleups Can Drive European Competitiveness and Why Good Regulation Is More Important than Ever*, a policy brief by Lisbon Council Research offering concrete policy recommendations to grow the European startup and scaleup ecosystem by focusing on a scaleup-centric single market,



Gabriel Hubert



Aura Salla



Fredrik Hjelm



Amaryllis Verhoeven



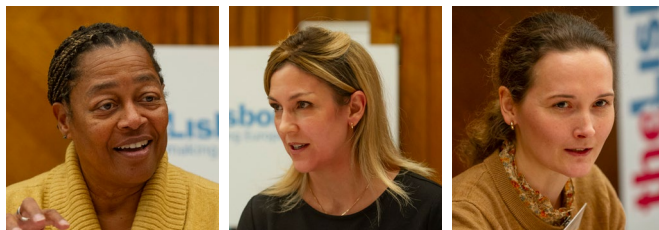
András Inotai

a unique talent hub and digital-native regulation. John Collison, co-founder and president of Stripe, shared lessons on Stripe’s rise and offered his thoughts on policies to grow the European online economy. Gabriel Hubert, co-founder and CEO, Dust; Fredrik Hjelm, co-founder and CEO, Voi Technology; András Inotai, acting head, taskforce on startups and scaleups, European Commission; Aura Salla, member of the European Parliament (European People’s Party – Finland); and Amaryllis Verhoeven, head of unit for digital transformation of industry, directorate-general for internal market, industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission, took part. [Download When Europe Scales](#).

‘Ensuring consistency and compliance between existing health and artificial intelligence regulation is paramount. This requires translating well-intentioned ethical principles into effective practice.’

— **Mimmi Gersbro-Sundler**, vice president, clinical data and artificial intelligence governance, Novo Nordisk, at the **High-Level Roundtable on AI Safety in Practice**

## Artificial Intelligence: Turning Safety Principles into Practice



Nikki Pope

Mimmi Gersbro-Sundler

Katinka Worsøe

It's easy to agree on the general safety objectives for artificial intelligence (AI). What is difficult is to turn them into

practical solutions without compromising the exceptional opportunities they offer. The Lisbon Council convened [AI Safety in Practice: What Can Pioneering Sectors Teach Us About Safe AI Innovation?](#), a high-level roundtable to dive deep into positive experiences for safe, ethical AI. Nikki Pope, head of AI and legal ethics at Nvidia Corporation, flew in from California to share global best practices. She was joined by Mimmi Gersbro-Sundler, vice president, clinical data and artificial intelligence governance, Novo Nordisk; and Katinka Worsøe, attaché for digitalisation, Permanent Representation of Denmark to the European Union.

## Building Dialogue, Bridging Gaps: Getting Copyright Regulation Right in the Age of AI



João Pedro Quintais

Antoine Aubert

Caroline De Cock

Kilian Gross

Alexander Peukert

As the European Commission finalises the AI code of practice and gears up for a 2026 review of the directive on copyright in the digital single market, the Lisbon Council convened the [High-Level Working Lunch on Copyright in the Age of Generative Artificial Intelligence: How to Strike the Balance Between Innovation, Creativity and Territoriality](#). At the lunch, Professor João Pedro Quintais from the Institute

for Information Law at the University of Amsterdam presented *Copyright, the AI Act and Extraterritoriality*, a policy brief by the Lisbon Council offering a legally grounded overview of copyright issues across the AI lifecycle and analysing how the European AI act interacts with copyright law. Antoine Aubert, digital specialist, intellectual property, European Union Intellectual Property Office; Caroline De Cock, coordinator, Coalition4Creativity; Kilian Gross, head of unit, artificial intelligence regulation and compliance, artificial intelligence office, European Commission; and Alexander Peukert, professor and chair, code of practice and copyright, Goethe University, took part. [Download Copyright, the AI Act and Extraterritoriality](#)

## A Future To Trust: Data Protection and Competitiveness



Keerat Sharma

Maria-Myrto Kanellopoulou

Maryant Fernández Pérez

Elizabeth Reid

Dragoș Tudorache

Personalised advertising offers clear benefits in terms of convenience for consumers and growth for businesses but raises concerns over consumers' data and rights. With the digital fairness act on the horizon, the Lisbon Council convened the [High-Level Working Lunch: Europe's Competitiveness and Digital Advertising: Balancing Opportunities and Risks](#), a forum to discuss how Europe

can protect consumers while supporting a competitive digital economy. Among the key presenters were Keerat Sharma, vice-president of ads privacy and safety, Google; Maria-Myrto Kanellopoulou, head of unit, consumer law, directorate-general for justice and consumers, European Commission; and Maryant Fernández Pérez, head of digital policy, European Consumer Organisation (BEUC). Elsewhere, Elizabeth Reid, vice-president and head of search, Google; and Dragoș Tudorache, member of the cabinet of Executive Vice-President Stéphane Séjourné, European Commission, zoomed in on trust and safety of online search in the age of AI.



