



European Internet Forum
Political Leadership for Digital Society

01 July 2015

8:00 - 9:30

BREAKFAST DEBATE

Innovation, R&D and EU funds

In the morning of 1 July, EIF and [Knowledge4Innovation \(K4I\)](#) will jointly host a Breakfast Debate on “Innovation, R&D and EU funds’ in the European Parliament in Brussels. This debate will be an occasion to provide a better understanding of how the European Union can help innovative projects via EU funds and to share concrete examples.

The EU makes more than 100 billion euros of funding available and adopts a great number of legal acts every year. However, only a very small fraction of potential beneficiaries makes use of it, either because they think the EU has nothing to offer to their business, or they have difficulties finding funding opportunities.

Prominent speakers will contribute to the debate, to be chaired by Lambert van Nistelrooij MEP, and will exchange views with participants. Gerard de Graaf, Director, Digital Economy & Coordination at European Commission DG CNECT will present the Commission’s initiatives in this sector, including the Innovations radar and Innovation procurement. Dr Roland Strauss, Managing Director, Knowledge4Innovation and founder of the [EU Funding Trends](#), news and events portal, will introduce and explain how it allows stakeholders to identify, discover and make the most of the available funding opportunities. Gábor Szabó, Dean of the University of Szeged, Hungary, will present the example of Extreme Laser Infrastructure (ELI), a European project with an investment volume exceeding 850 Million Euros, mostly stemming from the European Regional Development Funds (ERDF). Finally, Dr Monica Dietl, Director of the COST Association, will make a presentation of [COST](#) (the longest-running European framework supporting trans-national cooperation among researchers, engineers and scholars across Europe) contribution via innovative networks, in particular in the area of ICT.

This event is organised in collaboration with [Knowledge4Innovation](#)

Programme- 1st July 2015

Welcome and introduction:

Lambert van Nistelrooij, MEP and EIF Steering Committee Member

Speakers:

Gerard de Graaf, Director, Digital Economy & Coordination (Directorate F), DG CONNECT, European Commission

Roland Strauss, Managing Director of Knowledge4Innovation

Gábor Szabó, Dean of the University of Szeged, Hungary

Dr Monica Dietl, Director, COST

Pierre Guisset, Senior consultant at ERCIM representing the PaaSage (<http://www.paasage.eu/>) project

Exchange of views with participants

Speakers



Mr Lambert van Nistelrooij

MEP, EPP
European Parliament



Mr Gerard de Graaf

Director, Digital Economy & Coordination (Directorate F)
DG CONNECT, European Commission



Mr Roland Strauss

Managing Director
Knowlegde4Innovation



Mr Gábor Szabó

Dean
University of Szeged, Hungary



Dr Monica Dietl

Director
COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology



Mr Pierre Guisset

Senior consultant representing the PaaSage project
ERCIM

Venue

European Parliament, Members' Salon, Rue Wiertz 60, Brussels, Belgium



European Internet Forum



secretariat@eifonline.org

[+32 \(0\)2 880 78 80](tel:+3228807880)