



CONNECTING EUROPEAN CHAMBERS

10TH ANNIVERSARY

**08-09 July 2025
Brussels, Belgium**



Concept note

Background

European chambers of commerce are increasingly recognising the value of participating in EU-funded projects to support their member businesses, drive competitiveness, and foster collaboration. Over the years, numerous partnerships have emerged at regional, cross-border, and European levels, demonstrating the power of cooperation in leveraging EU programmes effectively.

Eurochambres, with its extensive experience in EU-funded initiatives, continues to empower its network by sharing expertise, offering practical tools, and fostering cooperation. Building on this foundation, the 2025 Connecting European Chambers event provides a unique platform for chambers to deepen their knowledge of EU programmes, exchange best practices, and strengthen their capacity to engage in meaningful collaborations.

This 10th edition focuses on delivering informative and practical content while prioritising networking and peer-to-peer exchanges. With over 100 participants expected from across Europe - ranging from seasoned project managers to those new to the field - this event promises to cater to a diverse audience, encouraging dialogue, knowledge sharing, and joint action.

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What to expect from the 10th edition of Connecting European Chambers?

The programme will be structured around informative sessions, hands-on workshops and networking opportunities, ensuring a well-rounded experience.

- **Workshops**

Engage in practical, hands-on sessions designed to address key aspects of EU-funded projects. Workshops will include expert facilitation and peer exchange, offering valuable insights into:

- Overcoming common challenges in EU projects
- Tracking progress and maximising impact in projects

- **Presentation of EU programmes**

This session will combine insights from institutional and chamber representatives to provide a comprehensive understanding of EU-funded programmes.

- **Networking opportunities**

Networking is at the heart of the event, providing space for participants to connect, share and collaborate:

- 1-on-1 meetings to explore potential partnerships.
- Roundtable discussions on shared interests and challenges.
- Informal networking moments during coffee breaks and lunches.
- Networking cocktail to build relationships in a relaxed setting.

Topics of discussion for 1-on-1 meetings: Cross-border cooperation | Culture & creative industries | Digital transformation for SMEs | Innovation & technology transfer | Entrepreneurship and startups | EU enlargement & neighbourhood cooperation | Skills development, training & upskilling | Sustainability, circular economy, energy transition | Tourism | Trade beyond the EU | Women in business

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Objectives

The event aims to:

- Enhance participants' understanding of EU-funded programmes and how to navigate them.
- Provide practical tips and tools for chambers to develop and manage successful EU projects.
- Share best practices from chambers already excelling in EU-funded initiatives.
- Create meaningful networking opportunities to build partnerships for future collaborations.
- Encourage alignment between EU-funded projects and chambers' long-term strategic goals.

Practical information

The 10th edition of Connecting European Chambers will take place at Comet Meetings, Place Stéphanie 20, 1050 Bruxelles.

Registration is free of charge for local, regional and national chambers from the Eurochambres network.

Registration is available at the [following link](#) and will close on 1 July (12.00PM CET). Only 120 places are available, so tickets will be given out on a first come, first served basis.

More information:

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Agenda

Day 1 - Tuesday, 8 July

13.30 – 14.00	Registration of participants and welcome coffee
14.00 – 14.15	Opening remarks
14.15 – 14.55	Unlocking opportunities with Interreg Interreg offers valuable funding opportunities for cross-border cooperation, with a strong focus on sustainability and regional development. This session will explore current and future opportunities within the programme, highlighting the role of chambers of commerce in driving impactful projects. Speakers will provide insights into upcoming opportunities, sustainability-driven initiatives, and strategies to maximise participation in the next funding period.
14.55 – 15.35	Creative Europe: supporting innovation in the cultural and creative sectors This session will explore Creative Europe, the EU's flagship programme for cultural and creative industries. An institutional representative will outline key opportunities, followed by a best practice example demonstrating how chambers and businesses can benefit from EU support for cultural innovation and cross-sector collaboration.
15.35 – 16.10	Networking session with matchmaking
16.10 – 17.30	Two parallel workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshop 1: Overcoming common challenges in EU projects Through case studies and peer discussions, participants will identify common project management pitfalls and explore solutions related to budgeting, reporting, and stakeholder coordination. Group exercises will encourage practical problem-solving, helping attendees develop strategies for smoother project implementation and improved outcomes.• Workshop 2: Tracking progress and maximising impact in projects Ensuring the success of an EU-funded project goes beyond implementation. It requires strong monitoring and evaluation. This workshop will guide participants through key performance indicators (KPIs), reporting requirements, and impact assessment strategies. Through group exercises, attendees will explore practical approaches to tracking progress, measuring impact, and ensuring project outcomes align with objectives.
18.00 – 19.30	Networking cocktail

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Day 2 - Wednesday, 9 July

09.00 – 09.40	Welcome breakfast and networking
09.40 – 10:25	Erasmus+ & LIFE: Success stories in action This session will showcase successful Erasmus+ and LIFE projects, highlighting how chambers and businesses have leveraged these programmes to drive skills development, sustainability, and innovation. Through real-life examples, participants will gain practical insights into maximizing the impact of EU funding in education, training, and environmental initiatives.
10.25 – 11.25	Roundtable - Fostering sustainability through open innovation How can businesses accelerate their ecological transition through open innovation? This roundtable, inspired by the Marittimo OPEN CIRCULAR project, will explore key strategies for supporting SMEs in adopting sustainable practices. Discussion topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Circular economy & new business models to drive sustainability.• Open innovation & Living Labs as tools for greener solutions.• Bottom-up approaches & cross-sector cooperation to foster change. Join us for an interactive exchange on practical solutions that help businesses integrate sustainability while enhancing competitiveness.
11.25 – 11.40	Coffee break
11.40 – 12.25	Roadmap of the chamber for the future: integrating EU projects into long-term strategy Building on last year's discussion, this session will delve deeper into how chambers can align EU-funded projects with their long-term vision, strategy and priorities. As societal challenges and business needs evolve, how can chambers ensure they engage in the right projects that strengthen their role and impact? This interactive roundtable will provide insights into setting priorities for the coming years and leveraging EU projects as a tool for sustainable growth and innovation.
12.25 – 12.30	Closing

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