# Walking the Talk: From Research to Results

The Lisbon Council continues its active participation in more than 25 leading research consortia on topics ranging from digital government to crisis management. The goal is not only to produce cutting-edge, policy-relevant outcomes. It is to forge collaborations, bringing talents from across borders together. A team of more than 30 researchers is involved, helping reach, build and develop projects in 14 European countries.

## Recent milestones include:



Victor  
Negrescu



Marie-Hélène  
Boulanger

### BridgeGap Explores Data-Driven Action Against Corruption in Roundtable on European Integrity

The Bridging the Gaps in Evidence, Regulation and Impact of Anticorruption Policies (BridgeGap) project convened [Europe: Guarding Integrity with Data-Driven Action Against Corruption](https://corruptiondata.eu/about/what-is-bridgegap/), a forum on evidence-based action against corruption. Victor Negrescu, vice-president of the European Parliament, opened the conversation and discussed the new anti-corruption directive with Marie-Hélène Boulanger, head of unit, democracy, anti-corruption, Union citizenship and free movement, directorate-general for justice and consumers, European Commission. The project is co-financed by the European Union Horizon Europe programme. For more, visit <https://corruptiondata.eu/about/what-is-bridgegap/>.



Roxana  
Minzatu



Gina  
Vargiu-Breuer

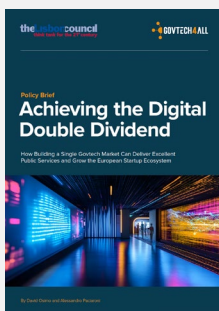
### Road-STEAMer Champions Future-Proof Skills for Europe: STEM, Competitiveness and Social Fairness

Europe's future depends on talent and the race for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills is on. In this spirit, the Lisbon Council convened the [2025 Skills Summit: Advancing STEM Education for Competitiveness and Social Fairness](https://www.road-steamer.eu/), a high-level gathering exploring how Europe can unlock the full potential of STEM. The summit was convened as part of Road-STEAMer, a 14-partner consortium coordinated by the Lisbon Council and co-financed by the European Union. Roxana Minzatu, European Commission's executive vice-president for social rights and skills; and Gina Vargiu-Breuer, chief people officer at SAP SE opened the Summit. For more, visit <https://www.road-steamer.eu/>



### TEMA Fires Up: Emergency Solutions Put to The Test

The Trusted Extremely Precise Mapping and Prediction for Emergency Management (TEMA) consortium uses cutting-edge technology to build effective crisis management solutions during natural disasters. In June 2025, the 20-member consortium held its second pilot trial, simulating a large-scale wildfire in Montiferru, Sardinia (Italy) to test AI-enabled fire response tools. This simulation is Italy's contribution to a pan-European pilot program with future trials in Germany, Greece and Finland. For more, visit <https://tema-project.eu/>.



### The GovTech4All Initiative Publishes Roadmap For Digital Governments and Startups

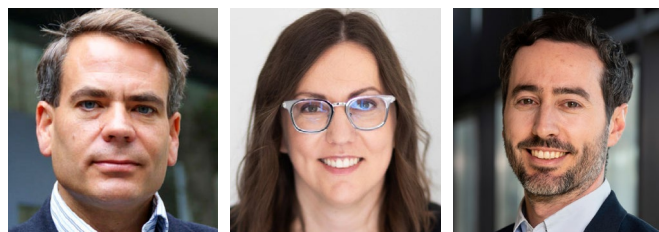
The 32 organisations consortium of the GovTech4All initiative published [Achieving the Digital Double Dividend: How Building a Single Govtech Market Can Deliver Excellent Public Services and Grow the European Startup Ecosystem](https://interoperable-europe.ec.europa.eu/collection/govtechconnect/govtech4all), a policy brief outlining dos and don'ts for Europe to enhance public services and fuel a thriving startup ecosystem. Bridging the gap between startups and public administrations has long been central to GovTech4All, which recently marked the start of its second phase with a policy roundtable convened by the Lisbon Council and the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The session showcased practical solutions for modernising the public sector. For more, visit <https://interoperable-europe.ec.europa.eu/collection/govtechconnect/govtech4all>.

