



PROGRAM
ROMANIAN DIGITAL DAY
9th of June 2026

From policy to practice: accelerating EU digital competitiveness and innovation

09h00: Official entrance to the event

10h00-11h30: Opening event

Location: EP Library Reading Room, SPINELLI 5D

Introductory remarks and moderation by Victor NEGRESCU, Vice-President of the European Parliament

INTERVENTIONS (1 minute/speaker):

- Florin JIANU, President of IMM România
- Bianca MUNTEAN, Coordinator of Transilvania Digital Innovation Hub
- Ana-Maria STANCU, CEO of Robohub
- Răzvan RUGHINIȘ, President of the Board, Innovation Labs, Politehnica University
- Radu POSTOLACHE, President of the Employers' Association of the Software and Services Industry (ANIS)

KEY SPEAKERS (5 minutes/speaker):

- Michele PIERGIOVANNI, Digital Adviser and Acting Senior Economic Adviser to the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen
- Christel SCHALDEMOSE, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Chair of the Bureau Working Group on Digital Transformation, Cybersecurity and Information Security

ROLE MODELS (3 minutes/speaker):

- Cornel AMARIEI, CEO of Dotlumen
- Voicu OPREAN, CEO of AROBS
- Mihnea COSTOIU, Rector of Politehnica University

SMART IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE (2 minutes/speaker):

- Dana RĂZBOIU, Founder and President of Nație Prin Educație
- Grégoire VIGROUX, Co-Founder of eYou Serial Entrepreneur
- Andrei MANOLACHE, Co-Founder of DesignVerse.ai



- Robert BERZA, Executive Director of The Edge Institute

VIDEO MESSAGES:

- Henna VIRKKUNEN, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for Technological Sovereignty, Security, and Democracy

Study presentation by Alexandru Roja, Digital Transformation & Innovation Expert

11h30-13h00: Panel 1. Digital cohesion in practice: Facilitating and scaling AI adoption through regional EDIHs

Location: EP Library Reading Room, SPINELLI 5D

Introductory remarks by (2 minutes/speaker): Bianca MUNTEAN, Coordinator of Transilvania Digital Innovation Hub

Moderation by Laurențiu MATAACHE, tech journalist

KEY INSTITUTIONAL SPEAKERS (3 minutes/speaker):

- Sofia ALVES, Director of REGIO.E Administrative Capacity Building & Programme Implementation II, DG REGIO, European Commission
- Tsvetelina PENKOVA, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the ITRE Committee
- Brando BENIFEI, Member of the European Parliament, co-rapporteur for the Artificial Intelligence Act

KEY SPEAKERS (3 minutes/speaker):

- Katre ELJAS, Head of AI & Robotics Estonia (AIRE), Government Office of the Republic of Estonia
- Mihaela LAFONT, Programme and Project Officer; Artificial intelligence Innovation and Policy Coordination, DG CONNECT, European Commission
- Alexandru BOBE, President of RO-DIH - The Association of Digital Innovation Hubs in Romania

BUSINESS LEADERS INTERVENTIONS (3 minutes/speaker):

- Cosmin VLADIMIRESCU, Mastercard General Manager for Romania and Croatia
- Bogdan CLIPICI, Country Manager Bolt

INTERVENTIONS (2 minutes/speaker):

- Lidia MOCANU (BEȚOAEA), Strategy Director at Digital Innovation Zone; North-East Regional Development Agency



- Eduard DUMITRAȘCU, President of the Romanian Smart City Association (ARSC)
- Ruxandra TĂTARU, Co-Founder and CEO of AI Expo Europe
- Alexandru HÎLDAN, Head of Growth at CG Tech Labs

13h00-14h00: WORKING LUNCH

- Bogdan TUDOR, CEO of ClassIT Group
- Adelina DABU, Director for European and International Affairs at Concordia

VIDEO MESSAGE:

- Roberta METSOLA, President of the European Parliament

14h30-15h45: Panel 2. Digital Transformation of the Romanian Economy: SME Digital Index

Location: EP Library Reading Room, SPINELLI 5D

Introductory remarks by (2 minutes/speaker) Florin JIANU, President of IMM România

Moderation by Adrian BARBU, Romania TV

KEY INSTITUTIONAL SPEAKERS (3 minutes/speaker):

- Natalia Martinez PARAMO, Head of Unit SMP / SME Pillar, Internal Market and Support to Standardisation, EISMEA
- Patrik KOVACS, President of the SME and Entrepreneurship Committee at Business at OECD (BIAC)

KEY SPEAKERS (3 minutes/speaker):

- Adrian Victor VEVERA, General Director of the National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics - ICI Bucharest
- Véronique WILLEMS, Secretary General of SMEunited
- Luca TAGLIARETTI, Executive Director of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre (ECCC)