**And that's not all.** For more, visit <https://lisboncouncil.net/projects/>.

‘The Lisbon Council remains one of those rare Brussels fora where nuance is still welcome and where complex issues get the airtime they deserve, beyond the usual taglines and strategic posturing.’

— **Caroline De Cock**, coordinator, Coalition4Creativity on the **High-Level Working Lunch on Copyright in The Age of Generative Artificial Intelligence**

## News and Outreach



Jonathan Wareham

Kamila Gasińska

João Pedro Quintais

As the debate around AI intensified, the Lisbon Council stepped up efforts to promote the responsible uptake of AI to unlock new pistes in health, energy and more by launching *Science Salon: A Deep Dive on the Intersection of Artificial Intelligence and Scientific Discovery*. The initiative turned one this year with its third session taking place in Rome and bringing together Italian senators, policymakers, academics and experts, including Salvatore Scellato,

director of software engineering at Google DeepMind. [Read Artificial Intelligence and Scientific Discovery](#). Elsewhere, the Lisbon Council has continued to grow, adding depth and expertise in several areas. **Prof João Pedro Quintais**, **Prof Jonathan Wareham** and **Kamila Gasińska** joined as research fellows, bringing their knowledge of copyright law, digital governance and public services innovation. Francesco Mureddu, vice president for development and senior researcher at the Lisbon Council, chaired a panel at *Data for Policy 2025*, the European regional conference dedicated to data-driven innovation in public policy. Francesco Mureddu also travelled to Washington, D.C., to speak at the *Partnerships for Anti-Corruption Global Forum 2025*, a global platform for collaboration in advancing the fight against corruption hosted by the World Bank Group’s anticorruption for development global program and the International Corruption Hunters Alliance.

## Upcoming

### The Sustainable Cities Lab Launches This Autumn

The Lisbon Council is launching **Sustainable Cities Lab**, a go-to place for collaboration and shared learning that puts citizens at the heart of the sustainable urban transition. The Lab aims to build and scale on-the-ground solutions to tackle systemic challenges, from reimagining public spaces

to mobility. The work will be coordinated by Luis Cilimingras, senior fellow at the Lisbon Council, who will bring expertise in human-centred design, sustainability and innovation with a track record of scaling community-driven solutions.

### Mind the Service Gap: New Thinking on Digital Sovereignty

Everyone speaks about digital sovereignty and the potential it holds for European competitiveness. Yet, “sovereignty comes from having agency over policy decisions, not through ownership of every level of technology architecture.” This is the key point made by Mike Bracken, senior fellow at the Lisbon Council, in *The Service Gap: Europe’s International Digital Strategy 2025*,

an analysis of Europe’s new international digital strategy published on The Forum – the Lisbon Council’s platform for thought-provoking debate. Building on the momentum generated by the piece, the Lisbon Council will convene the **High-Level Roundtable on The Service Gap: Getting Digital Sovereignty Right**. [Read The Service Gap: Europe’s International Digital Strategy 2025](#)

### Artificial Intelligence, Genuine Progress: From Prompts to Scientific Breakthroughs

On 04 November 2025, the Lisbon Council will convene the **High-Level Breakfast on AI and Scientific Innovation** in Copenhagen alongside the [AI in Science Summit](#) convened by the European Commission and the Danish

Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Lisbon Council will take this opportunity to foster collaboration for European AI to be a true force for good.

## www.lisboncouncil.net

The Lisbon Council for Economic  
Competitiveness and Social Renewal asbl  
IPC-Résidence Palace  
155 rue de la Loi  
1040 Brussels, Belgium  
[info@lisboncouncil.net](mailto:info@lisboncouncil.net)



[@lisboncouncil@eupolicy.social](mailto:@lisboncouncil@eupolicy.social)



[www.facebook.com/thelisboncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/thelisboncouncil)



[www.linkedin.com/company/the-lisbon-council](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-lisbon-council)



[www.youtube.com/user/thelisboncouncil](https://www.youtube.com/user/thelisboncouncil)