BUSINESS LEADERS INTERVENTIONS (3 minutes/speaker):

- Patrick SMITH, Chief Technology Officer for EMEA at Everpure (former Pure Storage)
- Elena UNGUREANU, Country Manager at Visa for Romania
- Gabor OLAJOS, Country Managing at Pluxee for Romania and Bulgaria
- Ana-Maria BORLOVAN, General Manager Uber for Central and Eastern Europe
- Bogdan MEICA, General Manager Glovo Romania
- Cristian PAȚACHIA-SULTĂNOIU, Development & Innovation Manager, Orange Romania

**INTERVENTIONS (2 minutes/speaker):**

- Ovidiu NICOLESCU, Honorary President of IMM România
- Sterică FUDULEA, President of the Economic and Social Council and Secretary-General of IMM România
- Cătălin CODREANU, President of the Association Coalition for Digital Economy
- Sergiu VASILESCU, Managing Partner of VD Law Group

16h00-17h15: Panel 3. Education for a Secure Digital Europe: AI, Data Protection, and Cyber Resilience

Location: EP Library Reading Room, SPINELLI 5D

Introductory remarks by (2 minutes/speaker) Ana-Maria STANCU, CEO of Robohub Moderation by Silviu CALANGIU, Euronews

KEY INSTITUTIONAL SPEAKERS (3 minutes/speaker):

- Pia Ahrenkilde HANSEN, Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC), European Commission
- Nela RIEHL, Chair of the CULT Committee, Co-Chair of the EP Intergroup on Education and Skills for a Competitive Europe
- Sonia PEREZ ROMERO, Head of Unit of the Artificial Intelligence Unit at the European Data Protection Supervisor

KEY SPEAKERS (3 minutes/speaker):

- Valeriu Ștefan ZGONEA President of the National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM)
- Mihai GHIGIU, Chair of the Committee for Education, Chamber of Deputies
- George-Mădălin BORȘ, Vice-Chair of the Committee for Education, Chamber of Deputies
- David MEKKAOUI, CEO of ALL DIGITAL
- Cosmin MĂLUREANU, Co-Founder and CEO of Ascendia

BUSINESS LEADERS INTERVENTIONS (3 minutes/speaker):

- Ilie PUȘCAȘ, Country Manager for Romania at Binance
- Florin ȘUNEL, Vice President for Forward Deployed Engineering, UiPath
- Alexandra OLARU, Director of the Legal and External Affairs Department at Vodafone Romania

**INTERVENTIONS (2 minutes/speaker):**

- Mihai MOCANU, Chief Marketing Officer al Adservio
- Thomas STREINZ, Joint Chair in Law, European University Institute
- Olivia SMĂDU, President of the Association *Educația te face mare*
- Camelia CRIȘAN, Founder of the *Progress* Foundation

17h30 – 18h45: Panel 4. Open floor format. Research & Innovation - key drivers for European digital technology competitiveness

Location: EP Library Reading Room, SPINELLI 5D

Introductory remarks by (2 minutes/speaker):

- Răzvan RUGHINIȘ, President of the Board, Innovation Labs
- Corina VASILE, Executive Director, ANIS

Moderation by Vlad ANDRIESCU, Start-up.ro

KEY SPEAKERS (3 minutes/speaker):

- Liviu ȘTIRBĂȚ, Head of Unit for AI in Science, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), European Commission
- Liliana MUȘEȚAN, Head of Cybersecurity Governance and Compliance Unit at the General Secretariat of the European Council
- Cerasela BAICULESCU, Country General Manager, IBM Romania and Moldova
- Victor DORNESCU, Founder and Partnerships Manager of Rinf.tech
- Andrei BLAJ, Founder of Medica
- Tiberiu BARABOI, CEO of Expertware
- Raluca POPA, Partner at Ernst and Young
- Cristian DASCĂLU, Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Techcelerator

INTERVENTIONS (2 minutes/speaker):

- Federico MENNA, CEO of 28DIGITAL
- Felix CRIȘAN, Co-Founder of Netopia Payments
- Ioan SACALĂ, Director PRECIS Research Center, Politehnica University
- Conf. Dr. Ing. Daniel ROSNER, Co-Founder of OxidOS
- Cezara PANAIT, Head of Government Affairs & Public Policy at Google for Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova
- Ioana BOLOHAN, Head of Finance and Operations at HazelHeartWood



18h45 - 19h00 Conclusions

- Victor NEGRESCU, Vice-President of the European Parliament
- Florin JIANU, President of IMM România
- Bianca MUNTEAN, Coordinator of Transilvania Digital Innovation Hub
- Ana-Maria STANCU, CEO Robohub
- Răzvan RUGHINIȘ, President of the Board, Innovation Labs, Politehnica University
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